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# Phuket mourns air-crash victims

By Gazette staff

PHUKET: Less than two weeks after an emergency response drill at Phuket International Airport (PIA), the island was devastated by the events of Sunday, September 16 that saw One-Two-Go flight OG269 crash land, claiming the lives of 89 people.

Memories of the 2004 tsunami were revived as rescue workers jumped into action and were on the scene within 10 minutes after the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 skidded off the runway and crashed.

About 3:45 pm, 56-year-old Indonesian pilot Areef Mulyadi attempted to land the aircraft, which was carrying some 123 passengers, five cabin crew, himself and his Thai co-pilot.

At a press conference at the airport on September 17, Phuket Airport Director Sq Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree said that the crash was the result of a "mis-approach", after which the pilot attempted to take off again with insufficient speed and landed "hard" before sliding off the runway, crashing into an embankment and breaking in two.

The pilot, co-pilot and three crew members were killed, as were many passengers in the forward section of the fuselage, where a fire broke out.

Some of the 41 survivors were thrown from the fuselage as the plane crashed into the embankment, while others had to drag themselves and each other to safety while the mangled plane became engulfed in flames.

Several passengers risked



The wreckage of One-Two-Go Flight OG269 on the morning after it crashed at Phuket International Airport, killing 89 passengers and crew. Some 41 passengers miraculously survived the crash and fire that followed. Photo by Sangkhae Leelanaporn.

their own lives in heroic efforts to save fellow passengers. Also hailed as heroes were the many rescue workers who were on the scene in minutes to rush survivors to hospital.

Bodies recovered at the scene were taken to a makeshift morgue at Phuket Airport Hall, to the south of the main airport terminal.

Udom Thantprasongchai, managing director of Orient Thai, which operates One-To-Go, arrived in Phuket late that Sunday

night. As well as expressing his condolences and regret for the tragedy, K. Udom pledged transport and accommodation for family members of survivors, as well as an initial 100,000-baht payment for each victim.

PIA remained closed until 4 pm the following day. Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont arrived about 4:40 pm and visited patients at Bangkok Phuket and Vachira Phuket Hospitals.

One source at the Aeronautical Radio of Thailand

(AeroThai) said the pilot tried to land amid heavy rain, low visibility and a 30-knot crosswind.

Two "black box" flight recorders were recovered from the site and have been sent to the US for analysis to determine the cause of the crash and results are expected soon.

Chaisak Angsuwan, director-general of the Air Transport Department, said "the objective is to seek the real reason [for the crash] and to prevent it happening again".



## Woman found dead at Chalong Pier

CHALONG: A body found by local fishermen on September 10 was of a Thai woman who apparently committed suicide by jumping off Chalong Pier, police say.

Lt Col Chana Suthimas of Chalong Police Station told the *Gazette* that a group of fishermen alerted police after they found the body floating near fishing boats at the pier at dawn.

The woman was later identified as Sooksai Krairek, 45.

Col Chana was unable to confirm or deny reports in the local media that a fisherman had earlier witnessed a woman jump into the sea from Chalong Pier.

A relative of K. Sooksai, who was a resident of Chalong, identified the body, he said.

The same relative was satisfied with a police evaluation that no foul play was involved in K. Sooksai's death, although her death has yet to be ruled conclusively as a suicide, he added.

Col Chana declined to comment on why K. Sooksai would have jumped from the pier or whether any witnesses to the event had been questioned.

## Scheduled blackout

KATHU: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced a scheduled blackout for Kathu on September 27 in order to continue work on high-voltage power lines.

Power will be switched off from 9 am until 5 pm in the following areas: Pra Phuket Kaew Rd, from the Tesco-Lotus intersection to Wat Kathu, including The Valley, The Heritage, Moo Baan Chalaykiri, Baan Kathu, Soi Dara, Soi Baan Kathu School, Kathu Thani Village, Hope Land 2 housing development, and Soi Kathu 3, 4, 5 and 6.

This information is subject to change without notice. For more information or to check the latest status call 076-211663.

# Patong breathes easy after Amdaman tsunami scare

By Stephen Fein & Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: Following the high state of tsunami alert on September 12 after a major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Phuket's tourism industry returned to business as usual the following day, despite the excitement.

Indonesian government authorities issued a tsunami warning after an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale jolted parts of Java and Sumatra islands at 6:10 pm on September 12.

After a national television broadcast broke the news to the Thai public about 7:30 pm, seaside bars and shops in Patong quickly closed as throngs of people headed calmly for higher ground. Traffic jams were reported along Phra Barami Rd, which traverses Patong Hill.

Closer to the beach, Kathu Traffic Police switched traffic flow along the road from two-way to one-way, heading away from the beach. Access to the beach road was temporarily restricted to allow people trying to leave the area – despite the lack of any official warning advising them to do so.

On Sainamyen Rd, people walking to safety zones congre-



Patong eerily quiet following the earthquake off Sumatra, triggering fears of another tsunami. Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak

gated outside 7-Elevens and Family Mart stores, which were doing a brisk trade in alcohol sales as cars and motorbikes slowly moved away from the beach.

Following news of the initial quake, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont ordered the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to monitor the situation closely. From Phuket Provincial Hall, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima urged all officials and residents to stay tuned and brace for a tsunami as a precaution.

NDWC Director Dr Smith Dharmasaroja said that he believed the earthquakes posed no danger to the six Andaman provinces, so there was no need to activate the warning-tower sirens or warning messages.

However, the fact that the warning towers had not sounded any sort of warning was cause for concern for some.

As the hours passed, people started returning to the main nightlife areas of the resort town. Many businesses remained closed for the night, however, and

the beachfront road was still quiet at 10:30 pm.

Aroon Kersom, who heads the provincial branch of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket), said his staff were ordered to report to the island's 19 tsunami warning towers with emergency vehicles and equipment, though he stressed that the move was strictly precautionary.

The DDPM-Phuket did not evacuate people from small outlying islands as had happened in parts of Krabi and Phang Nga and his staff were told to inform the public not to panic, he said.

However, many people in low-lying coastal areas found the televised reports enough to warrant evacuation.

About 9 pm, some 80 people evacuated the Laem Tukkae area for the safety of Phuket Provincial Hall, while some coastal residents of Rawai moved up to higher ground.

Many residents of Kamala, which was devastated by the 2004 tsunami, did not wait for a warning before fleeing in panic to the safety of the nearby hills.

K. Aroon asked the public to put faith in the information released by the DDPM and not to evacuate areas unless advised.

## Cherng Talay locals protest Tesco-Lotus branch

CHERNG TALAY: Some 50 protesters gathered in front of the Red Room restaurant on September 13 to protest the construction of Phuket's first Tesco-Lotus Express store.

The protesters claim that the work defied a stoppage order issued by the now-disbanded Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

The protest was held on Srisoonthorn Rd, just around the corner from the project site on Soi Bangtao 2. Throughout the protest, workers continued busily

working on the building, now about 50% complete.

Bearing banners with messages reading "Tesco is foreign-owned", "No Tesco" and "Cherng Talay people don't want Tesco", the protesters circulated copies of documents supporting their position, including a copy of a work stoppage order issued on July 27, signed by Samart Sagae, then-president of Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*.

The Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* four-year term ended August 29. The administration has been

upgraded to *tessabaan tambon* (municipality) status. Its new council will take office following elections on October 7.

Another document presented by the protesters was a copy of a complaint to Cherng Talay Police filed by current Acting *OrBorTor* President Suwat Prakorbpol.

Filed on September 10, the complaint notes the *OrBorTor*'s intention to sue Tesco-Lotus for its failure to comply with the work stoppage order, which took effect August 1.

A statement issued by the protesters claimed that the Tesco-Lotus Express convenience store will cause many of the 1,000 or so small local retailers to close their stores, and that taxi and tuk-

tuk drivers will no longer be needed as often because consumers will be able to walk to buy goods.

The statement also questioned whether the project had gained support through public hearings.

Any legitimate public hearing process must include those who stand to be most negatively affected by a project, but in this case none of those parties were even aware that a public hearing had taken place, the statement read.

Martin Clutterbuck of Tesco-Lotus Corporate Affairs office confirmed to the *Gazette* only that the project in question is a Tesco-Lotus retail branch. He declined to comment further.

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An Israeli couple on their honeymoon to Phuket died before even stepping foot on the ground. Here, the father of the bride and mother of the groom sift through their belongings in tears.

## Airport resumes normal service

By Gazette staff

PHUKET AIRPORT: As the bodies of victims of the One-Two-Go flight OG269 disaster on September 16 lay in a makeshift morgue at Phuket International Airport (PIA), services at the airport returned to normal within 24 hours of the disaster, which claimed 89 lives.

Phuket Airport Director Sq Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree on September 18 said that there was no problem with the runway and that the accident was not caused by the runway itself, although he was unsure when the reasons for the disaster would be known.

About 120 flights had to be re-routed to Krabi Airport instead of PIA in the 24 hours after the air crash, with Phuket-bound passengers forced to travel the remaining distance by bus or van. PIA reopened for service at 4 pm on September 17.

K. Pornchai said that no flights had to be canceled, and that Phuket was ready to welcome Asian tourists to the island

for the Vegetarian Festival.

On September 18, it was announced that Phuket Provincial Internal Trade Office Chief Somphot Sangkhaong was among the dead. The same day the bodies of all Thai victims were identified by relatives.

The same day, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and HM Queen Sirikit donated 500,000 baht to Bangkok Phuket Hospital, 200,000 baht to Phuket International Hospital, and 100,000 baht each to Vachira Phuket Hospital and Thalang Hospital.

The money was delivered on behalf of HM The King and Queen Sirikit by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

Adding to their support, the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) and Phuket Hotel Association (PHA) provided 70 hotel rooms at 20 hotels free for relatives of the victims.

Udom Thantprongsongchai, managing director of Orient Thai, which operates One-Two-Go, pledged 100,000 baht in compensation for each Thai victim.

## Probe launched into prison death

PHUKET CITY: Phuket City Police are investigating the death of an inmate who died on the way to hospital on the afternoon of September 11 after suffering blows to the head and body with a heavy object.

Phuket Provincial Prison Director Paisal Suwanraksa has confirmed that the victim was 38-year-old Sakulthep Konkaew, a Chiang Rai native who last year began serving a two-and-a-half year sentence after being con-

victed on theft and fraud charges.

About 3:30 pm, K. Sakulthep was rushed by prison officials to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but died en route. His corpse showed signs of having suffered a heavy blow at the base of his right ear, and bruises to his arms and torso.

K. Paisal, who was in Bangkok at the time, said a full investigation would be conducted.

A report of the death was filed with the governor's office.

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# Tourism to recover by 'high season' – Tourism Minister

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET (*The Nation, Gazette*): The One-Two-Go crash landing on September 16 will affect Phuket's tourism industry for only one or two months, Tourism and Sports Minister Suwit Yodmanee said on September 17, when he visited the island with Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont and Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Phornsiri Manoharn.

Tourism should recover by end of the year, which is the peak season, he said.

"The incident will surely hit the tourism industry, but for a short time. I hope it will rebound before the coming high season," K. Suwit said.

Last year Phuket welcomed over five million tourists, generating one-third of Thailand's tourism income.

K. Suwit urged authorities to conclude investigations into the mishap as soon as possible in order to restore confidence in air travel to Phuket and nearby destinations.

Apichart Sankary, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA), also believes the impact will be only short-term. "Tourists all over the world understand that it was an accident. So there should be no doubt over the issue. But if this is a human error, the damage could be greater," said Apichart.

He urged the airline and state agencies to make full disclosure about the crash, which killed 89 people, mostly foreign tourists.

The tourism ministry has ordered all TAT offices overseas to provide correct information and assistance to victims' families and travel agents.

Charoen Wanganonond, president of the Association of Domestic Travel, said the overall number of air travelers could fall



Tourism and Sports Minister Suwit Yodmanee.

because many people would put off their trips, especially to Phuket. However, he also believed that tourists will soon resume traveling to the island.

Imtiaz Muqbil, executive director of Bangkok-based Travel Impact Newswire, told online travel magazine eTurbonews that he did not think the accident would dent air travel to Phuket.

"Air disasters can happen to anyone, any time. This incident will not deter tourists from flying to the island... This is purely bad luck, with the airplane running into severe weather and getting hit with a down draft," he said, adding that One-Two-Go had an excellent safety record before the crash.

Mr Muqbil believes that whatever the findings of the investigation into the crash, one air disaster will not affect tourism to Phuket, which has already recovered from the tsunami that killed thousands of people in December 2004.

Thailand's extensive air links, both domestic and regional, have ensured a plentiful, if not always adequate, supply of seats, he stressed.

"The country has gradually dismantled the reciprocity-based aviation policy to give more leeway to international carriers while

also seeking more international access for national airline Thai Airways International.

"Charters were also given liberal permission to fly in during the high-density winter seasons, especially on routes not flown by the scheduled airlines," he said.

Suwalai Pinpradab, director of the TAT's Southern Region 4 office in Phuket City, predicts only a small and short-term effect on tourism in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga.

"We checked with our Foreign Affairs Department and so far there have been no cancellations reported from hotels," she said.

Tour groups of Korean honeymooners, whose flights were delayed by the 24-hour closure of the airport after the crash, did not cancel their trips, she noted.

Most tourists understand that airplane crashes are rare accidents that can occur anywhere and anytime, she said.

Tourists were impressed by the quick response by the government, including the visit by Prime Minister Sarayud Chulanont to survivors in hospital, she said.

"We have previous experience with this type of thing from the tsunami," she added.

"Estimating from the number of flights scheduled to land here this coming high season, we expect the number of tourists coming to Phuket this year will reach or exceed last year's levels," she said.

ATTA President K. Apichart said just days before the crash that Thailand was already facing a tough time attracting more tourists due to a combination of "negative factors".

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# Aircrash survivors

Just days after One-To-Go flight OG269 crashed and burned at Phuket International Airport, as this edition of the *Gazette* was going to press, some of the 41 survivors were beginning to recount stories of the crash, their escape from the aircraft and the subsequent rescue.

At Bangkok Phuket Hospital on September 17, Anand Singh interviewed Australian survivor Robert Borland, 48, who suffered 30% burns on his lower body, a broken bone in his back and a broken left arm.

Additional information comes from the staff of the *Gazette* and *Nation*.

Robert Borland, 48, has lived in Phuket for the past 10 years. "I travel around by plane quite a lot from Phuket to Bangkok, Singapore and other places in the region," he told the *Gazette*.

He described the initial stages of the flight as completely uneventful. "We hit a bit of turbulence during our journey. The staff asked us to buckle up our seat-belts, which I did. This continued for almost the whole journey. We were flying through quite a lot of cloud.

"As we approached Phuket Airport there were occasional glimpses of the islands in Phang Nga Bay. Then I saw the mangrove swamps near Phuket Airport that you usually see just before you land, so I thought that I was going to be home very soon.

"At this point, we were still flying through quite a lot of cloud. As I looked outside the window, I noticed that we were going very fast.

"We seemed to accelerate and go up. I thought to myself that the pilot knew what he was doing; he probably decided that the

conditions were not ideal to land, so he was going to go around again. It would only be 15 or 20 minutes more before I got home.

"Next thing I knew, there was a loud bang! Something hit the aircraft and put it off completely. It went dark all of a sudden and people were screaming and shouting a lot."

Mr Borland was among those who maintained consciousness during the crash and had a chance to escape before the fire and smoke became too strong, although he sustained serious injuries.

"I looked at my arm and saw that it was not where it was supposed to be - I thought it might have even been someone else's arm. But seeing my watch on the wrist confirmed that it was indeed my arm. I felt I didn't have any strength left in my back, so I had to crawl along the aisle to try to escape amidst the ensuing chaos."

In the panicked rush to escape the burning fuselage, Mr Borland was at a disadvantage.

"Other people were trying to escape, and many of them



Long-term Phuket resident Robert Borland talks to Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, Minister of Tourism and Sports Dr Suwit Yodmanee (left), and top management of Bangkok Phuket Hospital, including Director Dr Kongkiat Kespechara (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Managing Director Dr Kritavith Lertutsahaku.

were stepping over and on top of me. I was also on fire. My trousers were burning at that moment."

Mr Borland credits a man in a yellow shirt with saving his life.

"I couldn't get out of the aircraft, but I think there was a Thai man and he had a yellow shirt on; he dragged me through the emergency exit and onto the wing. Because the wing was slippery, I slid off it and fell to the ground below. I was seated in the aircraft's midsection, near the wing and the emergency exit, which was quite lucky for me," he said.

Mr Borland was among the last survivors to make it safely off the aircraft.

"I looked behind me and I saw a couple more people get off the aircraft the way I did. There was a Caucasian girl with long

hair, and a man. I tried to get away from the aircraft because I feared the engines would explode. There was fire all over so you never knew what would happen. I looked across the drainage ditch and there were two fire trucks that pulled over and starting spraying foam on the aircraft.

"The fire trucks were there after only a couple of minutes. One of the rescue workers saw me and shouted for me to come across to him. I shouted back in English, "My back! My back!" indicating that I had injured my back and could not move. He realized that and walked across the ditch to come and help me.

"He grabbed my hand and reassured me that everything was okay. He tried to move me, but I couldn't help him because I could not move at all. He had to call two other rescue workers for help and they dragged me across the ditch, which was the only way they could do it, onto the concrete on the other side."

Mr Borland was rushed to Thalang Hospital, the nearest medical facility to the airport.

"They asked me some questions, like who I was and where I came from. They cut away some of my clothes to take a look at my injuries, and shortly after that they put me into another ambulance and brought me to this hospital [Bangkok Phuket Hospital].

"I have to say that the fire brigade were wonderful. I have spoken to the Australian embassy and they told me that my parents will arrive tomorrow [September 18] from Australia. I am very impressed with my government. They have taken care of my things very well.

"I have received a call from the ambassador and the consular officers were here today. I have had many visits from Thai friends and foreigners alike.

"They are all quite worried. I don't think anyone can be faulted or blamed for this accident," said Mr Borland.

Another survivor seated near an emergency door was Thai national Chatree Suksawas, 26, who was taking his Canadian girlfriend, Mildred Anne Furlong,

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# recall tales of terror



Medical Staff treat patients at Bangkok Phuket Hospital, where the majority of survivors were rushed by rescue workers.

to visit his family in Phang Nga.

He was the first passenger to kick the emergency door open, moments after the crash.

Also speaking from a bed at Bangkok Phuket Hospital, K. Chatree said there was no warning from the pilot. It appeared that the pilot wanted the passengers to believe that the situation was under control, he said.

However, K. Chatree

sensed something was wrong as the plane came in to land during a heavy storm. He felt the plane hit the ground hard, causing it to bounce violently before sliding to the left and crashing into the embankment that tore off the left wing.

"I saw flames from the front of the plane and me and my girlfriend took off our seatbelts. We ran to the mid-plane

emergency door, which I kicked open, and we jumped out. Looking back, we saw the plane was on fire. Although we narrowly escaped, we could not imagine how much grief and loss there would be afterwards," K. Chatree said.

K. Chatree and Miss Furlong, both 23, suffered slight injuries. K. Chatree said that after they were admitted to Bangkok

Phuket Hospital, One-Two-Go airline officials informed them the airline would cover their medical bills.

"It will take us a while before we board a plane again," he added.

When his parents arrived in Phuket to meet him, K. Chatree said he was grateful to be able to perform the Thai tradition of bowing down and touching their feet

as a sign of respect.

"I felt like I almost died; I didn't know if I would ever be able to greet them like this again," he said.

Miss Furlong said the journey from Bangkok went well until the landing, when it felt like the plane was diving and the pilot was trying to pull up.

Surviving was unbelievable because everything happened so fast, she said.

Other survivors said the plane landed hard and lost control.

"You could tell we were in trouble because it landed then came up [off the tarmac] a second time," said 50-year-old John Gerard O'Donnell from Ireland, who was also speaking from a bed at Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

"I came out on the wing of the plane... the exit door was crushed and I had to squeeze through. I saw my friend outside. He had just got out before me. Next thing, the plane really caught fire and I got badly burned on my face, legs and arms," he said.

Marcel Squinobal, a 33-year-old restaurant-owner from Vorarlberg Bregenz in Austria, said that as the plane landed, it bounced and swerved dramatically to both sides. He said there were no warnings or instructions from the cockpit or crew on how to evacuate.

"I don't understand why we didn't re-route to Krabi. We could have taken a bus to Phuket," said Mr Squinobal.

The restaurateur and seasoned traveler said it was his first and last time in Thailand, and once he flies home, he will never set foot on a plane again.

"I love flying, but now, no more," he said.

## Hot Property in Bang Tao Area

<p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>Sai Taan Villa, New Phase / Resale / Rental</b> "By Invitation..." (Bang Tao Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Conveniently located at the entrance of Laguna 5 Star Resort</li> <li>◆ Offers facilities normally associated with Phuket's high end villas</li> <li>◆ Villas comprise three bedrooms, with a separate lounge, dining room and spacious kitchen</li> <li>◆ There is an option to add a fourth bedroom</li> <li>◆ Servants' quarters, laundry &amp; wet kitchen are provided</li> <li>◆ Private swimming pool 10m by 4.5m</li> <li>◆ Long &amp; short-term rental is available</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>Laguna Residences, Rental / Resale</b> "Sought-after Lifestyle Opportunity" (Bang Tao Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 3 to 4 bedroom, 2-story residence with direct golf frontage</li> <li>◆ 12 by 4 meters private swimming pool, with large pool terrace area</li> <li>◆ High quality finishes</li> <li>◆ Laguna benefits and privileges are included</li> <li>◆ Professional management, high demand area, anticipate strong rental yields</li> <li>◆ Good investment returns</li> <li>◆ Freehold / Leasehold option</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>Laguna Townhome, Rental / Resale</b> "Tranquility Villa" (Bang Tao Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 4 bedrooms plus maid qtrs, double story townhouse with direct golf frontage</li> <li>◆ 3 bathrooms with toilet and shower, master bedroom shower and bath</li> <li>◆ 200 sqm inside living area &amp; land plot 456 sqm</li> <li>◆ Private pool, sala and pool deck</li> <li>◆ Excellent building quality Laguna warranty until Oct. 2010</li> <li>◆ Leasehold or freehold option</li> </ul>
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**S**tudents of British International School (BIS) earn their green stars at

Nai Harn Beach. Armed with plastic gloves and bags, the young environmentalists teamed up with parents and teachers on Saturday September 15 to collect discarded rubbish and give the beach a fresh, new look.

The beach clean-up was Phuket's contribution to this year's Clean Up the World weekend; a global environmental awareness campaign that organizers hope will inspire communities to conserve their local environments.

Many other cleanups were held around the island as part of the international day.

For more information visit [www.cleanuptheworld.org](http://www.cleanuptheworld.org)

## TRASHING Phuket



# Queer News

## The pesky python

**YALA:** Being a teacher in the Deep South during these troubled times takes a certain amount of bravery and acceptance of personal danger. It was perhaps these qualities that helped one teacher from Yala Province keep his head while all those about him were losing theirs when faced with a very real threat.

The threat, however, was not a rifle-toting youth, but an angry 10-foot python that appeared in a Bangkok restaurant during a rainstorm.

At 9:30 pm on September 11, Preechai Lochai, a teacher at a school in Yala's Bannang Sata District, was enjoying a morning bowl of *khao tom* (rice soup) on Samsen Rd in central Bangkok. K. Preechai, together with two fellow teachers from other provinces, sat calmly watching the pouring rain and rising floodwaters on the city streets.

Suddenly, all hell broke loose in the kitchen. The cook, who was just about to fry some *phak bung fai daeng* (spicy aquatic morning glory) screamed. Throwing down his spatula, he ran from the kitchen screaming to the owner that a huge snake had just popped its head out of a hole.

In a panic, the owner and wait staff dropped what they were doing and ran after the cook until they were a safe distance away. K. Preechai's friends looked on in shock as they saw the cause of the commotion.

It was a thick-set python approximately three meters long



**Fearless teacher Preechai Lochai holds up the serpent that interrupted his morning meal.**

– and it was slithering straight towards their table.

The snake made a course for K. Preechai. Before the teacher could take evasive action, the serpent wrapped itself around his leg with all the constricting power that pythons are famous for.

Rather than descending into hysterics as the staff had done, presumably due to his dealings with some tricky customers in his day job, K. Preechai bellowed out, "Southerners aren't afraid of snakes," before launching into battle with the legless reptile.

K. Preechai used all his energy trying to unravel the beast from his leg, but found it rather hard to balance with a 10-foot reptile around one of his limbs. The man and the snake ended up rolling round the restaurant in a

closely-fought dual that sent chairs and tables flying in all directions.

Neither man nor beast was able to get the upper hand until a passer by, Narongthat Patharathitkul, waded in to the aid of K. Preechai and grabbed the snake's head. With the fight now two on one, the snake soon began to tire and lose stomach for the battle.

The combined force of K. Preechai and K. Narongthat was enough to untangle the snake from K. Preechai's leg and stuff it into a fertilizer sack that a helpful spectator had provided.

The police and animal services were then called in to take the snake away and release it back into the wild where it wouldn't be able to cause any more mischief.

**Source: KomChadLuek**

## Phuket Carnival set to impress

**PATONG:** The annual carnival to officially welcome the arrival of the high season is set to be bigger and better than ever this year, with the forthcoming three-day, high-season extravaganza from November 1 to 3 set to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event.

Organizers of the Phuket Carnival at Patong are confident that this year's spectacle, sponsored by Koolest Co Ltd Bangkok, the *Phuket Bulletin*

and the *Phuket Gazette*, will mark the start of Phuket's busiest tourist season to date.

The aim of this year's carnival is to welcome tourists back to Phuket in response to the government's initiative to revive tourism in the Andaman region following the 2004 tsunami.

The theme for this year's event is "Season Beach Fest", with three days of entertainment and activities promoting the vari-

ous highlights of Patong.

All activities will be held on Soi Bangla and Patong Beach in 10 different zones, with a guide map of the daily activities, complimentary coupons, activity-entry cards and souvenirs to be given to all participants.

The three major types of activity set to take place are: field activities, to be held from 1 pm to 10 pm and include workshops, games and exhibitions of everything from photography to sea food.

This year the parade, to be held from 6 pm until 7 pm on the first day of the carnival, will be led by children in costume, with accompaniment from marine mascots and souped-up motorcars.

Stage performances, scheduled from 7 pm until 10 pm daily, include dance shows, music performances from the likes of hip hop star Joey Boy, cabaret shows and cocktail-drinking competitions.

For more information call Kannika "Som" Saiphan at 081-2697731 or Nawatida "Bow" Boachoti at 089-1079809.

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# Loggers blamed for flash floods

Illegal logging has been blamed for the September 10 flash floods in Phetchabun's Lom Kao district that caused several deaths and extensive damage to local villages.

Thao Kaewyom, Chief of Tambon Na Sum, said the flood disaster was the worst to hit the area in 60 years. He believed it was due to illegal logging on nearby mountains.

Seven villages of Tambon Na Sum were affected, he said.

An inspection found 657 houses were partially damaged and two bridges destroyed by the pre-dawn floods.

Two people in Tambon Na Sum were killed, 30 were injured and a pregnant woman is listed as missing.

K. Thao said that Tambon Na Sum and surrounding areas in Lom Kao district had a network of illegal loggers on the mountains linked to a certain state official, but he could not stop them or speak too much about them because it might cause trouble to his family.

Flooding also devastated areas in nearby Lom Sak District, where a family of three was killed when their house was washed away.

Parts of Loei and Phitsanuloke provinces also suffered severe flooding.

**Master plan.** Information and communications technology (ICT) development in Thailand in the next five years will move towards making the country a new "connected nation", with people at all levels having a chance to use ICT for "self-sufficiency".

That is the mission set out in the country's second ICT master plan for 2007 to 2011, drafted by the ICT Ministry.

The second plan, now in the approval process, aims to use ICT to benefit society and the economy, while reducing the "digital divide" in the country.

The plan also aims to increase the value of ICT use in Thailand from only 3.6% of gross domestic product in 2005 to 8% by the end of 2011.

Panjai Tantatsanawong, head of the consultant team who drafted the plan, said it would drive the expansion of telecommunications infrastructure to reach people in remote areas at an affordable price to give everyone a chance to be connected to the Internet and receive equal ICT services.

**Suvarnabhumi slump.** The Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) has warned of a sharp drop in the number of foreign tourist arrivals at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport.

According to ATTA, the number of foreign tourists who arrived at Suvarnabhumi between January and August, after booking through travel agencies, totaled 1.57 million, down by 350,000 (15.3%) from 1.92 mil-



## Proud Pooches

Bangkok's Metropolitan Police Special Operations Division Commander Maj Gen Jakkrathip Chaijinda held a press conference to announce the arrest of a four-member gang dealing *ya bah* (methamphetamine). The four were arrested on September 13 after a successful investigation led police to a home in Bangkok's Bangkapi district, where two sniffer dogs uncovered 16,000 *ya bah* pills.

Also seized were four firearms with ammunition, 11 bankbooks and 700,000 baht in cash. Police estimated the value of the drugs at 4.8 million baht.

lion during the corresponding period last year.

The figures do not include the large number of tourists who book directly with airlines or enter the country at other international airports in the country.

ATTA said that the global economic slowdown, Thailand's political turmoil, rumors that Bangkok was targeted for more bombings and the sharp fluctuations in major currencies had been the main negative factors affecting the tourist industry.

**Discovered endangered.** New species of gecko and stream skink have been found in a wildlife sanctuary in Chiang Mai's Chiang Dao mountains, prompting wildlife authorities to list them for national protection.

The National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department's Wildlife Conservation Office listed the newly discovered species as the Chiang Dao stream skink and the Chiang Dao wild gecko.

Four or five Chiang Dao

stream skinks – with scaly heads, brown bodies five centimeters long and tails six centimeters long – were found in a trap set in a mountainous pine forest during a wildlife study of the area.

The new gecko – nine centimeters long with a brown-and-yellow, scaly body – was found in a bird trap.

After details of the new species were officially published, they would be classified as protected, it was announced.

**Media ban.** The Domestic-Violence Victim Protection Act will bar media from reporting on domestic violence cases after they reach the hands of police investigators.

Suwit Khantharoj, who heads the Social Development and Human Security Ministry's Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, said the ban on news reports was intended to keep families from falling apart.

News coverage sometimes

stood between family members who could have otherwise reconciled.

The act will take effect November 13, he said.

"We do not mean to infringe on press freedom. It is just that media should think about human rights too," said K. Suwit.

**Cyber cops.** Following heavy criticism from the cyber community for the way the police have exercised their power under the 2007 Computer Crime Act, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) wants to investigate all online cases of *lèse majesté* and computer hacking.

Col Yannaphol Yangyuen, head of the DSI's Data Center and Inspection Division, said he would seek Cabinet approval for ministerial regulation to allow all cases where suspects have posted offensive comments about the monarchy on the Internet to be automatically transferred to the DSI.

"This is to make the new Computer Crime Act more efficient and enable us to arrest more people who violate the law," he said.

If the regulation is passed, cases of hackers who break into government computer systems in order to steal, change or destroy information would also be transferred to the DSI, he said.

Currently, the national committee on special investigations decides which cases should be transferred to the DSI.

The Computer Crime Act, which came into effect July 18, was immediately controversial following the arrest of two people last month for offensive comments they posted on Internet chat rooms.

**Long-necks relocated.** In response to local authorities' initiative to gather all long-neck hilltribe people in the province into one area, eight families of long-neck Karen tribespeople living in Mae Hong Son province willingly moved to the Ban Huai Poo Kaeng community on September 12.

Arriving on a six-wheeled truck, about 20 territorial-defense volunteers showed up at their old community of Ban Huai Sua Thao to help with their relocation.

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

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# Heavy rain causes landslide

**K**hao Lak is a busy place these days with a sweet scent in the air; that of a fresh and promising high season coming soon. At the moment, it's not a place to be found if you don't want to hear the sound of hammers and power tools, since everyone is trying to get ready for the action.

A number of new shops have mushroomed in the past few months, so many it is almost impossible to keep track. In addition, Khao Lak has never seen as many low-season tourists as during this rainy season.

Since the past few months have been a healthy mix of sunny and rainy stretches, it is possible that many tourists have enjoyed their off-season time here and will return next year.

While tailor shops were the business "idea" of choice in pre-tsunami times, nowadays it is optical shops going for broke. The biggest player here, K.T. Optics, has opened two shops near the Nang Thong Supermarket; both located only a few hundred meters from each other.

There are at least three other optical shops close by, resulting in five shops offering the same product in an area approximately the size of a football field. Great planning, I must say! Like Doctor Evil once said in that Austin Powers movie, "Who wants billions if you can have... millions?"

**Slipping away.** "Great planning" also resulted in a major landslide along the serpentine part of Petchkasem Rd, near the Baan Krathing restaurant.

After heavy rainfall on the night of September 12, a part of the recently-built walkway for pedestrians, with its shiny, stainless-steel railing that fits so perfectly into the natural surroundings, suddenly slid down the 40-meter deep abyss along with a part of the road and ended up just a few meters away from a build-



**MAIN PHOTO:** A large chunk of the road, sidewalk and steel barrier plunged 40 meters down the slope. The landslide brought traffic to a standstill. **INSET:** The road was reopened, but with warning signs marking only one lane open past the affected area.

ing near the beach.

No casualties were reported in what is either a miracle or the result of nobody digging through the debris to find out if an unfortunate pedestrian was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Half of the road was blocked for a few hours. Since the slide appeared just behind a curve, there was no chance for drivers to realize that there was traffic congestion just a few meters ahead.

Flashing lights warning oncoming traffic of the dangers were installed the next day after a few collisions suggested that this would be a good idea.

Photographic evidence showed that the area where the slide occurred was filled up with sand. The rainwater streaming down from the hills of Khao Lak carved out the sand filling under the road and around the concrete columns until the whole structure simply collapsed.

The remaining question

here is not whether the next attempt to fix this problem will be planned and executed professionally; the question is whether officials will even realize that we have a big problem here that could cut off Khao Lak from Phuket virtually overnight in the future.

Businessmen in Khao Lak fear that even weirder planning and bad timing could spoil the coming high season for residents and visitors alike.

Huge black rubber tubes have been placed all along Petchkasem Rd. These tubes will be part of an advanced fresh-water supply network, connecting Tai Muang and Takuapa.

Since these tubes will be buried alongside Petchkasem Rd, and with the project having almost reached the Tub Lamu intersection (only five kilometers south of Khao Lak) there is a good chance that construction will reach the center of Khao Lak by November or December, right in the middle of high season.

We have witnessed similar incidents in the past, like the widening of Petchkasem Rd to four lanes in 2003 and 2004, where bad timing turned Khao Lak into

a major construction site with several shops being inaccessible during high season.

While the enhancement of infrastructure in the Khao Lak region is a necessity and a positive thing, everyone here wonders why this always has to be done in the time between November and April?



**ANDAMAN COASTING**  
By Franky Gun

On a brighter note, Khao Lak is getting a huge book store called Book Tree. It will be located in the

new shopping plaza opposite the Bank of Ayudhya on Petchkasem Rd, covering two stories and several rows of the northern shop-house complex.

The book store will be open in time for the coming high season and is yet another step forward in enhancing Khao Lak's infrastructure.

*Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba diver and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and has since called Khao Lak home. Franky can be contacted via email at: avalon@loxinfo.co.th*



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A member of the Khuan Chun Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) was shot dead on his doorstep in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Ron Phibun district in the early hours of September 11.

Having just returned from a funeral, 36-year-old Phonkamon Suksa-at was opening his front door about 2:20 am when assailants opened fire on him with a shotgun and an M-16 assault rifle.

Arriving at the scene, police found K. Phonkamon's body lying on the doorstep. An autopsy revealed that he had been shot once in the thigh with a shotgun and multiple times in the back, neck and head with an M-16. Police collected eight spent M-16 cartridges from a dark corner near the home, where police believe the gunmen hid while awaiting K. Phonkamon's return.

Inside the house, officers were met by K. Phonkamon's wife Wiyada Thanirat, 25, who was still in shock. K. Wiyada told officers that she heard her husband pull up outside on his motorbike and call for her to open the front door. Then she heard a barrage of shots ring out. When the gunfire was over, she opened the door to find her husband lying dead, she told police.

Maj Wonjit Wongsri, an Investigating Officer at Ron Phibun District Police Station, said that K. Phonkamon had been seen driving away from a neighbor's funeral with a woman riding pillion on his motorcycle. Police have yet to establish the identity of the passenger, he added.

"We are not yet ready to draw any conclusions as to the motive for the killing, but we are focusing on three lines of investigation: adultery, as we have found some information giving weight to this theory; local politics and business interests," Maj Wongjit said.

"We have to look into [K. Phonkamon's] involvement in the contracting business and also as to whether there were any disputes with other *OrBorTor* members," he added.

Lt Col Chedchai Mosika, Deputy Superintendent of Ron Phibun District Police Station, said the attack was the first in the area involving the use of an assault rifle. Police have found no records of any person in the area legally possessing such a weapon and presume that it was brought in from another area, he said.

Officers are focusing on adultery as the most likely motive for the killing, Col Chedchai added.

Two days earlier, on September 9, another local politician was shot and left in a coma in neighboring Phra Phrom district. Damrong "Phu Yai Jui" Opsaenthong, 47, Chief of Village 3 in Tambon Thai Samphao, was shot twice while he was working in his office. Police believe the attack was politically-motivated.

**Laos busted.** Border Patrol Police in Surat Thani arrested two

# Local politicians gunned down in separate attacks



Police and soldiers prepare to patrol Route 410 between Pattani and Yala following the shooting attack of a bus carrying District Defense volunteers in Pattani's Yarang district on September 10.

Lao men in possession of almost 1,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills on September 11.

Lt Chawalit Kangkharat, head of a special task force from Surat Thani-based Border Patrol Police Unit 417, led a 10-man team to arrest Rat Duangbupha, 28, and Am Sribunreuang, 30, after arranging to buy drugs from them.

They met the two suspected dealers in Surat Thani's Tha Chang district, by the side of the Surat-Tha Chang road. After revealing themselves as police, they searched the suspects and seized 930 *ya bah* pills, a mobile phone and the motorcycle the men had arrived on.

Police said that the two men had been smuggling drugs for a long time. They bought *ya bah* pills in Laos for 70 to 80 baht each and sold them in Thailand for 150 to 200 baht.

The two men, both Lao citizens, were charged with entering Thailand illegally and possession of drugs with the intent to distribute. They were then handed over to Tha Chang District Police for processing.

**Accidental blast.** Two police trainers and three new recruits were injured when a bomb exploded during a training demonstration at an Army Rangers camp in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Sichon district on September 13.

About 4:45 pm, Pol L/C Aekachai Jantharamas was conducting a training session in the use of explosives when a bomb being used in the exercise ex-

ploded. Cpl Aekachai lost his right arm in the blast.

Three new recruits, Sinuan Chusriwet, Thawatchai Hongsaengsi and a man identified only as "Chalermchai", received shrapnel wounds.

Sgt Maj Somphong Na Nakhon was also injured, suffering shrapnel wounds to the back.

All five men were taken to Maharaj Hospital for treatment. The injured recruits were all being trained to be sent to the restive southern provinces. An investigation into the cause of the explosion will be launched.

**Killings continue.** One soldier was killed and four others seriously injured when a group of in-

surgents ambushed them with a bomb attack and a hail of gunfire on September 17.

The ambush took place on a bridge in Village 7, Tambon Luboh Yiro, Pattani's Mayo District. The five soldiers were patrolling the road in a pickup truck about 8:30 am when insurgents struck, detonating a bomb thought to have weighed about 15 kilograms, blowing the soldiers off the back of their truck.

Police said the insurgents then opened fire on the soldiers, but the driver, Sgt Maj 1st Class Sermsak Kanchanaphet, 47, fired back, causing them to retreat.

Sgt Maj Sermsak, who suffered multiple cuts by bomb

shrapnel, died behind the wheel.

Earlier in the week, on September 11, suspected insurgents shot dead a retired police officer in Pattani and a 21-year-old man was found shot dead in a similar attack in Yala.

The victims were identified as Pol Sen Sgt Major Wicharn Namikul, 52, and Useng Yusoh, 21, a resident of Tambon Satengnok, Yala.

K. Wicharn was shot dead when he was hit at close range with three shots by a gunman who approached from behind on a motorbike, police said.

K. Useng's brother, Mahyuding Yusoh, 36, suffered gunshot wounds in the attack and was rushed to a nearby hospital.

In Narathiwat, combined security forces the same day confiscated three M-16 rifles, one AK47, one shotgun, a large amount of ammunition and 200 liters of fuel in Rusoh district.

The shakedown came a day before Muslims in the restive region prepared to observe the holy month of Ramadan.

In a concession to local concerns about the holiday, the army said that from September 12 to October 21 it would lift a curfew imposed since March on two of the most violent districts in Yala province.

More than 100 suspected insurgents have been arrested since September 9 and taken to detention camps at army bases, where they are questioned and often go through "re-education" programs.

Unless charged, suspects must be released after 30 days. However, they can be detained multiple times in subsequent security sweeps.

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

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By Semacote Suganya

# On the way to Supermodel status

**A**spiring young females strutted their stuff on the catwalk at Jungceylon earlier this month for regional judging of the Thai Supermodel 2007 contest, which will see 40 contestants from around the nation competing for cash and prizes plus the chance to win exclusive modeling contracts in association with Channel 7 TV.

Professional model Kanchanaporn Prodpai was among the judges who selected three young Phuket ladies to join the 10 regional finalists narrowed down from 1,191 applicants, who had to be between 15 and 24 years old, unmarried, at least 168 centimeters tall and possess a great personality to qualify.

Of the applicants who applied for the contest, just 41 were selected to demonstrate their prowess on the catwalk in the regional judging at Jungceylon.

The Phuket finalists were to join the other 30 regional winners from contests in Udon Thani, Chiang Mai and Bangkok at Central World in Bangkok on September 18, when 20 models were to be selected for the final round to be held on November 15, also at Central World.

Among the top prizes on offer from the sponsors are 300,000 baht in prize money, a Toyota Vios, a year's supply of Sealect Tuna and Pantene hair products, a HP Compaq Notebook and a professional portfolio photo shoot.

Thai Supermodel 2007 sponsors will also present the top 10 in the final with cash awards of 20,000 baht each and the 20 runners-up will receive 8,000 baht each. Twenty models will also be selected for Editors' Choice awards to receive cash prizes and supplies of sponsors' products.

For the ambitious, the Thai Supermodel contest is the chance of fame and fortune, while other contestants are just having fun dressing up in nice clothes and showing off while they're on their school holidays.

Of the 10 chosen to go to Bangkok, the Phuket beauty wearing number 1 as she graced the catwalk was 16-year-old Kanchana "Maew" Artcharoen from Thalang School, whose height was a winning trait with the judges.



**Above:** 16-year-old Kanchana "Maew" Artcharoen (left) from Thalang takes on the big girls in the pose-off.

**Above, right:** Rosesukol "Gift" Pejsuwan, 16, struts her stuff on the catwalk.

**Right:** Chan "Noyana" Jitsopol (in black dress) looks intensely at the judges while waiting for the decision.

"My friends at school are always joking about my height. I am not much good at anything else, so I thought I'd give modeling a try," Maew said.

Fellow finalist Chan "Noyana" Jitsopol introduced herself, "As my school is closed for the holidays, I wanted to have something to do. My parents supported me strongly to enter this contest and I really like the catwalk."

For Phuket Rajabhat University students, 21-year-old Kwansiri "Ping Pong" Boonrom and 23-year-old Boonyada "June" Saechan, modeling is something they've always

wanted to do and jumped at the chance of being part of a national contest that could be the start of a career in a the global industry.

"It has been my dream to be a model since I was kid and Thai Supermodel has given me the chance to give it a go," said Pingpong. June agreed.

The *Gazette* wishes them the best of luck and hopes they demonstrate to the judges another side of Phuket's natural beauty.

To view the contestants' portfolios and vote online for Thailand's most alluring glamor girl, visit [www.tsm.ch7.com](http://www.tsm.ch7.com)





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**C**hef Muhammad Shaha Latif, 33, from India, started his career when he was 15 in New Delhi, where he went on to become executive chef of the prestigious Taj Mahal Hotel, catering to celebrities and well-known politicians.

"When I was training as a youth at the Hyatt Regency Delhi, everyone was understandably busy with their own work, so I had to watch and learn by taking my own notes on how they prepared each dish. I learned most of my cooking skills by watching other chefs cook and helping them whenever I was needed," he recalls.

While working at Hyatt Regency Delhi, he represented the hotel at a culinary competition during the Mango Festival in New Delhi. His diligence and attention to detail during his training resulted in him receiving the silver medal at the competition. He worked as a trainee for three years before moving onto to officially begin his career.

His next positions were as assistant chef at establishments such as Le Meridien New Delhi and Shangri-La Hotel, New Delhi. While at the Shangri-La Hotel, he was chosen to represent the hotel during a roadshow throughout China where he prepared various Indian dishes at exhibitions to promote Indian food and tourism.

After assisting chefs and perfecting his craft, he finally achieved the position of executive chef at the famed Taj Mahal Hotel where he cooked for various Indian celebrities, musicians and politicians including Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He was also responsible for catering to wedding parties of up to 2,000 people during his time at the hotel.

As the popularity of Indian food began to rise outside of India, including here in Phuket, Chef Latif decided to come to Thailand in December 2006 to work as executive chef at Bangles Restaurant at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon.

The restaurant, which seats up to 45 guests under cover and up to 80 guests when tables are set up on the terrace, allows Chef Latif to explore the cuisine he has been perfecting for quite some time.

However, Chef Latif explains that, when first coming to work at Bangles, it was difficult for him to find the necessary ingredients to be used in Indian cuisine.

"In the beginning, we had to make do with substitutes for specific ingredients I like to use. For example, we could not find Kashmiri chili powder at the markets here in Phuket, so we had to make do with paprika powder instead.

"Kashmiri chili powder

# Indian innovation



Chef Muhammad Shaha Latif (above) established his career in New Delhi, India before moving to Phuket, where he now showcases his innovative culinary delights such as Lashuni Murg Tikka (right) and Dum Ki Chap (far right).



25g Fried onion  
10g Ginger paste  
15g Garlic paste  
40ml Whipping cream  
Salt to taste

## Method

Rinse the lamb chops and place them in a cooking pot. Add all the other ingredients into the pot and thoroughly mix them with the lamb chops. Let it sit at room temperature.

After 15 minutes, seal the top of the pot and tightly wrap it with aluminum foil. Put the wrapped pot into an oven that has been preheated to 160°C to 180°C and bake for 50 to 55 minutes.

After the lamb chops have been cooked to a tenderness of your liking, remove them from the oven. Place the lamb chops in a skillet and lightly add water to create a curry sauce and reheat over medium heat on the stove for about two minutes.

Check both the seasoning and consistency of the sauce and then serve with either *roti* or *naan*.

gives the food a rich and distinctive red color that cannot be achieved with other chili powders," he says.

"Once we opened and everything started to fall into place, we were able to slowly start to find suppliers for different ingredients. Now everything has settled down and we have access to everything essential for Indian cuisine.

"Many ingredients we use are now readily available from Indian shops in Phuket. However, some ingredients, such as cardamom, have to be ordered from suppliers in Bangkok that import them from India," he adds.

India is renown for its varying customs and traditions in different regions. Chef Latif explains that it is no different when it comes to the cuisine. Some restaurants specialize in North Indian dishes while others feature only South Indian dishes.

Chef Latif started with learning how to cook North Indian cuisine but later diversified his training and skills to include culinary specials from South India as well. Consequentially, dishes from both regions are on the menu at Bangles.

His own innovations are also included on the menu. One such dish is Lashuni Murg Tikka, which blends many herbs and spices together to give a distinctive taste that has been well received by diners enjoying their first tastes of Indian cuisine.

Lashuni Murg Tikka is an adaptation of the popular dish skewered kebab. However, Chef Latif says that dish is normally quite dry, so for his creation he uses both yogurt and a variety of Indian spices to give the dish a richer, more savory taste.

## Lashuni Murg Tikka Serves 1

### Ingredients

1<sup>st</sup> marination  
175g Boneless chicken leg  
20g Fresh ginger paste  
30g Fresh garlic paste  
10g Turmeric powder  
15g Chili powder  
15g Lemon juice  
Salt to taste

2<sup>nd</sup> marination  
50g Besan (gram flour)  
20g Chopped garlic  
10g Chopped coriander  
10g Chili powder  
25g Whipping cream  
50g Vegetable oil

### Method

Cut the chicken and rinse the meat in water. Mix the ginger paste, garlic paste, salt, turmeric powder and lemon juice in a bowl. Add the chicken to the mix and set aside in a refrigerator, at about 7° Celsius.

After one hour, take the mixture out of the refrigerator and drain all excess liquid. Add the besan (gram flour), then the chopped garlic and coriander. Coat the chicken with vegetable oil using your hands. Last, add the whipping cream and thoroughly mix all the ingredients with the chicken.

Place the pieces of chicken on a skewer and grill in a tandoor (Indian clay oven) preheated to 200°C to 225°C. Grill the chicken for five minutes, remove from heat and, while cooling, lightly sprinkle the chicken with water then let it stand for three minutes. Place the chicken back in the tandoor and repeat the cycle three more times.

Once the chicken has a golden brown color, it is ready to be removed from the skewer and served. The dish can be served

with mint sauce and onion, with rice or *naan* as an accompaniment.

## Dum Ki Chap Serves 1

### Ingredients

150g Lamb chops  
40g Low fat yogurt  
40g Cashew nut paste  
1g Saffron  
20g Red chili powder  
15g Gram masala  
12g Green cardamom  
35g Butter  
40g Tomato paste

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## Finding Zolitude

Maitree Narukatpichai, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa Owner Representative (right) hosted a soft opening of the new boutique resort, Villa Zolitude, located in the foothills of the Naerd Range, on September 6.

Exclusive guests and travel agents attended the event, including Assistant Directors of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office, Runjuan Tongrut (center) and Anoma Wongyai (left).

Nestled on a lush hillside, the resort offers guests luxurious Moroccan style accommodation and commands expansive views of Chalong bay.



# Hearing a message of kindness

**P**adungsak "Neung" Suttipol has worked as general-service staff at Mom Tri's Boathouse for 10 years. Over the years he and his son Dodo became friends with regular guest Juraj Petras from Slovakia. "I knew Mr Petras from his visits to Phuket every year between December and January," K. Neung explained.

After several visits, Mr Petras finally plucked up the courage to ask K. Neung why Dodo always wore a bandage over the left side of his head. The answer moved Mr Petras, inspiring him into action. K. Neung had explained that Dodo was born with congenital malformation: Dodo was born without a left ear, leaving him almost completely deaf on his left side.

"Mr Petras is not actually a doctor, but he is a friend of a doctor. I have known him for many years because he likes to pop in for meals at the restaurant where I work," K. Neung explained.

"I told Mr Petras Dodo's story and he said that he had a friend who is a plastic surgeon and that he would consult with him to try and help," he added.

K. Neung heard nothing from Mr Petras for about two months, thinking all that time that Mr Petras had made an empty promise. Actually, Mr Petras was so moved by Dodo's plight that he decided to help him by holding a number of awareness rallies in Bratislava to build support for Dodo.

Mr Petra attained support from Dr Vlastibor Minarovjeh, head physician at Bratislava Hospital, and the pair gained sponsorship from local companies to present Dodo with an unforgettable 13<sup>th</sup>-birthday present – a left ear.

Last February, Dr Minarovjeh and his wife visited Phuket to meet K. Neung and assess the extent of Dodo's malformation. "The first thing he said was to leave the problem to him and his wife. His wife told me not to worry and that they will help Dodo and give the boy a chance to have something he had never had before," said K. Neung.

Then in May, Dodo and his father received a special mes-

**P**adungsak "Neung" Suttipol was born in Lampang province in Northern Thailand and has been living with his family in Phuket for 10 years. A decade-long employee of Mom Tri's Boathouse, working in general services, K. Padungsak has two sons: Noom, 7, and Pratchaya, or "Dodo", 13.

Dodo is top of his class at Baan Kata School and his teachers say he is a shining example to other students. His academic achievements are noteworthy for more than a father's pride – Dodo was born with one ear and is almost completely deaf on his left side.

Semacote Suganya reports.



Thirteen-year-old Dodo wakes up from a five-hour operation to give him something he has never had before: a left ear.

sage from Slovakia pledging a pair of airplane tickets to Bratislava (courtesy of Mr Petras), three weeks hotel accommodation and reconstructive surgery on Dodo's left ear. The surgery was to be the first of a two-step procedure over the course of one year. "I felt like that was the most wonderful gift my son could ever get," said K. Neung.

When he was younger, Dodo was teased at school by his classmates. After cooperation from teaching staff, the name-calling stopped and Dodo was eventually accepted as a normal boy, although he still wore a bandage most of the time.

K. Neung explained the trying times his family went through when years ago they gave up hope of treatment for Dodo. "I collected money and got him to the first operation at King Mong-

kul Hospital in Bangkok about seven years ago.

"After the operation, it seemed like nothing had changed. My son could still hear on only one side. I worked very hard to save that money; nearly 200,000 baht," said K. Neung.

He explained that the treatment at Bratislava Hospital was completely different to that at a Thai hospital. "At King Mongkul, Dodo stayed in the hospital for a month and took pills four times a day. In Slovakia, we were in there for only one night.

"The operation began at 10 am and lasted about five hours and we left in the afternoon. Now he still cannot hear 100% on his left side, but it is better than before," he said.

"In March next year, Dr Minarovjeh will visit again and check on Dodo's progress. Mr

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**INSET:** Juraj Petras (left) was so touched by the story of Dodo (center, main photo) that he drummed up enough support to raise funds for Dodo to fly to Bratislava with his father K. Neung (right) for reconstructive surgery.

Petras has supported us for all the costs of treatment and travel expenses while Dr Minarovjech actually performed the treatment," he added.

"Although it was a complicated operation due to existing scar tissue, it went as well as we could have been hoped for," Lisa Sol, PR manager at Mom Tri's Boathouse, said. "We all knew before the operation that it was a very difficult task because they could not use standard methods to reconstruct the ear.

"Through the methods employed though, they have been able to construct a new ear. It's already beginning to show its natural contours and in one to two months it will get its natural shape. I think Dodo will be happy with it, which is the most important thing."

K. Neung told the *Gazette* that Dodo has been feeling a lot more confident since the operation. His friends have started to notice the difference, too. "At first I was scared of the operation, but then I found out that I would not feel any pain. I was put under a general anesthetic and when I woke up there was no pain at all, even though the anesthetic had worn off," he said.

"Dodo is not shy anymore and not always trying to hide his ear. In the future, I think that he will gain even more confidence and that this will change him as a person.

"I've noticed a lot of changes in Dodo recently, like before he always used to go

around with a bandage on his ear, like when he went out to play; now he uses no bandage," said K. Neung.

"He kept asking me when he could let his ear touch water again. Dodo was told that he could not get his ear wet for two weeks after the operation. We've been back here since August 16 and Dodo is happy that he can get his ear wet with no problems," said K. Padungsak.

A number of local people and organizations helped out with funding Dodo's treatment.

The local Rotary Club of Tungka donated funds, QBE Insurance sponsored by donating the required health and travel insurance, the Slovakian Embassy ensured that Dodo and his father received visas quickly and free of charge, and Mom Tri's Boathouse helped out with some of the staff and regular customers donating cash for the trip.

Plastic surgeons in Phuket have pledged their support by offering their assistance should it be needed in the future.

Dodo now has a bone-plastic structure in his left ear, which doctors have told K. Neung will enlarge as Dodo grows.

Although not all children are as lucky as Dodo to receive such support from people in Phuket – or even anywhere else in the world – K. Neung said, "The important thing is to never give up. And never underestimate what you can do for your kids with love and care, no matter what they are like."

# Happily Ever After

## Recently married in Phuket



**Woody Leonhard and Duangkhae "Add" Tongthueng** married in a private ceremony on August 28, followed by a reception at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, south of Patong.



**Kwankamol Korchareonkit and Narin Burirat** were married at the Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole Hotel on August 17.



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## This week



**MOBILE MEDICAL:** JD Pools Managing Director Thanusak Puengdetch (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) donates a mobile spa to Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) at the recent JD Pools Festival. The Mobile Spa will be used for medical purposes at the new *OrBorJor* hospital.



**INDIAN ROAD:** Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office Suwalai Pinpradub (left) and Director of Asean, South Asia and South Pacific Market Division TAT Pasakorn Supannapan (right) pose with Indian travel agents while promoting Phuket tourism in India. The tourism roadshow stopped off in Mumbai, New Delhi and Bangalore from September 1 to 9.



**MAKING MOVIES:** Movie directors Pantham Thongsang (left) and Karan Khumanuwong (center) receive souvenirs from Director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket Dr Kongkiat Kespechara while presenting the movie *Mid Road Gang* at Bangkok Hospital Phuket on September 11 and requesting permission to film scenes on location at the hospital for the movie *Valentine*.



**PRAISE FOR POLES:** Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (yellow shirt) and Phuket Tourist Association President Maitree Narukatpichai (5<sup>th</sup> from left) hosted a dinner at Thai Thai Restaurant, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa to thank Polish media for promoting Phuket tourism. Present were Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office Assistant Director Ranjuan Thongrutt (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Thai Hotel Association (Southern Chapter) President Methee Tanmanatrakul (4<sup>th</sup> from right) and Hilton Phuket Arcadia General Manager John Kidd (right).



**GREAT GRAVITAS:** Banyan Tree resort introduced New Zealand's Gravitas Wines with a dinner hosted by Black Forest Distribution importer Hans-Peter Blumer (left) and Gravitas winemaker Chris Young (center).



**ECO POP:** Tattoo Colour kicked off the Eco-9 Project, which aims to raise awareness about global warming by planting 9 million trees' project, with a concert at Tesco-Lotus Phuket on September 8. Tesco executives present included corporate affairs representative Martin Clutterbuck; store Managing Director Sasiporn Sardasawatsophit, and Senior Corporate Affairs Manager Saofang Ekluckrujee.

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# THE DEADLY DELUSION

Thailand has zebra crossings painted on the roads. Most towns and countries in the world where the road is sealed have zebra crossings painted on the roads.

Africa also has zebra crossings that aren't painted on the road. These, I suppose, are where zebras cross roads, as opposed to the ones painted on the road, where people are supposed to be able to cross safely. The crossings painted on the road are known as "zebra crossings" because of the resemblance between the white stripes painted on the road and the stripes on a zebra.

The difference between the zebra crossings in my country of

origin and most countries is that the zebra crossing is supposed to be a place where the pedestrian has a right of way for a safe crossing, but in Thailand, it is a very dangerous place to cross.

In Silom Road in Bangkok where I am writing this today, people gather together on the footpath, somewhat like the countless herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle massed along the swollen Mara River - a final barrier from the short, sweet grasses of the Masai Mara after the long migration from the short-grass plains of the southern Serengeti.

At times, the waters boil with drowning wildebeest and slashing crocodiles as the wildebeest try to reach safety. Even as the pedestrians, through sheer



**ENDANGERED SPECIES?** Zebra crossings may be safe havens for crossing the road elsewhere in the world, but in Thailand pedestrians may pay for this presumption with their lives.

numbers, push across the zebra crossing in Silom Road, indignant drivers are flashing lights and blowing horns as they show their resentment at this victory over their god-given right to drive their mighty automobiles wherever and whenever they want.

The zebra crossing in Thailand does not give the user any security whatsoever. In most countries, to hit a pedestrian crossing on a zebra crossing would bring severe punishment. To kill a person on a zebra crossing would, in many cases, bring a

prison sentence.

Here it is meaningless unless there are traffic lights - in most cases drivers in Thailand tend to observe traffic lights, but not zebra crossings.

There are times when I stopped at a zebra crossing to allow some people to pass over, only realizing that I had possibly increased the danger for the pedestrians as there may be another car in the outside lane who not only has no intention of stopping, but is hidden from sight by my car. Or a motorcyclist with the brain

of Winnie the Pooh may have seen no reason why I should be stopping, overtakes and splat!

Not only do the crossings on the roads have no purpose, they are a delusion and should be removed. The crossings on the road are a dangerous menace. A New Zealand man left his hotel on Sukhumvit Road in Bangkok the other night and headed for the Irish Pub on the other side to watch his national rugby team in the World Cup. He never made it. A truck killed him stone dead on the zebra crossing.

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## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

Aston Martin's new DBS, recently unveiled at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in California, came face-to-face with the Le Mans-winning DBR9, at an exclusive test day at the Nürburgring in late August.

The DBS was in Germany for a final sign-off drive at the Nürburgring's Nordschleife circuit at the same time as the Aston Martin Racing DBR9 and other customer race teams were taking part in a test session on the Grand Prix circuit, creating an ideal opportunity for the two cars to meet.

The DBS was officially launched at the Frankfurt Motor Show, held from September 13 to 20.

Aston Martin dates back as far as 1914 when Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford joined forces to form the company. The name was taken from Martin's success at the Aston hillclimb in central England.

The first competition Aston Martin appeared in was in 1921 and then in 1951 Aston Martin DB2s filled the first three places in their class at Le Mans 24-Hours.

This year Aston Martin was bought from Ford, which had first bought a substantial part of the company in 1987, by a consortium headed by Prodrive's David Richards.

As well as running the Subaru world rally team, with drivers Petter Solberg and Chris Atkinson, and the Aston Martin racing program in the FIA GT

series, Prodrive is aiming to become the 12<sup>th</sup> Formula One team when it enters Grand Prix racing in 2008.

Ongoing discussions suggest that Prodrive will become effectively a McLaren-Mercedes "B" team, with both cars and engines sourced from McLaren.

No details of sponsorship are available at the time of writing although Richards says that negotiations are going well so far. Rumors currently suggest that McLaren tester Pedro de la Rosa will be one of the drivers, with either Britain's Gary Paffet or French-Canadian Bruno

Spengler, both of whom currently compete in the German touring car series (DTM) with Mercedes-Benz.

The Aston Martin DBS adopts a series of race-derived materials and components, taking inspiration from the successful DBR9.

The DBS is powered by an Aston Martin six-liter V12, an enhanced version of which is used in both the DBR9 and DBRS9 race cars.

Using the same-design powerplant continues the strong link between Aston Martin's road and race cars, just as the six-cylinder engine used in the DBR1 inspired a generation of engines in the DB4, DB5 and DB6 in the 1950s and 60s.

Like the DB9, the DBS also uses Aston Martin's all-alloy VH (Vertical Horizontal) architecture,

a lightweight, bonded-aluminum structure that provides outstanding strength and rigidity.

Aston Martin engineers have also employed advanced materials and processes to further reduce weight and increase the performance and dynamics of the DBS.

The DBS also has a revised dynamic stability control (DSC) system, designed to maintain maximum traction in difficult driving conditions. The system incorporates a "track" mode which raises the threshold at which the system intervenes to allow the experienced driver to explore the car's limits.

The car's braking system features another innovation: for the first time carbon ceramic matrix (CCM) brakes have been used on a road-going Aston Martin. The end result is shorter stop-

ping distances with excellent resistance to fade.

Another advantage of CCM brakes is that they are around 12.5 kilograms lighter than a conventional system, reducing the weight of the car overall and, in particular, the unsprung weight and rotational masses.

The DBS will be built at Aston Martin's global headquarters at Gaydon in the UK, joining the current Aston Martin lineup, which now comprises the DB9, the agile V8 Vantage Coupe and the critically acclaimed Vantage Roadster, which was launched earlier this year.

Deliveries of the DBS, priced at UK£160,000 (about 10.3 million baht), are expected to commence in early 2008.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at [jhc@netvigator.com](mailto:jhc@netvigator.com)



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| ● Thara Patong Hotel, Thaweewong Rd, Patong           | ● Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong                                |
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|   | ● Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong                              |



# Deeply Dippy

A troupe of dazzling beach babes and hunks raised the temperatures and pulses of shoppers at Central Festival Phuket September 1 to 5 as part of a swimwear fashion show featuring the hippest bathing suits, bikinis and beach gear for women from international brand Triumph.

The colorful swimsuits were part of a show organized by JD Pools to promote the company's latest innovations in swimming-pool technologies, including mobile spa baths, composite pools (swimming pools that can be relocated after installation), hydrotherapy systems and sauna-room systems.

The scantily-clad boys and girls in the fashion show drew hordes of curious spectators, as the models paraded around the pools. A few of the girls took a plunge and played in the water, draw-

ing attention to not only the pool products, but also the models themselves.

Followers of female beach fashion were treated to the latest offerings from Triumph, the Swiss-based, German-founded company behind the Sloggi brand of underwear. Hot off the catwalks were fun, rainbow prints and funky patterns out to prove that swimwear need not be drab.

Triumph also has a mix 'n' match line of briefs and bikini tops, so that girls can personalize their beach outfits with striped, solid or printed designs. Stripes and print designs, such as floral patterns, are in vogue at the moment in bold colors such as orange and lime green.

The real question on every male shopper's lips, however, was, "When will the girls be back?"

— Janyaporn Morel



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# Pet-poisoning woes reach boiling point

The subject of poisoning animals has reared its head again in a big way these past few months, most recently with the deaths of three dogs on Nai Harn Beach. The dogs, poisoned by baited chicken meat, were found in the early morning by local residents walking along the beach.

The Nai Harn killings follow a spate of poisonings in Kamala a month earlier. It seems that HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's request to cease the practice has fallen on deaf ears in Phuket.

In Kamala, many foreigners had their pet dogs targeted a few years ago and it was widely reported in the *Gazette* and elsewhere.

In the most recent spate of poisonings, not only were beach and temple dogs targeted, but also several owners had dogs poisoned in their own gardens.

One owner in Kamala lost two dogs that ate poison on the beach when she was exercising them. Other incidents have been reported in Cherng Talay, Layan, Patong, Nai Harn, Nai Yang and Pah Klok, and these are only the ones I know about. A former editor of the *Gazette* has had a number of dogs poisoned for no apparent reason.

The poisoning of both stray and pet

dogs and cats is a common occurrence on the island. It is an insidious practice and not, as many believe, confined to Muslim areas. There are many documented cases of poisoning, even at Buddhist temples.

Of course, the indiscriminate spreading of poison at places such as beaches means that not only dogs are likely to eat it, but also other pets, wildlife and even inquisitive young children. The result is usually a slow painful death.

In a previous article, I wrote that for pet owners it is important to understand that most pets are poisoned for a reason. The dog or cat is likely causing problems for someone whether it be killing chickens or just being plain noisy.

However, that no longer appears to be the case. In recent incidents in Kamala, and one on a private development near Cherng Talay, it appears to be nothing more than malice.

It is important that owners be responsible. There is an old saying that there are no bad dogs, just bad owners. Many owners are oblivious to the annoyance that their animals cause neighbors.

All dogs should be confined to their owner's property and only taken out for supervised exercise.

Incessant barking or howling can be



## MAKING TRACKS

By Top Dog

a nightmare for a neighbor and can easily be prevented. Shamu Shamu on Chao Fa East Rd stocks effective, automatic-bark-prevention collars.

These emit either a high pitched sound or static shock when the dog starts to bark. The levels increase if the dog continues. These collars are humane and effective.

Have your animals sterilized, whether male or female. As well as preventing the obvious, it will also reduce wandering, fighting, and, in the case of cats, wailing. It is an old wives tale that castrating a male dog will change its temperament.

If you live in an area where poisoning frequently occurs, get in the habit of regularly patrolling your garden perimeter.

A common method of poisoning is to throw a baited piece of food over a garden wall or fence. When exercising your

dog, be suspicious if your dog finds a tasty morsel to eat. People in Thailand generally do not throw away pieces of meat.

If you suspect poisoning, prompt action is critical. Make your pet vomit by forcing a strong salt solution or even Thai fish sauce down its throat. Then take it immediately to a vet.

Signs of poisoning can vary depending on the type of poison used.

If your pet is staggering or shaking and frothing at the mouth, suspect poisoning.

Other symptoms can include diarrhea, severe vomiting, asthmatic breathing, convulsion and coma.

Sometimes the animal will display no signs for two or three days, but patches of red, purple or dark blue on the body or gums may begin to develop later. These are signs of internal bleeding.

Ask your vet for his mobile number in case of emergency. There is no veterinary emergency service in Thailand. The modern treatment is to anesthetize the animal for three or four days. This stops the dog from fitting, which is the usual cause of death.

Hopefully most owners will never have any problem, but forewarned is forearmed.

Birds do it, bees do it. Mick Jagger, Eric Clapton and their like just keep on doing it, even though they are well past their "excuse me while I just go for a long snooze on the sofa" date.

We're talking about rock 'n' roll dads. The phenomenon whereby immensely overpaid wielders of plectrums and drumsticks have become a realm unto their own as far as endless and broad scale dispersion of their genes is concerned.

Once upon a time this was the preserve of the noble and high born. It was their birthright and privilege to lob about their DNA with gay and indeed straight abandon, on all sides of the duvet and for as long as their gout-wracked

# Last tango in paradise

physiologies would hold out.

This mantle has been taken up by the rock aristocracy. Of course, aging rockers do have their irresistible magnetic personalities, not to mention exceedingly tight trousers, to assist them in their relentless pursuit of bubbly bedmates.

The merely aging and penurious men who are riding on the Phuket omnibus have no such spontaneous charisma upon which to draw, let alone Himalayan bank balances or global property portfolios.

Yet a cursory wander

around the beaches and bars of Phuket reveals a new demographic trend in the making. Everywhere are new dads aged 50 and up, teetering about on their Zimmer frames in mad paternal frolic with their recently spawned offspring.

Okay, "Mad paternal frolic" might be a bit of an over statement. A gentle glow of warm paternalistic pride is more likely as new dad orders another round of cold beers with his cohorts around the bar, while new mum chases after junior as he heads enthusiastically towards the turbulent surf.

Many of these new mums are 30 or so summers shy of the old man's vintage and of a dusky and lithesome persuasion.

What is going on here one may well ask? Why do otherwise sanely aging chaps do this sort of thing when they move to these tropical climes?

Clearly opportunity has a lot to do with it. If one were to make an amorous approach to a lithesome lass half one's age in most Western countries these days, the upshot would be a hearty smack in the mouth, possibly followed by a stressful visit from the local constabulary.

Here in Thailand, we enjoy a gloriously un-ageist culture. Some would even go so far as saying it's a "reverse ageist" culture, in which chaps become more appealing as relationship fodder as their girths and gray hair expand.

Cynics of course like to add snide comments about expanding wallets to this equation, but let's leave them to their negativity and focus on the broad swathe of fantasy for which the Land of Smiles is duly famous.

The extended family culture that thrives in Thailand is another factor. Older daddies are frequently able to slope off to the nearest beer bar or hammock, while junior is drooled over by legions of adoring grannies, aunties and maids.

This puts the average new dad residing in Thailand into a league occupied by the likes of Eric Clapton. Co-incidentally enough I happen to live next door to Eric when I am back in Surrey. Eric recently become a dad again to baby Sophie, at the rockin' age of 60. I can authoritatively tell you the number of times I see him out in the early morning mist with one of his new kiddies slung over his vomit-soaked shoulder, is precisely... nil.

Eric's enjoying the luxury of hot and cold running servants that the successful rocker's lifestyle

provides. Likewise in Thailand, aging dads have the extended family to guarantee sufficient time at the beach bar and a good night's sleep.

Let's not underestimate the economics of breeding in these parts compared with the overpriced terrors of doing so in the West.

A Bangkok insurance company is currently running an ad that estimates an outlay of almost US\$300,000 for the private schooling of just one little darling from kindergarten through to university.

The same figure in baht would cover it

nicely around the Andaman, with enough left over for really serious Champagne parties to wet junior's head before school and to toast his graduation after completing university.

Finally, there's the sheer joyful exuberance that life on a tropical island can instill in all but the most jaded of aging loins. The outdoor life with clean air, beautiful beaches and gently swaying palms and playmates are just some of the magnetic attractions that draw aging males to this part of the world.

Having settled into such a revitalizing idyll, perhaps it's not that surprising that the optimistic outlook it generates gets them thinking about joining the great procreative dance for one last tango in paradise.



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Yes, I know, it's not even October, but believe me when we're talking Christmas it is far better to be well prepared. This is the first year for many that I haven't ended up issuing the invitation "Do come over and stay for Christmas if you're on the island" – and for good reason.

In the past, often generously fueled by several glasses of something alcoholic, I would sweep through the pre-Christmas party period, graciously taking bookings for every weekend between mid-November and mid-February. Now I am thankful that the house I find myself in just about fits me and the kids, let alone house guests.

About 20 years ago, a move from London to Cyprus – yes, that island again, not Phuket – opened up a hitherto unknown and exciting aspect of my life, that of a country house by the sea with spare bedrooms.

I moved at Christmas, that most traditional time for visiting, which inevitably also brought the arrival of my first house guests. Mulled wine flowed and mince pies were munched as I slipped comfortably into a new role as house party hostess with the mostest.

How could I have known at the time that this couple I had invited, and whom I hadn't seen for ages, had developed a penchant for loud and somewhat enthusiastic lovemaking?

They kept the entire household – including mum and dad who were also staying over – awake all night with their cries of passion. Their exertions even prompted the appearance of my son at 3 am, sleepily convinced that all the thumping and screaming was caused by Santa having a dodgy landing.

By the time this pair finally emerged around lunchtime the next day I had fed their two small children and even changed a ripe diaper. I was feeling distinctly devoid of goodwill.

As I waved rather enthusiastically at their departing vehicle, squinting through a fog of exhaustion, I reflected grimly that guests don't get much more hellish than that. But, believe me, they do.

The fantasy of a weekend of laughter, log fires and delicious food and wine consumed in a glow of convivial company has a terrible tendency to disappear.

Instead, the grim reality is mountains of washing up and adults who see a change of sleeping venue and some booze as an excuse to behave like mentally defective baboons and vomit all over the antique quilt left to you by your grandmother.

# Dealing with the guests from hell



Too many visitors haven't read the rules of Good Guest Etiquette. Accordingly, when their lukewarm offers of help are accepted, they stand around flopping a tea-towel and say feebly, "I'm not much good at this sort of thing." Then, of course, you feel obliged to say "Oh don't worry, I'll do it."

Perhaps if they knew that you were mentally adding them to your NIA list (Never Invite Again) they might try harder.

I suppose the point is that having gone to the trouble of making up spare beds, cleaning your

house until even your mother would approve, and buying far more supplies of Christmas fare than usual, expectations of the visit ahead are high in the extreme. In short, you've made the effort – now it's their turn.

And arriving with the words "Thank heavens – now I can really relax", flopping into the squashest armchair and remaining comatose for the weekend, as one set of acquaintances did on several occasions, just doesn't cut it.

A useful tactic for those in colder climes who wish to ensure

that Guests From Hell never darken their doorstep again is to switch off the heating the day before the GFH arrive and hide all the hot-water bottles. How you explain this is up to you – and you will, of course, suffer along with them – but take it from me, it never fails. Freezing guests never return.

If you prefer a more direct approach, I find that "I'm sorry, I'd rather you didn't come and visit again" works well – although you obviously have to realize at this point that the friendship will be abruptly terminated.

Being a hostess for many years has certainly honed my own visiting skills: I now wouldn't dream of arriving chez friends without copious supplies of special treat-type foods – exotic cheeses, fine Italian salamis, delicious cakes, and vats of wine. And chocolates should only ever be Belgian.

Occasionally, though, a guest breaks the mold and shines brightly like a lone star twinkling in the night sky. Then the answer to the "Why do we do it?" question becomes obvious.

Last Christmas's Good Guest of the Year Award went to the friend who arrived from London bearing the contents of both a small delicatessen (Carluccio's to be exact) and an off-license, and then cheerfully shouldered more than her fair share of household chores, breaking off only to mix lethal cocktails.

On departure day, she not only stripped her bed but also re-

made it with fresh sheets. Charmed with this total mastery of what makes a GG, I now expect no less from each and every visitor – and I also follow suit when I'm visiting friends.

In the meantime, with a full three months before Christmas, this year I'm considering building an extension on the house, turning one of the rooms into an office and the other into an art studio. So if you were thinking of

coming to stay this year, I'm sorry, but we may not have room.

Maybe we could come and visit you instead?

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

## AMBROSIA'S

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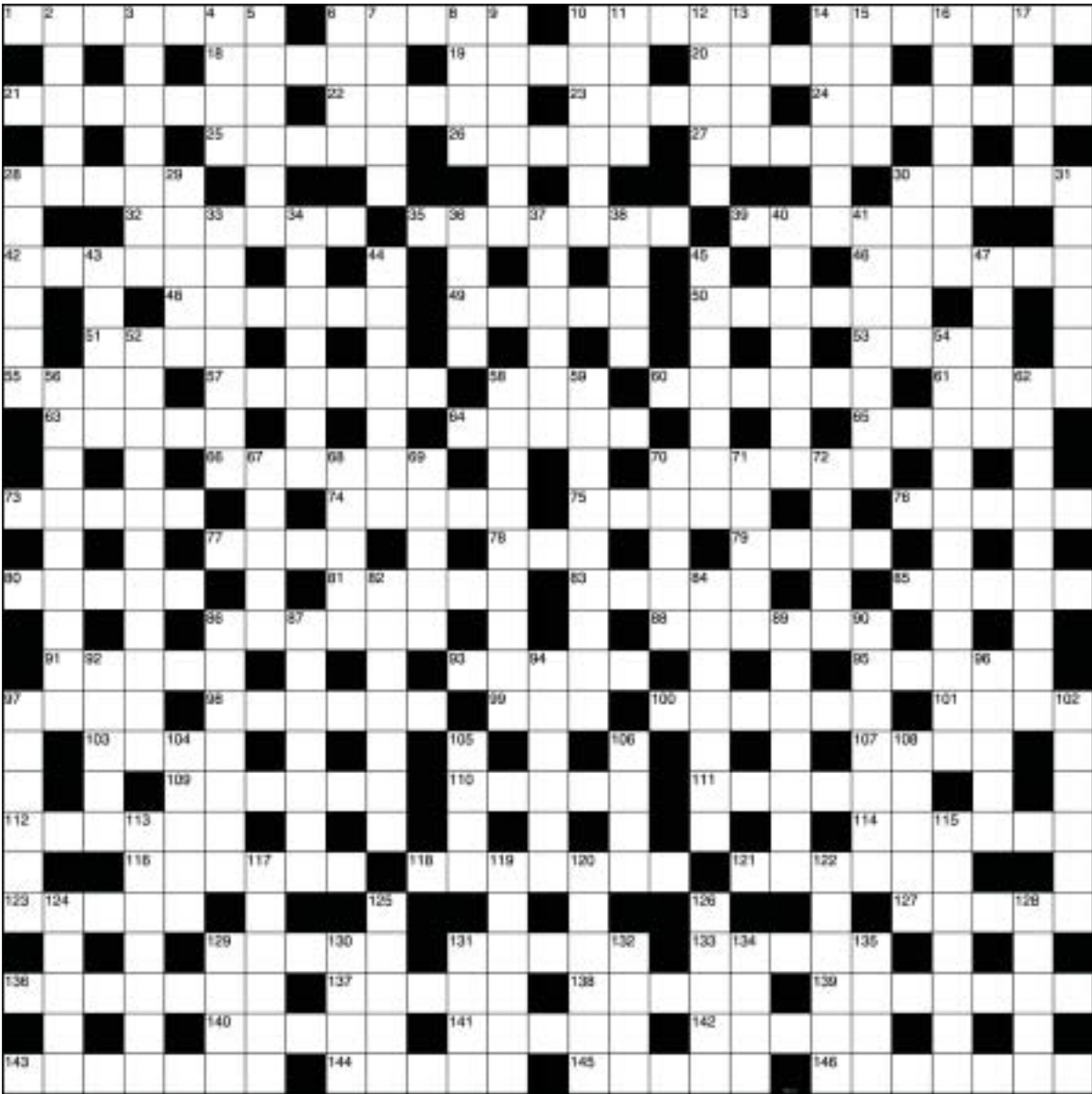
# The BIG Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are more than 25 words relating to Phuket’s Vegetarian Festival. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20, excellent.

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

Solution on next page



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- Across

1. Association

6. Honorably

10. Classify

14. Titled widow

18. Vietnamese capital

19. Bird of prey

20. Had

21. Totaled, ...to (5,2)

22. Skulked

23. Slant

24. Amalgamates

25. Spending binge

26. Without money (slang)

27. Pines & palms

28. Rested on knees

30. Festival, ...Gras

32. Familiar with (4,2)

35. Inexhaustible

39. Sinew

42. Rescind

46. Fools

48. Despoil

49. More coy

50. Cricket arbiter

51. Speech impediment

53. Panache

55. Paradise

57. Mariner

58. Facsimile message

60. Astrologer’s chart

61. Frosts (biscuits)

63. Quarrel

64. Nairobi is there

65. Wearies

66. Destroyed (hopes)

70. Charters

73. Outer garment

74. Explosion

75. Undisguised

76. Trample

77. As well

78. Leg joint
- Down

79. Turn over a new...

80. Wildly excited

81. Scientist, ...Curie

83. Hair dye

85. Prejudiced person

86. Plump

88. Sampled

91. Apprehend

93. Takes (baby) off breast-milk

95. Dark yellow pigment

97. Trifling

98. US president, Ronald...

99. Expire

100. Forward

101. Trial

103. Norwegian capital

107. Long deep wound

109. Assail

110. Calling device

111. Group loyalty, ...de corps

112. Swiss cereal

114. Bite

116. Parcel

118. Back-up (5-2)

121. Hunting hound

123. Reasoned thought

127. Striped cat

129. Naughts

131. Toots

133. Interior decoration

136. Include (5,2)

137. Buffalo

138. Manhandled

139. Large showy flowers

140. Performed (trade)

141. Crow relative

142. Snake, puff...

143. Biblical disease

144. Affirmatives

145. Response
146. Nauseous on boat

steaks

67. Islam God

68. Nuclear weapon

69. Of milk products

70. Reclined

71. Map book

72. Greatly please

82. Worn by friction

84. Child minders

86. Prolonged (illness)

87. Ignorant

89. Trudge

90. Missing

92. Emerged

94. Compression weapon (3,3)

96. Detox therapy

97. Young-suckling animal

102. Submissively

104. Pink/violet

105. Rotisserie

106. Egypt, formerly United ...Republic

108. Aslant

113. Revolving fish lure

115. Fab Four group

117. Acutely

119. Rinks

120. Smartly dressed

122. Residences

124. Condensed oxygen

125. Pop song’s flip (1-4)

126. Perfect

128. French peak, Mont...

129. Metal-toothed fasteners

130. Follow orders

131. Caliber

132. Mentally sound

134. Whirlpool

135. Infrequent

Solution on next page

## su | do | ku

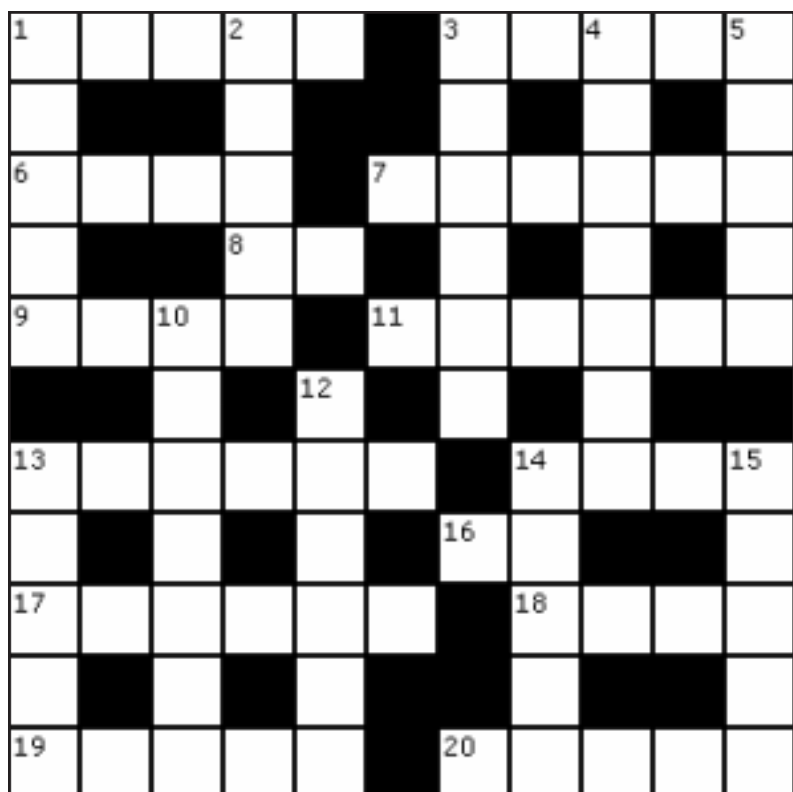
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Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

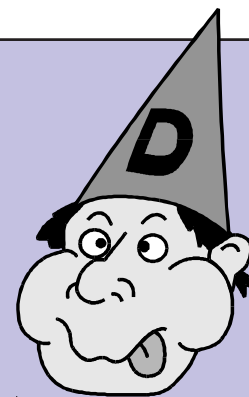
1. Cozy
3. Month of showers
6. Cat's content
7. Evolution man
8. Former
9. Periods of sunlight
11. Have nothing to with
13. Artistic styles
14. Casserole
16. Stephen King novel
17. Races
18. Reverse
19. Scaredy cat
20. Intense pain

### DOWN

1. Lover's archer
2. Shoots
3. Lawrence of...
4. Human-powered vessel
5. Cloth
10. New Yorkers
12. Deadly
13. Strong winds
14. Hurt by a bee
15. Made from sheep hair

*Solution below*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. *Musca domestica* is the scientific name for which animal?
2. How many eggs can a female of this species lay in it's 15- to 25-day lifetime?
3. On average, how many eggs does a hen lay a year?
4. The chicken is the closest living relative to which prehistoric animal?
5. In the hit movie *Jurassic Park*, this prehistoric creature was recreated from fiberglass and 3,000 pounds of what?
6. Which *Jurassic Park* actor played Newman in the sitcom *Seinfeld*?
7. How many millions of US dollars did *Jurassic Park* gross?
8. Bringing in US\$1.84 billion, which is the highest-grossing film?
9. On the final night of filming this movie, pranksters mixed what into the chowder served to the cast and crew?
10. The luxury liner of the same name boasted a gymnasium with a mechanical what?
11. In which US state is it illegal to shoot this animal?
12. What was the name of the circus animal that was used to advertise cigarettes branded with the name of this animal's species?
13. Which famous news anchor smoked non-filtered versions of this brand of cigarettes?
14. How many packs did he smoke a day?
15. Jim Mouth holds the record for smoking how many cigarettes at the same time?
16. He also started the first underwater what?
17. Who holds the record for holding one's breath under water without any form of assistance, and which country is he from?
18. How long did he hold his breath?
19. Which magician failed to break this record in 2006?
20. How have free divers managed to hold their breath for up to 15 minutes?

*Answers below*

# Puzzle Solutions

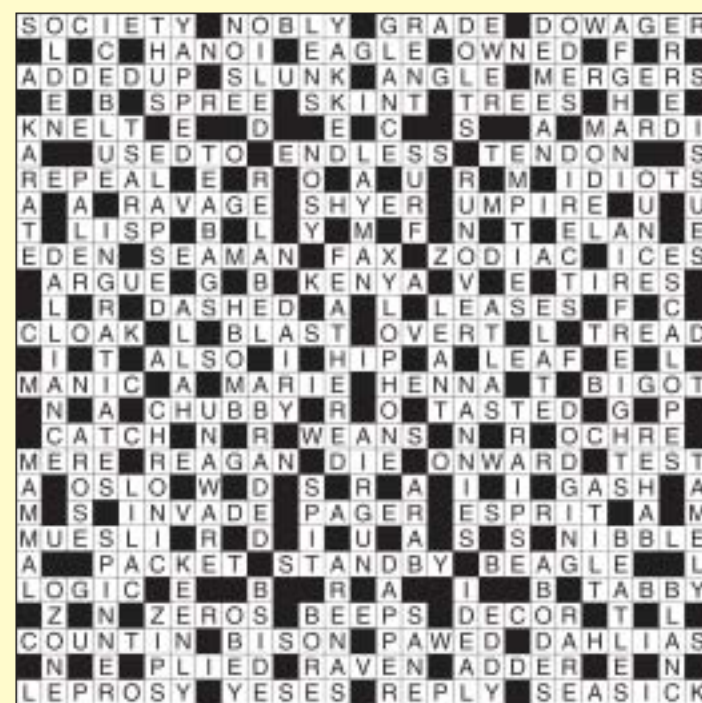
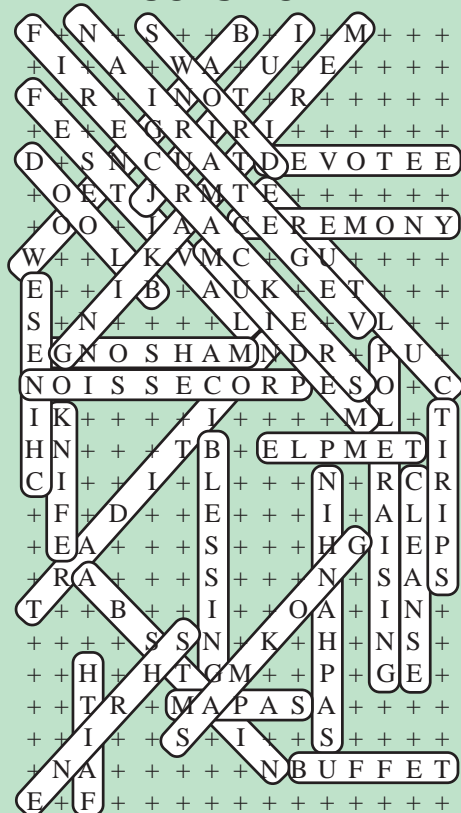
### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Housefly; 2. 9,000; 3. 260; 4. Tyrannosaurus Rex; 5. Clay; 6. US\$914 million; 7. Wayne Knight; 8. Titanic; 9. PCP (angel dust), 80 people were taken ill, many were hospitalized for suffering hallucinations; 10. Camel; 11. Arizona; 12. Old Joe; 13. Edward R. Murrow; 14. Four; 15. 159; 16. band; 17. Martin Stepanek, from the Czech Republic; 18. Eight minutes and six seconds; 19. David Blaine; 20. Inhaling pure oxygen.

### Hidden Words SOLUTION



### Solution to this week's Big Crossword

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



# Dog-eared novel lacks finesse

A couple months back, in a review of Martin Amis's latest novel *House of Meetings*, I mentioned that his previous novel *Yellow Dog* (Vintage, London, 2004, 340pp) had received scathing reviews. But when a friend passed along a copy, I started it gladly. A *New York Times* reviewer once commented that Martin Amis is the best American novelist Britain has ever produced. The savage exuberance of his prose is unmatched in buttoned-up Britain.

The first half of *Yellow Dog* was sheer joy. Nobody cranks out as many laughs and surprises as Amis when he is on a roll. I was beginning to think this was among his best, up there with *Money and Success*.

Xan Meo is a London Renaissance man: renowned TV actor, rhythm guitar player in a blues band, author of an acclaimed book of short stories. On the fourth anniversary of a murderously acrimonious divorce, he goes to the Hollywood Pub to celebrate.

He has long given up drinking and smoking, but will allow himself two drinks and four cigarettes in recognition of his good fortune: a happy remarriage with his American-professor wife Russia (everyone's got a silly name, don't ask why) and two adorable daughters.

Xan Meo has come a long way for a

rough upbringing as the son of Mick Meo, a notorious "villain", as professional criminals are called in London.

On the riverside terrace of the pub he is accosted by another villain who accuses him of naming in print someone called "Joseph Andrews". Xan Meo squares up for a fight, but then:

"Xan heard no footsteps; what he heard was the swish, the shingly soft-shoe, of the hefted cosh. Then the sharp two-finger prod on his shoulder. It wasn't meant to happen like this. They expected him to turn, and he didn't turn – he half-turned, then veered and ducked. So the blow intended merely to break his cheekbone or his jawbone was instead received by the cranium, that spacey bulge (in this instance still quite marriageably forested) where so many noble and delicate powers are so trustingly encased."

When he gets out of the hospital, he is a changed man. He can't act or write or play the guitar and is incessantly randy. Russia finds this hard to take. "At first she had faked orgasms. Then she started faking migraines. And now the migraines were real."

Among the other main characters are Clint Smoker, a heroically venal hack reporter for *The Morning Lark*, a tits-and-ass tabloid devoted to unemployed men, or "wankers".

In between bribing a disgraced Premier League footballer to sleep with a model and then beat up his wife for a headline story, Clint Smoker is busy pimping nude photographs of 15-year-old Princess Victoria, daughter of King Henry IX. His problem is the opposite of Xan Meo's:

"At home Clint had flexers and extenders, fancy philtres in tubs and tubes, pulleys, lozenges, unguents, humidors, all over the house, in trunks and suitcases and cardboard boxes and ten-gallon bags. No African scarifier had subjected himself to more thorough and various mortification; down there, Clint had undergone every

possible metamorphosis – except growth."

King Henry IX is another main character; the ineffectual son of King Richard IV. He bumbles about trying to save his daughter from the burgeoning scandal.

Then there is Joseph Andrews, prince of London villains who, after many stints in English jails for vicious beatings and murders, is running a porn empire in California after successful stints smuggling heroin in Spain and Ireland. He is dictating his memoirs in perfect slang-strewn villain-speak.

And finally there is the virginal looking Cora

Susan, Xan Meo's niece, who had been repeatedly raped as a child by her father, gone on to star in 200 porno movies and is now a highly successful producer and director of the same.

Joseph Andrews instigates her to seduce and ruin Xan Meo.

Unfortunately, the second half of the novel turns into a complete mess.

While you still root for the salvation of the good characters, you can't wait for it to be over – a terrible travesty of a once great talent.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

## EVENTS CALENDAR

[www.phuketgazette.net/calendar](http://www.phuketgazette.net/calendar)

### Until October 11. 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! Live broadcast 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](mailto:info@otools-phuket.com)

### September 22. 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 details contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: [fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th](mailto:fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th)

### 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 to 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 interna-

tional 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 Revenue 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. Anybody who has attended a previous NAT tax seminar will receive a 10% discount. The seminar will be in Thai language only.

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

### September 23. Italian Sunday Brunch at Mangosteen.

Italian delights on a relaxed Sunday with the sumptuous Brunch at Mangosteen Resort, from 11:30 am until 3 pm. Free use of swimming pool and fitness facilities. Kids and parents can enjoy the food, pool and the great sea views.

Book your favorite table in advance to receive a 20% dis-

count (399 baht per person only).

Contact Christophe Lopez. Tel: 076-289399. Email: [info@mangosteen-phuket.com](mailto:info@mangosteen-phuket.com) Website: [www.mangosteen-phuket.com](http://www.mangosteen-phuket.com)

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

Family fun day, BBQ and beach activities. Try 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 details contact Katy Gooch. Tel: 085-2159185. Email: [ktfirmin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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 September 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 fes-

tival 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.

For further information visit [www.phuketfilmfestival.com](http://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.

### November 14-17. Chalong Bay Fishing Tournament 2007.

Registration night is No-

vember 14 and the registration fee is 7,000 baht per team, including free beer. Fishing days will be November 15-17 with prizes given on November 17 from 8 pm. Contact Uwe Schitteck. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: [uweschitteck@yahoo.com](mailto:uweschitteck@yahoo.com)

### November 24. PIWC Gala Ball.

Phuket International Women's Club will hold the most prestigious event this year – the annual Gala Ball – on November 24 at the Indigo Pearl, Nai Yang.

For details contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860. Email: [carol@aplusplussoftware.com](mailto:carol@aplusplussoftware.com)) or Sue (Tel: 087-277694. Email: [arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th)).

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Fax: 076-213971  
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## An island in mourning

Phuket has once again been dealt a tragic blow with the crash of One-Two-Go flight OG269 on the afternoon of Sunday, September 16. The date will no doubt remain etched into the consciousness of all of us here in Phuket – alongside that of December 26, 2004 – for a long time.

Although of entirely different causes, the two major tragedies somehow seem related in the way they transformed otherwise unremarkable Sunday afternoons into periods of shock and initial disbelief, followed by grief and mourning.

The *Gazette* offers its heartfelt condolences to the families of all crash victims, many of whom will now be arriving on the island for the first time to claim the remains of their loved ones.

We also salute the dedication, hard work and courage of the many rescue workers and medical personnel who helped save the lives of the survivors. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, it appears that all of those who managed to escape the aircraft before it was engulfed in flames will survive.

It is also perhaps too painful to even imagine the horror of the many passengers who survived the initial crash only to be burned alive or suffocated before they were able to escape the wreckage. The tragedy stands as a reminder to us all of the need to cherish life to the fullest and appreciate each and every breath – never knowing how much time we each have left.

Although the crash of flight OG269 may have washed our collective memory of what was happening in the days preceding, it is worth remembering that it came just four days after a series of powerful earthquakes rocked the fault zone that runs along the west coast of Sumatra.

The earthquake and aftershocks claimed the lives of some 20 people and caused many coastal residents and visitors to the island to flee in panic and fear of another tsunami.

Earlier this month, the tour boat *Dream Catcher* capsized off the coast of the Phi Phi Islands, killing one foreign tourist. It was only the latest in a string of maritime accidents involving tourists in our region this monsoon season.

All of these events combined will raise serious doubts about the safety of visiting Phuket, be it by air, sea or the most dangerous way of all – on our roads.

Hopefully, the domestic aviation industry will be better than its maritime counterparts in taking something away from this latest disaster that might prevent it from being needlessly repeated – in Phuket or elsewhere.

– The Editor

**Do you have an opinion you want to share?**  
Email [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

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**Editor:** Parichat Utintu

**Managing Editor:** Chris Husted

**News Editor:** Stephen Fein

**Chief Reporter:** Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

**Editorial Team:** Natcha Yuttaworawit, Janyaporn Morel,  
Sompratch Saowakhon, Semacote Suganya,  
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**Managing Director:** Oranee Pienprasertkul

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### Contact us

**Advertising Sales:** [adsales@phuketgazette.net](mailto:adsales@phuketgazette.net)

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**Telephone:** 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

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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](mailto: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.

### Cash causes crash

I live about about seven kilometers southeast of Phuket Airport. On Sunday, September 16 at around 3:30 pm I was running around frantically, shutting all the windows in my home because rain was streaming in horizontally from every direction. The clouds covering the entire southwest portion of the sky were the blackest I'd ever seen.

When I heard a jet liner go by, I thought to myself; even in Thailand, where there is absolutely no regard for human safety, where parents clutch infants with one arm while steering a motorcycle with the other – even here, the airport should be shut down during a weather-front such as the one moving in. Surely that plane is being re-routed.

I was wrong. I hope that those people who have lost loved ones from this tragedy do not settle with compensation from the airline, One-Two-Go. Phuket airport should have been closed for at least two hours during that weather-front and the authorities need to be held accountable.

### Hey! Leave those small retailers alone!

Although I am a fan of Tesco Lotus and other big shopping centers, the protesters at Cherng Talay have my full sympathies. These big stores, with their opening of smaller branches, destroy the livelihoods of the local people.

Often, old people open a small supermarket to support them during their retirement days. They have no pension or income from the government, as people in the same age group in European countries do. These people

depend on the small income they get from their shops.

When I came to Phuket five years ago, there were just a few 7-Eleven shops. Now you can find one almost every 500 meters. Small, local shops have to close because they cannot compete with them.

These big shops should stay where they are, near big towns or busy areas, where they do an excellent job providing goods which are not easy to find anywhere else. They should not start competing with the livelihoods and incomes of people who have no other source of income.

Phuket people sympathizer  
Phuket

### Reality bikes

Reading interviews like the one released by Prasit Rugsayos in the *Gazette* (September 15 issue) reinforce my convictions that politicians in general are just living in some place far away from the real people's problems.

It's hard to believe that somebody with a grasp of reality would say, "The real solution, I think, lies in better public transportation. If people in Patong walk or ride bicycles, there will be less problems."

In this small sentence I find disrespect to the intelligence of other people that is so typical of politicians everywhere in the world, but especially here in Thailand.

I really wonder if K. Prasit has ever taken a stroll in this town.

He said that the solution lies in public transportation! Amazing.

Is he aware that Patong and Phuket in general have been totally under the control of tuk-tuk drivers and private bus companies for decades?

Does K. Prasit know that there isn't a bus service between Patong and Karon because those who tried to start this service have faced innumerable problems? Does he know that many roads don't have sidewalks, that all the roads are too narrow and the cars and trucks are too fast and reckless to ride safely on a bicycle?

I would love to ride a bicycle and walk, just give me the chance to come back home safely by making a suitable bikepath.

would you please take charge of the situation and try to solve the problems?

Professor Arabe de Palo  
Patong

### Get a move on

Having recently moved to Phuket after spending many years in congested Bangkok, it is nice to be able to get around the island in a relatively short time.

However, I am again starting to experience the familiar frustrations of traffic that, despite the growing number of vehicles, could flow a lot easier with a little forethought.

A simple solution, for example, would be to synchronize the traffic lights on the ring road so that once a line of vehicles gets going, say from the Central Festival intersection, they would pass through green lights until the Chao Fa West Rd intersection with Kwang Rd.

I am aware that by driving a car I am also part of the problem. I will be doing my bit by riding a bicycle to work once the dry weather comes and even more cars are on the road during the high season.

Nick of time  
Phuket

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



# Conducting a dream

## FIRST PERSON

I believe that Thai people can do whatever they want to do, but they first have to change their way of thinking and start believing that anything is possible.

One thing that Thai youths need more of is self-confidence. Thai society does not teach children that they can do whatever they want to do. In my experience, I have met many foreign management personnel living in Thailand who have told me that Thai people need to have more self-confidence. This is an area that needs improving.

Children should not care about their surroundings, about money, the economy, or whether their country is developed or not. The obstacles that stop Thai people from achieving are mental, not physical.

I was born in Haad Yai, not in Bangkok. I came from a poor family. When I was three years old, my family moved to Bangkok. My inspiration in life came when I was 13 years old and I started playing classical guitar. I was so in love with music that I began wondering how I could make money from music and if it could be my occupation.

In 1998, I had the chance to see a famous orchestra that came to play in Bangkok with an Indian conductor named Zubin Mehta. I was impressed by him because he was still young and so different from other conductors. He came from a country not dissimilar to Thailand in many ways, yet he could control about 50 musicians on stage.

I started thinking to myself that even though I am Thai, why

Bundit Ungrangsee is a professional symphony conductor, among the world's most famous. He has won international accolades, including awards at the Besancon Competition in France. In 2002, he won the Maazel-Vilar International Conducting Competition at Carnegie Hall in New York City over 362 other conductors.

K. Bundit was recently in Phuket to give a speech entitled "Imagination is more powerful than knowledge" at Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus on September 12.

The purpose of this motivational speech was to offer Phuket youngsters advice on how to be successful. At 36, K. Bundit has conducted more than 400 concerts over an illustrious 18-year career. His current dreams include helping other Thais achieve success.



can't I be somebody great too? I set off on my journey to be like that conductor, and I began dreaming about being on stage and controlling my own famous orchestra.

I started to find out more information about what a conductor does and what sort of qualifications he needs and I set myself the goal to become a conductor. And now here I am, and I have fulfilled my dream.

I would like to see Thai people and Thai children not thinking about winning at the Asian Games, but rather, think-

ing about winning at the Olympic Games. We have to change the state of mind of Thai people and make them forget the word "impossible". That way, everybody can excel and reach new levels at what they do.

There are four things you should do if you want to succeed. First ask yourself "what do I want?" What are you dreaming of doing or being? You need to have a great dream, one that makes you feel excited all the time.

Do something that you love. This will mean that you want to do it every day. If you don't

love the job that you do, you will lack inspiration and feel that you are doing it for no good reason.

Constantly improve yourself. After I had the chance to work alongside other professional conductors, one thing that I learned from them is that we all have to work to constantly improve. The secret is to improve all the time; to make the quest for improvement such an ingrained habit that it ceases to be something you think about.

Be persistent. The difference between somebody who fails and somebody who succeeds is

that the successful person never gives up. He is what we would call "the last man standing".

If you are doing something that you don't enjoy but must do, consciously change your attitude. Start loving it and develop it into something you can be proud of. I like the idea that in some foreign countries they teach their children that they can do anything and be anything, which is different to the Thai culture of teaching children that they can only succeed with the help of good fortune.

The thing that I want to do after this is to try and push myself to be more well-known across the world, so that I can promote the fact that Thai people can be world class at whatever they endeavor to do.

I want more Thai people to be successful in their jobs and I want to build up support for Thai children to help them reach their dreams. I will try to give more speeches like the one in Phuket and I have another pocket book, *World Class*, to be released soon as a follow up to my first book, *Conduct Your Dream*.

I love to read the biographies of other people, especially people who have come from nothing to be famous; I like to read about how they came to be in the spotlight and how they rose to fame.

We have to make people believe that nothing is impossible – and that it is not all about luck.

*Compiled by Gazette Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanaporn, with special thanks to Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, for arranging this interview.*

## Can I stay here because I have a Thai family?

I currently have a multiple-entry non-immigrant "O" visa that I obtained on the basis of being married to a Thai. I am 55 years old, but did not apply for a retirement visa because I still have business interests in Australia and must return there every 90 days.

When I am due for an extension of my "O" visa, can I apply for a 12-month extension because I have a Thai family? If so, will I still have to do 90-day renewals with this type of visa?

Also, I have a nine-year-old daughter whom I have adopted in Thailand. What are the requirements if my daughter invites me to stay in Thailand?

S. Young  
Karon

**Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:**

As you are married to a Thai woman you can apply for a

## Issues & ANSWERS

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non-immigrant "O" marriage visa with multiple entries – as you have done. With this type of visa, you can apply for a one-year permit to stay, which will be granted if your qualifications comply with those listed in article 7.17 of the order 606/2006, which specifies proof-of-income requirements.

You can also apply for a one-year permit to stay as you have adopted a Thai daughter. The requirements are defined by the same article of this order.

However, although you don't need to show a minimum

income, you must show that your income is enough to allow you to responsibly provide care for her.

You must also present all related documents that prove you are truly looking after her. These would include her birth certificate, documents that prove you have custody of her, receipts of expenses that relate to her such as education fees, clothing and so on.

Once you are granted a one-year permit to stay, you will not need to leave the country to renew your visa every 90 days.

## How can my family be issued a residence permit?

I am a Thai citizen with a Thai passport. I have been living and working aboard for the past 37 years and plan on moving back to Thailand in October.

My wife and two children are Dutch. My wife is not going to work in Thailand and my children are going to attend an international school in Bangkok. What documents are required for our family to obtain a residence permit?

Komgrit Veerananda  
Netherlands

**Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:**

You can obtain a non-immigrant "O" visa from the Thai embassy in the Netherlands for your wife and your children.

If you have the necessary documents from the school your children will be attending, then you can request a non-immigrant "ED" for them, but it is not necessary since they will be also al-

lowed to enter Thailand and study with the non-immigrant "O" visa.

Once you enter Thailand, you can apply for a one-year permit-to-stay at any immigration office to allow them to stay longer and avoid having to do visa runs every three months.

To obtain a residence permit, your wife and children must have one-year permits to stay continually for at least three years.

Please see the full list of requirements and the documents that you will need on article 7.17 of Thai Royal Police order 606/2549 at [www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/2notice/rtp606.pdf](http://www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/2notice/rtp606.pdf)

The requirements and information for the residence permit application can be found at [www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/en/doc/declaration4extend.doc](http://www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/en/doc/declaration4extend.doc) (English). A Thai version of the same document can be found at [www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/doc/declaration4extend.doc](http://www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/doc/declaration4extend.doc)



# Outsource the poor: a new economic model

**D**on't misapprehend as Machiavellian or read too much into what follows. It's just a modest proposal – but one, I think, as might provide gainful employment for millions.

Historians and other troubled minds know this is an era, the like of which has never been chronicled. Our most pressing problems are obesity and malnutrition. A few hedge fund chairmen earn billions each year, while workers are displaced by outsourcing and farmers face starvation. A Malthusian crisis looms.

People worry about stray dogs but dogs are not the problem, it's surplus people – technologically useless people. People with no future for tourism.

They're a drag on society. Still, murdering them outright is, I'm sure you'll agree, misguided. As a tactic it won't survive opposition from tree-huggers and do-gooders. You know the people I'm talking about – people who don't know Zinfandel from Zanzibar, and suppose Spotted Dick is something other than currant pudding.

What's needed is a practical solution, ensuring the greatest good for the greatest number. That's why I propose putting the poorest 20% in jail.

"Why?" you ask. "Why not just nuke 'em, or bury 'em in the coal mines to keep sinkholes from forming?"

I'll tell you why in a word – jobs. Putting people in jail creates

work and is profitable. In the United States...er, States – which keeps about 1% of its adult citizens in jail and houses the world's largest prison population (2.4 million of 9.2 million total) – putting people in jail outperforms the economy as a whole. More than half of all US males spend time in jail. The current president himself was arrested twice.

Penning up society's under-achievers makes sense in ways perhaps not clear to ordinary thinkers. Consider this: a survey of IQ versus economic performance concluded that, as a rough approximation, "increase of ten points in mean IQ results in doubling of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP)." Others point out that genetic modifications already possible – but expensive – will result in evolution of rich bright ubermensch side-by-side with idiots too poor to buy IQ-enhancing drugs. Do we really want genetically unmodified poor people holding down our GDP?

Satan forbid!

Let's face it, poor people are worthless. Already, in the US the richest 20% own 80% of the wealth. The bottom 20% stumble around barefoot, stinking up park benches and blighting the landscape; and it can only grow worse – the trend worldwide is towards increasing economic stratification.

In Phuket, anyone can see poor people spoil the atmosphere. They have no taste in clothing or cars; and it's not just the natives.

## Visit Amazing Thailand

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I've even seen foreign riff-raff driving knackered vehicles around, shod in last year's flip-flops, pretending they've enough cash on hand for coffee at Starbucks.

It's embarrassing. What will the natives think? My friend Ross says "sell 'em for body parts," but I say "Arrest 'em!" Here's why:

Like any business, the criminal justice system needs customers to expand. What would cops do without "spiraling crime rates"? Suffer reduced budgets, manpower quotas, and opportunities for becoming police generals, that's what. If crime disappeared, most civil servants would vanish.

So would lawyers, private security services, flashy Robocop-type armored cars and all those middle-aged mothers and old men working as unarmed security guards. Jail and prison staff would be unemployed; torture experts would go begging, as would companies vending closed circuit monitoring systems, pepper spray and stun guns. The mind boggles.

But luckily crime won't disappear – because it can't. Nor should it. Crime, remember, is a vital stimulant for producers.

"To falter on production... exposes some individuals to loss of employment and... nothing counts so heavily against a government..." opined Keynesian economist JK Galbraith.

He hit the nail squarely on the head. With the Chinese hammering away at Thailand's usual markets, chinks are apparent in our government's brittle assertions of confidence. Growth is

faltering. Something must be done.

I think crime is the obvious answer: "more criminals" spells "more work". But priming our engines of criminal growth, like going to war, cannot be left to the hazards of nature. A criminal class must be cultivated, like roses. Thus, not being blessed naturally with a large criminal class, we can create one by incarcerating the poor.

True, the legislature and ministries already pass innumerable laws against what were once legal activities, thereby creating new avenues of exploitation. But their work is desultory. The process needs better organization, as in the US.

There, according to Bureau of Justice statistics, prison populations average 3.4% annual growth. Today's women, as in so many areas, are out-performing the men, their prison numbers rising 4.8% from mid-year 2005, while those of men rose just 2.7%. Fully 3.1% of black males and 1.2% of Latino males are behind bars.

Profiling obviously speeds work. In Phuket, we can target foreign lager louts, teenagers, Isarn beggars and ill-clad women carrying babies. That'll get the ball rolling, keeping our jails full during low season.

But it's not enough. Thailand's present rate of incarceration, though nearly double that of sleepy Malaysia and well above the world median, hardly touches 0.25% of the population, just 164,000 persons. It's barely a third the US rate. To make real money we need a strategy for

exponential expansion.

Trying to catch people who actually commit crimes – robbers, hired gunmen, corporate con-artists, etc. – is problematic. It gives cops a bad name when they can't find them, or get bought-off.

We'll never pump up prison figures that way.

But by simply outlawing the poorest 20% we can realize the benefits of a huge prison population overnight – not to mention forever do away with people cheating on their tax returns by purposely under-reporting their income.

Naturally, many targeted for arrest will want to escape. This raises the possibility of opening hunting tours – maybe with a kind of "catch and release" program, as in big game fishing, to maintain stocks.

"Let us admit the truth," Frederick of Prussia once wrote to Voltaire, "the masses remain as nature made them – malevolent animals."

We, too, should admit the truth: men haven't changed since the 18th Century, and compassion has no place in society.

The weak exist merely to be used, yet technology is rendering them useless. It is worth pondering that, despite the brouhaha over out-sourcing to China, the Chinese, too, have lost millions of jobs in the last decade.

"Let the unemployed turn to arts that defy automation," you may suggest. But none do – think "Photoshop". Anyway, lai Thai painting, fruit carving and mud-mee textile weaving can be out-sourced, too. Even sex tourism may go virtual – then where will we be?

Clearly, unless all can become shivering bartenders or breast enhancement surgeons – two jobs for which the market appears endless – more work must be found. What better way than this harmless innovation in law enforcement? Consider the opportunities in prison services, medical, legal and para-legal; undercover investigation; aerial surveillance; auditing (to discover the poor); arrest insurance (for those worried about falling into the bottom 20%); and entertainment (talk about having captive audiences!). Remunerative monographs such as "Prisons: Population trends and key issues for management," can be written for the Criminal Justice Review and similar publications.

Then, of course, there are the hunting tours....

As I said, this is not a radical proposal. It's simple Keynesian economics – but with a twist. Eventually, as demand grows, we can expand the program – and start hunting the middle classes.



By Marque A. Rome

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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): A shaky start to the week could leave you unsure about what the coming days will bring. Rest assured that this negative spell will pass quickly and the rest of September should allow you to make easier progress. Those celebrating a birthday this weekend will be pleased by a gesture made by someone overseas. Wear strawberry red to encourage inspiration.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): If you have a new business, the path will become smoother by enlisting the help of a trusted friend. Aries knows how to oil the wheels but you have enough rice on your plate at the moment. Love is set to take off even if you're not immediately attracted to someone you meet this week. You will soon discover that the person concerned is worth getting to know.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Believing in your dreams is important during the final week of September as you will have a golden opportunity to make one of these come true. Money matters will require careful handling on Monday and Tuesday as a mistake will not be in your favor. Leo is about to ask for advice. Be ambiguous to avoid a sticky situation. The number 4 is lucky on Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Connections made last year will prove useful this week. Many of you are about to take a leap into the unknown and will be glad of this help and a financial reward is due to land in your lap. Romance requires patience this weekend as your partner could be hard to please. Those of you who are single are advised to wait a while before approaching Libra.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): If a job is harder than teaching a mermaid how to walk, perhaps it's time to call it a day. Bowing out gracefully will earn you more respect than failing to deliver what you promised. On Sunday, look out for an interesting Taurean as this could lead to the romantic connection you've been searching for. Wear the tangerine orange to send the right signals.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19) Some of you will learn that you aren't the only fish in the sea early next week. If you've been assuming that a lucrative job is as good as yours, this news will come as a wake-up call. It shouldn't be too late to get your act together and prove that you are the perfect person to be employed. A Cancerian friend can give helpful advice. The number 3 is lucky on Monday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Diving in head first is not what most of you enjoy doing but you will need to run some risks during the last days of September if you want to boost your finances. Those of you who are self-employed should turn to Sagittarius for advice and others should ask a Capricorn colleague for help. If you dare to do something different now, success is assured for the remainder of this year. The color slate gray boosts confidence.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): As your monetary situation continues to blossom, potential investments are worth investigating. Slow growth bears the best fruit; any get-rich-quick schemes proposed are simply hot air. On Tuesday, a chance meeting with an old flame yields information that will help you decide whether to re-kindle this affair. Friends ensure that you have a weekend worth remembering. The number 9 can bring good fortune on Thursday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): You will be content to enjoy a laid-back week after recent whirlwind activity. Take advantage of this as October promises to bring many social opportunities, most of which you won't want to miss. Romance is not your priority now but Sagittarius is determined to get your interest. If friendship is what you desire, make this clear and they will understand. Use rose pink to balance your energy.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): You could be accused of having double standards this weekend. Those of you who know this to be true should rethink your business strategies. An attractive Scorpio ires you on Saturday, proceeding with caution is advised. Regarding personal finances, now is not the time to splash out on unnecessary luxuries. You will appreciate them more if you save up first.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): The answer to a business dilemma should become clear this weekend. The stars will support your efforts to get ahead but progress will become smoother next month. Ride out the remaining days of September by laying firm foundations and making concrete plans. Romantic relationships will be subject to misunderstandings; if a culture clash is involved, you are advised to be the one making more allowances. Number 6 can be lucky on Thursday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Those of you looking for love will be gratified this weekend. Cupid has your best interests at heart and is about to act accordingly. However, friends are about to demand more of your time and attention, particularly an Aquarian who is going through a troubling time. At work, Aries would like to burst your bubble of success, so be careful when sharing information. The scent of magnolia enhances your ability to charm.

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# Era of iConfusion dawns in Thailand

By now, you undoubtedly know that Thailand's Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) has officially stopped blocking YouTube.com. Yes, that means you can now watch tonnes of fascinating videos (start at [topyoutubevideos.com](http://topyoutubevideos.com)) or even upload questions for the CNN American Presidential debates ([youtube.com/youchoose](http://youtube.com/youchoose)) – hardly an endorsement, I know.

At about the same time, the MICT appears to have stopped blocking access to many other sites once considered worthy of government censorship.

Brazil, Iran, Morocco, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates have, at one time or another,

blocked citizens' access to YouTube. This particular bout of Thai YouTube blocking started April 3 in response to an amateur clip offensive to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Thailand is no stranger to YouTube blocking: the MICT last banned YouTube on March 8 when someone posted a clip of Thaksin Shinawatra's CNN interview.

While it's true that the MICT has lifted the ban, the circumstances continue to bamboozle me. On August 31, *The Nation* reported that YouTube would curb any clips which have contents considered an affront to Thai people or those that violate the Kingdom's laws.

"YouTube had just finished creating a program that would block sensitive video clips from being accessed from Thai Internet service providers (ISPs)," ICT Minister Sitthichai said.

At least, that's what the MICT claims. On the YouTube side, I've heard nothing: no press releases, no interviews, no leaked comments, no blog entries. If somebody at YouTube made promises to prevent playing of- fensive clips on computers lo-

cated in Thailand, they certainly haven't told the world.

YouTube has the technical ability to block playing specific clips in specific countries, and has had that ability for some time.

YouTube currently blocks videos in France and Germany that may violate those countries' racial hatred and neo-Nazi laws.

On April 7, the BBC reported ([tinyurl.com/2on94g](http://tinyurl.com/2on94g)) that YouTube's head of global communication advised, "It's up to the Thailand government to decide whether to block specific videos, but we would rather than have them block the entire site."

How will the ban work? *The New York Times* quotes Minister Sitthichai as saying, "Any clip that we think is illegal, we will inform YouTube and YouTube will have a look independently... If YouTube agrees that it is illegal for Thailand or against Thai culture, they will block it from viewers in Thailand."

Again, there's nothing I can find from YouTube either confirming or denying the assertion – or clarifying it, for that matter. *The Financial Times* quotes an anonymous source as saying, "YouTube will consider requests to remove material that contravenes local law. It will only act after taking independent legal advice."

The five-month YouTube block began when a person using the screen name "Paddiddaa", working on a computer that



YouTube can be viewed from Thailand again – but can you believe everything you see?

appeared to be in the US [IP spoofing is easy, so take that observation with a grain of salt], posted several childish video clips on YouTube that were insulting not only to the Thai monarchy, but also to anyone with a modicum of taste – not to mention intelligence.

On May 10, a woman identifying herself as "Silapajarn" posted a video on YouTube that claims to contain screen shots of a conversation she had with Paddiddaa. If you watch the video (which you can now see at [youtube.com/watch?v=GehITIJc8p8](http://youtube.com/watch?v=GehITIJc8p8)), you will be treated to 10 minutes of, uh, well, let's just say it's not the most coherent video I've encountered. The voice-over, presumably provided by Silapajarn, comes from a woman who speaks American English like a native, and also speaks excellent Thai.

A little more than three minutes into the video, Silapajarn shows a sequence of instant messages that she claims came from Paddiddaa. Here's what Paddiddaa has to say, according to Silapajarn:

To all Thai people I'm back but not to insult but to apologize to Thai people about what I have done. Can you forgive me and let's work together and finish off what I have started? I am a follower of Thaksin Shinawatra the former prime minister and by "finish off what I started" mean I will try my best to make YouTube re-

move all offensive clips to Thailand so YouTube will be available again in Thailand. I post it here so all Thai people can see I will work for Thaksin no more. Yes I might have achieved nothing but it's better than being hated forever.

You can draw your own conclusions. The Paddiddaa account doesn't exist any more, and I was unable to find copies of the most egregious videos.

On a different note, it looks like Thailand's new Computer-Related Crimes Act, which I discussed in my July 27 column, has claimed its first two victims, but details are very sketchy.

*The Financial Times* said on August 31 that "in recent weeks, authorities have used a new law to arrest two Thais for what were deemed particularly offensive comments about the monarchy on Internet chat rooms, a senior Thai official told the FT".

On September 6, *The Nation* reported, "Net surfers have sought a Thai government explanation over a report in the *Financial Times* about the arrest of two Thais for alleged offensive comments about the monarchy on an Internet chat room. They're afraid that a webmaster going missing under suspicious circumstances might be one of the victims."

The webmaster, known as Praya Pichai, is well known in the Internet community as he actively participates in web board

discussions about the monarchy on many sites. ICT Minister Sitthichai Pookaiyaudom denied knowledge of any arrests. Pol Maj Gen Wisut Wanitchbutr, commander of the Economic and Cyber Crime division, also said his division had not arrested the two Thais."

On September 7, the Prachatai site reported, "An arrested member of Internet discussion forums has been released on bail today, his family members told Prachatai. 36-year-old computer programmer, whose cyber alias is Praya Pichai, was reportedly arrested on Aug 24, and detained at the Bangkok Remand Prison."

"He was charged under Article 14 of the new Computer Crime Act which has been in effect since July 18." (see [www.prachatai.com/english/news.php?id=197](http://www.prachatai.com/english/news.php?id=197))

Then on September 8, *The Nation* said, "A woman who was reported to be the second person to have been arrested under the new Computer Crime Act has been detained at Bangkok Remand Prison..."

"www.prachatai.com quoted its source as saying that the unnamed woman had been arrested on August 24, the same day the 37-year-old webmaster was arrested, and had been detained in jail since. It said her family had financial constraints and was struggling to pay her bail. The on-line paper, however, did not give details of the woman."

Why the secrecy? Who knows. Is it possible that two Thai citizens were arrested for violating the Computer Related Crimes Act – and two weeks later, nobody had bothered to inform either the Minister of ICT or the Commander of the Economic and Cyber Crime division? I'll leave that a rhetorical question.

If you're concerned about news like this, we talk about the latest – what you can do, what you can't do, and what can land you in the slammer – at the regular Sunday PC Group Therapy sessions, 10 am until noon at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Everyone's invited, from abject novices to grizzled PC veterans. Dummies, too.

Much help and advice gets dispensed, absolutely free. Drop me a line for directions.

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

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Long-term readers of this column will recall articles I wrote on ground rent, student accommodation and key personnel accommodation – perhaps not the most exciting or glamorous of investments on offer. However, they all share the same important outcome: they make money.

Brandeaux Ground Rent Income Funds is up more than 12% over 12 months; over the same period, the Sterling Fund is up 11.54% and the Dollar Fund 11.81%. The last two funds mentioned hold around 70% ground rents and 30% student accommodation, as well as a tiny portion of key personnel (nurses on a contract with the UK's NHS Trust). The Student Accommodation Fund is up 11.05% over one year and 55.28% over five years.

Wall Street has jitters, the US subprime market is a mess and the world is watching with concern as risk aversion takes deeper root. Perhaps I am too conservative and old fashioned, but to me the ideal investment is one that simply keeps going up in value, regardless of markets.

These investments are all managed by Brandeaux, a London-based investment house. The original concept of ground rents was as an investment proposition that could be incorporated with a unit trust or mutual-fund vehicle.

The concept was originated by Kay Brandeaux, a professional fund manager from Louisiana living in Europe, who then bench-tested using a broker fund

# Brandeaux scores high in academic performance

attached to the Scottish Life Offices Association for four years.

This was effectively a financial laboratory. The product worked; investors were assured that targeted returns of 8% to

10% for this fund were anticipated after annual management fees. The fund performed at the top end of the range. Then it hit a serious problem: It simply could not cope with the volume of money that was trying to be placed in the fund.

At that stage, the Student Accommodation Fund was also deluged with cash. This was in the aftermath of the stockmarket crash of the early 2000s.

To Brandeaux's credit, the company responded by closing funds and opening new ones. It would have been easy and profitable for the firm to have taken in the extra cash.

There is not a huge market in ground rents; they are bought and sold at auction. Brandeaux still runs the only organized investor funds in this area. Other participants include pension funds, private investors, and so on.

The move into university-student accommodation was shrewd. The UK has over two

million university students; there are now over 100 accredited universities. Young university students are by no means all of the student population, as Kay Brandeaux told me.

"There is an endless supply of lawyers wanting to become accountants and accountants wanting to become lawyers; most of this population are in their 30s."

Brandeaux simply acquired property suitable, on average, for the accommodation of 200 to 400 students. Each student has their own room with en suite facilities, Internet connection, and so on. There are communal study and catering areas and residents have CCTV security and 24-hour swipe-card access.

However, often the configuration of the building will include three- to five-bedroom apartments, fully self-contained.

The reason that this is a successful mix is that often, a number of students will arrange to rent the larger apartments for the duration of their degrees. The student accommodation website is: [www.libertystudents.com](http://www.libertystudents.com)

Brandeaux now accommodates over 10,000 students. High importance is placed on good relationships with universities, as they are often the source of block bookings. However, in one city, the local university had to place 200 students as Brandeaux's accommodation was already full.

There is a serious shortage of suitable student accommodation.

Strict attention is paid to the credit worthiness of each applicant; parental and bank guarantees are required. The payment system is as follows: 50% of the annual fee is payable in advance, with 30% payable at the beginning of the second term. Brandeaux is, basically, in the hotel business – but with 98% occupancy rates and bad debts of just 1% to 2%. Any hotelier will tell you that these are rates that can normally only be dreamt about. The UK university-student population is rising at 3% to 5% every year, with many coming from overseas.

When stockmarkets started to rise again in 2003, surplus money pressure decreased and Brandeaux reopened its funds. Its fund-returns are increasing compared to long-term past averages and are exceeding their targets. An independent financial adviser in Kuala Lumpur noted that one of the Brandeaux funds went down in value.

I investigated. What actually happened was that Brandeaux's management fee had been deducted and the fund had not risen in value from the previous week. Brandeaux management fees are 1.5% per annum, payable throughout the year.

Although Brandeaux collects 50% of the student accommodation annual fees in advance,

it actually drip feeds this money to investors.

Brandeaux only deals with instructional investors; in other words, offshore insurance companies, private banks, and so on. Brandeaux is not open to retail investors. That has always been its policy and, because of the anti-money-laundering regulations that have been subsequently introduced, it makes even more sense.

I was introduced to Kay Brandeaux and ground rents in mid-1996 when I was in this business in South Africa as regional sales Manager for Royal & Sun Alliance International – now Friends Provident International.

He explained the concept of ground rents and I was hooked; here was an investment that was not market-related and offered high, consistent returns. Over eleven years later, I am more firmly hooked than ever.

This column has covered areas such as hedge funds, asset backed securities, and so on. In reality, not one of our clients, certainly via Global Portfolios, has any exposure to these areas.

*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](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th). Website: [www.global-portfolios.com](http://www.global-portfolios.com)*



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson

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## ON THE MOVE

**Fabian Doppler**, from Germany, has joined the McEvily & Collins law firm as an associate who focuses on real estate and corporate law, advising clients on matters including property acquisition, company registration and compliance issues. He studied law at Freie Universitat Berlin, the Eberhard Karls Universitat Tubingen and the Universite de Lige. Most recently, Mr Doppler was counsel for an international law firm based in Koh Samui.



**Pernilla Strandberg**, from Gothenburg, Sweden, has been appointed General Manager of the Med Park at Phuket Boat Lagoon. She will also be in charge of marketing for the complex, which consists of DC-one The Dental Clinic, Face2Face Skin and Aesthetic Center, a health spa and the alfresco bistro. Before joining Med Park, Ms Strandberg was a restaurant manager for Bufalo Steakhouse and an English teacher at schools and businesses.



**Thapanat Lohavej**, from Nakhon Sawan, has been appointed Director of Food & Beverage at Burasari Resort. He is a certified sommelier with over 20 years' experience in the hotel industry, including working at Regent Hotel Bangkok, The Sukhothai Bangkok, the Sheraton Sukhumvit and the Sheraton Phuket. Most recently, K. Thapanat worked at ItalThai Industrial Co Ltd in Bangkok where he worked in distribution.



# Location vital for Veg Fest success

By Janyaporn Morel  
& Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Phuket's annual vegetarian festival is almost upon us once more, with many hotels on the island gearing up to handle the influx of tourists.

Hotel operators in Phuket City are hoping that this year's extravaganza from October 11 to 19 will mark the start of the island's busiest high season to date.

Suwalai Pinpradub, director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office, said that judging from the strong hotel-occupancy figures so far this season, the number of people expected to attend this year's festival should be even more than last year.

"The hotels in Phuket Town are 70% booked for the period of the vegetarian festival. The majority of the tourists will once again be from our neighboring countries, such as Malaysia and Singapore," said K. Suwalai, who added that hotel occupancy should be close to full by the time of the festival.

"We have promoted the festival through various media. We are hoping that people will eat vegetarian food in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday. This year, we have invited the Hong Kong press to join the festival, opening up a new channel through which to promote the event," said K. Suwalai.

In the past, the vegetarian festival has failed to attract a strong following from the Chinese market, but as most Chinese tourists travel around the time of National Day Golden Week, which begins October 1. "This could mean there may be many Chinese tourists interested in visiting the festival this year," K. Suwalai added.

Panida Utarapak, front office manager of Pearl Hotel, told the *Gazette* that the hotel is booked 60% occupancy from October 14 to 15 and bookings are at 80% for the last three days of the vegetarian festival (October 17 to 19).



**Phuket's annual Chinese vegetarian festival means high occupancy rates for local hotels and usually marks the start of the high season. This year's festival (October 11 to 19) is expected to attract more Chinese tourists than previous years.**

"If there had been no bombings in Haad Yai, the situation would have been better and occupancy as high as 100%," she said.

According to K. Panida, occupancy this time last year was lower than usual because of insurgent attacks in Haad Yai, which caused many bookings to be canceled. Most of last year's hotel guests came from Haad Yai or Malaysia, attending the festival in the hopes that it would bring them luck.

"We will have vegetarian food available for hotel guests and will arrange space for guests to watch the festival parade. Most of the guests who stay here are regular customers who book a year in advance. They are happy with the hotel's location because the parade from each shrine will pass right in front of the hotel building on Montri Rd," said K. Panida.

Pearl Hotel has 212 rooms, which go for between 1,000 and 1,500 baht per night during the vegetarian festival. K. Panida added that occupancy rates at hotels in Phuket Town were generally quite low this year, with

hotels on the beach front doing better business.

Chaithawat Sathaphol, assistant director of sales at the Metropole Hotel Phuket, told the *Gazette* that there are a lot of Singaporean tourists traveling to the island, accounting for about 70% of all guests at Metropole at the moment.

Many of the guests are return visitors who come to Phuket every year for the festival. With a total of 248 rooms, Metropole charges around 2,000 to 2,500 baht a night during the festival. Every year, just before the festival, the rooms begin filling up and reach full occupancy by the time the festival starts, said K. Chaithawat.

"Most guests at the Metropole book through the hotel's website or affiliate websites, such as Gullivers.com, while some book through tour operators," said K. Chaithawat.

"We have a number of promotions at the moment to attract guests. For example, we have vegetarian cuisine and buffets on offer. We also have programs to assist guests in preparing tables and props for ceremonies they

might want to perform during the festival," he added.

K. Chaithawat said that increasing numbers of guests stay at Metropole during the vegetarian festival every year. People who come one year might go and tell their friends and families about it, and then next year they too will book. Word of mouth is important for publicity.

The ideal place to be located for the festival is in Phuket Town, which is where the festival is busiest and why Metropole does such a roaring trade during this time. Once the festival is over and the high season is in full swing, the guests are predominantly Russian and Scandinavian, said K. Chaithawat.


"As with Pearl Hotel, Metropole's location in Phuket Town works to its advantage during the vegetarian festival, as it is close to all the major Chinese shrines where activities take place. The low cost of food and accommodation when compared to coastal resorts is also in Metropole's favor," said K.

Chaithawat.

Location is key for prosperity during the vegetarian festival, as Uraiwan Tohom, Front Office Manager of Royal Phuket City Hotel on Phang Nga Road told the *Gazette*. Royal Phuket City will not have any special promotions except for vegetarian food being served.


"This year our 250 rooms are about 25% booked up for the festival period. While we expect slightly more people to book nearer the time, we don't think we will match last year's occupancy, which was just over 50% full, because of economic problems. Because we are not located on the main road where the parades pass, we only get the guests who can't find a room in the main hotels," said K. Uraiwan.

K. Suwalai told the *Gazette* that she estimates that about 2,000 hotel rooms on the island will be filled during the vegetarian festival, accounting for up to 5,000 people, with each person expected to spend about 3,700 baht per day.



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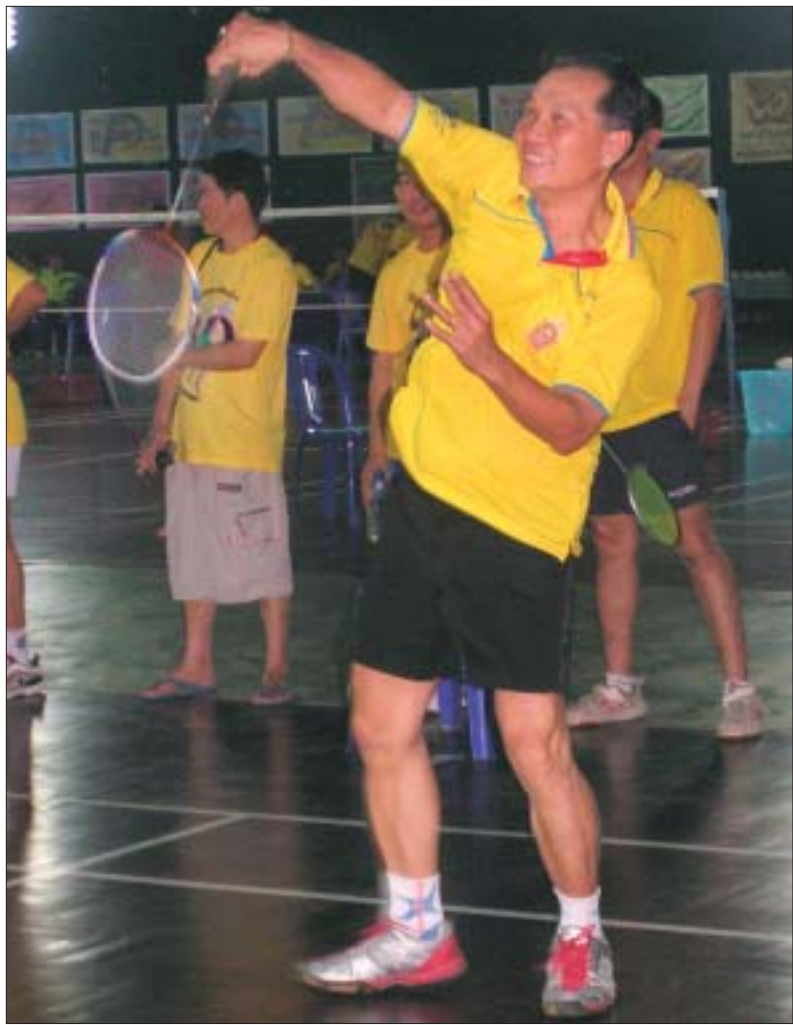


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# Local teenager wins charity badminton



Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima smiles as he takes on Phuket Public Prosecutor Chetvit Tiantipavadee.

By Semacote Suganya

SAPHAN HIN: Phuket Badminton Club held a charity tournament in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at Saphan Hin from September 5 to 9.

Local athlete 18-year-old Kiatisak Dasamut won the title in the singles division for 18-year-olds, winning his final match 21-12.

Kiatisak was also half of the winning doubles team with Jakapan Laovittaya, winning that title with a score of 21-6.

Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima presided over the event and even took to the court himself in an exhibition game with Phuket Public Pros-

ecutor Chetvit Tiantipavadee.

The tournament saw 200 players take part in 220 matches played across 11 divisions, with players from Bangkok and 14 Southern provinces battling it out for medals, certificates and the 1,000-baht top prizes.

Second and third places in each division received 600 baht and 400 baht respectfully.

Players in the tournament were from a wide range of age groups, from as young as nine up to over 60 years old.

An additional six friendship-doubles matches took place at the event between local residents.

The matches were held to raise money for Patong Hospital, with 120,000 baht being donated by the teams.



SNEAK ATTACK: An airsoft sniper scopes out territory at Phuket Airsoft BB Gun, where two teams can battle it out in games using air guns that fire small pellets.

## New battleground for Phuket gunslingers

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

RAWAI: Islanders who wish to unleash their inner army man or woman will be excited to know about Phuket's first airsoft battlefield at Phuket Airsoft BB Gun, which opened July 15 on four rai of land next to Patong Shooting Range at Chalong Circle.

Airsoft is a modern combat sport, similar to paintball, which involves team games using airsoft guns – air guns that fire spherical, plastic pellets. Combatants face off against each other with replica firearms, but there is very little risk of injury as direct hits from the pellets are only mildly painful and all participants in airsoft battles are required to wear safety goggles. Also, the maximum speed of pellets must not exceed 400 feet per second.

Mana Rattanapan, manager of Phuket Air Soft BB Gun, said, "We have airsoft automatic rifles that people can use to shoot one another safely. Each of the two

teams uses airsoft guns and agree to follow some simple rules.

"The rules are: guns are only to be armed and fired on the battlefield; participants must not shoot each other within a five-meter radius; all competitors must wear face masks at all times; nobody is to shoot an opponent who had his hand raised above his head in surrender," added K. Mana.

The battlefield at Phuket Air Soft BB Gun is filled with numerous corrugated iron bunkers and other hiding spots, making it the ideal place for two teams to go head-to-head in all-out combat.

A full day's play at Phuket Air Soft BB Gun costs 890 baht per person, including use of an airsoft gun with 300 pellets, uniform, face mask, light refreshments and accident insurance. Bags of about 5,000 additional pellets can be purchased for 500 baht.

Phuket Air Soft BB Gun is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm,

with a nighttime service available at an extra fee. Teams must comprise at least two and not more than 10 members. Four staff are on hand at all times during games to make sure each battle runs smoothly.

People can bring their own guns, but all guns must be inspected before play to ensure they meet Phuket Air Soft BB Gun's guidelines.

Airsoft began in Japan in the late seventies when, as part of a national gun craze, people began seeking legal alternatives to firearms. In recent years, airsoft has gained in popularity as an alternative to paintball because of its more realistic battle situations.

Unlike paintball, airsoft is based on an honor system, whereby players rely on each other's honesty – leaving the game after admitting being hit.

For more information call K. Mana at 089-5921959.

## Phuket prepares for coming cricket season

PHUKET: Phuket's cricket fans have something to look forward to as the 2008 Island Furniture Cricket League is fast approaching, with final touches to the logistics of the competition now underway.

Organizers the Phuket Cricket Union are hoping for at least five teams this year. That number would expand the number of games needed to 20, which would be played on a round-robin basis leading up to a final showdown between the two league leaders.

Islanders are invited to stake their participation in the league now by submitting the names of their teams and team captains.

The services of match officials are also being called upon, as dedicated umpires and scorers are always in short supply.

Once the number of teams has been decided, schedules and associated costs for the coming season will be finalized and announced.

Last year's cricket league saw league winners the Phuket Academicals (PAC) go head-to-head with the Island Cricket Club (ICC) in the final. In what was considered a walkover, PAC romped home and took the title by 76 runs and five wickets.

Anyone interested in playing next season, but who do not have a team, are welcome to contact the Phuket Cricket Union, which will find a side for them.

For further information, to become a sponsor or to enter a team into the league, contact the Phuket Cricket Union. Tel: 086-1208346. Email: scarfy@loxinfo.co.th

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# Burmese badasses fight dirty

By Scott Mallon

**B**urmese boxing, or *leth wei* as it is known to native Burmese, dates back to the Pyu Empire of around the year 800. Rules of the sport parallel those of Muay Thai, allowing punches, kicks, elbows and knees. Unlike Muay Thai, however, head butts and throws are also permitted.

Burmese boxers do not fight with gloves, instead wrapping their hands in either hemp rope or gauze cloth. These wraps provide little in way of padding and cause frequent cuts and abrasions. Each fight is divided into five, three-minute rounds and the contests are often wild, bloody affairs.

Victory comes by surrender or knockout, and if both participants are still standing at the end of the battle, a draw is declared. In some cases, fighters are knocked out, revived by their corner, given two minutes to recuperate, and then given the option to fight on. *Leth wei* rules stipulate each fighter can be knocked out twice before the contest is finally halted.

As you can imagine, it is not



In *leth wei*, head butts and throws are not only permitted, but are considered important parts of a Burmese boxer's offensive arsenal.

a sport for the faint of heart.

In the past, bouts were held in sand or dirt pits. However, this has increasingly given way to standard boxing rings. *Leth wei* contests are generally held dur-

ing festivals or as part of a special event, with boxers often traveling around the country in search of fights.

The boxers are, to some extent, akin to the old-time pug-

ilists who fought bare-knuckle bouts in England and America in the 1800s and early 1900s. Fighting to survive and feed their families, they are willing to fight anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Battling without gloves demands that the boxers are tremendously conditioned in order to absorb the repeated blows; lumps, bruises and scar tissue are guaranteed.

Although most *leth wei* fighters lack the refined skills of traditional boxers or Muay Thai fighters, they have earned a reputation of being exceptionally rugged, never-say-die fighters.

Other than in Burma, there are very few skilled, bare-knuckle fighters fighting on a regular basis. Recently, however, a team of Burmese traveled to Japan, where they defeated four out of their five opponents.

There are *leth wei* gyms all over Myanmar. Unlike with Muay Thai gyms here in Thailand, however, these gyms are not readily accessible to foreigners. If you don't know the right people it's rare to come across a *leth wei* boxing camp or event.

*Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based freelance boxing writer and photojournalist who sits on Ring magazine's ratings advisory panel. He recently visited Burma to film a documentary with a foreign film crew.*



Bangkok Hospital Phuket Director Dr Kongkiat Kespechara (center, left, with orange shirt and glasses) joins soccer teams from Bangkok Hospital Phuket (in white, with fans in orange) and the Phuket Reporters' Club (in blue) at Baan Kathu School.

The Bangkok Hospital Phuket team won the friendly match with a 2-1 win after a tense on-field battle on September 7. The match was held to mark the donation of sports equipment to the school.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Valhalla pips Offshore

**PATONG:** In a week with mostly predictable results, Valhalla pulled off a major upset by taking two points at second-place Offshore.

The surprise result gives Queen Mary a two-point cushion at the top of the table.

Meanwhile, Beach House failed in their quest to pick up their first point of the season on the road at Piccadilly.

They were tied at the end of the singles but were swept away in the doubles en route to a 6-3 loss.

Ulf of Piccadilly scored a 180.


Send all match info to: [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net)

**September 11 results:** Queen Mary\* 7 Market Bar 2; Piccadilly\* 6 Beach House 3; Offshore\* 4 Valhalla 5; Shakers 6 Simply Red\* 3; Dogs Bollocks bye; (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Queen Mary (11); 2. Offshore (9); 3.= Shakers, Piccadilly (6); 5. Dogs Bollocks (5); 6.= Market Bar, Simply Red (4); 8. Valhalla (3); 9. Beach House (0).


**September 25 matchups:** Market Bar v Beach House; Valhalla v Piccadilly; Shakers v Queen Mary; Simply Red v Dogs Bollocks; Offshore bye; (home teams first).

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# Clueless in the garden

I wish I actually knew what I was talking about. Unfortunately, as with many things, I'm sure I'm not alone in this regard. Even so-called experts in their field have been known to be somewhat lacking in expertise; it's just that some are able to hide their ineptitude better than others.

How many times have you taken your car to the local repair shop to have the mechanic bloke in greasy overalls lift the bonnet and immediately do that sharp intake of air through pursed lips thing? "I don't like the look of that", he'll say. On further questioning it will become evident that you'll need to spend money just to find out what the problem is. In other words, he hasn't the faintest idea.

Clueless shop assistants are frustrating at times too. Is it just me that gets a tad irritated when you go into a shop and ask them why this digital camera is better than that digital camera, and all they do is get out the instruction book or read the box? Even I could have done that.

I've had some big problems with my Internet connection in this part of the world, as I think have many residents of Phuket who are foolhardy enough to attempt to get on-line.

Consider this exchange between myself and the customer service department of an Internet service provider, who weren't exactly excelling in the way of customer service at the time my Internet was down.

After about 10 or 15 minutes of being passed around, receiving various advice from various customer service agents in varying degrees of befuddlement, I get as far as a lovely-sounding lady saying "The Internet is working now". I check. It is – just.

"OK, but it wasn't working when I called you, ten minutes ago." I reply. "What was the problem, anyway? Have you fixed it?"

"There isn't a problem now. The next time there is a problem, I'll email you about it," she helpfully responds.

"But I won't be able to..."



Fancy a cute bush? Try the pinwheel jasmine, or *pud-doom* in Thai. It's fragrant only at night and its flowers are visible in moonlight. Other than that, Bert hasn't a clue why it's in his garden.

Never mind. Thank you very much."

I'm so glad our phone conversation was 'being recorded for quality assurance purposes'.

At least you can get through. It's impossible to call your local bank in the UK now – all you can do is call a national number (which they inevitably charge you for) so that you can speak to some clueless buffoon in Ipswich about the overdraft you discussed with your bank manager in Yorkshire just last week. They haven't a clue; you can hardly expect them to.

As somebody the *Gazette* tosses the odd shekel towards me every now and then to supposedly ramble on about gardening, I really should be able to pick out most of the green stuff growing in the region and put some kind of name to it, but not always.

I took a picture of a bush growing in my garden about three years ago, and it's only today that

I've actually found out what it's called – seriously. I've got a couple of very valid excuses though: one, as I mentioned earlier, I haven't a clue and two, the term *tabernaemontana divaricata* hardly rolls effortlessly off the tongue.

Otherwise known as the pinwheel jasmine, or *pud-doom* in Thai, this cute bush is native to India and Southeast Asia. There are actually about 140 species of *tabernaemontana* scattered around the tropics, but the pinwheel jasmine is one of the more common. It's fragrant only at night and the flowers are strangely visible in moonlight.

The pinwheel jasmine is one of the most reliable of the shrub bloomers with an impressive display of flowers year round. It can grow to two or three meters in height but is in no particular rush to get there.

It's perfectly happy in either sun or shade – about the

only thing to remember is not to plant this thing any closer than a couple of meters from any cement structure that matters. *Tabernaemontana divaricata* and house foundations don't mix well.

The many branches tend to grow almost parallel to the ground giving the shrub an attractive, slightly weird horizontal look. As it happens, the species name, *divaricata*, means "at an obtuse angle", but that may be referring to the flowers.

Pruning isn't particularly necessary as this thing is relatively well-behaved, but you might want to give it a trim every once in a while. Like many members of this family, the stems of the plant exude a greasy, milky latex when broken. Related to the rubber tree in some way maybe? I don't know – ask somebody who actually knows about this kind of stuff.

Anyway, the large shiny

leaves are a deep green, about 15 cm in length and around 5 cm wide. The waxy blossoms are white five-petal pinwheel things, appearing in small clusters on the stem tips.

You can propagate the pinwheel jasmine from cuttings from newish growth or, although I have yet to see it, by seed. Or you can do it like the rest of us and pay a visit to the local garden center.

In some forms of Thai medicine, pinwheel jasmine is used as an analgesic and sedative. In South America and Africa extracts of jasmine plants are used as stimulants. How the same plant can be used as both a sedative and a stimulant I'm not sure... Perhaps yet another example of experts making it up as they go along?

Also, pharmacological research of the alkaloids in *tabernaemontana* plants show promise in helping interrupt addiction to opiates, cocaine, nicotine, and alcohol. Personally, given the choice of a fag (cigarette, before any confused transatlantic types email me) and a Heineken or chewing on one of these plants, I know which option would win out.

Pinwheel jasmine should be used as a feature. It's brilliant for lighting up a shady corner or planted near an area used for night entertaining.

As it has a kind of layered growth habit, it would even work in one of those trendy Japanese-style gardens. The white pinwheel blooms with their tiny yellow centers are individually small but there are enough of them to put on a good show.

Should you decide to go off and buy one of these, you can be pretty sure that the little man who greets you won't consult the seed packet from which it was grown before answering your questions. He actually does know what he's talking about. Me? I haven't a clue.

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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

# Reinventing the classic Thai look

**T**his two year old home of classic Thai architecture with a contemporary interior on two rai at Nai Harn is surrounded by manicured lawns and tropical gardens with a forest backdrop.

The three bedroom, five bathroom house is designed to reflect traditional architecture, while offering the comforts and amenities of a western home. It is tucked away from the main road in a tranquil setting, making it an idyllic home for a large family.

Terraces surround the house, taking maximum advantage of space and provide outdoor living areas. Around the back is a tiled saltwater pool and an adjoining Jacuzzi is set in the sandwashed deck.

The contemporary interior is designed to be airy and cool.



Large, mosquito-net-covered windows and high doors that open onto the terrace allow the air to circulate and natural light to pour in.

Tastefully decorated tiled floors also help keep the interior cool and are easy to clean. All bedrooms are en suite; the master bathroom has a tub and rain-water shower.



**Above:** The large windows and high doors that open onto the terrace allow the air to circulate throughout the home and the natural light to pour in. **Left:** The home includes a large saltwater pool.

The living room, dining room and Western-style kitchen share an open floor plan. Long granite counters and built-in cupboards line the kitchen, which has a built-in two-range gas stove and oven.

Privacy is provided by a surrounding wall.

The driveway leads to a carport and a detached garage with space for four cars, behind which is the maid's quarters, complete with a Thai kitchen.

The asking price for this house, which can be bought freehold or leasehold with chanote

title, is 24 million baht. Additional possibilities include sub-divisions of the land for additional buildings.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

# Krissana Condotel underway in Patong

PATONG: Krissana Paradise Condotel, a new hotel and condominium project on four rai about 200 meters from Simon Cabaret Patong, is about 15% complete since construction began in June.

The project is being developed by the two companies under the Krissana House Group – Krissana Paradise Condotel Co Ltd and JK Asset Co Ltd from Bangkok – and is expected to be completed by mid-2009.

Krissana Paradise Condotel will comprise four five-story condominium buildings and one five-story hotel building of 70 rooms. The condominiums will comprise one- and two-bedroom furnished apartments for sale, totaling 112 units throughout the project.

Project developer Chetiya Krissana told the *Gazette* that about 60% of the four-rai site will be used for gardens and landscaping to make the development more attractive.

“The benefit of our project



Each of the four condominium buildings at Krissana Paradise Condotel will be five stories high, with six to eight units on each story.

is that we are making the buildings smaller, with each building only five stories high and each story comprising six to eight units.

“We are placing an emphasis on privacy and security. We will have a key-card security system and CCTV cameras in every

building, as well as 25 CCTV cameras around the project,” said K. Chetiya.

The project’s facilities for residents include a clubhouse with a fitness center, a meeting area and Internet access. There will be two types of one-bedroom

Situated on four rai of land, the project has been designed to provide maximum privacy for residents.



unit and four types of two-bedroom unit, from 43 square meters up to 70sqm. Prices will span from 3 million baht to 6.9 million baht.

“We want to create a development with homely residences in a tropical environment. While our design is modern, we also emphasize energy conservation. The windows will be made of reflective glass to deflect the sun’s heat rays in order to conserve energy [used for air conditioning],” said K. Chetiya.

“Phuket is less of a tourist island now; it’s becoming more residential. Therefore, a resort design would have been a bad choice at the moment, which is why we have created a modern-style living condominium for the next generation of Phuket people,” she added.

“We emphasize the use of space and functional design. We have arranged the space in each unit so that it doesn’t use a partition or wall to divide it up. We are also using earth tones to create a cozy feeling.

“We have customers from all over the world, including many who want to invest in a second home,” said K. Chetiya. “About 10% of the apartments have been sold, with more than half our customers wanting to buy a residence to rent it out.

“We think that with the room features and facilities we can offer, we can meet their requirements.

“Everything, including furniture, will be supplied. Customers

will just need to bring their luggage and they can move in right away,” she added.

“We are negotiating with three rental-management companies who have approached us to take care of the rental side of business for our customers. We will choose one company that will manage all aspects of renting the apartments on behalf of our customers,” said K. Chetiya.

The hotel building under construction is planned to be completed at the same time as the condominium project in order to avoid construction noise disturbing residents.

“Our project aims to provide a good standard of living at an affordable price. As we have a construction company in our corporate group [CCJ Construction Co Ltd], we can ensure our customers that the residences will be built of first-rate materials as we control the construction stage of the development,” said K. Chetiya.

“We can reduce the cost of construction while still using the highest-quality materials,” she added.

The Krissana Group is also developing the 48-room Krissana Paradise Hotel at Bang Tao Beach, which is expected to open in November.

For more information contact Krissana Paradise Condotel sales office at the project construction site. Tel: 076-342927-9, 089-9686803-4. Website: [www.krissanaparadise.com](http://www.krissanaparadise.com)

The condominiums have been designed without partitions or unnecessary walls in order to maximize space.



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Landscaping is a discipline inherent to architecture, yet it is often overlooked with amazingly little time and money spent on it. Although landscaping is one of the most important elements of a house or a home development, it can sometimes end up looking like a beautiful woman who doesn't know how to dress up.

Neither arcane nor minor in scope, proper planning, execution and budgeting help make sure that hard or soft landscapes not only enhance a project – they can make or break a project's aesthetic appeal.

In many instances the common malpractice is that landscaping or gardens are planned after the construction is completed and whatever greenery fits into the existing areas will just have to do. Landscaping plans are delegated to general contractors, who in turn find the cheapest alternative for filling the open areas, often using a small nursery or supplier's plan.

Not including planning for landscaping when drawing up the budget for construction can mean that by the time it comes to working on the garden architecture, the project has gone off-budget and little funds remain to create a garden as equally spectacular as the building's architecture.

Proper landscape design, be it by a landscape architect or designer, is an essential part of the initial project planning. It's best to sit down the planner with your architect at the onset of a project and look at how both can provide innovative ideas that work with the theme and leave scope for both professionals to give creative input.

Landscape design is far more than just turning the soil, weeding and manicuring green areas. A skilled designer will have input on exterior lighting, swimming pool enhancements, such as water features and ponds. He or she will also consider paths and walkways to sculpt the overall look and feel of all outdoor areas and their decorative features.

In the planning stages, feedback is needed from the teams who are designing the electrical

and sanitary systems to ensure adequate provision of electrical sources for lighting and irrigation systems for watering plants, such as hose bibs and sprinklers, must be considered.

Given the often-torrential weather conditions in Phuket, proper planning of water drainage addressed in advance will prevent rapid deterioration of exterior building elements and soil erosion.

More times than I care to count, I have seen substantial investments in expensive plants and landscapes literally go down the drain overnight simply because there was no forethought given to drainage and the ability to discharge or contain water.

By considering all the elements of landscaping in detail during the initial planning stages, everything can be worked into the overall budget. This process can include segregating trees and herbaceous items (plants, grass and so on). From these a bill of quantities (BOQ) can be listed and suppliers can bid in a manner similar to bidding for construction.

Proper use of a BOQ will help get the best prices as comparisons can be made on the unit prices of individual items. The devil is often in the detail, and controlling costs can be done when documentation such as this exists.

In similar fashion to the services provided by an architect, a landscape designer will conduct site visits during the construction and subsequent softscape installation.

Realistically, plans often require modifications due to site conditions or building requirements, so site visits are key to making quick alternations which could save money later where you are not required to tear down something that's already been built. Careful attention to documenting and issuance of site instructions controls additional expenses from your contractor and suppliers.



## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



Innovative landscape design, not only gardens but also features, is every bit as important as villa design in the quality of a project.

Changes do occur. Some designs look good on paper but need to be altered after the actual work being done can be


seen. Hence, make provisions and a contingency plan, the same as would be done for the buildings.

This generally ranges from 10% to 15% of the total value of the initial budget. Outdoor enhancements, such as artwork and decorative items, give distinction to a project and are every bit as important as the paintings that hang inside the home.

We are blessed that Phuket has a spectacular natural environment and an abundance of tropical plants, trees and vegetation. There are an increasing number of specialists in this field locally, such as Ross Palmer at Kumara Studio, while further afield in Bangkok Bill Bensley and BCA (Belt Collins) have completed many of the island's landmark projects.


For any project, be it a new home or development, make a smart decision by giving landscape design its due.

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



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### LAND FOR SALE



12.5 rai, 25sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor. Sea view, Amphur Sikao in Trang. 33 million baht. Tel: 076-200977, 089-9710749.

### SURIN/BANG TAO APARTMENT

Club Lersuang, 2-bedroom apartment, ground floor, big pool, gym, restaurant, bar, etc. 6 million baht. Tel: 076-271870, 087-0790650.

### POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

### TWIN GARDEN BUNGALOWS

Up to 6 bedrooms/4 bathrooms in secure estate near top bilingual school. 4 aircons, 2 ADSL lines, satellite TV, garage. 3.9 million baht Includes CRV or Soluna car. Tel: 089-9546433, 089-2885028. Email: kjralph@hotmail.com

### KHAO LAK LAND FOR SALE

Next to upcoming 5-star Le Meridien Khao Lak resort. 7.5 rai at 5 million baht per rai. For more details please email: info@bluewaterphuket.com

### NEW SEAVIEW CONDOMINIUM

We have a variety of units at 60, 120 and 180sqm. Overlooking Chalong Bay and Rawai Bay. From 1.8 million baht. Contact Kuno. Tel: 66-81-9685963. Email: m@bayproject.com For further details, see our website at <http://www.bayproject.com/invest/index.htm>

### NICE HOUSE FOR SALE



Perfect house, 4-5 bedrooms, ready to move in, includes 2006 Honda Jazz. Contact Tel: 081-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com For photos and details, visit our website: [www.jikkycar.com](http://www.jikkycar.com)

### LARGE VILLA IN CHALONG

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8951826. Email: info@far-away.net

### SEAVIEW APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, top floor, north Patong, 20 steps to the beach, freehold. Price: 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. For photos, please send email: jihshand@gmail.com

### KAMALA HOUSE

1 rai land, 2 bedrooms, hill view, big garden, quiet place. 8.9 million baht. Please call Tel: 081-6697814.

### KHAO LAK SHOPHOUSE FOR SALE

A 3-story shophouse on the main road in Khao Lak. 300 meters from the beach & shophouse center. Opposite Khao Lak Laguna Hotel. Tel: 084-8432949, 086-2717979.

### NAI HARN BEACH CONDO

Located in a lovely residence of 8 units. Modern, 60sqm of living space, sleeps up to 4 people. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom with Jacuzzi, spacious living room with European kitchen, full aircon, elegant furniture, cable TV. Nice terrace overlooking landscaped garden and swimming pool. Parking. Walking distance to beach. Only 2.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2815795. Email: chaussecyril@yahoo.fr

### 180SQM NEW PENTHOUSE



Panoramic sea view, 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, large living room. From 8 million baht. Please contact me for a viewing. Tel: 081-9685963. Email: kuno@bayproject.com For further details, please visit our website: <http://www.bayproject.com/invest/index.htm>

### RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE

140sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, close to the beach. 1.5 million baht. Call Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

**RAWAI BEACH VILLA**  
400sqm house, pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Garden and covered terrace. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

15-year lease, 107sqm duplex house, pool, carport, garden. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### HOUSE IN PATONG B4.7 MILLION

23sqm, furnished, 3 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchenette, washing machine. Tel: 081-5690664. Fax: 076-344485. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

### HILLSIDE HOMES

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. Call Tel: 081-8142040. Email: sailesh@thaimartin.com Visit our website: [www.ziam.com](http://www.ziam.com)

### AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

### SURIN LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Call Tel: 081-8687676.

### RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Sea view, foreign freehold. 650,000 baht. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### 12 RAI IN PATONG

Beside main road entering Patong. 12 rai of mixed flat land & hill land, sea view, perfect for commercial, homes and apartments. Chanote title. 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

### PATONG HOTEL

New, fully furnished, 14-room hotel with splendid view in Patong for sale. 20 million baht. Call now! Tel: 081-5976195. Email: unique\_property@hotmail.com

### POOL HOUSE BANG TAO

For sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park, big living room, 2 levels, only 4.7 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

### LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Direct from owner. 32 million baht or rent. No agents. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: tm\_thanida@yahoo.com

### SHOPHOUSE IN CHALONG FOR SALE

As new condition, excellent location. Many extras. 4.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7987156 (Eng), 085-8831695 (Thai).

### BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket airport, close to the beach, 10 rai. 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb\_giff@hotmail.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

### LAGUNA AREA VILLA

Luxury villa with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, garden. Great location near Laguna Village. Tel: 087-893-4636. Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

### 2-STORY TOWNHOUSE

Living area: 98.5sqm. Land plot: 144sqm. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport, and garden. 618,000 baht. Last payment: 1,472,000 baht. Tel: 081-4940450. Fax: 076-264-517. Email: linjee@gmail.com

### 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

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sat TV, Internet, auto door. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com Visit our website: [www.phukethome.ws](http://www.phukethome.ws)

### 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

### SOUTH END OF PATONG BAY



Patong Bay. Beautiful house in a top location. For detailed information about this house and the location see our website. Tall, spacious, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool and amazing sea view in the daytime and stunning scenery over Patong in evening time. Located in Baan Suan Kamnan. A green, clean, quiet and lovely residential area at the south end of Patong Bay. House for sale at 30 million baht. Owner also open for lease or rental talks. Possibilities for first mortgage directly from owner. Partly off-shore payments are possible. Please contact Edwin at Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com Visit our website for more details. [www.patongbluepoint.com](http://www.patongbluepoint.com)

### KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

### PATONG HOUSE FOR SALE

Large, quiet hillside location, 270sqm living space. 3 to 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living, dining, European kitchen, aircon, wood flooring throughout. Double carport, 4 balconies, small garden, partial sea views. Price: 7.8 million baht. Call Tel: 087-2681170.

### 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.

### NEW 3-STORY COMMERCIAL

building. 2 bathrooms. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 086-7432011.

### RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Sea view, foreign freehold. 550,000 baht. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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# Property Gazette

## 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.

## 3-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Chalong circle. 405sqm, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, aircon, garage for 2 cars. Good location for business. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

## MAGNIFICENT SEAVIEW



over many tropical islands toward Krabi and Phang Nga. Probably best views in Cape Yamu. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large colonial mansion, on large land plot with swimming pool. In finished exclusive development. Only 25 million baht. Tel: 086-2796283.

## 6 HOUSES, BANG TAO

All 6 for only 12.5 million baht. Unique investment. Call Marc. Tel: 085-7839062.

## LAND FOR SALE

1,728sqm of beautiful land. Just 150 meters off Bang Niang Beach in Khao Lak. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 076-485614, 081-8912134. Fax: 076-485613. Email: info@iq-dive.com

## 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.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garden, big kitchen, balcony, aircon, tank, furnished, near Kathu waterfall. Tel: 076-323696, 084-7597880.

## 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

## Foreign Freehold Available

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WWW.CHALONGBAYVIEW.COM MOBILE: 087 898 7062

## HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 50sq wah, garden. Sell: 2.9 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5444400.

## PATONG HOTEL FOR SALE

Built 1 year ago. Successful. 60 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062 (English), 086-2767510 (Thai).

## 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

## KATA BEACHFRONT LUXURY

5-star, exotic, 1 bedroom, spa, pools, ADSL, furnished. Price reduced to 8 million baht. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please visit our website: http://kourmbele.com/kata1/

## KALIM BEACHFRONT LAND



Beautiful land for sale. 21-3-49 rai at Kalim Beach, Chanote title, water, electric. Tel: 081-7474742.

## PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Unfinished duplex renovation project, directly on the 15<sup>th</sup> fairway. Tel: 087-5074395. Email: radrussell@gmail.com Please visit our website: www.fairway15.com

## BIG HOUSE FOR SALE

Thalang area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 532.2sqm, furnished, nice view, quiet. 8 million baht. Tel: 086-7401969.

## 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.

## 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

## 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.

## BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

Located on a private beach. Priced at only 9 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-4422510. Email: admin@thaisunshine developments.com For details, visit our website: www.thaisunshinedevelopments.com/sichon\_beach.htm

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Located near Laguna area. Living area: 150sqm. Land area: 650sqm. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

## LAND INVESTMENT

30 rai full of palm trees in Kapong, Phang Nga. Priced at only 120,000 baht per rai. Financing available. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

## 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

## 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.

## 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

## 18 ROOMS FOR SALE

18 rooms/bungalows on 5 rai of land with 14 years remaining on land lease. Lots of room for expansion. Photos and price provided on request. Tel: 081-7193375. Email: resortonphiphi@hotmail.com

## LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

with lots of elegant furniture. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, well-equipped kitchen. Clubhouse including swimming pool, snooker, sauna and bar. Comes with new Toyota Fortuner. You can have private swimming, just open the side door. Best views of Patong, especially when standing outside on the balcony. 190sqm in a nice location. Bring your baggage to stay immediately. Please contact the owner. Tel: 085-1982577.

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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.

## HOUSE FOR URGENT SALE

Large 4<sup>+</sup> -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

## 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).

## 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.

## 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

## 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: kraisorn@ppfashionworld.com

## FOR SALE OR LEASE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 story, fully furnished, new modern house on private road in Kathu. Electric gate, nice walled garden, large terrace, private parking, telephone, Internet. 6.2 million baht ono. Must sell due to move to Bangkok. Tel: 087-3865200.

## BEACHFRONT SEAVIEW LAND

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

## LAKESIDE HOUSE



130sq wah of land. 2-story house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, Chuan Cheun lagoon. Contact Peggy. Tel: 081-8914664.

## OCEANFRONT VILLA

5-star, on the beach, sale direct by owner. Only 29.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

## 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 road frontage). Please contact Sumon for details. Tel: 076-352069, 081-6919346. Fax 076-261028. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

## 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.

## 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.

## HIGH-QUALITY HOME



2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 1 rai in Rawai. Separate building with maid's unit, storeroom, laundry, large kitchen. 300m to Chalong Circle. Large living areas, 2-car garage. Too many features to list. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-4776662. Email: vermdono@yahoo.com

## ABSOLUTE BEST BEACHFRONT

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

## 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

## 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 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.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garden, big kitchen, balcony, aircon, tank, furnished, near Kathu waterfall. Tel: 076-323696, 084-7597880.

## SEA VIEW

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Sea, bay and hill views. Great location. Tel: 081-6932250. Email: lumpoon@loxinfo.co.th

## 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

## Properties For Rent

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Chao Fa area. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 aircons (in bedroom and drawing room), fully furnished, 2 car parks. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9728686.

### APARTMENT NEAR LOCH PALM

Apartment 85sqm. 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, pool, fan, aircon, telephone, Wi-Fi, cable TV. Available for short-term rent: 800 baht per day. Long-term rent: 15,000 baht per month. Contact Jamriang. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

### APARTMENT KATA BEACH

Nice, cable TV, furnished. Tel: 086-5958512, 081-9704638. Email: nalumana@yahoo.com

### BEACHHOUSE FOR RENT

House on beach at Silay, fully furnished, 10-minute drive to Phuket City. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5351269. Email: sutida@sinohousephuket.com

### RAWAI NAI HARN

New large luxury house for rent. 5 bedrooms, aircon, 5 bathrooms, big outside living, swimming pool. 70,000 baht per month. Minimum 1-year lease. Tel: 081-3971835.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

New two-story house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 300m from Monument. Go to Pa Khlok. 25,000 baht per month. Minimum 6-month lease. Tel: 083-1743880, 087-2646808.

### 2 BIG HOMES WITH POOL

Special price for 6-month lease: 20,000 baht, 30,000 baht. Near Laguna, spa, cable, quality furniture, luxury living. Tel: 089-5944067.

### LAND & HOUSES PROJECT FOR RENT

Fully furnished, aircons, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Call Tel: 081-2713875, 081-8945873. Email: tournuk18@yahoo.com

### NICE HOUSE IN THALANG

Heroines Monument area. House at the corner with nice garden. Fully furnished. Kitchen fitted w/ oven and 4-ring gas cooker. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 shower, 3 aircons, laundry w/ washing and drying machines. 24,000 baht per month (1-year contract), or 21,000 baht per month (2-year contract). Photos on request. Tel: 081-7975764. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

### 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.

### CONDO FOR RENT

Rawai area, renovated, aircon, cable TV. 400 baht per day. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-1899868.

### CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, big kitchen, aircon, telephone line, cable, minimum 6-month lease. No pets. 9,500 baht per month. Utilities extra. Tel: 076-344487, 087-2814535.

### CHALONG HOUSE

for rent in Land & Houses. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, TV, UBC. Tel: 081-9560241, 089-4740645.

### RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, ADSL, UBC, aircon. 4,500 baht per month. Contact Khun Noki. Tel: 086-6865567.

### KARON STUDIO APARTMENTS

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### RAWAI SEAVIEW APARTMENT

New deluxe studio. Full kitchen, cable, DVD, great view, furnished. Long-term rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

### 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.

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# Property Gazette

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## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## PATONG TOWER CONDO



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° 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. For details, visit: [www.patongtowerrental.com](http://www.patongtowerrental.com)

## HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Do you want to rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: [info@houseinphuket.com](mailto:info@houseinphuket.com) [www.houseinphuket.com](http://www.houseinphuket.com)

## OCEANFRONT KATA APARTMENT

5-star, 2-bedroom apartment with spa, pool, ADSL, gym. 60,000 baht per month. Email: [asiasail@yahoo.com](mailto:asiasail@yahoo.com) For details see <http://www.koumbele.com/kata2>

## QUIET AND SAFE SINGLE HOUSE

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## NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with phone, UBC, and aircon. Call Tel: 089-6521473.

## RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

homes, 93sqm each, pool, garden, parking. Promotion: 15,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

## KATA LUXURY APARTMENT

1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments, 2 bathrooms, en-suite in master, fully fitted, teak kitchen, huge terrace, parking, furnished or unfurnished. Long or short term. Starting at 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: [northwest98@yahoo.com](mailto:northwest98@yahoo.com)

## BEACHFRONT HOUSE

for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Contact for specific details. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

## CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

## KATA LUXURY OCEANFRONT

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## BANG TAO HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, big living room. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: [phuketmat@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketmat@yahoo.com)

## DESIRABLE HOUSE

for rent or sale. Situated in secure environment, 2-story house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen, dining room, garage, ADSL, UBC, mature garden. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Sell: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579.

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## TWO-STORY SHOPHOUSE

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## SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

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Cook urgently needed. Female only. Tel: 076-286-061, 081-8914019. Email: [tkoschig2000@hotmail.com](mailto:tkoschig2000@hotmail.com)

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# Island Job Mart

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette requires:

### Web Programmers (2)

To cope with the rapid development of the Gazette Online, we require two additional Programmers to join our Web team. Qualified candidates, Thai Nationals, male or female, age 23 up, must have:

- A Bachelor's Degree or higher in Computer Science or IT-related field
- At least 2 years of experience in Intranet and Web Programming
- Knowledge of asp, php, JavaScript, Flash (action script), MS Sql Server, MySQL, VB, com-components, etc
- Good analytical skills
- Ability to work well under pressure
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Good salary and benefits are available for the right candidates, as is the opportunity to contribute to the further development of the highly-trafficked PhuketGazette.Net. Qualified programmers are invited to send a resume to Khun Seubsak Sahaworapun, IT Manager, at [big@phuketgazette.net](mailto:big@phuketgazette.net).

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
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## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### Advertising Sales

- Thai, age 26 up with an outgoing personality
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Must have drivers license

### Distribution Marketing Person

- Thai age 26 up
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- PC experience in Word, Excel & Internet
- Good administrator

### Administration Assistant (2 positions)

The successful candidate will be a Thai national age 26 up 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](mailto:ann@phuketgazette.net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai,  
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## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### Assistant Accountant

- Thai, age 23 up
- Bachelor's degree or higher (in any field)
- Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- Accounting experience would be an advantage, but the Gazette is willing to provide training for a novice with good interpersonal skills and unquestioned honesty

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## Professional Property Management Solutions



Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

- 1 Operation Supervisor 1 position: Experience in hotel or property management
- 2 Marketing Manager 1 position: 3 years in Hospitality related marketing, experience web, print, signage, dealing with agent.
- 3 Executive Housekeeper 1 position: 3 years HK-Supervisor in 3 star plus hotel or similar.
- 4 Reservation Administration: 2 years experience reservation / marketing field.

And all of position: Good in Computer skills, good command of written and spoken English essential

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.  
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462 Srinakharin Road Chonglaly, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel : 076 279 750 Fax : 076 279 751  
Email : [hr@pipsphuket.com](mailto:hr@pipsphuket.com)

### CHALLENGING MODEL CASTING

Challenging model casting for 3- to 13-year-old boys and girls, Western-mixed Thai and Thai at Myclip Studios. Please contact K. Varintara. Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm. Tel: 076-380610, 081-737 0623. Fax: 076-380612. Email: [nat@myclipstudios.com](mailto:nat@myclipstudios.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.myclipstudios.com](http://www.myclipstudios.com)

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Customer-service agents needed for expanding Internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, hard working, a team player, computer savvy with fluent English? Superior salary. Thai nationals. Tel: 085-7899249. Email: [gstephenkay@yahoo.com](mailto:gstephenkay@yahoo.com) See our stunning product selection & website here: <http://www.holyclothing.com>

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RPM Health Club will soon be Phuket's finest and most exclusive health and social club for adults. The club is now interviewing for the following positions:

## Membership Director Club Accountant

Both positions seek Thai National, with applicable University degree and experience. The Membership Director position will give preference to Phuket native.

Please forward letter and resume to:  
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[cj@searaspports.com](mailto:cj@searaspports.com). Tel: 076 355-040, Fax: 076 355-039

## Germany company that sell electrical products

Positions required:

## Sales engineer

Location: Phuket

Requirement:

very good English (must)  
min diploma, 1-2 years  
experience in electrical  
Email: [hr@thjungasia.com](mailto:hr@thjungasia.com)  
or 02-6739857-9

### JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Knowledge of taxation reporting. A/P-A/R ledger. Tel: 076-2391111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: [suporn@asia-marine.net](mailto:suporn@asia-marine.net)

### MARKETING MANAGER

A premier property management and villa-rental company needs a Thai national with an outgoing personality, strong English and strong communication skills. 3-years' experience in travel/hospitality marketing channels including Web, print and signage. Ability to deal with agents is essential. Good salary and perks include phone and fuel allowance. Please submit resume with photo to interview. Tel: 076-270750. Fax: 076-270751. Email: [hr@pipsphuket.com](mailto:hr@pipsphuket.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.

### 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 for details at Tel: 076-288808, 081-090-9640. Email: [info@phuket-car-rentals.com](mailto:info@phuket-car-rentals.com)

### CLIENT RELATIONS

Bright, clear-thinking person is required for our office. Must be a good communicator, have good written and spoken English and be able to work with minimum supervision. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Tel: 076-348117, 081-970 3028. Fax: 076-348118. Email: [rob@sailing-thailand.com](mailto:rob@sailing-thailand.com) Send CV by email or fax. For more info, please visit our website: [www.sailing-thailand.com](http://www.sailing-thailand.com)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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Tues 1 pm  
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For info on other Thailand  
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www.aathailand.org or  
email info@aathailand.org

## 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. Please contact for additional information.

K. Carol at  
Tel: 087-4178860,  
email: carol@aplusplus  
software.com  
or K. Sue at  
Tel: 087-2776948.  
Email:  
arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th

## SOLO 24 HOUR BIKE MARATHON

Marco Reinard will go on a solo, 24-hour Bike Marathon 21-22 September, 2007 to raise awareness about pollution and other environmental problems in Phuket. Join us in Cheering Marco and supporting our bid to help keep Phuket Clean. We'll be at Younique Bar from 7 pm onward. Please contact via by email: chutikarn@hoteltravel.com

## 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).

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**BAR FOR SALE**  
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# Wheels & Motors

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## ISUZU CAB 4, 4WD



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395,000 baht. Please contact for information. Tel: 086-1542255.

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