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Knudsen murder suspects arrested

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CHALONG: Two teenagers arrested by police have confessed to the brutal stabbing murder of Norwegian Simen Sparre Knudsen on September 23, along with several other armed robberies of foreign tourists driving motorbikes alone late at night.

A source from Chalong Police, who requested that his name not be printed, identified the two suspects as 18-year-old Narongsak "Sak" Tongviset and his half-brother "Pong", 16, whose full name cannot be printed because he is a minor.

Both youths are registered as residents of Surat Thani's Phunphin district, but live in Kathu, where their common father is a taxi driver.

A third suspect, 18-year-old Theerapat Saivaree, remains at large. Police said he is originally from Satun province, but has lived in Phuket for many years. Police believe he is hiding somewhere on the island.

The source said that after the youths' arrest, the brothers admitted to using the same approach in this robbery that they had in previous attacks: arriving on two motorbikes, parking on a dark section of road late at night and yelling abuse at their target, always a foreign tourist alone on a motorbike.

If the tourist slowed down or stopped, they would force him or her from the motorcycle then beat the tourist into submission using Thai boxing skills all three had acquired from a local Muay Thai camp.

They would then rob the tourist of all his or her valuables and ride off on their stolen motorbike, they said.



The first of the two brothers arrested for the September 23 murder of Norwegian Simen Sparre Knudsen was identified by police only as 'Pong', aged 16. Before the killing, he spent a year at the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center on theft convictions.

The main break in the case came about 11:30 pm on September 27, when the three youths held up a Swiss tourist riding a rented motorbike on the dark stretch of the road from Patong to Karon.

The hilly stretch of road near the entrance to Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort has been the site of many robberies over the years. Part of the reason is that it is dark and winding and must be passed by tourists returning to Karon after a night in Patong.

The section also lies just before the border with Kathu District and thus falls under the jurisdiction not of the nearby Kathu Police Station but of the Chalong Police, whose headquarters are some 15 kilometers away.

The motorcycle stolen from the Swiss man was rented to him by Pol Sen Sgt Maj Boonler Samngamya, who heads a Chalong Traffic Police unit and operates a small motorcycle rental agency in Karon.

Continued on page 2

New retail center slated near Tesco

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

RASSADA: A group of Thai investors have bought and cleared the only remaining section of undeveloped land at the Tesco-Lotus intersection with the intention of developing a large retail and entertainment complex there.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayananamit told the Gazette recently that a group of Bangkok-based investors had approached him to discuss the proposed development, which is still in its initial design phase. The developers also have yet to apply for any building permits from any relevant agencies, he said.

Without disclosing the name of the group, Gov Niran said it was comprised of Thai nationals who intend to invest 4 billion baht to develop the site with facilities including a department center, hotels and a small convention center. One of the landmarks would be a large observation tower offering panoramic views of Phuket City and the ocean beyond, he revealed.

Although still far from the ground breaking stages, Gov Niran said he had heard that the group's board has already approved funding for the project.

In addition to the parcel of land on the northeast quadrant of the intersection, which is bordered from behind by Soi Paniang and to the south by Yaowarat Rd, the investors have also acquired a large parcel of land along Yaowarat Rd behind Tesco Lotus for the project.

They hope to connect the two plots via an underground tunnel that would pass under Yaowarat Rd and be lined with small kiosks for retail sales, he said.

The investors' interest reflects the healthy business development of Phuket, he added.

From page 1

Killer teens caught

Although he was unaware that the bike had been stolen, he recognized his Honda Click as his own as he stood beside Wichit Songkram Rd in Ketho, Kathu, about 7 pm on September 29.

He followed the driver, "Pong", and his companion, "Sak", riding pillion as they turned south onto Chao Fa West Rd and continued all the way to Soi Nai Trok in Chalong.

The out-of-uniform officer pulled alongside the pair and ordered them to stop. When they sped up Sgt Boonler gave chase, eventually pulling alongside them and kicking the bike to the ground.

He arrested Pong, who was found in possession of a replica pistol, but Sak managed to escape into a nearby rubber plantation and evade the five-hour police manhunt that followed.

Using a police sketch based on a description given by his half-brother, Phuket City Police arrested Sak riding another motorbike around Baan Borrae, Ao Makham, on September 30.

He was found in possession of an unregistered pistol and a knife, which he later confessed to having used to stab Mr Knudsen, 53, the source said.

A search of their home in Kathu ended in the seizure of several other stolen motorcycles.

The brothers and their accomplice had all previously served time in Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center. Pong had been released a few months earlier after a one-year theft conviction.

The source explained that the brothers said that to rob Mr Knudsen they had to punch him repeatedly in the face, kick him hard in the groin and stab him twice.

They left Mr Knudsen on the road from the Kata Viewpoint to Rawai about 1 am. He was rushed to Phuket International Hospital, where he later died.

Mr Knudsen was a resident of Phuket for over 30 years. His widow, Sommai Knudsen, 39, and 13-year-old son Chanon personally thanked the officers responsible for arresting the youngsters.

Airport sets bi-monthly fire drills

PHUKET AIRPORT: Phuket International Airport (PIA) Director Sq Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree has told the *Gazette* that a fire drill for fire fighting rescue staff will now be held every two months at PIA.

The first drill, hailed as a complete success by Director Pornchai, took place from 10 am to 11:30 am on September 26 and was attended by 20 staff from PIA security and Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Director Pornchai said that the drills, which will be used to prepare firemen for emergencies, are not related to the crash of One-Two-Go flight OG269 on September 16.



PHUKET (Gazette, Nation): A series of interfaith memorial services were held at Phuket International Airport on September 29.

The services were open to the public and all attendees were asked to wear white.

The service started with a one-hour Theravada Buddhist ceremony by 33 monks, including Somdet Phra Phuttacharn, or "Somdet Kiaw", the Acting Supreme Patriarch of Thai Buddhism.

This ceremony was followed by shorter services by Muslim, Protestant, Catholic and Sikh clerics.

The services followed the death of Welsh tourist Bethan Jones, 22. Miss Jones was being treated at Bangkok General Hospital in Bangkok after surviving the crash landing of One-Two-Go flight OG269.

She was confirmed dead September 28 as a result of severe burns.

Miss Jones received severe burns to 50% of her body in the fire that followed the crash and was flown from Phuket to Bangkok on September 18.

Miss Jones, from Porth in South Wales, was on a round-the-world trip with her boyfriend, Alex Collins, 22, who also died in the crash.

Her death brought the total dead in the disaster to 90.

Memorial held for air-crash victims

DEATH TOLL HITS 90

All of the other victims have been identified, said Royal Thai Police Region Eight Commander Lt Gen Thani Thavitsri on September 25.

The last three corpses, all Iranian, were flown out of Phuket September 26.

Phuket Provincial Insurance Office Chief Suwimon Sealim on September 27 said her office had summarized the insurance carried by all the victims of the disaster. Of the 89 confirmed dead at the time the report was issued, 31 carried policies with Thai-registered insurers.

Fifteen Thai insurers will pay out a total of 45.3 million baht in individual claims, ranging from 50,000 baht to 20 million baht, she said.

Nearly half the total compensation was paid out the afternoon of September 27 on Soi Mae Lamai in Chalong, where representatives from Krungthai Card Public Co Ltd (KTC) and

Dhipaya Insurance jointly handed over a check for 20 million baht to the relatives of Chawaphon Boonmeemeechai.

K. Chawaphon, Marketing Manager at the TOT office in Phang Nga, was a KTC platinum card holder who used his credit card to book his seat on the ill-fated flight.

KTC Card Country Operations Manager Thawatchai Thitisakdiskul said the families of KTC regular card holders Theerayuth Manoochinakorn and Sinchai Chai-aroon would receive one million baht each in claims.

Nuanphan Tantimas, regional manager of American International Assurance (AIA), told the *Gazette* that AIA had paid a total 9.9 million baht to the families of nine policy holders who perished in the crash and fire. Claims ranged from 200,000 baht to 2.8 million baht, she said.

In addition, the Social Security Office has paid compensation to the families of 18 deceased passengers and crew, including three of the five cabin crew and both pilots. The families of those who died during normal work hours were paid an initial amount

of 100 times the minimum wage, or 19,100 baht.

The pilots' families will also receive monthly payments of 12,000 baht per month for eight years, equivalent to 60% of the 20,000-baht wage ceiling over that period.

Families of the three dead cabin crew will receive 5,400 baht per month for eight years. The families of both pilots and crew are also eligible for a collective total of 79,456 baht in funds paid into the social security retirement fund.

In addition to compensating the families of the dead, the Social Security Office will pay medical expenses for two Dutch survivors incurred in Thailand under a mutual assistance treaty between Thailand and the Netherlands.

Thus far, One-Two-Go has announced that the families of each deceased victim will receive US\$150,000, the Phuket Provincial Insurance Office said.

Relatives of the deceased needing assistance with insurance issues can contact the Phuket Provincial Insurance Office at 076-219269.

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Patong launches new trash-sorting project

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PATONG: Residents of Patong should get ready to start sorting their trash, as Patong Municipality plans to improve its waste management system by distributing plastic garbage bags in 10 colors, each designated for a particular category of waste.

The scheme, developed jointly with the Thai Industrialist Development Forum (TIDF), was announced at a press conference hosted by Patong Mayor Pian Keesin on September 26.

"Sorting all our trash into these 10 categories will make it a lot easier to dispose of. More useful types of trash then can be recycled."

"This initiative will not only reduce the volume of trash, it will improve our environment and way of life by giving everyone a useful role to play in the community. It will also be a useful source of income for some people," said Mayor Pian.

Finer details of the plan, such as what penalties will be imposed on those who fail to sort their garbage, were not discussed.

However, it was mentioned that the new system is intended to eliminate the need to truck refuse to the island's overburdened trash incinerator at Saphan Hin.



'This initiative will not only reduce the volume of trash, it will improve our environment and way of life by giving everyone a useful role to play in the community,' Patong Mayor Pian Keesin.

The thick plastic bags will be distributed free and the new system is scheduled to go into operation in early December.

To dispose of the sorted waste, the TIDF will deploy a mobile grinding machine capable of rendering many categories of trash into re-usable litter.

The bag designations by color are:

Black: food scraps and organic matter.

Blue: cans, buckets, scrap iron.

Yellow: plastics.

Gray: cement and bricks.
Pink: fabrics, such as cloth and silk.

Red: glass.

Green: paper.

Brown: twigs and other plant matter.

Orange: rubber, foam and leather.

Purple: toxic items, such as batteries and aerosol canisters.

During the meeting it was announced that Patong now has 3,581 registered households and a registered population of 17,653 people.

Governor calls for parental punishments

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit has called for stricter punishments to be enforced on the parents of unruly teenagers who consistently break the law, after a spate of robberies by a gang of youths.

At a Security Committee Meeting at Katina Hotel on September 27, Phuket Provincial Police Superintendent of General Staff Pol Col Peerayut Karajedee reported to Governor Niran on the robberies of three 7-Eleven stores and one local gas station by a gang in the Cherng Talay and Kamala areas.

"They live in Village 3 Cherng Talay and Village 3 Kamala. On September 12, three of them robbed two 7-Elevens in Cherng Talay and one in Kamala, as well as a local gas station in Bang Tao," said Cherng Talay Police Station Superintendent Lt

Col Veerawat Chantaravijit.

The three teenagers, part of a gang of five all aged between 14 and 17 years old, were arrested by police the next day.

The gang used a replica handgun and a one-meter long knife to steal cash, cigarettes and phone cards, added Lt Col Veerawat.

"The robberies occurred after midnight, and we had already warned shop owners in the area to install CCTV cameras. Most shop owners lock their stores after midnight, but the gang sent in someone well-dressed to pose as a customer, then the other gang members would enter and rob the store," said Col Veerawat.

Governor Niran said, "I think these teenagers are behaving like bandits, not youths any more."

"Even though they are still young, they have broken the law

many times, which makes them outlaws. After the police arrest them and they go to juvenile court, they always get out after minimal punishment or on bail when its requested by their parents."

"We need to look at imposing a law that punishes parents who continually refuse to take good care of their children," he added.

Members of the teenage gang are currently out on bail.

Phuket police facing manpower crisis

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Some 10% of all police officers in Phuket have applied for transfers out of the province, with many citing overwork as their reason, adding to the problem of Phuket's already understaffed police force.

Word of the widespread dissatisfaction in the ranks came from Lt Gen Thanee Tavitcha, Commander of Royal Thai Police Region 8.

Some 10% of Phuket's current police force have requested transfers out of the province for easier postings elsewhere, Gen Thanee said.

In a telephone interview September 28, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth confirmed that some 100 officers had requested transfers.

Many officers wanted easier assignments elsewhere, while others wanted to return to work in their home provinces, Gen Decha said.

"There is so much going on all the time because Phuket is so popular with tourists. This makes it very hard to work here, so I understand their reasons for wanting to leave," he said.

However, he added that the Royal Thai Police is unable to

grant all the transfers at the same time because Phuket is already suffering a police manpower shortage.

Although the province needs about 500 more police staff to deal with the anticipated influx of tourists during the upcoming high season, several requests to Royal Thai Police headquarters to fill these positions have been denied, Gen Decha said.

Part of the reason that his requests for an additional 500 staff has been continually refused by police headquarters in Bangkok stems from dwindling numbers of new recruits nationwide.

An insufficient number of new recruits pass the police civil service exam each year end and enter the force, Gen Decha explained.

Currently there are about 1,050 police in Phuket, far fewer than the 1,600 officers needed, he said.

The shortage of law enforcement officers is thought to be due in part to Phuket's registered population, which is just more than 300,000, being roughly only half the number of Thais actually living in the province, according to figures provided by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

Man stabs monk, walks free

PHUKET CITY: A man arrested September 27 for stabbing a monk at a Phuket temple on September 26 has been released without being charged.

Pol Capt Atthapol Wannasaengthong of the Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* that about 4 am September 26, Uthen "Pra Pinnateepo" Ronnarit, 52, was in his living quarters when he heard a man shouting in the temple grounds.

He went outside to ask the man to stop shouting, as the noise was disturbing the other monks. The man, who police declined to name, became enraged and

stabbed the cleric in the back before fleeing, Capt Atthapol said.

Pra Pinnateepo was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he received 10 stitches and was released later that day, said Capt Atthapol.

The man who stabbed Pra Pinnateepo was arrested when returned to the scene of the crime the next day.

He was released from into the care of his relatives, as police have opted not to press charges on the grounds that he is suffering from mental-health problems, said Capt Atthapol.

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In the name of Purity

By Marque A. Rome

Although the citizens of China have spread across the globe over the ages, their culture has largely been preserved through a firm belief in the spirit world. This other world, according to ancient belief, is thickly populated by spirits of every description, though roughly categorized either as demons or gods.

The Chinese and their descendants in Thailand are keen diplomats with the spirit world, calling on the gods for assistance or to chase off demons. Such thinking is central to the belief system that spawned Phuket's Vegetarian Festival.

How, when and why the festival began is debated among local scholars. Two schools exist: one holds that the festival derives from a Chinese opera troupe performing for tin miners in Kathu in the 19th century; the other asserts that it began among refugees fleeing a crackdown by Empress Dowager Tz'u-hsi on participants in the 1899 Boxer Rebellion.

Regardless of its roots, however, it has grown into a much-anticipated, modern-day tourist attraction.

Phuket's older citizens confirm the intense rivalry for precedence between followers of San Jao Taoist temple in Kathu and those of San Jao Jui Tui in Phuket City, a rivalry which on at least one occasion erupted into a general melee.

In recent decades, the official version has become the legend of the Kathu temple opera troupe performing vegetarian rites to ward off an unspecified epidemic.



A crowd looks on as mah song perform ritual self-torture for the good of the community.

This is also less controversial than the Boxer Rebellion, which was directed against Europeans, such as Christian missionaries, who were torn limb-from-limb – hardly the most attractive legend to entice European tourists with.

It appears the stories of both sides may be equally credible, as well as similar tales from other sources: for the Vegetarian Festival undoubtedly springs, like the Pearl River, from more than one stream.

If its origins are mysterious, then one aspect of the fest should be clarified: Two centuries ago, Chinese laborers and adventurers came to Phuket seeking their fortunes in the tin mining industry. Whether they abstained from eating meat out of pity for ani-

mals is not certain.

Today, one frequently finds New Age-tinged publications explaining the fest in such terms at shops serving vegetarian food; but modern interpretations – alluding to celebration of the sanctity of life and rites associated with the bodhisattva Guan Yin – are just that, modern, and have little relevance to ancient thinking.

In the old days, people were worried – or wracked – by the depredations of hungry ghosts: ghosts of wicked men, especially recently executed criminals; and ghosts of animals, with tiger ghosts known to be especially predatory.

Visitors to Phuket during the festival often imagine that the rites are Thai, this being Thailand, and seeing they are undertaken

by Thai people. But the Phuket Vegetarian Festival is largely unrelated to Thai culture – except as an import. The rites are mostly Chinese, with a nod perhaps to Shivite worship rituals popular among the Tamils.

To throw a light on what happens during the festival, it is useful to know something of traditional Chinese beliefs. Faith in China was of three types: Confucianism – with an emphasis on ancestral worship; Mahayana – or Great Cycle – Buddhism, which involves moral teachings not unlike those in the Bible; and Taoism.

“Tao” simply means “the way”, in this case the middle path through Chaos, which is populated with good and bad spirits. Taoists study to discover the way

through chaos, whereby they may emerge unscathed. As such, Phuket's “Jia Chai” is an essentially Taoist festival.

These belief systems are often described as “the three religions of China”, but they were not mutually exclusive – Chinese were at once Confucian, Buddhist and Taoist.

The Chinese also worship Guan Yin (called *Kuan Im* in Thai), the goddess of Mercy, the equivalent to the Virgin Mary among Roman Catholics. Many Chinese also adhere to the detailed system of Fung Shui, or Chinese geomancy, which spells-out the dos-and-don'ts of ensuring good luck and prosperity.

The spiritual world was conceived as being much like the physical world; similarly hierarchical and with an emphasis on material wealth.

Gods existed in countless numbers. The greatest were deceased emperors of China, the most friendly and useful being one's own ancestors, who depended upon the living for the necessities of life in the spirit world, meaning they can be coaxed, threatened or even blackmailed by the living.

Demons were also numerous, and uniquely stupid. Chinese devils, for example, cannot turn corners, are impeded by stairways, and must turn back upon encountering a mirror.

Chinese devils, however powerful, find it impossible to exist in the near proximity of Emperor gods, fleeing to the ends of the earth at their approach.

This was the belief structure of Phuket Chinese when the fest originated. That they aimed purely at driving off devils – who were blamed for disease and all manner of other ills – cannot be affirmed, but it is a fact that the demons must flee, for during the festival's nine days (really 10 – but nine has better Fung Shui), the nine highest of the Emperor gods

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Mah song proceed through Phuket City, immune to their self-inflicted wounds.

are invoked and are thought to reside on Phuket in curtained cubicles behind each participating temple's main altar.

Emperor gods, of course, go nowhere alone but bring myriad warrior spirits from the four corners of the earth (formerly believed to be square), and some of these manifest themselves by possessing the bodies of devotees selected to march in procession.

To demonstrate their supernatural powers, *mah song* (literally, "entranced horses") wound themselves in a variety of spectacular ways, thereby striking fear into any lurking *kwei* (or demons, whence follows the Chinese-language epithet *kwei lo* or "foreign devil" – a phrase oddly reminiscent of the Englishman's "damned foreigner").

Emperors were notoriously finicky about odors. Their agents, in touring the provinces to procure concubines for the harem, were instructed to inspect not only the face and figure, but the breath of candidates.

Thus, during the festival, we find devotees dressed in spotless white, venues ritually cleaned, and a ban on savory foods, onions, garlic, meat and fish, and menstruating or pregnant women – for Emperor gods will not abide a smelly city.

Timing of the festival, the ninth lunar month, also finds an explanation in traditional Chinese beliefs. In Spring, all things are growing, scholars reasoned; in Summer, they are in bloom; in Winter, all is in abeyance.

The proper time for execution of condemned prisoners, then, must be Autumn, when nature is in retreat. The effect of executing all prisoners about the same time was to release an army of hungry ghosts upon the city, making doubly necessary the presence of tutelary spirits – and who better to invoke against these criminal ghosts than the invincible Emperor gods themselves?

A curiosity – indeed, what makes Phuket's festival unique among Chinese rites – is ritual self-torture. Whether this aspect was part of the fest from the beginning is unclear. Chinese think it distinctly alien. After all, bloody piercings, lopping-off tongues, slashing and so on, certainly seem to contradict the strictures against meat-eating and the presence of menstruating women.

The explanation, oddly, may lie with rites performed in honor of Shiva, the Hindu god of death. Ritual self-torture similar to that seen in the Phuket Vegetarian Festival is performed during the Thai Pushan festival by Tamils in

Singapore and Malaysia each January or February.

Celebrants commonly pierce their cheeks or tongue and shiver in ecstasy, apparently possessed.

During the hey-day of tin-mining, from the mid-19th century onwards, Phuket Chinese maintained close connections with Singapore, headquarters for the principal tin ore buyers, and with other communities of Chinese miners scattered along the Malay Peninsula.

Inter-marriage with Tamils occurred – opening the possibility that Tamil rites were adapted and spread to purely Chinese communities.

Another likely Tamil influence involves fire-walking, normally performed as tribute to the Hindu goddess of epidemics. Anyone injured in the fire-walking ceremony is assumed to have violated prohibitions against alcohol and sex.

Lest readers imagine there's nothing behind this talk of ghosts and spirits, I conclude with a personal anecdote. In rushing to meet my deadline for this very story, I jumped in the car to get a glass of iced coffee from 7-Eleven.

"It would be most inopportune," I said to the car, a product of France, "were you to malfunction. I have no time today for repairs."

I don't know why I said that, it was running normally; but within 60 seconds a seal on the transaxle burst, hydraulic fluid poured out and the clutch ceased to function.

The imp of mechanical failure had struck – just to let me know, I suppose, of his existence. Displaying the extent of his powers, he allowed me to drive the clutchless car to a mechanic who repaired it within an hour, on a Saturday afternoon, and even delivered it to my house – for just 600 baht.

The gods of China surely deserve respect.

WHERE TO GO

In the hour or so before sunset on October 10, every Chinese shrine on Phuket will stage a pole-raising ceremony to invite the gods to join us mere mortals here on earth – marking the beginning of the annual Vegetarian Festival.

For the following nine days, the Chinese shrines will hold street processions and an array of spectacles during which *mah song* (spirit mediums) will prove their purity, their worthiness of being the "horse of the gods", as their title literally translates.

Here is a list of the major events to be held during the festival.

October 14. *Mah song* purification by hot oil at Baan Don Shrine in Cherng Talay, starting at 8 pm.

October 16. Fire walking ceremonies will be held at: Saphan Hin - 8 pm (by Jui Tui Shrine followers); Tha Reua Shrine - 9 pm; Soi Panieng Shrine - 8 pm; Sapam Shrine - 9 pm; Jang Ong Shrine - 8 pm.

October 17. "Crossing the bridge of nails" ceremonies will be held at Sapam Shrine at 8 pm and at Jang Ong Shrine at 6 pm. Baan Pasak *mah song* purification by hot oil - 8:30 pm.

Tha Reua Shrine *mah song* purification by hot oil at 8:45 pm followed by the tying of blessed thread around children's wrists.

Knife-ladder climbing ceremonies will be held at: Bang Neow Shrine - 9:09 pm; Samkong Shrine - 8 pm; Cherng Talay Shrine - 7:59 pm; Bangkoo Shrine - 8:45 pm.

October 18. Jui Tui Shrine "crossing the bridge of nails" ceremony - 8.09 pm.

Fire walking ceremonies will be held at: Bang Neow Shrine - 8 pm; Samkong Shrine - 8 pm; Cherng Talay Shrine - 8:09 pm; Bangkoo Shrine - 8:30 pm; Baan Pasak Shrine - 8 pm; Baan Don Shrine - 8 pm.

October 19. Kathu Shrine fire walking ceremony at 3 pm followed by "bad luck purification by bridge crossing" ceremony for followers.

"Bridge crossing" ceremonies will be held at other shrines at: Bang Neow Shrine - 5 pm; Baan Tha Rue Shrine - 8 pm; Sui Boon Tong Shrine - 9 pm; Samkong Shrine - 7 pm; Cherng Talay - 6:30 pm; Soi Panieng Shrine - 8 pm; Sapam shrine - 7:45 pm; Bangkoo Shrine - 9 pm; Baan Pasak Shrine - 6 pm; Baan Don Shrine - 8 pm.

October 20. Pole-lowering ceremonies to mark the end of the Vegetarian Festival will be held at all Chinese shrines from about 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

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Queer News

Stressed cleric seeks karaoke

SRISAKET: Apart from imparting knowledge, a key role for any educator should be setting a good moral and ethical example for his or her students. This is especially true if the teacher is in charge of disseminating religious doctrine.

Teaching can be a stressful business, however. Thus, it was "the need to unwind" that one high-ranking monk gave as his excuse after he was caught in a karaoke joint on the night of September 16, microphone in one hand and whiskey glass in the other.

Phra Mahathanin Thitiuro, 34, was deputy dean of Kanthararom district and responsible for teaching monks at Wat Srakampaengyai in Uthumphonphaisai district, which functions as a campus for a Buddhist university. He was also pursuing a doctorate degree.

After a hard day of expounding the evils of immoderation on September 15, Phra Mahathanin felt the need to loosen up a bit.

Returning to his cell at Wat Kanthararom, he invited three other temple monks to join him in a covert mission into Srisaket Town.

Led by Phra Mahathanin, the faithful foursome dumped their yellow robes and put on street clothes. Phra Mahathanin donned a wide-brimmed hat to conceal his shaved head and high-profile face.

Confident that no one would

recognize them, they drove down to "Nong Tom Karaoke" and cheerfully cracked open a bottle of whiskey.

Unfortunately for them, some other residents of Kanthararom district had also fancied a spot of karaoke that night – and they could make out that one of their fellow crooners was, in fact, the second-highest-ranking monk in the whole district.

So they reported the incident to the police.

When officers arrived, they were met with the sight of Phra Mahathanin clutching the microphone in one hand and sitting next to a hostess, behind a table laden with alcohol.

On seeing the police, the unfortunate dean reportedly could not hide the look of shock from his face.

The officers, recognizing their target, demanded that he identify himself. On confirming that the reveler was indeed a high-ranking monk, they took him to Kanthararom District Police Station.

Under questioning, Phra Mahathanin claimed that he had been teaching very hard recently and felt stressed, so he invited the three young deacons out with him to try and relax.

He will now have all the time in the world to relax outside the structured world of the Buddhist clergy, as his night out on the town has reportedly resulted in him being defrocked.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



This mess is directly across the road from Supercheap on Thepkasattri Rd on the north side of Phuket City.

It seems once the trash can was full, local vendors and passers-by saw no point in piling the trash by the bin, instead opting to leave it strewn along the fence. At least it will not be clogging any drains there, as trash filling the gutters along that stretch of road is known to do – causing the road to flood during rainy season downpours.

Wonder if the Rassada Tambon Administration Organization has noticed it yet?

TRASHING Phuket

Phuket Film Festival to attract international artists

PHUKET: Phuket will be rolling out the red carpet for Thailand's television and movie stars along with international VIPs when they arrive at Jungceylon Shopping Complex for the Opening Gala of the first Phuket Film Festival at 6 pm on Saturday October 20.

During the week long festival, running from October 20 until October 27, a variety of international and local films will be shown at Phuket SFX cinemas as well as a series of film making workshops, presentations and talks conducted by prominent figures in the film making industry.

The first movie to be screened on the opening night of

the festival is the Spanish comedy, *Dance Machine*, which will be followed by a Disco Party at Jungceylon's Port Zone. Other movies and events scheduled during the festival are:

October 21: *Sand Dancer* by artist Peter Donnelly, in the short film category. Peter will also be performing his amazing art on Patong Beach from October 20 to 22.

A workshop at Jungceylon entitled "Preserving the Past Present and Future on Film" will be held from 12.30 pm. During this workshop UNESCO will award the Fellini Silver Medal to the Thai Culture Minister, HE Si-

Arun Khaisi, as a representative of the Thai National Film Archives.

Rare footage compiled by the National Film Archives will be shown during the workshop, with a 15-minute montage and includes film of a 1928 trip to Phuket by King Rama VII.

A restored copy of *The King of the White Elephant* will also be screened after the montage, followed by a high tea reception. Tickets are 200 baht.

October 21: Official merchandise from the the Sony Animated feature, *Surf's Up* will be on sale at Jungceylon from 2:30 pm onwards. A screening with Thai subtitles will begin at 4 pm.

October 22: Two movies under the banner, Focus on Filipino Film will be followed by a reception held by the Philippine Embassy to Thailand.

October 23: A free seminar entitled "What the Heck is Making Movies all About Anyway?" will be held at the Millennium Hotel from 11 am. Discussions will be led by James Mimikos.

October 25: Gay and lesbian themes will dominate four films.

October 27: The world premiere of six short films about Cambodian life will be shown, plus *Across the Universe*, which originally premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The festival's partners, sponsors and organizers include: *Phuket Gazette*, Thai Air Asia, Malaysian Airlines, Kinnara Travel, GUE. Rockfish, Jungceylon Shopping Complex and SFX Coliseum Cinema.

For more details visit www.phuketfilmfestival.com.



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B40m Ferrari destroyed by Customs

The Customs Department destroyed a 40-million-baht Ferrari smuggled into the country in order to deny criminal gangs that "launder cars" the chance to buy and sell it for a large profit.

Customs Director Chawalit Satemethakul presided over the destruction of the unclaimed Ferrari 456 GT, seized from a Samut Prakan garage on June 28.

The car was found to lack several key parts such, including its engine interface box.

Instead of putting the Ferrari up for auction as usual, K. Chawalit said, the department destroyed it so the criminals could not buy it.

The car, valued at 35 to 40 million baht, was crushed by a heavy excavator and would be sold as scrap metal.

Criminals were suspected of smuggling expensive cars into the country then removing key parts to devalue the vehicles, before allowing Customs officials to seize them.

With seized cars usually auctioned later, "car-laundering" gangs then bought the cars at very cheap prices then reinstalled the key parts and sold them for hefty profits.

"We want to send a message that those who involved in this can no longer take advantage or cheat others like they did before. If we find anymore cases like this, we'll destroy the cars without regard of who the people involved are," said K. Chawalit.

Artful antagonist. Despite pressure from the National Legislative Assembly, award-winning artist Anupong Chanthorn refused to withdraw his controversial painting Bhikku Sandan Ka (monks with crow-like natures) from the 53rd National Exhibition of Art.

K. Anupong said he was not bothered by the criticism and wanted to remind the public about monks who indulge in vices.

The painting is being featured at an exhibition at Silpakorn University's Sanamchan Palace campus in Nakhon Pathom until October 30.

Explaining that he did not mean to offend Buddhists, K. Anupong said he only wanted to



Customs destroyed the 35- to 40-million baht Ferrari so that car smugglers could not buy it cheap at auction and then sell it at a huge profit on the open market.

depict people who used monks' saffron robes as a cover for their sins.

His inspiration was taken from the Buddhist scriptures, he said.

Social insecurity. In the face of the growing "gray population" and the disintegration of extended families, many academics are calling on the government to introduce a pension system for working people outside the public sector.

In the next 16 years, the number of Thais turning 60 will be nearly one million every year, demographics expert Dr Pramote Prasatkul of Mahidol University told a recent seminar in Bangkok.

According to Dr Pramote, there are now 6.9 million people aged over 60 in the country, accounting for 11% of the population.

Currently, one-third of working Thais are in the public sector and entitled to government-supported pensions.

Smart stick. A team of researchers from King Mongkut Institute of Technology at Lad Krabang won first prize at the "Embedded Systems on New Industrial Design Camp and Contest 2007" for their development

of a walking stick that enables visually impaired people to detect obstacles – including those at head level.

The cane detects objects and warns its holder through a vibration in the handle.

Realizing that the conventional cane for the blind could not detect objects at higher levels, the team developed a cane equipped with ultrasonic sensors to detect objects at levels from waist to head.

The smart cane, which runs on batteries, has an energy-saving design allowing it to operate for a full day before needing a recharge.

The cane is expected to sell at 1,800 baht apiece.

Spicy solution. The medicinal powers of *nam prik*, or chili paste condiment, have prompted the Public Health Ministry to launch a national campaign to promote its wider consumption.

The move follows the results of a survey highlighting its significant health and economic benefits.

"Our survey found the majority of people in this country consume fewer than the required 400 grams of fruit and vegetables a day," said Dr Wichai Ekapalakorn, director of the ministry's survey unit.

As diet is a fundamental factor contributing to obesity and other chronic diseases, the ministry decided to turn to promoting *nam prik* as a way to improve diet, he explained.

A dish of chili paste contains 100 different herbal ingredients, said Narumol Yuwanaboon of BioThai, an NGO working on natural resources and diversity.

"*Nam prik* contains a wide variety of herbal ingredients commonly good for health. The basic ingredients are chili, garlic, red onion, salt, shrimp paste, fish sauce and *pla ra*, or fermented fish. They can naturally increase antibodies, improve circulation and respiration which automatically reduces cancer, heart disease and diabetes risks," she added.

High-tech hounds. A Bangkok

scheme to track the canine population by requiring all dogs to get microchipped kicked off on September 29.

On the first day about 7,000 dogs and their 1,500 masters showed up at City Hall to avail of the free implanting service being offered by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration for three months, or until the initial stock of 50,000 microchips is exhausted.

Now that the campaign is under way, dogs without owners or chips will be removed from the streets at the rate of about 200 per day "and trained for official uses," said Bangkok Deputy Governor Wallop Suwandee.

Stray dogs make a bad impression on foreign tourists coming here, he added.

Flu alert. Public Health Minister Mongkol na Songkhla has called on provinces to keep an eye out for symptoms of bird flu because the virus might re-emerge and spread in the cooler months.

Dr Mongkol said he had instructed 25 provinces in lower-Northern and Central Thailand, where poultry farms are abundant, to keep a close eye on developments.

Although no bird-flu cases in humans have been reported recently, health officials and volunteers should still keep a close eye on locals and poultry and submit daily reports to the province, he said.

He also urged the public to stay away from ill or suspiciously dead chickens.

Permanent Secretary for Public Health Dr Prat Boonyawongwirote said that in the most recent round of checks, 1,909 pneumonia and flu patients in 67 provinces were tested for bird flu.

Lab results have yet to detect any H5N1 infections, he said.

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

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Village leader fights off gunmen

A deputy village chief in Narathiwat survived an assassination attempt September 23 after he shot back at his attackers. Baan Kayae's Sulaiman Hami, 47, sustained three gunshot wounds before his assailants fled.

According to witnesses, K. Sulaiman stopped at a roadside tea shop in Tambon Duzongyor when he saw his friends sitting there.

As K. Sulaiman parked his motorcycle and walked toward his friends, a man riding pillion on another motorcycle opened fire on him.

Five gunshots were heard before K. Sulaiman pulled out his own pistol and shot back.

The attackers fled the scene after K. Sulaiman returned fire.

K. Sulaiman was rushed to Narathiwat Rajanagarindra Hospital with injuries to his left hip and left arm.

Police found five assault rifle ammunition casings and 15 pistol casings at the scene. Police said they believed the attack was linked to the ongoing insurgent violence in the Deep South.

In neighboring province Yala, knife-vendor Jan Janthawong, 52, was shot dead while working at his stall in Muang district.

Witnesses said two men approached Jan posing as potential customers but suddenly opened fire.

Police said that they believe the gunmen intended to spur unrest in the province.

Explosion aftermath. In the latest development following the explosion that injured nine children in Yala province late on September 22, Muang District Police Station Superintendent Col Poomipetch Pipatpetchapoom said that two suspects were being pursued.

Yala Hospital Director Dr Wattana Wattayakorn said eight of the injured children had been allowed to return home.

The children are all aged



SOUTH BOUND

Soldiers receive phuang malai during a blessing ceremony in Chonburi's Sattahip district, before the departure of some 1,110 troops for the restive Deep South.

between six and 14 years old.

Dr Wattana said 11-year-old Rusamarin Phupoln-garm remained in hospital because she had lost a large amount of blood and needed close medical supervision due to damage to her leg bones.

"But she's out of danger," Dr Wattana said.

Multicultural plan gets green light. The Education Ministry on September 24 approved 16.7 billion baht for a four-year plan to improve teaching and education in the three strife-torn southern provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, including further promotion of multicultural education involving the interrelation between Buddhism and Islam.

Speaking at a ministry seminar, Education Minister Wijit

Srisaan said the projects were divided into seven fields, including compulsory education to Grade 9 for more students as well as the expanded teaching of Thai language in Islamic classes.

The seven development fields were: security and training for government teachers; guarantees for the basic quality of all schools; upgraded curricula; expansion of education to compulsory and university levels; more religious teaching in Buddhism and Islam; vocational training and the provision of employment opportunities; and the strengthening of social and religious groups along with the participation of the local private and public sectors.

The 16.7 billion baht includes budgets for regular projects earmarked until the end of this year, such as the upgrading of Prince

of Songkla University, Pattani campus, to independent university status.

Bright idea. Youths have begun adding the florescent chemicals from light bulbs to the krathom-based drug known as "four times a hundred", according to the head of the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Area 1 Center for the Promotion of Pupils' and Students' Behavior.

Somphong Yuthao, head of the center and better known as the pupil inspector, said that he had come across youths smashing fluorescent light bulbs and adding the powder inside to "four times a hundred", an already potent mixture of krathom (a prohibited Thai indigenous plant and mild narcotic), cough medicine, mosquito repellent and cola.

"I've caught a few youths using this new formula," K. Somphong said. "When I asked them why they were taking it, they replied that it improved the mixture's taste and made them feel strong. It's very worrying; this chemical could be very dangerous when ingested."

Short back and sides. A new fashion among female students of wearing no underpants and putting highlights in their pubic hair is spreading across Nakhon Sri Thammarat, outraging Thai standards of propriety.

The fashion was brought to light by a senior government officer from a district in Krabi province who declined to be named in the press.

The officer told reporters that he had first seen the fashion when he came across the aftermath of a motorbike accident involving three female students.

"The students were laying unconscious and had many cuts. Their skirts had been nearly pulled off in the accident. I was shocked to see that two out of the three were wearing no underpants so I didn't dare to go and help them," the official said.

"I told the policeman at the scene about this and he just laughed and said that it's an established fashion among female students," he added.

A teacher, who also asked not to be named, said that pupils liked to dress in "kiku" style, which involves wearing short skirts or shorts and figure-hugging tops.

"The style also involves highlighting their pubic hair many different colors. They like it when people stare at them in the street, the more shocked the people look, the better.

"I've tried to warn them [against dressing like this], but to no avail," the teacher said.

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



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K. Somchai receives 20,000 baht as the first-place prize in the short animation category for his piece "Asian Fantasy".

Central Festival gets animated

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Artists and companies from Phuket and neighboring provinces showcased their animation and multimedia works at the Phuket Animation Festival (PAF) 2007, held at Central Festival Phuket from September 14 to 16.

PAF 2007 attracted around 3,500 onlookers about 500 entries in the four categories of competition.

Booths displayed graphic designs, animations and multimedia works. For budding animators, key figures from famous animation company Kantana Group, who helped create the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *I-Robot*, delivered a seminar about using the Adobe CS3 program.

Also with samples of their work on display were Thai heavyweight animators Bangkok ACM Siggraph and TAGCA.

Winning the short animation category was 33-year-old Phuket native Somchai Sae-Pua. He received 20,000 baht as the first-place prize for his piece titled "Asian Fantasy", which was inspired by international fantasy movies, especially those about monsters. His aim was to present a unique Asian style within a fantasy theme. It took about three weeks to create Asian Fantasy, said K. Somchai.

He also won second place in the Logo and Character Design category with his piece "Blue Dragon". "This one was inspired by Phuket culture and way of life. The blue represents the sea while the dragon embodies Phuket culture, because Phuket is shaped like a dragon," K. Somchai explained.

"I used many programs on this work, including 3D studio max version 9, Adobe Photoshop and Vegas. I think many people are interested in animation. When I see a fantasy or monster movie, I think about how they made it.

"These days, the technol-

ogy is constantly becoming more advanced, so it's easier to make an animation story than it was in the past," he said.

K. Somchai is a graduate of Phuket Rajabhat University, and now he is a freelance computer graphics artist. "I started to learn about animation with SIPA [Software Industry Promotion Agency] two years ago. I was interested in animation for a long time but there are not any institutions that specifically teach animation," he said.

The demand for animation in Phuket is mostly for property designs driven by what customers want, leaving little opportunity to present independent work, he explained.

"SIPA has asked me to join the Thailand Animation and Multimedia (TAM) 2007 competition, but it depends on my time because the deadline to enter is soon. I want to enter a piece with a different concept from my first-prize entry. I want to enter something based on the philosophy about lifecycles," said K. Somchai.

The PAF hopes for continued to growth and success, and will be held again next at Central Festival Phuket.

Other winners in the PAF "Short Animation" competition were Rungnapa Aikwanich, who placed second with the animation called "Por Luang", and Theerakit Nanthiwatakul and Adisorn Rodluam, who won third place for their entry "Speed".

Thanisorn Yanpaisarn won the "Logo&Character Design" competition, in which K. Somchai placed second, while third place went to Panuwat Sa-Ngiam.

In the "Multimedia Presentation" competition, all three participants – Tessban Baan Bang Niow School, Papa Palace Hotel in Patong, and Phuket Technical College – received prizes.

Winners in "Multimedia eCard" competition have yet to be announced do to an overwhelming amount of entries.

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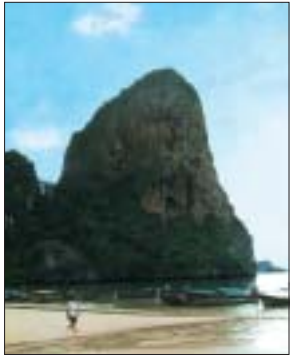


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ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

On Sunday September 12, the Indian Ocean was rocked by another large earthquake – an 8.4 temblor on the Richter scale. The epicenter was 130 kilometers southwest of Bengkulu on the southern end of the island of Sumatra. While this area is far from Thailand and separated by a large land mass, a tsunami watch was issued for Thailand.

For all of us who have lived through the tsunami, this added vigilance was most welcome. What is unnecessary, however, is irresponsible over-reaction creating panic amongst the local population and tourists.

While no official tsunami alarm was issued, some local authorities thought it best to err on the side of caution and evacuate the beach area. Some 30 minutes after the earthquake, several shiny new rescue vehicles sped into Ao Nang with sirens wailing and lights flashing. Police and rescue workers emptied all the beachfront businesses with warnings of an approaching tsunami.

Panicked customers and staff ran for the hills. Meanwhile, Indonesia itself had let its tsunami warning lapse by 8:10 pm as there was no reported tsunami activity. Still, local officials were driving around Ao Nang in trucks with loudspeakers telling people to prepare to evacuate.

The beachfront businesses were shuttered, and hundreds of tourists were needlessly frightened. Obviously, better coordination is needed between the local officials and the national tsunami alert system, with the aim to develop an educated, balanced approach based on scientific facts rather than hysteria.

The recent earthquake re-awakened fears of a tsunami. Some organizations continue to work with those adversely af-

Earthquake panics Krabi residents



Chuan Phukaoluan, president of the SripHong Phukaoluan Foundation, and Robert Reynolds, director of the SripHong Phukaoluan Foundation, receive the award for The Number One Foundation for the Tsunami-Affected Provinces given by the League of Foundations of Thailand.

ected by the 2004 tragedy. The SripHong Phukaoluan Foundation has been working since day one, helping Krabi residents to get back on their feet, and recently opening the Krabi Community Center.

In the past month, the Foundation has garnered two national awards for its work. The first award, presented by the League of Foundations of Thailand, under Royal patronage of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, was for The

Number One Foundation for the Tsunami-Affected Provinces.

The second honor, just received, was the Top Five Foundations of Thailand. This will be presented to the foundation by Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont on October 9 at a ceremony in Bangkok.

As a Director of the Foundation, I would like to thank all the donors, sponsors and volunteers who made these awards possible.

Family business. As we approach the next high season, local merchants, hotels and businesses are getting themselves ready in anticipation of another strong season. Resorts are expanding and upgrading facilities, shophouses are being painted and offices re-opening.

One business trend that started in Krabi last year and is expected to continue is the arrival of large family groups to the area. Once a predominantly Scandina-

vian phenomenon, it is becoming more common for three generations of families to travel together; Krabi is seeing many large family groups of six to eight people on holiday.

These groups tend to have difficulty finding hotel accommodation suitable for their needs, which often include the use of kitchen facilities. Holiday villas for family use are scarce in Krabi, and the market is just starting to realize the potential.

Baan Oriental was the first luxury villa in Ao Nang and remains the most popular today.

This 340-square-meter home on a 1,600-sqm plot was created by Ton Loriers, who previously ran Café 154. This villa, which sees occupancy rates of over 90%, is the only high-end, fully-serviced vacation villa in Ao Nang.

Somchit Kingman, director of YourKrabi.com, runs a tourist information and online news service for the Krabi area.

He said that starting last year, he has been receiving more inquiries from large family groups, but there has been limited supply of vacation homes to provide them.

His website just added two homes with pools from the recently completed Na Thai Estates project that he hopes will help satisfy the demand.

A few high-end vacation villa projects are underway, and they will be on-line next year at the earliest. Restaurateur Gidi Mevisson of The Carnivore Steak House, has just converted the building upstairs into a four-bedroom family apartment named The Talmaj that can accommodate 10 guests at a time.

In a market to itself, The Talmaj Family Apartment will most likely see a brisk business. With the hefty rates these family accommodations charge, local hoteliers may want to consider this trend in their future plans to add capacity.



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This latest serving of Cheap Eats is a real gastronomic gem in the jungle. Tucked away with a lakeside view and a hilly backdrop, Peang Phai is at the end of a lane off the Pa Khlock-Ao Por Road that leads to Bang Pae waterfall; right on the edge of protected forest.

The two-story octagonal restaurant with an authentic ambience stands open to the elements amid tranquil surroundings, giving guests a taste of nature and traditional Thai culinary treats.

Open just under a year, this home-style, family-run restaurant should be kept a secret so that it stays the way it is; with the kind of friendly service that makes you feel like a family guest, but anyone who dines here instantly becomes a regular customer and it goes at the top of the list of affordable places to eat when friends and relatives come to visit.

Sit on the upper level and get an all-encompassing view of the aged tropical flora bustling with wildlife. Colorful birds chatter and busy themselves flying to and fro, the occasional butterfly dances among the tables, and the whooping of gibbons can be heard in the distance at the foot of the jungle-clad hill in the background.

Not only is the scenery a treat, but the food is excellent, home-style cooking, with a wide selection of Thai and Western dishes, each one sizable enough to fill and presented with decorative carved fruit and vegetable garnish.

The restaurant is owned and run by K. Pimpa and her son, K. Ball, plus a few other family members.

The mother-and-son team want to give their guests a taste of traditional Thai dishes, with most of the preparation done by hand.

Mother Pimpa makes her guests feel at home with complimentary dishes of cutely-cut fruit or dishes of freshly made desserts, such as fruit jelly and delicate banana-fritter balls, served hot and lightly sprinkled with icing sugar.

Before opening the restaurant, K. Pimpa taught home economics at Cherg Talay Wittayakom School, keeping traditional cooking methods and



Nestled among lush surroundings on the edge of a national park, diners enjoy a dramatic view of jungle-clad hills. INSET: K. Pimpa's signature dish, blaa saam kasat (three-sauces fish), combines fish sauce, sweet and sour and chu chi (curry) sauces in one taste-bud-bursting culinary creation.

Dining with Mother and Nature

dishes alive, while also perfecting her own creations. K. Pimpa has her own spicy chili-paste recipes. Her signature dish at Peang Phai is three-sauces fish, combining fish sauce, sweet and sour and chu chi (curry) sauces.

K. Ball's forte is whipping up hot and iced coffees, from creamy cappuccinos to energetic espressos. He roasts and grinds the coffee beans himself, getting through about 100 grams a week to make sure it's always fresh. He uses native coffee beans, such as Doi Chaang and Doi Nua WaWee from the north of Thailand.

Recommended light snacks and starters include the variety of salads, such as crab, fish and lemon-grass, for between 80 and

100 baht. There are also a variety of sandwiches priced from 70 to 100 baht.

Main courses include *tom yum* at 90 baht or a generous fried rice from 80 to 90 baht, depending on what's in it.

The most expensive items on the menu are the variety of whole fish dishes and the three-sauces-fish costing 250 baht.

Aside from the fresh coffees, the drinks menu features fresh pineapple, watermelon and lemon; all perfectly balanced without artificial sweetening and costing between 35 and 55 baht.

Other tempting drinks include milkshakes of caramel or hazel-nut for between 40 and 45 baht.

500 baht will easily feed a family of three to four and the natural scenery provides a welcome addition to a hearty meal.



K. Pimpa and her son K. Ball give visitors a taste of the real flavor of Thailand.

To get to Peang Phai coming from Phuket City, take the road to the airport. At Heroines' Monument, take the right towards Ao Por and follow signs for Bang Pae waterfall.

The area is steeped in history. A generation or so ago, the well-to-do would ride elephants to traverse the hills on official visits to Thalang. K. Ball will be happy to talk about the area's history if you go there.

CHEAP eats

By Nick Davies



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We go, Indigo

Indigo Pearl celebrated final completion of the trendy resort's uniquely styled rooms and facilities dubbed "industrial elegance", conceived by renowned landscape artist, Bill Bensley.

The lavish cocktail reception on September 21 gave guests a taste of Indigo Pearl's culinary creations and an insight into the hotel's inspired contemporary design.

The evening began in true Indigo Pearl fusion style, bringing old and new together with the showing of a dynamic 360-degree virtual-tour of the resort at the Tongkha Tin Syndicate snooker hall and whiskey bar, which is designed to reflect the resort location's tin mining industry history.

The contemporary industrial theme continued throughout the night with innovative hors d'oeuvres and international delicacies accompanied by fire-poi displays from Indigo's talented bar tenders at the Coliseum Gardens.



Mixing

Clubbers in Phuket have been foaming at the mouth in anticipation of some fresh talent arriving on the island. With the limited appeal of the clubbing nightlife Phuket has to offer, a visit from an internationally-renowned DJ is just what the scene needs.

However, this visit comes from no ordinary DJ. A former nude model who started out as a normal Isarn girl, DJ Nakadia packs a punch on the dance floor and has been hailed by the international music community as "next big thing".

Matt Crook talks to Thailand's first superstar DJ to see what all the fuss is about.

Female DJs are nothing new, there are plenty playing in Europe and the US, but they are a rarity in Thailand. Aside from a select few in Bangkok such as DJ Pichy and Magic Muffin, they are few and far between. Take a stroll through Patong or any of Phuket's popular nightspots and you won't see a single female DJ.

All that is about to change – albeit for one night only – with the arrival of Thailand's hottest export. Fresh on the heels of a lengthy tour across Europe and poised to jump into the coveted annual top-100 DJ list compiled by *DJ Mag*

in the UK, DJ Nakadia has spent the past five years playing with the boys and representing Thailand.

"I have been touring a lot this year. Just two weeks ago I came back from my European tour. It was six months of hard work, playing over 50 gigs. I just started my own record label, K-Dia, for me to release my music on. Now I'm even busier than ever," said Nakadia.

Nakadia's story is unique. After growing up in the paddy

fields of Northern Thailand, she met a photographer in a chat room on the Internet in 2001 and moved to France to pursue a career in modeling. Capitalizing on her ample figure, Nakadia did a number of nude photo shoots; a few can still be found on the Internet today.

During her time in Europe,



PRIZED POSSESSION: An ecstatic DJ Nakadia holds the coveted FIFA World Cup trophy.

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it right to the top



WELL SPUN: DJ Nakadia shows off at the Berlin Love Parade, where she performed in front of more than a million revelers.

Nakadia traveled to Germany where she was first exposed to the clubbing scene and dance music.

In 2002, she had a change of heart for her chosen career and started working as a DJ. Combining modeling with DJ work is a path many female DJs take, but to go from a regular Isarn girl to a nude model, to a superstar DJ in five years sets Nakadia apart from the rest.

Nakadia quickly learned the tricks of her trade and latched on to famous DJs including Westbam and Timo Maas for support and guidance. With energizer-bunny enthusiasm and a look that had men falling at her feet, Nakadia

soon made a name for herself as she began touring the world, visiting Thailand only when she had time off for short holidays.

"In Europe at interviews, people always ask me a lot about Thailand. I am happy that I have the chance to promote my country in that way, but people have to understand that the world is one big dance-floor.

"There are good DJs from every part of the world. You don't need to be from the UK to be good or to have good records. When I started DJing, this was a little bit different. In the beginning, the people did not care about the Thai chick behind the decks and they only came to

look at me," said Nakadia.

Nakadia's biggest achievement to date was being the only DJ to play at the World Cup final in Berlin in 2006, although the set didn't turn out quite how it was supposed to.

As well as meeting the players, holding the trophy and touching the World Cup final game ball in front of a packed house at the Olympiastadion, Nakadia was promised that her set would be shown live on television around the world to almost three billion people. The plans were tossed and turned and in the end Nakadia's performance was broadcast only in some countries.

"The World Cup final was

great and sad at the same time," said Nakadia. Thai TV refused to air Nakadia's performance, inciting rumors that it was because of her dark skin and stirring up the debate about how Thailand's media treats darker-skinned people.

Nakadia's greatest successes have come outside of Thailand. On her trips back, she regularly plays at Glow in Bangkok and Qbar in Samui, but opinion is still polarized on her talent.

Controversy aside, no other Thai DJ can claim to have played live to more than a million people, which is exactly what Nakadia did at the Love Parade in Germany

in 2006 and 2007. She has been flying the flag for Thailand, meeting the right people, making the right friends, but for now she is on a much-needed vacation.

"For the next couple of months I am going to try and relax in Thailand, playing only five or six gigs around Asia. I will carry on producing music and then embark on another European tour on November 15.

"Next year I have plans to help organize a Thai float at the Love Parade, which will be held in Dortmund, Germany. More than a million people will get to see a DJ team from Thailand," said Nakadia.

"I'm aiming to help promote electro in Thailand so that people have more than just hip hop to listen to. I hope Thailand is ready for this," she added.

If this is enough to whet your appetite, then there is only one place to be this coming Friday: Club Lime on the beach road in Patong. Located next to Rock City and part of Club Andaman Resort, Club Lime is shaping up as the center of nightlife in Phuket.

Nakadia will be gracing the decks on October 12. There will be no cover charge for the event and you can be sure this is going to be a busy one as rumors of the Nakadia date spread like wildfire even before it was confirmed.

"This is the first time I have been to Phuket and I am really excited because I have already received so many emails about the gig. People have been mailing me to say that they are waiting for me, and some tourists who know me from my world tours have contacted me as well," said Nakadia.

"I think it will be a lot of fun. I don't know what I will play because I will have to see what the people there will like, but I will try to make it an unforgettable part for sure."



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This week



MANGROVE MOVE (above): Niyom Tassaneetipagorn (3rd from left), Laguna Vice-President – Corporate Affairs, leads fellow Laguna notables (from left) Suthasinee Rukmit, Jan Verduyn, Anthony Loh, David Campion and Kontee Warapitayut and hundreds of staff in planting 2,000 mangrove trees at Baan Para in Pa Khlok on September 17.

DECADE OF DON'S (left): Donald Battles (right), owner of Don's Mall, poses with well-known Mr Jack (left) at the 10th-anniversary celebrations of Don's Café in Rawai on September 13.



SOUTHERN SUPPORT (above): Safari World Assistant Managing Director Ampornsri Kewkacha (in yellow shirt), on behalf of Safari World and Phuket FantaSea, hands a 100,000-baht check to Panya Nirandkul as a donation to the Sai Jai Thai Foundation to go towards supporting teachers in the restive Deep South.

ICE INTO SILVER (right): JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa Chef de Partie Boonserm Aksornnit (right), cook helper Monton Patcharavej (left), and fellow team member Chalermkiet Khaosong (center) pose after winning the silver medal in the IFHS 2007 Ice Craving Competition at the Royal Paragon Hall, Bangkok.



TWO-TONE TOPS: Layan Beach Resort & Spa Village "Blue" and "Yellow" teams pose for a photo after competing in the resort's annual round of friendly staff matches of beach volleyball, football and rattan ball on September 15.



TASTEFUL TIPPLE: Wine Collection Producer Errol Hanna (center) joins (from left) Maitree Pakitanang from Euro Deli Restaurant, Mom Tri's Kitchen Food & Beverage Manager Mongkol Suwannahong, Wine Director Georges Ciret and Mom Tri's Villa Royale Chef Sura Putta at a special wine tasting at Mom Tri's Kitchen Royale.

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This photo was worth taking; it was just around the corner from my office at Layan Beach. I know that Thai people can sleep anywhere, but this was pretty good.

Usually people write a story and take a photograph to illustrate the story. This time I had a photograph with no story attached to it, but seeing people sleeping in and under trees reminds me of my grandfather.

My grandfather used to tell me many things that were interesting, many things that were not and some things that I didn't want to hear. He was a bit strange, a sort of preacher. He used to stand on street

corners on a Sunday night and every time a fire truck went past he used to tell surprised passers by that if they didn't repent, they were going to the fire as well.

He was also a successful businessman in the markets in Sydney, importing and packing vegetable oils and other foods. He had the biggest cheese room in Sydney and all the Italian and Greek shopkeepers used to come in and poke metal tubes in to the cheeses.

They twisted the metal tube and pulled it out with a core of cheese inside, off which they broke a small piece for tasting.

These were huge round

Reveling the land of plenty

blocks of cheese, such as parmesan, cheddar, camembert, stilton as well as rarities including Crotin du Chavignol. A wonderful place of smells from my memory.

My grandfather was always in the food business. "It's the only thing that everybody needs," he used to say in his weekly dinner table lectures. My grandmother would usually fuel the conversation by saying that people also needed clothes and a house

"No they don't, he would

say. They can wrap themselves up with leaves, hay, feathers or animal skins if they have to, and they can sleep in a cave or under a tree. The only thing that they have to do is to eat."

There didn't seem much to be gained from pointing out to my grandfather that if I had to get an animal skin to wear, I would also have an animal to eat and therefore not need to buy it from his shop.

However, that would have only resulted in a cuff around the ear for impertinence. It was the bit about sleeping under a tree that always started my grandfather's "history of civilization".



If we live in a place where food is in such abundance that there is no need to punish yourself with hard work, then things can't be all that bad.

Why is the "first" or "old world", the "new world" and the "third world" called as such. According to my grandfather, it's all about cold winters and food. "People worked harder in cold places with harsh winters. If you

didn't work hard and grow food in the summer, and store food and fuel before the snow came, you died. Simple as that.

If you lived in tropics or on islands, there was always plenty of food. There was no winter.

Fish in the ocean, rice in the fields, fruit on the trees and, as my grandfather said, "you can sleep under a tree" or "in it", as in the case of many animals and birds – and the lad from the road construction gang in the picture.



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Phuket Beer Fest goes down a treat

The annual Phuket International Beer Fest was held at the Watermark Bar Restaurant at Boat Lagoon Marina on September 22. Kingfisher Beer from India was the winner this year, presented by yacht skipper and native Indian Avnish Dhall.

People brought their favorite beers from all over the world and lobbied them to their peers, hoping to take home the coveted title.

The festival was founded in 1997 after the Asian economic crisis when it was decided that relaxed competition, involving beer, could raise spirits and calm nerves. Thus, the Phuket International Beer Fest was born.

The Beer Fest is held to coincide with the beginning of Oktoberfest, but it does not hold on to the staunch rules of traditional German Beer Festivals.

The Beer Fest was an immediate success and it became an annual event until 2003 when a lack of attention, sobriety and fervor put an abrupt end to the festival.

The Beer Fest prevailed, and after two years it was back with all the energy of a football team



on its first game of the season.

The rules were straightforward: each competitor had to supply 12 bottles of the international beer they had nominated. They

registered in advance and no one was allowed to register on the day of the event. In addition, the beers nominated had to be international; no local brews were allowed.

All of the entries must technically qualify as beer itself. The definition of beer according to Webster's dictionary is, "An ale beverage made from malted cereal grain (barley) and flavored with hops while being brewed by slow fermentation." Any entries that did not satisfy these basic tenants were not admitted.

Scoring of the beer adhered to eight criteria: the packaging and the style of the beer, the appearance of the beer in the glass, aroma, flavor, mouth-feel, strength and originality, and a two-minute brag during which contestants lobbied for their beers and tried to convince their peers that they should be the winner.

The beer that accumulated the most points was declared winner.

Kingfisher Beer, this year's winner, is brewed by United Breweries Limited. The company has been around for over 50 years and started with five breweries in Southern India. United is now considered the top brewer in India.

The company's flagship beer is Kingfisher and its popularity is rapidly spreading throughout the East and the West. Kingfisher has won many international awards and now has one more notch to add to its belt. Kingfisher is distributed in 52 countries and is the fastest-growing brand of beer in the UK.

In second place at the Phuket Beer Fest was Sapporo, presented by Ian Hewitt. The



TOUCHDOWN (left): Will from Norfolk, England, 'out downs' a fellow competitor in the half-yard competition.

BEER-BOOZLED (above): A participant in the 'blind' beer test scrutinizes six glasses of unknown ales at the Phuket Beer Fest.

Japanese brew is no longer considered a novelty beverage. Rather, according to its pundits, it is a well-balanced golden beer that has a sharp, dry finish, leaving the palate feeling clean, and ideal with seafood or meat dishes.

In third place, Rooftop beer was presented by Andrew De Bruin. The Australian brew apparently gets its distinctive taste from peculiar brewing practices, including adding Hersbrucker hops late in the brewing process to give the beer's flavor a faint tinge of caramel or toffee.

However, the Beer Fest was not just about people bringing their favorite beers to win a prize.

There were activities for contestants and spectators alike, including a half-yard drinking competition, won by "Will" from Norfolk, England with a time of 11.44 seconds. Will does not live on the island but had heard about the festival and decided to show up.

Other activities included a "blind" beer test, a silly hat competition, darts and pétanque.

The Phuket International Beer Festival is growing into an island tradition. It has weathered lack of enthusiasm and battled back to popularity.

In true Phuket spirit, sponsors Lady Pie, Image Asia, IRC and Pimex donated all proceeds from the event to a children's party at Watermark Bar and Restaurant.



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**Gazette Online
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By Janyaporn Morel

Living in Phuket, you're always going to have friends and relatives coming to see you and it's easy to impress them with the wonderful scenery and your local knowledge of places to dine out.

Of course, if you've spent a small fortune on your sea view villa or condo, then you'll be wanting to show it off with a few dinner parties or perhaps there's a special someone you'd like to impress, if not with your cooking skills then with a decorative table set up that will win you points for creativity.

Thankfully, there's no shortage of places to buy all the ingredients you need to create a unique dinner, whether it's a fusion of something spicy or a good old slap up meal from your homeland, but what you really need to impress guests is a unique way of decorating your table that will make the meal that much more memorable.

First, you have to think of a theme. Is it nouveau cuisine, something traditionally Thai, Japanese or Korean or your own out-of-this-world creation?

If you're in need of some inspiration, take a look at some of the table top creations conceived by 30 celebrities who were invited to come up with a recent table setting contest at Central Festival Phuket as part of the department store's third anniversary celebrations.

Prominent members of the Phuket community, including Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, put their creative ideas on the table under the theme, "Save Phuket Save our Planet."

In keeping with a tropical theme, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit came up with a simple but elegant design that used a decorative branch with bright, colorful flowers and ornamental parakeets with the message; "The longer we take care of our planet, the longer we will be able to enjoy the beauty of nature."

Decorative coral and shells with cartoon-like curvy crockery represent the lively Phuket ma-

Dishing up dinner in style



Above: Channel 7 actor and model Sukonwat "Weir" Kanarot shows his traditional Indian-style table setting "Planet's Whisper".

Right: "Save Phuket Save our Planet" by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.



Above: "Balance of Nature" by Thiti Thongbenjamart of Mövenpick Resort and Spa Karon Beach Phuket.



rine life and heart of Phuket's culture in the creation entitled "Fantasy of Sea" by Natiya Vongyai, Deputy Director of Sales at Phuket FantaSea.

"Benjarong", the classic Thai look using porcelain featuring the five traditional Thai colors, was created by Praewpayome Aikwanich of Thainaan restaurant.

"Natural Princess" was a striking table top creation that won approval from onlookers. The concept for this design by Channel 3 star Yardthip Rachapal was to highlight natural beauty from within as opposed to focusing on material beauty. "We need to help each other, take care of our planet before it's too late," said K. Yardthip.

"I Love My Country" was a creation by Channel 7 presenter

Thawin "Win" Yaowapolkul. His inspiration came from a love of Korean culture and a desire for people to respect all cultures for a peaceful world.

"Planet's Whisper" by Channel 7 actor and model Sukonwat "Weir" Kanarot was arranged in traditional Indian style, based on the theme of his current movie *Dang Duang Haruthai*.

"The earth and the environment is a precious thing and it's up to us to take care of it. Just as Indians take care of their culture, so should we. Phuket is such a beautiful place that attracts tourists from all over the world. I want local people to care of Phuket; who else will if we don't?" he said.

Other Phuket celebrities

joining the event included Thiti Thongbenjamart of Mövenpick Resort and Spa Karon Beach Phuket, who created "Balance of Nature"; Niya Media of 108 Mad Radio created "Our Lovely Planet" and Mahogany Radio 103.0 wanted to put across the message "Cool down our planet".

The Phuket Reporters Club came up with "Heal our World" and a team from the *Phuket Gazette* created a table arrangement with the theme "Media".

Other interesting table top arrangements included "Travel is for Giving" by travel company Pacific World Co Ltd. Thammasak Niyomadun of Blue Marine Hotel & Resort created "Color of Blue, Color of Life", while guests K. Nonthakorn and Jirayu Piewlamsam arranged a table as "Life is Nature! Love is All Around".

Central Festival Phuket is also helping shoppers do their bit for the environment by planting one mangrove tree in Phuket for every 800 baht spent by customers.

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I don't have one any more. I'll write that again, because the very concept seems almost impossible for most people to grasp. I haven't got one. Yes, I had one, but I have no intention of ever getting one again.

I no longer have a mobile phone, and I don't understand why my refusal to surrender and buy another one of those maddening little machines causes such incredulity. I am being called a liar and a Luddite, a snob, a foggy and a fraud.

I was even recently stopped at an airport by an irate official who refused to believe I wasn't trying to smuggle my non-existent mobile through his detector. I tried to explain that I haven't got a mobile phone any more because if I did people might ring me up, and that would be a very bad thing.

As from the end of September I am no longer available. Check the calendar.

If I am not at my desk at home, or in the car driving around like a lunatic from one appointment to the other or picking up my kids, then I am not working and therefore not contactable.

You'll just have to wait. I don't want a bell, a buzzer or even a tinny rendition of Beethoven's "Fifth" disturbing my serenity. As I no longer have time for yoga classes either, this is my

I'll give you hands free...



idea of meditation.

If I'm happily strolling through the market stalls shopping for fruit, at home watching a movie, or even having a massage, I am not available.

If I am eating, drinking, flirt-

ing or thinking then I do not want to talk to you, because I cannot imagine what can be so urgent that it cannot wait until I return to base. My mother thinks I've gone mad, and that I should see a shrink.

But I am not a technophobe. I've had an email address for as long as the technology has existed, I now have a Vaio habit and a myriad of useful digital and battery-operated devices, but I am determined no longer to follow the herd and sign up for 24-hour surveillance.

Were I to rob a bank or mug a couple of old people, chances are that a judge would decide I am a menace to society and should have an electronic tag put around my leg to track me wherever I go.

But a mobile phone is little more than exactly the same thing, and you even have to pay a bill every month for the privilege of having it.

Why do you think companies provide their workers with phones? Why do you think parents – including myself – ensure that their wayward teenage kids have one with them at all times?

Your other half wants to natter or nag, your boss wants to know why you haven't completed a certain task or, in my case, sent in a column on time, and your bank wants to discuss your overdraft.

It's easy – any time, anywhere, everybody's got your number and you're always on call. If you're a call-girl, doctor, drug dealer or drone, sure, you need a mobile. If not, then rise above it: do as I did that last Sunday in September and declare your independence by cutting the string to your personal cocoa tin.

Yes, you do have an off button, but how often do you use it? How much grief do you get for having a tracking device switched off when somebody 'important' wants to contact you?

And don't try to tell me that it's essential for emergencies. If I were planning to climb an untamed Andean peak then I would probably take some kind of communication device with me. But a stroll along the high street is generally not a threatening experience in which you have to report back every few minutes.

If the mobile phone is such a vital, life-saving tool, how do you think people got through daily life unscathed 15 years ago? You (and I until my recent escape) have fallen into the trap. Deep down, you know that your phone is just another way of making you work harder, keeping you in touch and in line. Another buckle of the straitjacket.

Recently, having been bogged down by work and hectic family life, I sat down and decided to try the "I refuse to have

a mobile" experiment. My main objection to owning one was that it had become a shrill interjection into my precious little time off.

I began to observe people and discovered reasons to feel superior for freeing myself of this tawdry invention. Do people know how silly they look walking down the street mumbling to themselves like lunatics?

Do you know how rude it is

when somebody interrupts a face-to-face conversation with a real person to talk to a machine? Do you have any idea how embarrassingly banal most utterances are? Have you looked at yourself in the mirror with that ear-piece thing attached?

As for all the other things

phones can now do, surely it's only hyperactive teenagers who get any pleasure from text messages. Grown-ups maladroitly jabbing away at a tiny keypad to pass some puerile, misspelt missive are like grandfathers dancing at discos. Games are for very small children and cameras should be cameras.

I have, in my lurid mobile past, also had many a text 'argument' with my partner, because he was busy at work and could not reply in time for me to understand what the hell he was ranting about.

The real point about not being a slave to a mobile is that it marks you out as a cut above. It's the last truly elitist gesture. In an age of mass consumerism, when every trick and toy is available and affordable to all, you gain your kudos by the things you choose not to own.

Every now and then I meet another person – more men than women, actually – who has also opted out of the mobile chain gang or who has been through a self-induced mobile detox. Invariably such types are people of a certain stature: successful, discerning, easy-going and absolutely confident that our conversation isn't going to be punctured by an unwanted electronic intrusion.

PS A note to my partner – if you are reading this, I do not want that Prada phone for Christmas. Just use your imagination 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

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

As luxury SUVs go, there are a whole bunch to choose from, but one of the more interesting – certainly in terms of styling – is the Audi Q7.

The first luxury SUV in recent years was the Mercedes-Benz ML-Class; the Range Rover and Jeep Grand Cherokee in their original incarnations were rather more agricultural. The ML-Class, built in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was first introduced in 1996, with the second generation coming earlier this year at the Detroit show.

The Audi Q7 is one step further in terms of luxury, combining adequate off-road performance with superb on-road manners – it has comfort, speed and handling.

As Audi says without a hint of modesty, "The Audi Q7 is the performance SUV from the creator of Quattro."

Its load-carrying capabilities are also of the highest order, with room for up to seven passengers in three rows of seats. The second row of seats can be adjusted individually, offering the longest legroom in the class, while the rear seat row can be folded flat to provide an exceptional cargo area.

There are two power plants available: a 4.2-liter, direct-injection, gasoline V8 motor, which is not currently available in Thailand; and a rugged three-liter, common-rail injection diesel engine. The diesel develops 233bhp (171kW) and a massive 500Nm of torque – available from just 1,750rpm – while the gas motor offers 350bhp

Audi Q7 takes on SUV big guns



The Audi Q7 looks slick, but packs quite a punch beneath the bonnet. Combining performance with luxury, this is one of the top SUVs in its class.

and 440Nm.

A six-speed tiptronic transmission is fitted with manual-shift option and, naturally for an Audi, Quattro permanent four-wheel drive is standard. The central differential conveys power to all four wheels – both on- and off-road – and its demand-based distribution of torque provides maximum traction and lateral stability.

The standard torque split is 40:40 front to rear, but this changes according to requirements and road conditions. The weight distribution is also slightly biased towards the rear in order to enhance the agility of the Q7 as well as improving steering precision.

Available as an option is air suspension – as the latest Range Rover features – but it's not par-

ticularly useful unless you intend to travel over a multitude of terrains; for normal road driving, the standard independent set-up is fine. Most of the axle components on the vehicle are made of aluminum, greatly reducing unsprung weight.

Standard on the Q7 is an electronic stability program (ESP) that includes numerous new func-

tions. One is hill-descent assist, an additional off-road mode that optimizes brake performance and traction, particularly on loose surfaces.

Should you be towing – unlikely in Phuket – there is a trailer stabilization system that reduces the risk of a fish-tailing trailer by means of targeted brake interven-

On the road, the Q7, despite its bulk, handles just like a sedan. It has surprising agility and a far-from-firm ride that is often associated with large SUVs. Visibility is excellent all round, except perhaps when reversing in tight confines. Optional, however, is a rear-view camera and an electronic parking system.

The interior is, as you would expect, extremely sumptuous, with plenty of space, supple leather upholstery and a deluxe automatic air-conditioning system. A panorama glass sunroof is optional, as is a sophisticated warning system for lane-changing maneuvers. Also optional, but probably of greater use, is a radar-based distance control system incorporated in the adaptive cruise control.

Audi is justifiably proud of its SUV, although inevitably it comes up against a great deal of competition: the new Mercedes, the BMW X5, the latest Jeep and even the greatly improved Range Rover. Somehow though, the Audi has just that little extra something that needs a second look. It is a superb motor car and one worthy of consideration.

Prices vary according to options but start around 6.7 million baht. For more information visit www.audi.co.th

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

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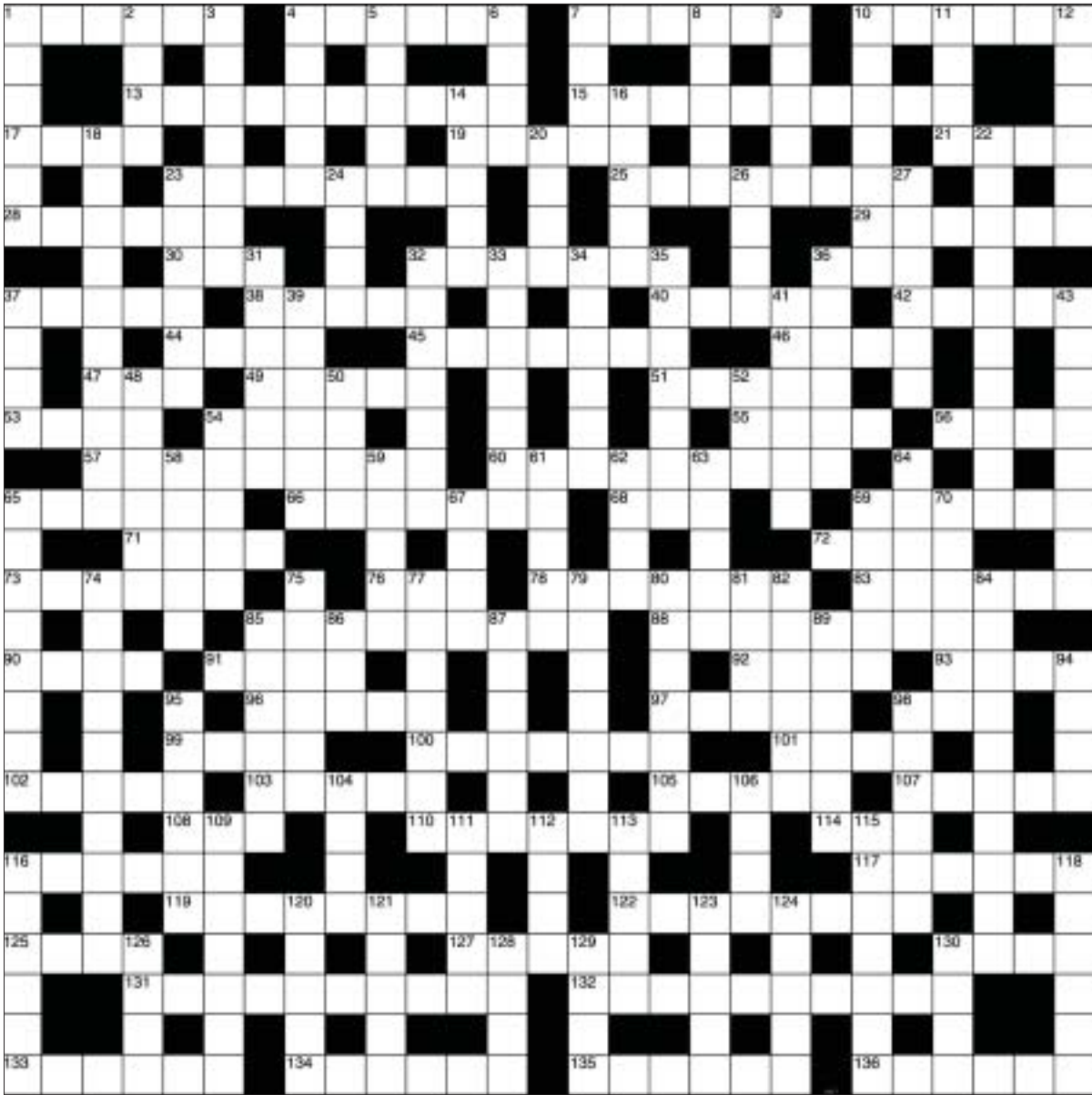


Hidden Words

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

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

The BIG Crossword



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- Across**
1. Desert plant
4. UN children’s fund
7. Besides
10. Available (2,4)
13. Smoke disinfection
15. Replies
17. Nuisance
19. Olympic award
21. Dad
23. Maintain
25. Put away (3,5)
28. Actress, ...Anderson
29. WWII German subs (1-5)
30. Operate
32. Correcting (exam paper)
36. Spider’s trap
37. Back tooth
38. Exaggeratedly masculine
40. Push
42. Sir... Newton
44. Actor, ...Alda
45. Holy Mother
46. Actress, Goldie...
47. Israeli port, ...Aviv
49. Absurd
51. Specter
53. Primary
54. Scheme
55. Juicy part of fruit
56. Cry to stop horse
57. Missed alarm call
60. Soon
65. Philippines capital
66. Rustling sounds
68. Lyrical verse
69. National head count
71. Active European volcano
72. Animal skin
73. Sausage in roll (3,3)
76. Rule
78. Tourist accommodation, ...park
83. Parish incumbents
85. Daughters’ husbands (4-2-3)
88. Bargain
90. Family shield, ...of arms
91. Dusting powder
92. Motorbike stuntman, ...Knievel
93. Lacking rain
96. King cats
97. Vertical part of stair
98. Paid sportsman
99. Castle water barrier
100.Regular customer
101.Singer, ...Horne
102.Unnerve
103.India’s New...
105.Collect
107.Theatrical piece
108.Nevada’s ...Vegas
110.Processions
114.Tot up
116.Guesthouses
117.Impish
119.Brutally
122.Hot spell (4,4)
125.Concludes
127.Tilt
130.Soviet states (1,1,1,1)
131.Judicial building
132.Senior clergyman
133.Toboggan
134.Sri Lanka’s old name
135.Walked affectedly
136.Canada’s Nova...
2. Clump of hair
3. Tennis ace, Pete...
4. Inclinations
5. Lay to rest
6. Impose money penalty on
7. Taj Mahal city
8. Actor, ...Harrelson
9. Pulls sharply
10. Past arrival time
11. Clasp
12. Design transfers
14. Last Greek letter
16. Actress, ...Barkin
18. Computer-modeled situation
20. Actor, ...Bogarde
22. Snow/land slides
23. Not singular
24. Long tale
26. Corrosive liquid
27. Receding
31. Internet post (1-5)
32. Specific instants
33. Bureaucracy (3,4)
34. Set alight
35. Ground (teeth) together
36. Feebly
37. Mutilate
39. Historical records
41. Grave robbers
43. Purges
48. Coveted
50. Once again
52. Elect
54. Car crash
58. Singer, Sir... John
59. Tablets
61. Animal welfare group
62. Acidic
63. Audacity
64. Newspapers & broadcasting
65. North American Indians
67. Chopped
69. 1860s conflict, American... War
70. Bee’s liquid harvest
74. Did (business)
75. Courteous
77. Passenger balloon
79. Expected
80. California’s San... Fault
81. Matures
82. Story books
84. Aircraft stunts
85. Leafy side dishes
86. Sergeant (1,1,1)
87. Tread heavily
89. Humanitarian, Mother...
94. Prima donna
95. Fragrances
98. Table-tennis bat
104. Auld... Syne
106. Aid in crime
109. Normally (2,1,4)
111. Deep chasm
112. Singing pitch
113. Anesthetic gas
115. Mechanisms
116. Dog-like predators
118. Abdominal rupture
120. Pre-Columbian tribe
121. Hard black wood
123. For a particular purpose (2,3)
124. Exercise (influence)
126. Gulf War missile
128. Writer, ...Uris
129. ...Beach, Florida
130. Reverse the effects of

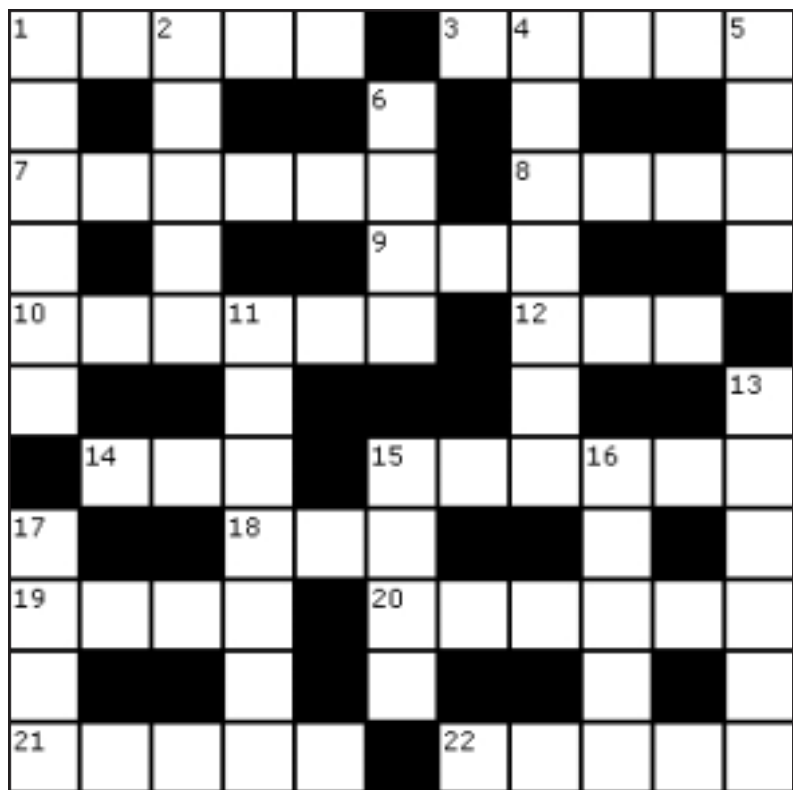
Solution on the next page

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

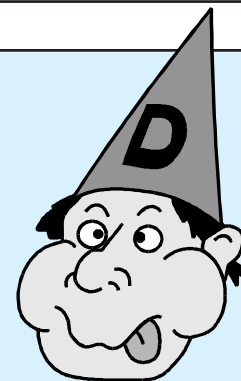
1. Not drunk
3. Pokes
7. Unfair
8. Bad tidings
9. Japanese cash
10. Christmas ball
12. Flower
14. Constrictor
15. Gems
18. By way of...
19. Chipmunk
20. Heavenly cluster
21. Rests

DOWN

1. Aussie beer
2. French jewel
4. Sky spectrum
5. Robe fastener
6. Eye problem
11. With heart
13. Compositions
15. Cowgirl Calamity...
16. Fit out
17. Chances are...

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. What does a speleologist study?
2. Which English word has the most definitions?
3. What is the correct response to the Irish greeting, "Top o' the morning to ya?"
4. What does the scientific acronym DNA stand for?
5. The symbol for pounds sterling is known as the what?
6. Which Latin-American capital city is sinking six to eight inches a year?
7. Which international event was the Eiffel Tower built for?
8. Which zoo has the largest collection of animals in the world?
9. Which island is the smallest in the world with country status?
10. What do the "Ms" stand for in the brand M&M candies?
11. Which was the first American consumer product sold in the then-Soviet Union?
12. What is the most widely-eaten fish in the world?
13. By age 60, most people have lost half of their what?
14. What is the most popular beverage in the world?
15. What did Aztec emperor Montezuma drink 50 golden goblets of daily?
16. What is banana oil made from?
17. What was used for blood during the famous shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's movie *Psycho*?
18. What is the world's tallest type of grass?
19. What is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust?
20. What did Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte both suffer from?

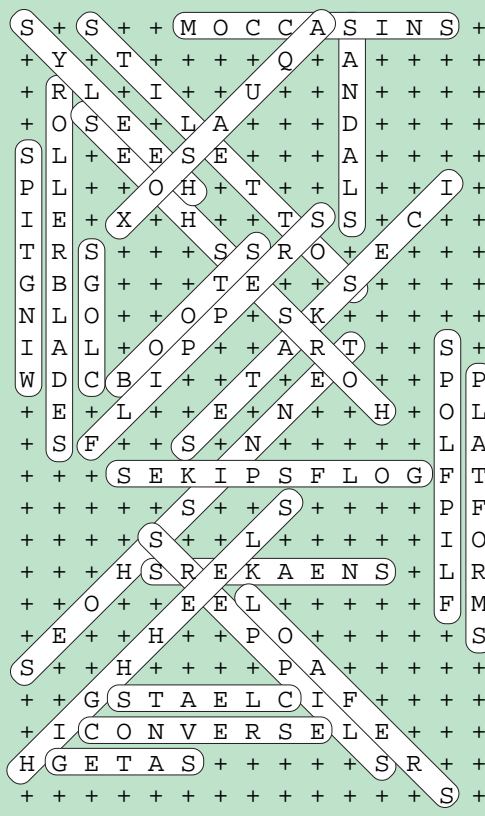
Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

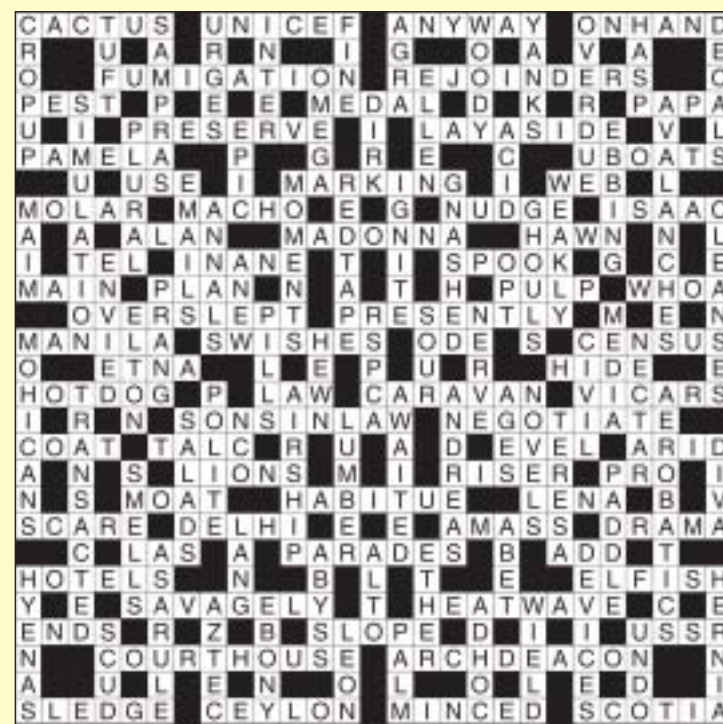


Hidden Words SOLUTION



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Caves; 2. Set; 3. And the rest of the day to yourself; 4. Deoxyribonucleic acid; 5. An octothorpe; 6. Mexico City; 7. The 1889 World's Fair; 8. The San Diego Zoo, California; 9. Pitcairn, Polynesia; 10. Mars and Murrie, the developers of the candy; 11. Coca-Cola; 12. Herring; 13. Taste-buds; 14. Coffee; 15. Hot chocolate; 15. Petroleum; 17. Chocolate syrup; 18. Bamboo; 19. Aluminum; 20. Epilepsy.



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Memoir fails to hit the mark

Danielle Trussoni's memoir *Falling Through the Earth* (Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2006, 240pp) bears some resemblance to Mary Karr's masterful *Liar's Club*.

Mary Karr is the American queen of the memoir genre. Her *Liar's Club* gleefully depicts her hard-drinking playboy father and the tough world of the Texas oil port of Port Arthur.

Danielle Trussoni also had a hard-drinking playboy father and a tough upbringing in the Wisconsin town of La Crosse, on the Mississippi river.

The difference is that her father had been a "tunnel rat" in Vietnam – one of those small, wiry nutcase soldiers who crawled through the underground maze of Vietcong shelters armed with a flashlight and a pistol. Danielle Trussoni travels to Vietnam to crawl through a tunnel herself. It's a likely premise for a memoir.

Her father Dan was a hard case, one of the five fighting Trussoni brothers who were famous for breaking up bars. He grew up on a farm in Wisconsin, grandson of Italian immigrants, and was expelled from Catholic high school for beating up an abusive teacher. He wound up in Vietnam and came back even more of a hell raiser, married for the second time and sired three children.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

A construction contractor, he built his own house in an idyllic country setting known as Trussoni Court. He was a devoted father, sharing the rituals of deer-hunting with his daughter. But he stayed out late in bars and kept up a string of girlfriends until his wife got fed up, got a job and an education, got divorced and remarried to an office co-worker.

Dan moved out to a small dump of a house and daughter Danielle Trussoni decided to stay with him.

There are some very good early scenes of the 12-year-old Danielle hanging out in her Catholic school uniform with her pool-playing father amid the denizens of a dive called Roscoe's.

Occasionally, he'll talk about his days

in Vietnam, which allows the adult author to recreate the war, not too successfully, through his narrative point of view. These war stories are interspersed with scenes of her own trip to Vietnam. In fact, Vietnam becomes an obsession for her.

"As a girl, I believed the war had taken him away from us. It was an amorphous monster that would grab hold and pull us into it, kicking and screaming. Vietnam claimed Dad's past, his future, his health, his dreams. It was never satisfied. It came to live in our house, eat dinner at our table, sleep in our beds. It trailed me home from school; it lapped at my heels as I walked to Roscoe's. It was an elusive yet inescapable thing skulking through my life, a Jack-the-Ripper presence that hid in alleyways and in the sewers, waiting to get me alone. We could ignore it, but it would not go away. If we managed to shake it, it would track us down, hungry for more. Although there was no way for me, as a child, to understand this presence, I knew, when I saw my father's sadness, that he had never really left Vietnam."

Now when you read such overwrought prose, it makes you sympathize with her hard-bitten father who would call it "emotional hogwash".

Her fearful, guilty trip to Vietnam – allowing herself to be ripped off by a hairdresser, throwing money at a beggar – confirms this sort of febrile sensitivity and her writing is often painfully literary: fingers "spidering" through the ground, trees "electrocuted" against the sky. Humor is sometimes forced and dialogue stilted.

But she redeems herself with a raucously funny account of growing up a rebellious drug-taking teen-

ager. A high point is when her father and his drunk girlfriend catch Danielle in her bedroom bare-assed with her boyfriend. The two couples wind up at the kitchen table, smoking cigarettes and drinking tequila shots. A family that drinks together, stays together.

Though fitfully entertaining, this is just not on a par with the first rank of recent memoirs: *The Liar's Club*, *The Tender Bar*, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

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

October 8. Juvé y Camps Wine Dinner at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Mom Tri's Boathouse will host, in collaboration with Maison du Vin Bangkok, a wine dinner featuring Champenoise wines from renowned Spanish vineyard Juvé y Camps from 7 pm until 11:30 pm. The vineyard's winemaker, Mr Mariano, will be introducing various wines of this exceptional estate. Superb menu by Boathouse Executive Chef Tummanoon.

As seating is limited, reservations are required.

For further information call 076-330015 or email pr@boathousephuket.com

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 per-

formed 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 20-27. Phuket Film Festival.

Join us as the 2007 Phuket Film Festival kicks off with a star-studded Gala Opening at the Central Courtyard at Jungceylon shopping complex, followed by the opening movie, *Dance Machine*. After the show will be a retro disco dance party.

On October 21, the festival will present the newly restored Thai film *The King of the White Elephant* (1941), the only remaining full-length, English-language feature film made entirely in Thailand.

Check the *Gazette* website for more-detailed information, or call 02-9824525 or email filmfestival.phuket@gmail.com

For further information visit www.phuketfilmfestival.com

October 21. 3rd Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon.

Starting at Karon Circle early Sunday morning. Full marathon, half marathon, Mini Marathon and a five-kilometer fun run and walk. Cash prizes, lucky dips, free T-shirts, souvenirs, breakfast and drinks. Events will take place from 3:30 am until 10:30 am.

For further information email info@karoncity.com or visit http://bluewaterphuket.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 November 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.

For further information contact Uwe Schitteck. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: 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 Saturday November 24 at the Indigo Pearl, Nai Yang Beach.

For further information contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860. Email: carol@aplusplussoftware.com) or Sue (Tel: 087-277694. Email: arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th).

November 29. Wine Dinner at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Mom Tri's Boathouse will host an exclusive wine-tasting dinner, featuring wines of two very prestigious wine châteaux in France: Château Pichon Comtesse de Lalande (Pauillac, France) and Chateau L'Angelus (Saint Emilion, France).

Seating is limited and reservations are required. For more

information call the Boathouse at 076-330015.

December 1-8. Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

The King's Cup Regatta is held every year to honor the birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The week-long event is Asia's biggest and most popular regatta with great sailing and great parties along the way.

For details visit www.kingscup.com or call 076-273380.

December 2. Laguna Phuket Triathlon.

Southeast Asia's premier multi-sport event, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, presented by Thai Airways International and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, is now in its 14th year, with a new swim course, altered bike and running routes, and a new start time of 7 am.

The 1.8km swim, 55km bike ride and 12km run offers a US\$20,000 prize purse.

The event expects to attract some 800 athletes from over 30 countries competing in both the individual triathlon and the Herbalife Corporate Challenge Team Relay. A 6km fun run for

500 participants will be conducted during the event.

For further information call 076-324060 or visit www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com

December 5. HM The King's Birthday – Public Holiday.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday, also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

December 10. Constitution Day – Public holiday.

January 12-27, 2008. French Cuisine Festival.

Mom Tri's Boathouse will host the annual "Quinzaine de la Gastronomie Française" extravaganza of French cuisine from January 12 to 27, 2008.

Guest Chef Maître-Cuisinier de France Jean Noël Lumineau with Executive Chef Tummanoon Punchun will present a four-course menu from 7 pm to 11:30 pm, with each course accompanied by a superb French wine chosen by Boathouse Wine Director, Georges Cret.

For details contact Pinyo Thippimas at Tel: 076-330015 or Email: fb@boathousephuket.com

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Patong shows rare initiative

The *Gazette* greets with cautious optimism the September 26 announcement by Mayor Pian Keesin that Patong will begin distributing plastic trash bags in 10 different colors to encourage trash separation as the first step toward improving the municipality's much-maligned waste management system (See News pages).

The announcement follows the signing in August of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by all 18 of Phuket's local administrative bodies.

Under the agreement (see *Gazette* issue of September 1), every tambon and tessaaban administration on the island agrees to develop waste management practices, such as separation and recycling, that will reduce the volume of refuse they send daily to the overburdened incinerator at Saphan Hin.

Since the MOU was signed, attempts by the *Gazette* to follow up on the issue with a number of administrations were met with a standard reply, "We are awaiting budget approval before we can move forward."

Such replies are hardly unexpected given that the terms of nearly all of the island's smaller local administrative bodies have already expired, while larger ones including Phuket City and Patong are nearing their ends of their terms – with most of their budgets already dedicated or spent.

Thus it came somewhat as a surprise that Patong Municipality – certainly a dark horse given its track record on environmental issues – was the first administrative body to announce an initiative demonstrating some sort of commitment to the MOU.

That said, the recent announcement by Patong is in many ways as vague as it is surprising. For a start, the initiative is to be developed jointly with the Thai Industrialist Development Forum (TIDF), a non-government organization whose past success has been in providing free artificial limbs for amputees.

The TIDF plans to deploy in Patong a "mobile solid waste disposal vehicle", reportedly capable of disposing nine of the 10 waste categories into which Patong residents will be asked to sort their trash after the project kicks off in December.

Given the huge volume of trash produced in Patong daily, it is hard to imagine a single machine – or even fleet of machines – capable of disposing of it all. Equally difficult to imagine is how Patong's relatively small population will be able to sort all the garbage produced by guests in its 10,000-plus hotel rooms during peak periods.

Other questions about the initiative are too many to be listed here, but at least Patong is doing something to solve its waste problems other than waiting for the next budget meeting.

– The Editor

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

The Phuket Gazette

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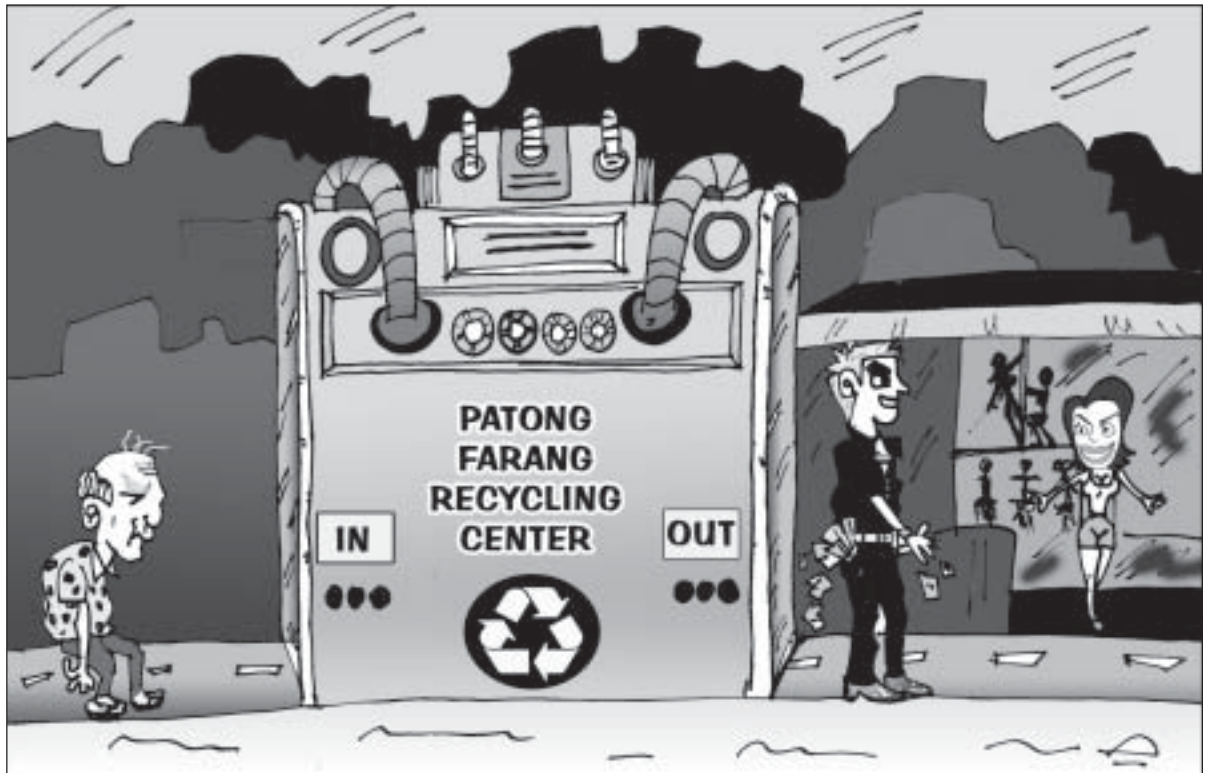
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Letters

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

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

Gazette nearly not what it used to be

Returning to Phuket after a year away, I read the two most recent editions of your paper and am dismayed, and not just because of a swear-word in the headline of a letter in the September 1 edition.

Where once we had the pleasure – under the now seemingly-absent guiding hand of Alasdair Forbes – of Messrs Peters and Johnstone to entertain us with travel, spas and food, we now have sixth-form efforts by Scott Mallon, Nick Davies and Alistair Why, and article upon article about boxing.

The trashy Tsowndings remains, sadly, and is joined by the nonsensical writings of Barry Daniels in his Andaman Rant. The less said about Marque A Rome the better.

At least Ambrosia still graces the pages. Her wit and wisdom is one of the paper's few redeeming qualities.

CA
Phuket

Hospital hit-and-run stuns New Yorker

My friend and his girlfriend were accompanying me on a walk to the bank to drain the remainder of my funds back in New York City.

While walking along the sidewalk in front of Vachira Phuket Hospital, my friend's girlfriend was struck by a motorbike. She became entangled with the hissing and screeching machine and it dragged her for a few yards.

When she finally became free from the bike she lay on the street. The scene of her laying

there is difficult to articulate; she looked as lifeless as a corsage left on the floor by an emotionally detached dance date, wilted and alone.

What struck me beside the carnage was that the driver sped off without any regard for the woman he had just mangled.

At first I was confused as to whether to pursue him or to rush to my friend's girlfriend – instinct instructed my friend and I to do the latter.

Coming from the New York City area, I am all too familiar with accidents. Battered bumpers and flaring tempers weave a mosaic over all bridges and tunnels in and out of the city.

Punches are thrown and obscenities are uttered, but as callous and careless as many New Yorkers are, they never flee the scene of an accident, especially if someone has been injured.

I have even witnessed drunk drivers sit and wait for their punishment to be handed out.

I am at a loss for an explanation of this hit-and-run mentality in Phuket. The driver of the motorbike that mowed down my friend's girlfriend was a young man. Interestingly, the Phuket governor recently proposed that parents should be responsible for the actions of their children.

However, we all remember when we were first let loose on the roads.

But driving is a privilege and a responsibility. When people race through the streets with a daredevil mentality, we not only put ourselves in danger but also endanger other people who are simply going about their business.

I'm sure there are reasons why the driver did not stop, but

instead of worrying about the consequences for ourselves we should worry about the true victims.

Which is better – not paying the victim's hospital bill, or looking back at the carnage left behind?

Sad New Yorker
Via Internet

Sink or swim?

So, with some of the most beautiful natural scenery in the world, great dive sites and clean beaches never more than a few minutes away, Phuket is to get its own water park, which will guzzle 300 cubic meters a day with about 7,000 cubic meters of chlorinated water remaining in the pools for the 2,000-plus expected visitors to splash around in (see Construction Update in the September 29 issue of the *Gazette*).

According to the article, the water will be supplied from the public mains and supplemented by underground supplies at the site.

It's a shame that we won't get to drink this natural spring water before the well eventually runs dry, but if the park is as popular as the developers predict, then at least the beaches will be a bit less crowded. Sounds good to me!

Nature lover
Phuket

Resurfacing perils

The stated goal of the resurfacing of Patong Hill road may be safety, but I am afraid the dangerous state they have left it in at night during construction will claim more lives than it will save in the long run.

Night Rider
Phuket

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

Phuket's recovery from air crash will be quick

The crash of One-Two-Go flight OG269 at Phuket International Airport last month was the first airplane crash in the province in more than 20 years, going back to when an airplane crashed at Ao Por in Pa Khlok.

Given Phuket's impressive track record for air safety, we have to view this disaster as a rare accident. Of course, we must continue to conduct regular training and simulation drills to ensure that all elements of our emergency response capability are always ready and up to international standards.

Personally, I continue to believe that commercial aviation remains the safest long-distance transport option available, with the chances of a disaster like OG269 being extremely remote.

From the 2005 downturn in tourism after the tsunami and the fact that most people realize that air crashes can happen anywhere and at anytime, I think the effect on tourism will only be short term.

In fact, we have many annual events to attract tourists, including the Vegetarian Festival, which begins next week, and the Phuket Carnival in Patong to mark the start of the high season for tourism on November 1.

During my visits to hospitals to meet with survivors of the crash, I was touched by the appreciation many of them felt towards the Thai people who had helped them to safety, especially the man in the yellow shirt [Paiboon Phaphan of Pa Khlok, who risked his own life to pull fellow passenger Robert Borland to safety] and all the rescue workers and medical personnel.

In this sense the feedback was similar to what happened after the tsunami; it showed that Thai people really know how to pull together in the face of adversity.

However, we also heard complaints from them that it took rescue teams who were not already stationed at the airport a long time to arrive. This is true, but I could only explain to them that our airport is located quite far from this island's main population centers and that the accident happened on a Sunday, which was also a reason for the slow reaction time.

London calling. I recently went on a health tourism roadshow to England, during which representatives from Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Phuket International Hospital and the Phuket Provincial Health Office presented demonstrations on the high-quality, low-cost medical services Phuket has to offer – as well as being a great tourism destination.

The Governor's Letter

Now in his seventh year assigned to the province, Governor Niran Kalayanamit was a Vice-Governor in 2004 when the tsunami ravaged the island's shorelines.

After a recent study tour and roadshow to England, Gov Niran's return to Phuket was delayed when One-Two-Go flight OG269 crashed on September 16.

Here he tells *Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanapaporn about his reaction to the tragedy, what he accomplished on his trip to the UK – along with updates on other important issues facing Phuket.



We received good feedback there and are glad for the exposure we gained, both in England and other Euro-zone countries.

I had the chance to visit Edinburgh and see firsthand how long people have to queue up to wait for treatment and how only the most seriously ill can be admitted. I think the option of coming to Phuket is very attractive for them because they can come to Phuket and receive the medical treatment they need, then have a nice holiday here and return home having spent less than if they had paid for the same procedure in their own country.

These cost savings extend over a wide range of medical services, from routine checkups to more complicated procedures, such as knee replacement surgery.

I think these services are also attractive to people in Scandinavian countries, where all but the very richest people rely on government medical facilities where treatment costs are part of their social security benefits.

I think the private hospitals in Phuket provide good-quality, international-standard services as well as Thai hospitality. Many foreigners appreciate this.

Busy schedule. While in England for three days, we didn't have a chance to conduct a study tour of a state-of-the-art garbage incinerator built by the Sepco Company, as planned. While we were in England, their representatives had to attend a special opening ceremony presided over by a government minister.

Unfortunately, my agenda was too tight to allow rescheduling. However, they did send people to Edinburgh to meet my team, apologize, and ask us to please come again the next time

an opportunity arises.

TV eyes. While in London, I had a chance to view firsthand operations at the control center of their famous closed-circuit television (CCTV) security network. With more than a million cameras installed around the city, their CCTV network is on a totally different scale to what we have here in Phuket.

This visit was the result of my sending an official introduction letter to the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, who gave us a very warm welcome.

I was fortunate to have a chance to see the control room, as it is a secretly-located place with very tight security.

I was impressed with the entire system, which can respond automatically to emergencies in

addition to providing round-the-clock surveillance to monitor traffic and threats to security. They have a professional team on-duty 24 hours there.

Phuket could benefit a great deal by expanding the current CCTV system around the island. If our local administrative bodies are interested in bearing some of the costs, we could invite the experts in London to help us.

This might be expensive, but it would be worth the investment. Unfortunately, there is currently no central government funding for this so we have to wait for a new central government to be installed.

Tsunami scare update. Not long after my return from England, Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont called the gover-

nors of the six Andaman coast provinces together to discuss the regional network of tsunami warning towers, for which the central government still has 175 million baht in remaining funds.

However, as Phuket already has 19 fully-functioning warning towers covering all the important risk areas, I did not request any additional funding. This will allow the remaining funds to be earmarked for areas that need it.

Old smoky. While in Bangkok, I had a chance to personally lobby PM Surayud for a budget to build a second trash incinerator for the island. I explained the grave crisis we are facing and told him that many leading firms had put forward good plans to incinerate our trash in ways that would not harm the environment.

In requesting the 1.3 billion baht we need, I explained that the government should consider how much money our province generates for the county through tourism revenue. I also mentioned that if the government cannot afford to fund the incinerator, it should at least consider amending existing laws or regulations to allow private-sector investment.

PM Surayud ordered the departments involved to stage an emergency meeting to brainstorm ways to come up with the funding. We plan to meet again on this most important topic before October 20.

Niran Kalayanamit,
Governor of Phuket.

What hours are construction sites allowed to make noise?

Are there any regulations regarding working hours on construction sites? I once lived in a quiet area of Rawai until two construction sites began work next to my house.

One site works normal hours: 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. However, the other site starts at 7:30 am and finishes at 11 pm. It is very noisy and they are using heavy machinery about 10 meters from my house. Some nights I cannot even hear the TV.

Richard Starkey
Rawai

An officer at the Phuket Labour Protection and Welfare office replies:

In Thailand, regulation

working hours must not exceed eight hours a day, consequentially restricting the maximum work week to 48 hours.

However, the owner is allowed to request overtime hours that must not exceed 36 hours a week, though it is up to the official at the Labor Office who handles the request to decide whether or not to grant overtime.

In regards to the noise that disturbs you and your family, I advise you to contact Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) and inquire about what can be done.

Another option would be to file a complaint with the Damrongtham Center at Phuket Provincial Hall, which may allow you to raise the issue the governor.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Mega-liners on the horizon

I have just returned from the fifth International Coastal and Marine Tourism Congress, a project founded in 1990 by Dr Jan Auyong, then with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program.

Dr Auyong wanted to create a worldwide dialog on marine activities, the fastest growing sector in the world's fastest growing industry.

We became good friends while working on the Hawaii Marine Master Plan together, and just after I left for Thailand, Dr Auyong organized the first Marine Tourism Congress in Honolulu.

Seventeen years later, almost 200 academics, scholarship students, practitioners and marine managers gathered for the Auckland-University-of-Technology (AUT) production, organized by AUT-Professor and Phuket-visitor Dr Michael Leuck. We marveled in the mistakes of the past and the promise of the future. The obvious, spontaneous theme for discussion was that our planet is already overpopulated, yet humankind welcomes more due to expanding market implications.

If you think Phuket is growing fast, just check out the development map for the Mexican West Coast: wall-to-wall resorts, with a ferry bridge across the Gulf of California that allows people to spend one week in Sonora and another in Baja, or vice versa.

Old-time Southern California eco-tourists and environmentalists with a strong interest in the ocean, my entire family was Scuba certified in 1957, and the Sea of Cortez soon became my backyard. The Gray family parked its camper-boat combo in remote locations, including San Carlos Bay – 30 kilometers of desert north of Guaymas, where we often went one or two weeks without seeing another soul. Then came the grass shack in 1965.

Today, San Carlos is an in-



CITIES AT SEA: The gigantic *Carnival Destiny*, pictured here dwarfing quayside resorts in Castries, St Lucia, weighs a huge 101,000 tons.

Her big sister, *Carnival Freedom*, was launched on in Venice on March 4. Weighing a massive 110,000 tons, *Freedom* sports a 13,300-square-foot spa, a jogging track, and four swimming pools – one with a 214-foot-long water slide.

evitable wall-to-wall yacht basin fulfilling Arizona's thirst for the sea. When I Googled "San Carlos Bay", the first page of results was nothing but condominium sales listings.

From San Carlos, we boated up the coast to our favorite desert beach, eventually named *Catch-22* after the movie filmed there. Bare earth above the sea, lush marine paradise underwater, *Catch 22* in the 50s was where I learned scientific marine biology from my mom.

In the 60s, we watched our indigenous friends lose their ancestral land – with no compensation – to a movie set transformed into a chain hotel. When the time was right two decades later, that unjust land-grab took me into alternative tourism.

If we don't learn from San Carlos and pre- and post-tsunami Phi Phi, the Andaman Triangle will become one wall of concrete from Promthep Cape to Krabi Town. Of course, the losers are always the salt-of-the-earth local people. Don't laugh – that happened to Costa del Sol and Mazatlan by the early '70s. Economic development is good, but just one element in the true happiness indicator, the quality-of-life index.

So much for the past. Ac-

cording to Prof Marc Miller at the University of Washington, the future holds surprises that will shock even the most mainstream tourists and their agents.

The entire Congress gasped simultaneously when Mark unveiled cruise ships of the future. The first passenger ship of 100,000 tons wasn't built until 1997: *Carnival's Destiny*, at 101,000 tons. In 2009, *Carnival's* three *Genesis* sister-ships will boast 220,000 tons with 5,400 berths each. By 2012, 20 new cruise ships in excess of 100,000 tons will motor the seas, averaging over 3,000 berths per ship.

These floating cities are current generation. Next generation cruise ships will be floating continents. The 400-meter *America World City* is on the pallet (design, not dock) complete with a 2,000-seat theater, a bow-to-stern theme mall, and four 400-person "day cruisers" to get all those bodies on shore and visiting Phuket's attractions. The 11-meter draft makes all this possible, even in the Andaman's shallow waters.

There are downsides. Consider the infrastructure implications of loading food and water, off-loading sewage, garbage and passengers, and designing business plans that fit huge daily fluc-

tuations. The latest version is *Freedom*. Displacing 2,700,000 tonnes of water in a 1.33-kilometer (4,320 feet) hull, *Freedom* will host 50,000 residents, 15,000 staff and 20,000 day guests. Obviously, *Freedom* and her predictable clones won't fit in any port, but that's okay – the top floor of this floating world will be an airport.

Both *Freedom* and *America World City* have marinas in their sterns to house "day boats", and in *Freedom's* case, the private yachts of wealthy residents. Enjoy your own floating tax shelter.

These giants take us full circle from San Carlos Bay. As open coastlines dwindle, humankind's exploding population still craves the "marine experience". When we run out of land, we build cities on the sea. Tourism embraces the population boom head-on, and will find ways to accommodate the guests.

Extreme marine sports are another angle. I expected unlimited hydroplanes and 60-foot surf, but Dr Mark Orams' presentation contained only natural power and the unorthodox: round-the-world yacht races, marathon kayak explorers (do you really want to paddle from Sydney to South Island?), and trans-Atlantic rowers.

If you aren't risking your life just for fun, you didn't even make Mark's cut. Why look death in the face? For the buzz of course!

But not everybody wants to risk the ultimate price – especially sponsors. Phuket has its share of sailing regattas, but there are other clean and dramatic directions that can be exploited; all powerful PR tools.

One solo kayaker was in sight of South Island when he disappeared in a storm so severe that the rescue party complained of

risking their lives looking for a lunatic. We could do something a bit safer – like a group paddle from Langkawi to Phuket. We tried that in the mid-90s, but once the authorities got involved in the project, the result was the usual – nothing.

With Phuket's horrible water-safety record, all the island's hotels and travel agents should sponsor Dr Jeff Wilks of Surf Lifesaving Australia to repeat his performance on water safety management – not only lifeguard training, but developing and managing safe practices, proper credentialing, risk reduction and response management.

Jeff was especially proud of Aussie-European wholesalers' safety audits, contracting only hotels and activities who meet rigid water-safety standards, so I must wonder why those same wholesalers sell the worst junk on local waters, conveniently filtered through local agents.

The lesson – host countries dictate safety and quality.

That leads me to my last intriguing example: Dr David Fennell's study of tourism and eth-

ics. Fennell's premise is that humans evolved in small, enclosed communities where altruism made a difference – it was recognized and rewarded.

Because mainstream tourism is transient, short-term relationships lead to short-term ethics from both host and tourist. Therefore, it's easy to complain about tourism downsides.

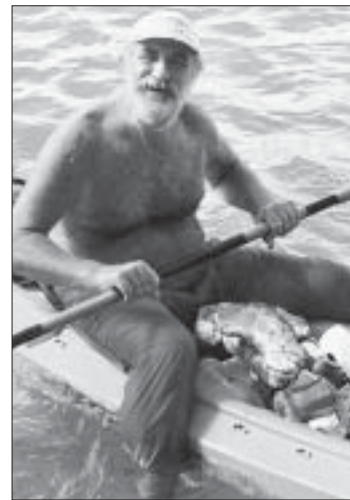
Ethics require sacrifice, yet are in all of us. Times are changing as the world interfaces, primarily thanks to tourism. For example, tipping is a form of bonding – an unusually altruistic gesture considering tourism's transitory relationships.

Quoting Einstein, Fennell ended his talk with an upscale promise to the future:

"Strange is our situation here on Earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that humans are here for the sake of other humans—above all, for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends."

Ethical, properly planned tourism respecting planet Earth, humans and all living things can fulfill Einstein's dreams of smiles and well-being. We've got a head start in Phuket, creating thousands of smiles every day, but we can always make more.

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Better financial luck arrives just in time for you. If your birthday falls during the coming days, splashing out on a celebration for friends will be on the agenda. While you may not be feeling over the moon about your monetary situation at present, there's every reason to expect that things will improve soon. Love comes knocking at your door this weekend when Leo is ready to make an approach.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): A rather mixed week lies ahead. While your home situation is still a cause for concern, help is at hand if you are prepared to swallow your pride. The chance to enhance your career should arrive by the end of this week, but you will need to make a lightning decision. The number eight can bring some good luck on Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Freedom becomes important this week as you tire of having limits imposed. If this relates to a personal relationship, avoid making demands too hastily; a reasonable discussion will be more fruitful. If you would like more independence at work, arrange a meeting for Wednesday when the astral atmosphere will be more supportive. October should be the month when you can make beneficial changes. The color ruby red encourages quiet strength.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your outlook on life is due to mellow, which will encourage higher achievement during October. Personal relationships will also flourish as you accept that your expecta-

What this week has in store for you

tions can sometimes be too rigid. The only area in which you should not soften too much is finances. An unpaid debt could be pushed to the back of someone's mind unless you issue a reminder. A dream you have this weekend sheds light on a long-term mystery.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19) The chance of last-minute travel could be too tempting to resist. Juggling work commitments to everyone's satisfaction may be easy, but convincing someone close to you personally could be another matter. It's high time you assessed how important this relationship is. Monday is the best day to negotiate a tricky business deal, but compromises required to do so could cause you concern.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your tendency towards escapism is likely to be a problem until the middle of this month. Those of you who have difficulty facing up to the fact that you made a wrong move should realize that it will be easier to put matters straight now. Tuesday is a good day for inviting others to listen to your side of the story. Romance with Virgo pro-

gresses better than you anticipated, but having your own space remains important.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Take the opportunity to wipe the slate clean this week. Fresh beginnings will be showered with inspiration and it appears that little can stand in your way until the end of the year. Cancer can't decide whether they'd like to jump into the boat of romance with you; it's up to you to be more tempting. Wear papaya orange to boost your allure.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): October is the month for you to recharge batteries, but social demands are probably proving irresistible. Your charm can attract new romance this week, which will do wonders for your self-confidence. Where work is concerned, the present lull comes as sweet relief. Spend time on creative pursuits and spiritual matters to enhance peace of mind. The chance of a monetary gift from overseas is high.

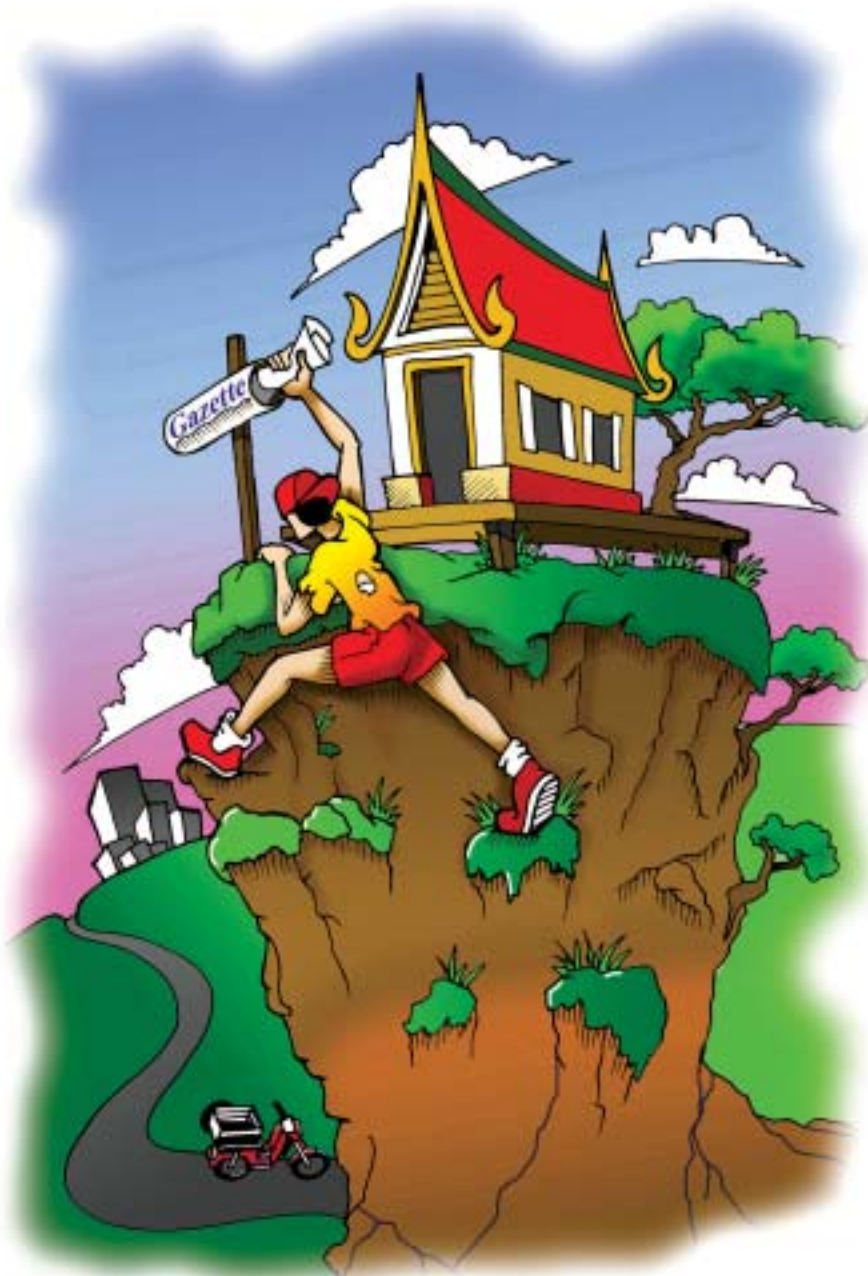
GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Dissatisfaction with your career could lead to a productive meeting with Leo this week. Those born under the sign of Gemini who are

prepared to go out on a limb will have the best chance of success. On Wednesday, be on the lookout for a tricky Aquarian who could take advantage of your generous mood. Sunday is a good day for making the right impression on someone who's caught your eye.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Do not let indecision cloud your week. Trusting your instincts will lead you to the right place. A Scorpio should be treated with respect early next week; you will be unable to beat bureaucracy. Relocation will become an issue that you hadn't been expecting, but you will discover that the grass could be greener on the other side of the fence.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Excitement at work starts to brew on Monday and could continue to stimulate you until the middle of the month. Those of you ready to show the world what you're really made of will shine, but if you're not looking for challenges, others will understand. A Piscean friend has some surprising news this weekend; your support will be welcomed. The color charcoal gray encourages better balance of energy.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Wet-weather blues are forecast this week. Your pessimistic mood will affect family relationships that are already a little rocky, so make an effort to see the sunny side of life. Wish upon the first star that you see on Saturday night and think positively; at least one dream will come true by the end of the year. The number one is lucky on Wednesday.



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Fast wireless Internet is back

Last week's PC Group Therapy session brought exceedingly good news from an unexpected source: The Communication Authority of Thailand (CAT) has EV-DO cards back in stock! But you better move fast – I bet they will sell out in a couple of days, if they haven't already.

For those of you who haven't been following the ongoing saga, here's the much-abbreviated version.

Much to its credit, CAT has invested billions of baht in a new type of mobile

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

phone technology that goes by many confusing names. Outside of Thailand, most people call it 3G. CAT markets it under a somewhat less-efficient name, CDMA, which stands for... oh, never mind, computer acronyms don't mean much anyway.

I don't know how CAT managed to clear the countless regulatory hurdles, or how they summoned the courage (and capital) necessary to roll out the network, but CAT's CDMA network now covers most but not all of Phuket.

The rest of the world is catching up quickly. In the US, Verizon is rolling out its 3G network. In various parts of Europe, 3G is hot and getting hotter. Predictably, South Korea and Japan have copious 3G networks. There are several alternatives to 3G on the horizon, but right now it's the best, most-widely-available mobile phone technology – and Phuket was one of the first.

In a curious historical twist, CAT owns the CDMA network in Phuket and most "upcountry" parts of Thailand, whereas sometimes-rival Hutch owns the CDMA network in Bangkok. CAT and Hutch have announced

an agreement that is supposed to merge the networks – equipment that you buy from CAT will work on the Hutch network and vice-versa – but as best I can tell for now, only certain kinds of telephones can bridge the gap.

Heaven only knows if the general elections in December will toss it all in the bit bucket, but the promise at this point is that CAT and Hutch equipment will work on each others' networks by the end of the year (yes, this

year). One of the nice qualities of the CDMA network is its fast

Internet access. You can think of fast Internet as icing on the cake; 3G started as a whiz-bang mobile-phone technology, but in Phuket, and in most of the world, 3G receives the most attention for its ability to provide broadband speed without any wires.

To use the 3G network "normally" you need a 3G telephone. To use the 3G/CDMA network with a computer, you need something called an EV-DO card.

For the past year or so, CAT has sold an EV-DO card manufactured by Sierra Wireless called the AirCard 580. Demand has been so high for the AirCard 580 that CAT ran out of them more than a month ago. Sierra Wireless no longer manufactures the AirCard 580, so CAT had to find an alternative. At last, the alternative has arrived: the CCU-650 manufactured by a company called C-motech. No, I've never heard of them either.

It's confusing. Right now, there are three very different ways to get onto CAT's high speed wireless information highway (gawd, I hate that term). You can use an EV-DO card such as the AirCard 580 or CCU-650 and



CAT's latest DO "air card" brings reasonably-fast Internet access to your PC, without any wires.

expect 500 to 600 Kbps (thousands of bits per second).

You can use a CAT Internet modem like the Huawei EC321 and get 100 to 120 Kbps; or you can buy one of CAT's wireless telephones and connect it to your computer. It sits on your desk and acts like a real telephone, except it doesn't need a phone wire.

The wireless telephone also runs at about 100 to 120 Kbps. For comparison, the CAT wired ADSL lines that I use in Phuket commonly run at 1,200 to 1,600 Kbps (although the speed has been tapering off in the evenings, as of late).

You have to buy your 3G card, phone or modem from CAT. You can't buy one say in Sweden and expect CAT to let you on their network.

CAT's 3G network works well in most locations on the island, but there are many marginal

spots, including parts of Nanai Road in Patong, Nai Harn, and the hills in Kamala. You won't know for sure if your new CCU-650 will work at your home or office until you try it. Fortunately, CAT will give you a refund if you tell them immediately.

The CCU-650 costs 10,990 baht, and unlimited Internet service runs at 790 baht per month. It ain't cheap, but unless you are willing and able to get the 2,600-baht CAT ADSL line, it's the best game in town.

The AirCard 580 had its fair share of problems, which I've documented in this column for many months. The CCU-650 also has problems, but they're different from the AirCard's problems. Here's what I know so far.

First, the CCU-650 is made by a company called C-motech. I've never heard of it, and I bet you've never heard of it either. That shouldn't be too off-putting,

though, because 3G phone technology is changing fast, the companies that do a good job with it (notably Huawei) haven't been household names for very long.

Second, the CCU-650 uses "old" EV-DO technology, known as Rev. 0. The AirCard 580 uses Rev. 0, as well. The newer CCU-680 and all of the currently available AirCards use Rev. A, which works better and faster, particularly for Skype. If you don't use EV-DO for Skype or other VoIP applications, though, Rev 0 and Rev A aren't all that much different.

Third, C-motech's driver for the CCU-650 (see www.cmotech.com/english/customer/program.html) isn't listed as Windows Vista-compatible, although CAT assures me they've been able to install the driver on Vista computers.

On the plus side, the CCU-650 uses a USB port, so you can plug it into just about any computer. That's a far cry from the AirCard 580's PCMCIA-only requirement. It also has a (rudimentary) antenna. You can attach a USB cable extender to the card, and twist and turn the CCU-650 to try to maximize signal strength. For those of you in marginal areas, that can be a real boon.

On the other hand, the fact that the CCU-650 uses a USB port means that most wireless network hubs won't be able to attach to the Internet directly through the CCU-650. You may be able to find a wireless router that's compatible with the CCU-650 (for example, the D-Link DI524UP or 604UP). Otherwise, if you want to share your CAT connection over your home or office's wireless network, you'll have to use the Internet Connection Sharing approach I discussed in August.

All in all, the CCU-650 seems like a reasonable choice. (Tech specifications are at www.cmotech.com/english/products/pro_10.html.) If you can justify the steep price of admission at 10,990 baht, the monthly charge isn't bad at all.

To get a CCU-650, go to the CAT office in Phuket City (on Phang Nga Road), or the office in Patong (off Rat-U-Thit, near Andaman Beach Suites). When I asked at the CAT office in Patong, they had 15 CCU-650s left. By the time you read this, I'd be surprised if they aren't all sold out.

When he isn't writing computer books and magazine and newsletter articles, or knocking Microsoft around on his website, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) runs Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Woody's latest book, Windows Home Server For Dummies, will be available all over the world, in several languages, this November.

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ARE YOU HOT?

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

- **Liquid Lounge, Surin Beach.** Open daily 4pm to 1am. Recent tests show: Download Speed 428 kbps; Upload Speed 206 kbps.
- **Jimmy's Lighthouse.** Free WiFi on the Ao Chalong beachfront road, just north of Chalong Pier.
- **Kamala Beer Garden.** Free wireless lan DSL. Open 4pm-2am daily.

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ON THE MOVE

Jirada Deechaiya from Bangkok has been promoted to Director of Radio of Thailand, Phuket. K. Jirada has a master's degree in Strategy Development from Phuket Rajabhat University and a degree from Chankasem University in Bangkok. K. Jirada's experience includes working for five years as a presenter for Channel 11, Phuket, and 11 years as a presenter for Radio of Thailand, Phuket.



Wanpen Upton, 45, from Songkhla, has been promoted to Director of Television of Thailand Channel 11, Phuket. K. Wanpen graduated in English Literature at Srinakarin Wirot University. She has worked as Chief of News for Radio of Thailand, Phuket.

Before being promoted, K. Wanpen worked for six years as Chief of News Programming for Television of Thailand Channel 11, Phuket.



Pablo Lopez, 26, from Guatemala has been appointed Latin Chef Manager of Latinos Restaurant, Nai Harn. Mr Lopez graduated at Institute Vatel in Nimes, France, and has experience working as a management trainee at the Jebel Ali Golf Resort & Spa. Mr Lopez has served an internship in the south of France and in the French West Indies as F&B Manager for the restaurant at Le Manapany hotel.



By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: TOT is expanding its coverage in Phuket with the addition of 11 telephone exchanges, switchboards that connect calls, this month, together providing 5,400 new phone lines for the island.

Copper cabling across Phuket will also be upgraded to support high-speed ADSL Internet access and improve the quality of services offered.

Many Phuket residents have been complaining about problems with telephone lines as demand has come to outweigh supply in some areas, leaving phone operators unable to cope.

In Patong, where many new businesses continue to start up, there has been increasing demand for new phone lines, which has in turn meant that local residents have had to go without.

Residents have also been disgruntled with problems encountered connecting to the Internet, while those applying for new phone lines have been told by operators that there are no new phone lines available.

Pairoj Somsri, director of Phuket TOT, told the *Gazette* that there are 60,000 phone numbers available in Phuket, with 43,000 currently in use, although high

TOT moves ahead with Phuket line expansion

demand in certain areas has led to a shortage.

"In the case of Patong and some other areas, if the telephones lines are full, we have to send technicians to the area to design a project for how we can source new cables from our warehouse in Bangkok because we don't have a warehouse in Phuket," said K. Pairoj.

Mae Luan Rd in Phuket City is another black spot suffering a shortage of phone lines, but the high demand and limited space to hang cables on telephone poles means that meeting the demand is a slow process.

Using underground cables is one alternative, but consent must be given by residents before the cables can be installed, explained K. Pairoj. "We have tried to do this on Thalang Rd for years, but the residents in the area are not willing to let us," he said.

A total of 560,000 new

phone lines will be installed throughout Thailand by TOT under its nationwide upgrade.

"The price of installing a new phone line is now set at 3,350 baht, excluding VAT, with a monthly fee of 100 baht. The price is subject to change. The process of getting a new telephone line usually takes about one week," said K. Pairoj.

The speed of ADSL connections on the island will be increased from 1MB to 2MB at the same existing price of 1,000 baht per month, said K. Pairoj, who added that some islanders had become frustrated with waiting for phone lines and had turned to TT&T, which operates under a government concession, in the hope of getting a line quicker.

TT&T is allocated a number of phone lines by TOT that it then passes on to customers.

The prices with TT&T are the same as TOT, but the services differ slightly, said K. Pairoj.

K. Pairoj said that by the end of the year, Phuket is likely to have an additional 20 telephone exchanges, with 11 coming by the end of October and another nine

currently in development.

Fueling the expansion, TOT's gross profit has risen 38% in the past year and is expected to rise even further after the installation of the 20 exchanges. Most of the company's income is derived from services such as the rental of circuit boards, lead lines and the laying of fiber-optic cables as used by large hotels for ISDN access.

The copper phone cables in Phuket are now being upgraded, with the distances between telephone exchanges being shortened to three kilometers.

This will enhance the quality and speed of ADSL connections, but will mean that all phone numbers will have to change due to the existing cables being cut, said K. Pairoj, although he was unable to confirm how long the upgrade will take.

Reducing the lengths of cable will reduce the number of connection problems. In areas

where the cable length exceeds three kilometers, TOT will install more telephone exchanges.

The budget for this project has been granted and received,

"By the end of the year, Phuket is likely to have an additional 20 telephone exchanges, with 11 coming by the end of October."

and all that remains is the actual construction of the telephone exchanges and shortening of the cables, K. Pairoj explained.

With the expansion in the number of new phone lines in Phuket, K. Pairoj explained

that eventually Phuket's current phone number allocation will need an overhaul. To help allocate new numbers TOT has a new geographic information system (GIS) system in place to allocate based on customers' house addresses.

All customers will be given ample warning of the impending changes before they take place, he said, and all replacements of existing phone numbers will be free of charge.

The changes will be gradual, although a time-frame has yet to be set for the changes, he added.



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Limited company registrations	122	101
Limited partnership registrations	39	37
Limited companies restructured	379	356
Limited partnerships restructured	32	46
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Partnerships deregistered	5	10

Source: Phuket Business Development Office

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The decision by America's Central Bank, the US Federal Reserve, to reduce interest rates by 50 basis points from 5.25% to 4.75% was accompanied by a further slide in the value of the US dollar. This resulted in the Canadian dollar reaching parity with the US dollar, an event not seen since the 1970s.

The US dollar also reached record lows against the euro, but as the latter was introduced only in 1999, it means little from a statistical point of view. However, from a psychological perspective, the US dollar moving to 1.40 to the euro provoked panic from European exporters and French President Nicholas Sarkozy.

Sarkozy called on the European Central Bank (ECB) to reduce interest rates to weaken the euro. One of the European Union's strengths is its Central Bank's independence. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany immediately contradicted the French president's statement and gave public support to ECB policy.

It is interesting to note how very public their disagreement on monetary policy was. This was in stark contrast to the previously linked and often muddled thinking of their predecessors in the 1990s, when it was agreed that France and Germany would somehow follow a joint fast-track policy, leaving other members of the European Union to catch up – if they could.

This was confused thinking, as both Germany and France were experiencing high unemployment and low economic growth.

However, political rhetoric aside, the French and German leaders are vast improvements on their predecessors and are making progress inside the political realities in both countries.

In a televised interview on Bloomberg, Alan Greenspan said that during his term as US Federal Reserve chairman (1987 to 2006), he had never had commu-

China holds yuan from sliding against US dollar



The Chinese central bank, the Peoples Bank of China, whose Beijing headquarters is pictured above, is keeping the yuan artificially weak to allow Chinese exports to remain competitive.

nication from any politician requesting that he raise interest rates. This is a great strength of an independent central bank: the ability to raise interest rates when required.

The core of the problem in the US is the massive trade and current account deficits that require vast amounts of foreign borrowing to maintain the value of the currency. If left alone, market forces will, over time, push down the value of any currency experiencing substantial deficits.

The US dollar is simply following market forces, but the market is being rigged and the main culprit is China. China is not allowing its currency to appreci-

ate against other currencies as a freely traded currency would behave.

In August 2005, the Chinese government, under pressure from many other countries, allowed the yuan to revalue from its previous peg of 8.28 yuan per US dollar. Since then the currency has only moved upwards by around 10% against the dollar, and much less against other major world currencies.

China is following a very simple economic policy, keeping its currency artificially weak allows China to compete in export markets, which in turn sustains the country's economic boom.

Because China is considered a totalitarian state, the need to continue high economic growth is essential. A booming economy removes any focus on government fundamentals.

This has led to the accumulation of the world's largest for-

eign exchange reserves, totaling over US\$1.3 trillion. China also has tight exchange-control regulations and the result of this has been a massive build up of liquidity in the domestic market. This liquidity in China has resulted in various bubbles in both property prices and stock markets.

The Chinese government, via its non-independent central bank, the Peoples Bank of China, has raised interest rates five times this year in an attempt to cool the economy. Other measures taken include capital gains tax on property held for short periods of time and an increase in stamp duty on stock market transactions.

To date, however, these policies have had little real effect, and this is being felt in various areas. Stock market valuations are at dangerous levels with price and earning multiples at over 40. Inflation has risen to over 6% and looks likely to continue rising.

In a bid to reduce excess liquidity from the domestic economy, the Chinese government announced that it would allow its citizens to invest in the Hong Kong stock market. This was countered after some internal disagreement inside the government that the scale of the concession was to be significantly reduced. No figures were ever published.

A significant danger is on the horizon: the US Congress, now controlled by the opposition Democrats, is likely to introduce legislation against Chinese imports. This could include import tariffs. Should this happen, the Chinese will immediately retaliate, and this has the potential to become a "trade war".

Unfortunately, trade wars have no victors. Opportunistic politicians in the US, looking at presidential elections in 2008, are unlikely to worry about the broader picture. The story that is being portrayed is that, with the playing field uneven, the US is facing unfair competition and this is causing a loss of jobs to the American population.

US Treasury Secretary Henry "Hank" Paulsen is concerned that a trade war will cause damage and has publicly stated the dangers.

Japan, which also has huge foreign exchange reserves and a trading surplus with the US, is in an entirely different position. The Japanese economy is too complex to also discuss this week; we'll deal with it another time.

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

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A bowler lets fly at the business bowling tourney.

High-fliers bowl for business

PHUKET: The Phuket Chamber Of Commerce, Phuket Tourism Association, Southern Hotel Association, and Federation Of Thai Industries, Phuket Chapter, held a bowling competition on September 29 to foster good relations between local businesses and to raise money for charity.

Each team, consisting of three players, competed for trophies only – no prize money was at stake.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit officially opened the day of competition, and presented a check for 20,000 baht to a representative from Baan Lung Pitak children's charity, which cares for children whose parents are serving sentences in jail.

More than 30 teams joined in the competition, with the team from Tarn Tara Spa & Health Cuisine Phuket winning first place, followed by Phuket Center Tour in second place and Royal Phuket Marina third.

Cricketers prepare for new season

PHUKET: The Cricket Association of Thailand (CAT) is organizing free courses in preparation for the upcoming cricket season. With plenty of action scheduled for both seniors and juniors in the coming months, some ground-level preparation is being organized to help the season run as smoothly as possible.

The first course will be held October 12 to 15 in Bangkok for Level I umpires and scorers will be given by Roger Binny, Dr Vece Paes, Mohideen Kader, Saurabh Dhanuka and Thiti Kader. A Level I coaching course will be held in Chiang Mai October 27 to 30 and given by the same group of cricket gurus.

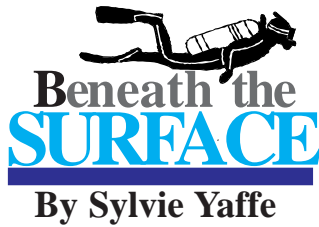
The courses aim to bring coaches and umpires up to speed so they will be able to umpire and coach next season, ahead of the 2008 CAT Thailand Inter-Regional Tournament, which will be held from February 22 to 24.

The courses will be in English. Accommodation and meals will be provided on course days along with transfers.

Each participant will be given a shirt and a pair of shorts, as well as a travel subsidiary and 200-baht daily allowance.

The number of registrants is limited. Those interested should apply as soon as possible by email at kader@imcs.co.th or kader_9@hotmail.com

Divers team up for underwater cleanup



The high season is approaching fast and members of the dive industry have had their annual underwater clean up. All efforts were purely voluntary and dive operators Dive Asia, Sea Fun and Scandinavian Scuba Doo, generously and charitably donated their vessels and services.

PADI Project Aware provided certificates of participation to all volunteer divers.

Despite the cloudy skies and rainy weather, 71 dedicated volunteers, including six from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) gathered 460 kilograms of rubbish from popular diving destination Racha Yai.

Unsurprisingly, common items retrieved were fishing gear (ropes, lines, hooks and nets) which can cause severe damage and death not only to the reef itself, but also to the marine life that inhabit it. Common victims include dolphins, turtles and dugongs.

Participating sponsors included Green Fins, an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Green Fins aims to protect the reef by promoting sustainable dive tourism. Unaffiliated with any particular diving organization (such as Padi, SSI or TDA), the



Eefje Pattyn of the SSS Re-compression Chamber Network frees coral from a fishing line. Photo by Joel Tomalin.

Green Fins program aims to encourage tour operators to observe a set of guidelines for environmentally-friendly diving and snorkeling at popular sites as well as implement systematic monitoring at dive sites.

Green Fins, which is free for dive centers to join comes with free training provided, is being implemented in Thailand by the Phuket Marine Biological Center

(PMBC), which now falls under the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Of recent concern to the dive industry, already a misunderstood segment here in Phuket, were international media reports that 55 Israeli tourist were returning from a diving trip when their boat sank.

Having worked and dived on many dive boats, some of the largest in Phuket and Bali, I have yet to be on a boat that can hold 55 divers.

Dive professionals who read the news reports knew something was amiss because they too have never been on a dive boat holding 55 divers.

Many people expressed their concern that Phuket's dive industry was undeservedly taking a bad rap.

The international and national media reports reflected a lack of safety regarding diving vessels in Phuket that was not true.

Although subsequent reports by the *Gazette* correctly stated it was a tour-operator boat, for the record it should be noted that this boat was run by a tour operator carrying snorkelers, not divers, although at one time it may have been a diving boat.

At the time of the boat's sinking, however, it was not being used by any of Phuket's dive operators.

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Marco pedals his way into history

By Nick Davies

PHUKET: Luxembourg national and environmental activist Marco Reinard completed his 24-hour solo bike ride around Phuket at 6 pm on September 22, arriving at Yoonique Stone bar, Nai Harn, the same place he had set off from the day before at 4.30 pm.

Marco's pedal-powered ride to promote environmental awareness covered a record 522 kilometers, clocking an average speed of 22kmh.

His mountain bike, specially built for endurance riding, was provided by sponsors Hotel Travel.com and was delivered the day before his ride.

About 40 cycling enthusiasts joined and encouraged Marco at various points during his marathon.

Marco stopped for a dish of pasta during his ride and took a few 10-minute massage breaks when his leg muscles threatened to seize up, meaning that he finished his ride slightly later than anticipated.

"Apart from the occasional cramping of my calf muscles, the most painful problem was my knees," a sunburned Marco told



the *Gazette*.

Aside from his pasta meal, Marco sustained himself with energy drinks, which helped replenish some of the 22,000 calories he burned during the ride.

To continue his campaign to create awareness of pollution and environmental issues facing Phuket and the world, Marco is planning a 5,000-mile journey from Burma to Taiwan on a custom-made Hobie catamaran in November this year.

Marco, who will be sailing with a Burmese sea gypsy he befriended earlier this year, plans to complete the wind-powered trip in 100 days.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With one-third of the matches played in the 18-week league currently underway, Queen Mary's lead now sits at just one point over Piccadilly, who took their third consecutive three-point win on the road at Valhalla.

Jack, the Piccadilly bartender making a rare road appearance to give Piccadilly the minimum five-man side, got the high score of 140. Aussie Jeff of Piccadilly scored a 93 close (3, T20, x15).

In a Nanai Road derby, newcomers Market Bar clobbered Beach House 8-1 before Beach House salvaged a point in the beer leg. Mark from Market Bar went home happy after flipping in an unassailable high score of "One Hundred and Eighty!"

Send all match results to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this article.

September 25 results: Market Bar 8 Beach House* 1; Valhalla 2 Piccadilly* 7; Shakers* 3 Queen Mary 6; Simply Red* 1 Dogs Bollocks 8; Offshore=bye. (* = winner of beer leg)

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (13); 2. Piccadilly (12); 3. Dogs Bollocks (10); 4. Offshore (9); 5. Simply Red (8); 6. Shakers (7); 7. Market Bar (6); 8. Valhalla (5); 9. Beach House (2).

October 9 match-ups: Offshore v Market Bar; Dogs Bollocks v Beach House; Simply Red v Queen Mary; Shakers v Valhalla; Piccadilly=bye. (home teams first)

Phuket Gold

Nakhon Sri Thammarat hosted the 36th Thailand National Games from September 15 to 25 with a number of Phuket athletes managing to fend off stiff competition from around country to win four gold, one silver and four bronze medals.

Here our just a few of Phuket's sporting heroes.

Buatip Boonprasert won gold in the women's 800 meters but had to settle for silver in the 1,500 meters.



Tuntipong Petchaiya (center) threw a national record of 52.29 meters to win gold in the men's hammer.



Petanque heroes (left to right) Salif Nooset, Sompong Pongklang, Tamrong Koompate and Tanyawat Inklub won gold at the National Games this year.



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STARTRAC PRO ENERGY BODY-CHARGER Concept II

Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Legends are silly. They're not cute, they're not historical; they're complete nonsense. Where do they come from? What form of bored mind dreamed them up in the first place? Did they have nothing better to do with their time? Why do we, in the 21st century, have to put up with these inanities?

Ghosts and witches, goblins and elves. What are these things even supposed to be? Please! Even kings aren't immune to having daft tales perpetuated about them for centuries; King Arthur pulling a sword from a stone and some helpless young lady ("moistened bint", as so delicately described in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*) from a lake? Come on – this is silly.

Does anyone really think that some bloke in green tights and a dodgy hat ran around Sherwood Forest with lots of other wholesome chaps a few centuries back and took from the rich so that he could hand out the dosh to the poor? And was Maid Marion really the only female around? Either there's more to this than meets the eye, or it's a complete fabrication.

Who cares what happened at Stonehenge? It's a load of rocks in a big circle – nothing else.

Urban legends are even worse – people actually believe in them. Stories abound. The setting is a rock concert for some second-rate band in the US, at some unknown time in the past.

After playing for some time, just after a featured guitar solo, someone near the front of the crowd boos loudly. In response to the booing, a member of the band comes to the microphone and issues a challenge, saying, "If you think you can do better, come on up here." Eric Clapton climbs on to the stage.

Yeah, right. There are those who will insist that this is a true tale – the sort of anecdote you can chuck in at parties to amaze and entertain. Unfortunately, the opposite happens, as this is of course complete nonsense – an urban legend.

There be dragons



They might look fierce, but these dragon fruits won't bite. They don't even breathe fire.

There are hundreds of them floating around; we're all guilty of retelling them. Most people have probably heard the tale, usually imparted as a "something that really happened to a friend of a friend", of the dotty grandmother who tried to dry her damp poodle by placing it in the microwave oven. The dog cooked from the inside out, then exploded, and Grandma has never been quite the same since.

What about the one about the young lady alone in her apartment who goes to bed with her dog on the floor beside her. In the middle of the night, she is woken up by a strange sound. She's alarmed, but reaches down to the dog, who licks her hand. Reassured, she goes back to sleep. The next morning, she finds the dog has met a grisly end in the shower. Where the dog slept, she picks up a note which reads, "Humans can lick, too".

Anyway, back to those regular legends that are so often perpetuated. I'm from England, as you may by now be aware.

Perhaps our most famous legend revolves around a bloke called "George", who probably never existed, with the title of "saint". He is supposed to have gloriously slain a mythical dragon while saving a damsel in distress – a princess, supposedly – from being burnt to a crisp by the dragon's fire-breathing party trick.

There's actually a dragon in the plant world that has very little in common with its legendary namesake. This dragon is a fruit; a fruit not exactly renowned for spouting flames.

It's not like any other fruit that I'm aware of. The dragon fruit is kind of an oval shape, about the size of a grapefruit. It has a particularly vivid pink color and a few weird reptilian scales on the outside – presumably where the "dragon" epithet originated.

The dragon fruit is also known as the strawberry pear, pitaya, pitahaya, or *kaew mung korn* in Thai, or *hylocereus undatus* if you want to get technical. It doesn't even come from a fruit tree as such – this is the fruit of a species of cactus.

Although it's usually grown in tropical climates, it's unclear where the dragon fruit plants came from in the first place. They are native to Mexico, Central and Southern America, and are today cultivated in Southeast Asia. The dragon fruit is now Vietnam's leading fruit export.

"When you cut through the melon-like skin into the flesh of the fruit, there's a stark contrast with the outside skin. You'll find an opaque white inner with black seeds throughout. The seeds are a bit like the ones found inside a kiwi fruit, in that they're edible.

The cactus that the dragon fruit comes from can grow anywhere between a few centimeters up to about six meters for the more mature plants. In nature, these plants survive by growing on trees – they grow out of the soil and over it until they find a tree they can grow on using their aerial roots.

They're not particularly fussy about the type of soil they grow in, although they grow best when the soil is kept high in nutrients by adding organic matter.

Do I really need to spell that one out?

"I'm not sure there's anything normal about this plant at all. The ornate flowers the plants produce only appear during the night and last just one night, so pollination has to take place at that point to get a crop of dragon fruit. However, to counter this, the plants can produce four to six crops of fruit each year.

Propagation is child's play. By just scooping out some of the flesh and separating out the seeds, you're ready to start planting. Sow them in pots containing gritty potting compost, water and then enclose the whole thing in a polyethylene bag. It really is as easy as that.

"You'll then need to be patient for a couple of weeks before you'll see seedlings start to appear. Initially, the seedlings have two leaves on them; these are the only leaves this plant will ever produce.

From this point onwards, a spiny stem will grow between the center of these leaves, and the leaves will drop off after a few months. In theory, you should then be able to grow your own dragon fruit.

Alternatively, you can create new plants by stem cutting. This means you'll need to find a willing neighbor with a dragon fruit cactus, cut off a section of his stem and plant it directly into the ground.

This method is a lot faster than growing through seeds, which would usually take at least six months for the first bloom and another 45 days or so for the fruits to develop from the flower buds.

I was going to polish this inane, prolix discourse off with a legend about how the dragon fruit got its name, but I thought better of it, as I'd rather finish a couple of sentences sooner and go down to the pub.

I wonder if the Stonehenge designers ever realized that it would be a lot more fun to sit down with an ale than dream up reasons to put big rocks in a circle. Cheers.

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Gazumping stalls Kathu road expansion

KATHU: The two-year-old, 62.35-million-baht project to expand Wichit Songkram Rd from two lanes to four was scheduled for completion last month but remains far from finished. Kathu Municipality, who is managing the project, now aims to have the widened road open and fully operational by April 2008.

Although the project spans a distance of only one and a half kilometers, disputes with private land owners and Wat Kathu have stymied progress.

Sompong Wattana Ltd is the contractor hired to widen Wichit Songkram Rd from nine meters wide to 17 meters wide, from Kathu District Health Office to Loch Palm Golf Club. The company will also install a median strip to separate traffic traveling in opposing directions, reducing the danger of head-on collisions.

In addition to expanding the

road, the banks of Klong Bang Yai where it runs alongside the road will be reinforced with concrete to prevent the banks from collapsing, added K. Charoonlert.

"Now the construction [on the road project] is behind schedule. Work on the project started on September 26 last year and was scheduled to be finished by September 25, 2007, but now it's late," Charoonlert Logootara, Architect of Kathu Municipality's Public Works and Town Country Planning office, told the *Gazette*.

"The reasons are that we cannot widen the road in front of Wat Kathu and on some private land plots as agreement with the landowners about the price of has still not been reached. So we have to negotiate again with the owners of the private land and with the abbot of Wat Kathu," he said.

"The construction should be 100% completed before Songkran next year. Right now, it's



Part of the project includes reinforcing the banks Klong Bang Yai with a ferro-concrete barrier to prevent the road from collapsing and flooding.

important that we start moving the power poles back away from the road along the front of those plots so we can later proceed with the road widening," said K. Charoonlert.

However, although the construction has been an inconvenience to drivers for several years, the expanded road will be much safer with a median strip separating vehicles traveling in opposite directions, he added.

While the roadworks are being carried out, Kathu Municipality is moving ahead with its 229.5-million-baht project to install an entire sewer network throughout the district. The project includes the installation of concrete cylinders, one meter in diameter, along roadsides.

The sewer-network project, which started on September 30, 2005, is scheduled for completion on March 18, 2008.

Engineering consultants Suwannapoom Co Ltd has been hired to oversee and manage the project, while SKY Co Ltd and Construction Co Ltd are the contractors carrying out the work.

"The sewers in the same areas where the road has been widened are the last to be installed for the entire project, but we still have to install the tanks and pumps," K. Charoonlert explained.

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Design

by Semacote Suganya

Three types of villa are planned on three tiers on Leam Yang beachfront hillside as part of the latest development by The Estate Group.

Each villa on the hill, with sea view and an infinity-edge swimming pool, will incorporate fusions of architectural styles that bring ethnic elements together to take full advantage of their hillside location in tropical surroundings.

The Estate Beachfront is the second Phuket residential project by developers The Estate Group, overseen by Chairman & CEO Matthew Rayner, an experienced chartered surveyor and urban planner. Matthew has been involved in real estate in Thailand for the past 15 years and moved to Phuket from Bangkok about four years ago.

Favoring practicality over superfluous styling, his choice of designs are distinctive in that they maintain clean lines to offer the most practical use of space.

"I am not overly concerned how these designs are labeled as we are not necessarily trying to define a particular style – our goal is to create a comfortable living environment," he said.

With the villas on tiers as-

Design by ethnic fusion



The clean lines of the villas incorporate a fusion of ethnic elements in order to offer designs that are practical and take advantage of the hillside location.

cending the slopes to the top of Laem Yang hill, challenges had to be overcome in designing the homes to ensure that they took full advantage of their elevated location and the surrounding views.

"We chose this hillside location because it is special in that it gives us the chance to take advantage of the wonderful views, but it was a challenge to create a practical design that gives the home-owner unobstructed views

on either side of the property," Matthew explained.

Having lived around the world, Matthew was inspired by oriental lifestyles and wanted to ensure that he created a contemporary living environment that fuses Western and Eastern living concepts.

"I wanted to create something that is convenient with the elegance of the Western house, but with the style and freedom of an Asian home. There are features in the design that were added to ensure a balance of cultural elements. For example, we were careful to ensure we had a suitable number of steps and there are raised shelves specially for placing Buddha images," he said.

"The tropics and Asian culture inspire me and I wanted to ensure that the designs fit in with these concepts," he added.

To ensure the desired fusion of styles, Matthew called on architects Tomaryk Design, a Bangkok-based firm headed by Australian architect Krys Tarnowski. The company's previous projects include Katamanda in Kata and Baan Zeman at Surin Beach.

"I chose to work with Tomaryk Design as they have been involved in many hospitality and high-end residential projects in

Thailand," said Matthew.

Matthew also explained the importance of having a team of designers comprised of people from various ethnic backgrounds incorporated in the design.

"If a house is to be designed with Asian elements, then you need Asian people involved in the design process. This is equally true for ensuring a design contains all the necessary Western elements that will attract a Western buyer."

Matthew avoided using curves in the home designs, opting for clean lines that retain a sense of smoothness and allow for easy decoration when complete.

"My father was an architect, so I have seen and experienced many kinds of designs. In my opinion, although unusual angles may be attractive, homes designed with rounded curves can be very hard to live in and impractical when it comes time to decorating them with furniture," he said.

"Although the villas may seem to be of a simple design, I believe that the very structured, grid-like form actually gives a lot of freedom to the owner. The homes can be open to the elements or they can be closed up and cozy.

"We want to give as much freedom as possible to the buyer to customize their design, although it is important that all the villas have unobstructed views and are set far enough away from the road to maintain the main concept of seclusion," said Matthew.

Lighting is also important for Matthew. "The homes are designed and positioned to take advantage of the ample sunlight in the day time and flood into the house, but we also attach equal importance to ensuring the artificial lighting is aesthetically pleasing to enhance the clean lines of the villa's design," he said.

For more information, visit www.theestatebeachfront.com or contact Matthew directly. Tel: 081-7873193. Email: mrayner@tacticalcapital.net

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The main living section on the lower level contains a western kitchen, a living room, dining room and a private office or study.

The upper level is complete with a living room and Thai kitchen, plus a roof terrace. Each level can be accessed separately, making it ideal as a holiday home

for more than one family or a permanent home where friends and family can stay while retaining their privacy.

Built to European standards, high quality finishes are featured throughout the house, including granite tiles and counters, hardwood floors, and marble counters in the kitchen.

The bedrooms have built-in wardrobes and the two ceramic tiled bathrooms, including the master bedroom en suite, are equipped with rainwater showers and have clear glass sinks on granite counters.

Paradise windows are double-glazed with mosquito screens and decorative wrought-iron security bars.

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Within 100 metres of the beach, no sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

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Property Gazette

PRIVATE RAWAI HOME



Land 895sqm, 306sqm living area, 4 bedrooms, maid's room, 3 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, 6 aircons, 2 Tel lines, and UBC in 4 rooms. 2 car garage and storage. Well and 3500L tank. large open plan in living areas, ceiling is foam insulated, remote gate, security features, and Chanote title. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-5697127, 081-4776662.

5 MINUTES TO BANG TAO BEACH



and Laguna. Newly built, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, open plan kitchen and living room. Ready to move in. 6,000,000 baht. Call Tel: 089-8131447. Email: kwanphuket@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 over 1/2 rai. With swimming pool. In finished, exclusive development. Only 25 million baht. Tel: 086-2796283.



Foreign Freehold Available

Ocean Views From 3.9m฿

WWW.CHALONGBAYVIEW.COM MOBILE: 087 898 7062

SEAVIEW LAND

Located in Patong, nearly 1rai. Comes with building license and plan. Tel: 081-8918082. Email: seagullphuket@hotmail.com

EMERGENCY SALE

2-story house near Laguna Layan Beach. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and mini-pool. Chanote. 400 sqm. Best offer. Tel: 087-2660592.

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

KAMALA HOUSE

1 rai land, 2 bedrooms, hill view, big garden, quiet place. 8.9 million baht. Please call Tel: 081-6697814.

KAMALA HOME @ 2.89 MILLION BAHT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Land: 200sqm. 100m to beach. Pls call 038-720980, 083-1206042. Fax: 038-720215. Email: cincharoen@exotiq.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, kitchen, aircon, shared pool. Quiet area, 10 mins to airport. Contact Tom. Email: kanlayanee@hotmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

with lots of elegant furniture. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, well-equipped kitchen. Club-house 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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garden, big kitchen, balcony, aircon, tank, furnished, near Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 076-323696, 084-7597880.

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.

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.

LUXURY VILLA NAI HARN RAWAI



720sqm land plot, guest-house, ADSL, UBC, sala, swimming pool. Quality building and finishing. 12.5 million baht. Must see! Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-7310283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSE AT KARON

2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, living room, garden, terrace, and car park. Tel: 083-1807794.

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

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, prestigious estate of Saraburi. For sale at 4.75 million baht each or barter with seaview-land plots or condo development in Phuket. Telephone 081-8142040. Or send email: sailesh@thaimartin.com Visit our website: www.ziam.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://koumbele.com/kata1/>

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

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: 3.5 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

15-year lease, 107sqm duplex house, pool, carport, garden. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Sea view, foreign freehold. 650,000 baht. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

THAI BUNGALOW

Rural Ban Liphon, Thalung. 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).

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.

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: jhshand@gmail.com

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Property Gazette

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Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new. 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K.Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more info, please visit our website: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

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

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 frontage road). Please contact Sumon for details. Tel: 076-352069, 081-6919346. Fax: 076-261028. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

PATONG HOTEL FOR SALE

Built 1 year ago. Successful. 60 million baht. Phone: 085-7839062 (English), 086-2767510 (Thai).

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 over 1 rai, with swimming pool. In finished, exclusive development. Only 25 million baht. Tel: 086-2796283.

BIG HOUSE FOR SALE

Thalang area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 532.2sqm, furnished, nice view, quiet. 8 million baht. Tel: 086-7401969.

LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Direct from owner. 32 million baht or rent. No agents. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: tm_thanida@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 story house 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

HIGH-QUALITY HOME



2 stories, 4 bedrooms, on 1 rai in Rawai. Separate building with maid's unit, store room, laundry, large kitchen. 300m to Chalong Circle. Large living areas, and 2-car garage. Too many features to list. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-4776662. Email: verndono@yahoo.com

KOH YAO YAI LAND FOR SALE

4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-5955574. Email: kraisorn@ppfashionworld.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

12 RAI IN PATONG

Beside main road entering Patong. 12 rai of mixed flat land and hill land, sea view, perfect for commercial, homes and apartments. Chanote title. 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

58 RAI BEACHFRONT LAND



in Koh Yao. Chanote. Half the land is flat with 300m 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

KALIM BEACHFRONT LAND



Beautiful land for sale. 21-3-49 rai at Kalim Beach, Chanote title, water, electric. Tel: 081-7474742.

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, and restaurant. All rooms with aircon, TV, DVD player and ADSL. Parking available. 9 million baht. Tel: 076-346-065, 081-8914844. Email: joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE FOR URGENT SALE

Large 4 1/2 -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

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>

FIRST CHOICE PATONG

New real estate agency looking to sell your property, condo, villas, and 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

Properties For Rent

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, Fully-furnished, big kitchen. Aircon, telephone line, cable TV, minimum 6-month lease. No pets. 9,500 baht per month. Utilities extra. Tel: 076-344487, 087-2814535.

SEAVIEW BUNGALOW

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, and aircon. Prime location in Chalong, quiet and safe. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6064279.

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Siam Real Estate have clients waiting for good quality rentals NOW - both holiday and long term rentals. If you want to rent your property quickly and get top dollar, contact us urgently. Tel: 076-288908. Email: pinky@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.siamrealestate.com>

HOUSE FOR RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished, with seaview on Patong hill. Foreign landlord. Every thing Included plus car for right person. Rent negotiable, ideal location. Tel: 081-2710465.

VILLA MAGNOLIA

3.5 bedroom pool villa with ocean view. Tel: 66-81-6919106. Email: kent@karlssons-phuket.com For further details, please contact me (as above) or see our website at: <http://www.karlssons-phuket.com/villa>

APARTMENT KATA BEACH

Cable TV, furnished, and Internet. Call Tel: 076-284-065, 086-5958512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

3 BED BUNGALOW, BYPASS RD

Furnished with full a/c, fitted kitchen & ADSL. Very convenient location. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2715785. Email: mnswilson@gmail.com

QUIET AND SAFE SINGLE HOUSE

5km from Laguna. Furnished, UBC, satellite TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. Short- or long-term rent. 16,000 baht a month or 13,000 baht for 1-year lump sum. Contact telephone: 087-4172757 (English), or 086-6829804 (Thai).

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

homes, 93sqm each, pool, garden, parking. Promotion: 15,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

BALI STYLE JUNGLE HOMES



Live in the cooler mountain air at Tewana Village, Chalong. Just minutes to the beach or Central, our jungle setting cottages and great design make for a perfect hideaway. One furnished double bedroom, Bali bathroom, kitchen, living room and terrace costs as little as 16,000 baht per month. Call Tewana Village. Tel: 089-5930986. Email: tewanavillage@gmail.com

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries to Tel: 089-6521473.

NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with phone, UBC, and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

HOUSE FOR RENT

New 2-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.

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: north8west98@yahoo.com

BEACHFRONT HOUSE

for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Contact for specific details. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

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

PALAI GREENHOUSE AND BIG GARDEN

Fully-furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, and garage. Price: 11,000 baht per month. Palai area. Call Tel: 081-892 4311.

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Property Gazette

LUXURY VILLA - LAGUNA

This is a Luxury Villa. Email: alex.eric@ntlworld.com For further information, please contact me and/or see our website at: <http://www.saitaan18.com>

KAMALA VILLAS BEACHFRONT

Fully-furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning seaviews, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardener service. Daily rental: 8,000 baht. Monthly rental: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada, Tel: 084-8436837. Email: info@phuket-island-homes.com. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-island-homes.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 081-6923163.

NICE VIEW HOUSE

Quiet area, 1-2 bedrooms, reasonable price. Please contact for details. Tel: 084-8989274.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished house located in nice and safe area. 24-hour security, swimming pool in the village. Long-term lease only, minimum 6 months to 1 year: 18,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-5399269.

4-STORY HOUSE

Private area, fully furnished, 1 bedroom, big bathroom. hot water, ADSL, cable TV, and aircon. 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-6862467, 081-7972884.

HOUSE NEAR CENTRAL FESTIVAL



65 sq. wah, 1.5km from Central Festival, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, fully-furnished, garden, sprinkler, well, and pump. Contact Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

MODERN APARTMENT WITH INTERNET

2 room apartment off Nanai Rd, 40sqm, fully-furnished. Includes TV, large fridge, hot water, fans, aircon and kitchenette. 9,500 baht per month for long term. Optional ADSL internet available. Tel: 087-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

BUILDING FOR RENT URGENT

5 min from Lotus. 3 stories, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon, telephone. Long-term rental. Contact Bee. Tel: 081-8951581.

RAWAI SEAVIEW APARTMENT

New deluxe furnished studio. Kitchen, cable, DVD, great view. Long-term rental 6,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-0571420.

RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, ADSL, UBC, aircon. 4,500 baht per month. Contact Khun Noki. Tel: 086-6865567.

HOUSE IN 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.

BUNGALOW FOR RENT 400 BAHT/NIGHT



4 new bungalow units for rent. Fully-furnished, cable TV, etc. Weekly or long term. Contact Tel: 081-6913029, 089-7286242. Email: purimas_re@yahoo.com

KARON STUDIO APARTMENTS

New, luxury rooms. Good prices and 5 mins to Karon Beach. ADSL. Five room styles. Daily: from 550 baht. Monthly: 9,000 baht. Tel: 076-398436-7, 086-5945121, 089-7247148. Fax: 076-398436-7. www.karonstudio.com

NICE PATONG CONDO

Fully-furnished, parking, TV, aircon and pool. 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

HOLIDAY VILLAS

Near Rawai Beach. Beautiful 2 bedroom villas with private or shared pools. 2kms from Naiharn Beach. Available all year. Special price from 10,500 baht per week for Oct only. Tel: 081-9701716. www.coconutparadise.co.uk

BUNGALOW IN KARON

Aircon, cable TV, fully-furnished and 500m from beach. Contact Kip. Tel: 081-1965212.

VERY NICE 4 BED HOUSE W/ POOL

Nice 4-bedroom house with private garden, large swimming pool, sala and Jacuzzi. Tel: 076-378361, 081-6764849, 081-7722300. Email: info@etwood.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN RAWAI



Fully-furnished, 1 bedroom, fan, cable, 29" TV, hot water, oven, store-room, washing machine, kitchen utensils, and fenced yard. In nice and safe area. Call Tok. Tel: 087-2668728.

3-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Fully furnished luxury villa in small compound. 5 mins to Boat Lagoon & BIS. 70,000 baht. Includes pool and garden maintenance, water, cable TV & Internet. Tel: 085-4737847. Email: business@worrall.info

AMAZING SEAVIEWS

New large luxury house on the coast with 5-star views. 3-4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, and garden. Only 10 mins from BIS. Very private in top area, no dogs. 80,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2796283.

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.

MISSION HEIGHTS

Luxury 4-bedroom house for rent. Large swimming pool, garden service included. Long or short term. 60,000 baht per month. Call Khun So. Tel: 081-344 4473.

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

SECLUDED VILLA RENTAL

One of only three European standard villas near Rawai beach sharing a beautiful pool and tropical garden. Fully furnished, aircon, UBC, TV, telephone, ADSL. 25,000 baht per month. Minimum 6 months. Tel: 087-2810452, 085-473-3607.

HOUSE AT KATHU

10 mins to Patong. 1.5 stories, 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, and fully furnished. Tel: 089-6459527.

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent in Land & Houses. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, TV, UBC. Tel: 081-9560241, 089-4740645.

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.

HOUSE FOR RENT



on Soi Ruam Nanachart, Saiyuan, in 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.

LONG TERM RENT ONLY

2-bedroom furnished house with UBC in quiet central Patong. No pets, smokers or children. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6932759. Email: wunhung@gmail.com

2 BIG HOMES WITH POOL

Special price for 6-month lease: 20,000 baht, 30,000 baht. Near Laguna spa. Cable TV, quality furniture. Luxury living. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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.

CONDO FOR RENT

in Rawai area. Renovated, aircon, cable TV. 400 baht per day. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-1899868.

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Boats & Marine

FERRY FOR SALE

Length: 30m. Gross: 322 tons. Seats 244 passengers. 12.2 million baht. Docked in Phuket. Tel: 081-4084991.

BENETEAU FIRST 40.7

This is a true paragon of elegance from the Farr design team. A rare opportunity to obtain a near new 40.7-racer/cruiser from Beneteau. Contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

SPEED BOAT FOR SALE



100% fiberglass. Length: 7.5m. Beam: 1.8m. Engine: Yamaha 85hp. Please contact me for more information. Tel: 081-8947565. Email: info@seacano.net

17.5-METER DIVING BOAT



For sale or charter, width 4.5m. Diesel engine, 320hp generator at 20kW. 30 person capacity. Great buy. Price: 890,000 baht. Call Tel: 081-9680571.

FISHING COMPETITION

Due to a late cancellation our boat DORADO is available for charter for the annual fishing competition, Nov 15-17. Tel: 086-1247528. Email: phuketdorado@hotmail.com www.phuket-fishing.com

MORGAN 38'

For sale. Newly renovated 38-foot Morgan yacht from 84. Very beautiful and well maintained, first to see will buy. Price 65,000. Tel: 089-5208503. Email: nips63@yahoo.com

POWER DINGHY

4.7m with 120hp inboard jet and trailer. Only 400,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7370557. Email: Dive_Block@web.de

SUNSEEKER 47 PORTIFINO

This is an opportunity to own one of the best looking sport boats in SEA, a near-new 47-foot Portofino with Thai registration. This alluring beauty has a full-options package, including a convertible hardtop and a hydraulic swim platform. Well below replacement cost. Free delivery within Thailand. Contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

22M SCHOONER

motor sailer "PHINNISI" Thinking of lazy days sailing around tropical islands, this is your chance to do just that with plenty of room to relax below or above the decks. Tel: 076-239768.

SPEED BOAT



for sale. Import 100% fiberglass. Length: 4.5m, beam: 1.9m. Engine : Yamaha 85hp. Tel: 081-8947565. Email: info@seacano.net

DIVING/FISHING

speed boat steppa 37 with fly bridge, sun deck and customer cabin, onboard toilette, Thai registration for 22 Pax. 2x200hp Yamaha engines' top speed: 30 knots. 1,300,000 baht. Tel: 081-8945061. Email: pointner@edendivers.com

SEA RAY 630

Hardtop. This sleek lined, hardtop is ready to please the most discerning of buyers. High speed and comfort. Highly recommended for viewing. Contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

"TEMPO"



Symbol 57. If you are after comfort at affordable value, this is for you. The current owner has just carried out an extensive refurbishment including a complete mechanical overhaul, refitting most of the internal fittings and furnishings, new teak decking and external paintwork. A spacious yacht with live aboard and sports fishing potential. We have been instructed to present all offers. Don't wait, with these conditions it will sell quick. Contact: Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.



PRE OWNED BOAT SELECTION



Hanse 315

10 months old, Thai registered commercial license and still under warranty. Sale and Charter management available from May 2008.

Price at 79,000,- EURO



Steel Hull Sailing Vessel

Great opportunity. This steel boat is very strongly built and in pristine condition after her actual owner made all necessary safety and cosmetic improvement. Belgium flag.

Reduced Price at 80,000,- EURO



Warrior 38

Perfect live aboard or cruising boat.

Reduced Price at 120,000,- USD



Roberts 58'

Steel boat by Roberts, steel hull and could suit long passage making. German flag.

Price at 165,000,- USD

Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office

Tel: 076 239111

E-mail: broker@asia-marine.net

www.asia-marine.net



SIMPSON MARINE (SEA) LIMITED
Phuket Boat Lagoon 22222, No. 2 Thapae Road, Boat Quay, Phuket 83000, Thailand
T: 081 73 239768 F: 081 73 239767 E: phuket@simpsonmarine.com www.simpsonmarine.com

THAILANDS LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP



LEE MARINE International Marine Brokerage



Prestige 42 Flybridge

Available Exclusively through Lee Marine

Lagoon 44 Power

- Twin Yanmar 315 HP
- Air conditioning
- 12 Kw genset
- Dingy and Out Board

- Excellent electronic package
- Flat screen TV
- Private ensuite
- 2 sun decks

\$740,000 USD

Celestial 49



\$198,000 USD

Nosy De 36



\$170,000 USD

Luhrs 32



\$165,000 SGD

Ferretti 550



1,200,000 Euro

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 233 310
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 720
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 881 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
email: yacht@leemarine.com

Pataya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 0817879408
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 002
Email: mark@leemarine.com

Dedicated Service Department

WWW.LEEMARINE.COM

Island Job Mart



extend your life outdoors...
yes we can!

CAO operators...

Set free the DESIGNER in you!

If you dream of creating beauty and function by molding fabrics into bold, eye-catching architectural forms, or transforming the mundane into the unique, we have an exciting career planned for you right here in Phuket. Come chat with us Tel: 084-1845162 or info@shades.co.th

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
- Strong written and spoken English-language skills

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.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

BUNGALOW RESORT ALL POSITIONS

- * Receptionist
- * Chef
- * Waiter/ waitress
- * Cashier
- * Beach boy / life guard
- * Trainees and more...

Looking for Thai Nationals with good command of English. You should be motivated and service minded. Please send your resume, expected salary and recent photo to email as above. Tel: 076-324260, 087-2681925. Email: pia@phuket-bangtaolagoon.com

TELEMARKETING EXECUTIVE

We have a number of opportunities to work in an expanding company in South-east Asia. Are you money orientated, goal driven, have confident & polite telephone manners? Interested in working abroad? If so, apply now by sending your CV to email: ronsmith99@gmail.com Native-English speaker only. Flights and accommodations will be paid for. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-7731327. Email: ronsmith99@gmail.com



HMS Asia Pacific, Phuket's leading Hotel Management company is opening what will be Patong's most unique and exciting 4 star Boutique Hotel. We are looking for fun, energetic and serviced focused people to join us. If you want to be part of a great team that "Delivers Beyond Expectation" we want to hear from you.

The following opportunities are available to Thai nationals:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Front office GSM (Urgent) | GSA's |
| Reservation Manager | Housekeeping Supervisor (Urgent) |
| Room attendants | Restaurant Manager (Urgent) |
| Restaurant Supervisors | Waiters |
| Exec Chef | Sous Chef |
| Chef de Partie's | Commis' |
| Chief Steward | Stewards |
| Accounts Payable | Accounts Receivable |
| Engineer Supervisor | Sales Manager |
| Secretary to GM | |

All applicants should be able to communicate in English, have an outgoing personality, be customer focused, have passion, creativity and energy and be prepared to work as a part of a great team. Applicants should email their current resume with recent photograph and expected salary to donna@hmsap.com or post them to:

Human Resources, HMS Asia Pacific
133/15 Paradise Complex Rot-U-Thit 200 Pli Road,
Patong, Phuket, 83150

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
- Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- 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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai,
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

WEB DESIGNER/ DEVELOPER

Looking for Thai nationals with skills in one or more of the following: Web design, Photoshop, Flash, CSS, HTML, PHP, SEO. Tel: 084-8522006. Email: karl@imagevux.com Please visit: www.imagevux.com

RECEPTIONIST & MESSENGER

Must be able to speak, write English well. Messenger must have own motorbike. Email: ops@theestategroup.com

PHUKET TOWN NEEDS

English-speaking staff, full- and part-time available, good salary given. Please contact for more details at Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

COOK NEEDED

Cook urgently needed. Female only. Tel: 076-286061 or 081-8914019 or send email to: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com



The BayCliff, Patong is a subsidiary company of one of the leaders in Luxury resorts and real estate development located in Pattaya, Hua Hin, Rayong, Phang-nga, Phuket, and beyond.

We would like to invite a suitable qualified and experienced individual to join our dedicated team of sales and marketing at our Patong office.

Expectations and Qualifications:

- * Ability to work and think both independently and as part of high performance team.
- * Excellence in English communication computer literacy, and selling skills.
- * Dedicated to performance excellence.
- * Customer oriented.

1. Administrative Assistant

Age 25-35 years old, Thai Nationality
Outgoing personality and inquisitive mind
Fast and accurate typing and transcription skills
Prior administrative/ secretarial experience an advantage

2. Sales Manager

Age 30-45 years old, Expatriate or Thai
At least 3 years of sales experience in real estate or hotels
Strong in sales, negotiation, communication and training skills
Creation and co-ordination of marketing programs

3. Sales Executive

Effectively sell residential units according to the company objective and standard

Please apply in person or send or send your Curriculum Vitae or Resume with recent photograph to The BayCliff Patong 39/12 Prabaramee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150 or email to bhumawat@yahoo.com
Tel: 086-8617582, Website: www.thebaycliff.com



New Andaman Private Charter Co., Ltd.
www.luxuryyachtsthailand.com

We seek a female hostess

on board one of the most luxurious charter yachts in Phuket. Candidate must have relevant experience with references in hostessing, chartering, catering, and knowledge of the surrounding area and Islands. Thai nationals only. English skills required.

(Email CV and Photo to jeremythai69@gmail.com)
Tel: 085-4727764

102-95 Moo 5 Chaloemphrakiat Rama 9 Rd., Tambon Ratsada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel/ Fax: 076-526130.
Website: www.luxuryyachtsthailand.com
Email: info@luxuryyachtsthailand.com

SIMPSON MARINE

Asia's leading yacht brokers and new yacht-sales company require the services of a professional receptionist. Candidate must be young, dynamic and outgoing with a service-oriented mind. High proficiency in English and computer skills are a must. Interested candidates please send resume and photo to email: phuket@simpsonmarine.com

MANAGER REQUIRED

for new nightclub in Patong. Must have previous experience. Must also be self-motivated and enthusiastic with an outgoing personality. Must also have good English skills. Staff management and motivation are essential. Open to Thai nationals only. Excellent opportunity for the right person. Tel: 085-4737781. Or email to: comfortablynub_18@hotmail.com

Looking for a job?

Still haven't found the perfect candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

NEW OPENING!!!

We are looking for motivated individuals with a passion for people and service. Must be fluent in English.

- Receptionist (day & night)
- Restaurant manager and waiters
- Chef, cooks, and stewards (Western food)
- Spa therapist & hostess
- Maids
- Driver

Attractive salary and career opportunities are offered. Tel: 076-279336-7. Email: marcellamocci@yahoo.com Please send your resume via email. Email: to: info@royal-embassy-resort.com

COOL SALES STAFF

Dharma Bum are opening 2 new boutiques. 1 in Cherm Talay and 1 on Surin Beach. We are in a need of motivated sales staff fluent in English and with a genuine interest in fashion. Call Susanne. Tel: 084-8529522.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

We are seeking a sales representative with a good personality and a good command of Chinese or English. We offer great salary. Contact P.J. Tel: 085-4715150.

Sri Panwa PHUKET

Sri Panwa... a young exciting, luxurious estate of hotel and residential Pool villa is looking for vibrant, energetic and most importantly service minded individuals to join our innovative team. If you have what it takes, please contact us at the address below."

Restaurant Manager

- Male or female, Bachelor degree or higher
- 3 years or higher experience in F&B department.
- Excellent communication skill including knowledge of MS Office, e-mail and Internet
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

Executive Chef

- Male or female, Diploma degree or higher
- 2 years or higher experience in F&B Department.
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- Service minded.

Senior GRO/GRO

- Male or female, Bachelor degree or higher.
- 2 years or higher experience in F/O Department.
- Excellent communication skills, service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English

Waiter/Waitress

- Male/Female, Diploma degree or higher
- Experience in F&B department.
- Excellent communication skills, service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charge. Candidates with the above requirement and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to:

Human Resources Sri Panwa
88 Moo8 Sakdidej Road Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-371000, Fax: 076-371011
E-mail: hrm@sripanwa.com, recruitment@sripanwa.com

G4S an international security solutions provider with a long standing trading history in Thailand, and having enjoyed significant growth organically and through acquisition over the past two years, we are now poised to enter the next phase of our exciting and ambitious business plan. In order to support our plans we wish to recruit a number of high calibre Senior Managers for the following positions:

Operations Manager Electronic Security Systems: reporting to the Divisional Manager/Director you will be responsible for the engineering team covering Installation, Service & Maintenance, including Central Monitoring. You will be qualified to degree level in electrical or electronic engineering with a minimum of 5 years hands-on operational management experience, preferably from within the electronic security industry, handling projects from conception to completion. The successful candidate will have a high degree of drive, self-confidence and initiative, leading by example with a quality service approach when dealing with our valued customers.

Sales & Marketing Manager Electronic Security Systems: reporting to the Divisional Manager/Director you will be responsible for the sales & marketing of the company's products and services, ensuring the penetration of target markets. You will be qualified to degree level in business development or marketing with a minimum of 5 years hands-on sales management experience in a related industry. The successful candidate will have autonomy to select and recruit his or her sales team, whilst developing and supporting the existing. In addition will be responsible for ensuring maximum performance by achieving company targets and developing close business relationships with our valued customers. The ability to motivate and coach your sales team is regarded as key to the success of this senior management position, as is the ability to win new business.

For all positions we require excellent communication skills, a high command of both written and oral English, a high level of commercial understanding, a willingness to take responsibility for his or her actions and the desire to understand and add real value to our business. For Both positions are based in Phuket

Whilst we have a preference to employ Thai nationals, we would welcome applications from other nationalities that feel they meet the above criteria and are fluent Thai speakers. The remuneration for the position has been set to attract the best, therefore only applicants that meet all criteria will be selected for interview. Applications in writing only, stating your current and expected remuneration, should be addressed to: Derweduwe Kris, Ess Manager Southern Thailand, 108 / 103 Moo, Chalempakiet Rd. T. Ratsada A. Muang Phuket 8300 or E-Mail: Kris.Derweduwe@th.g4s.com.

LEADER HR HARRISON

Sales Executive (4)

- Experience in Real Estate or Knowledge of Sales Property will be an advantage.
- Computer literacy and fluency in both written and spoken English.

Administrator (2)

- Female, Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or related fields.
- Excellent English and computer skills.
- Pleasant personality and good interpersonal skills.

Senior Sales Executive (1)

- Minimum 2 years experience in Real Estate.
- Excellent English skills, both spoken and written.
- Good interpersonal, negotiation, coordination and communication skills.

Interested candidates, kindly send your resume, current photo with a cover letter stating your expected salary and availability date to Email: oranoot@harrison.co.th, lesly@harrison.co.th or call 076-523 524 or 081-565 4942, 02-6505033-7, Ext 117

Branch Office: 24/34 M.5 Chalempakiet R.9 Rd. T.Rassada A.Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-523524-5, www.harrison.co.th

RAIN HAIL RESTAURANT&LOUNGE

We understand that work and life cannot be separated in our modern day workplace. Rain Hail is a prestigious and socially responsible family of employees which care for our Phuket community and are dedicated to quality and financial success. We are looking for customer-savvy individuals with outgoing personalities and strong social skills in the following positions:

- Host and hostess
- Waiter and waitress
- Bartender/ DJ/ Cook

We offer competitive salary, service charge and other benefits
Tel: 081-9791967. Fax: 076-279338

TICKET AGENT

Albatross Lufthansa City Center is hiring 2 staff with previous ticketing experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Khun Busababy email to: busaba_albatross@yahoo.com

We are a modern and well settled premedia company in downtown Phuket. Our business is high-end image editing for our customers in Europe and the US. To support our management, we are searching for a:

OFFICE MANAGER female

- extraordinary organizing abilities
- fluent in written and spoken English
- open minded personality
- customer orientated
- German language skills would be helpful
- Thai nationality
- accounting background is helpful

We offer a well paid job in a very nice company. Please send your resume to ad@gsl-digital.com or the address below.

GSL
DIGITAL PRODUCTION
www.gsl-digital.com

GSL Digital Production Co., Ltd.
1 Patipat Road, Slaughterhouse Intersection, Taled Nuea, Muang Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: +66(0)76 22 60 84 Fax: +66(0)76 22 33 92

ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON

for small guesthouse in Karon. Take care of reception, staff, tourists, give info, etc. Tel: 086-2718254.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Office assistant to company PA to Managing Director required. Good written and spoken English, plus computer skills. Contact Khun Jak. Tel: 076-263992, 081-968 0094. Fax: 076-263708. Email: siriporn@islandfurniture-phuket.com

NANNY WANTED

We are looking for an English-speaking nanny in Patong. Tel: 084-6470468.

MOM TRI'S BOATHOUSE

Mom Tri's Boathouse, a luxury five star boutique resort located directly on Kata Beach is now looking for additional staff:

- 1. Assistant Manager of F&B**
 - Male 21 - 27 years
 - Minimum 2 to 4 years experience
 - Excellent command of English
- 2. Receptionist**
 - Male or female 24 - 30 years
 - Minimum 2 years experience
 - Vocational or higher in related fields
 - Good command of English
 - Good Fidelio knowledge
 - Good computer knowledge
- 3. Housekeeping Coordinator**
 - Female 24 - 30 years
 - Minimum 2 years of experience
 - Vocational or higher in related fields
 - Good command of English
 - Good computer skills
- 4. IT Officer**
 - Male 24 - 30 years
 - Minimum 2 years experience
 - Vocational or higher in related fields
- 5. Waiter**
 - Male 21 - 27 years
 - Minimum 2 years experience
 - Good command of English
- 6. Busboy (2 positions)**
 - Male 21 - 27 years
 - Good command of English
- 7. Steward**
 - Male 21 - 25 years
 - Basic command of English

Qualified candidates are invited to apply in writing in ENGLISH language

**HR Department
Mom Tri's Boathouse
Kata Beach - Phuket 83100**

**Tel: 076 330 015 Fax 076 330 561
E-mail: sales@boathousephuket.com**

Island Job Mart



Do you Want 10,000 Baht GUARANTEED Service Charge?

Six Senses Erawan Destination Spa in Phuket is now offering great benefits to bright stars joining our dynamic

Management and Supervisory Positions

Finance

- Purchasing MGR
- Cost Controller

Front Office

- Front Office MGR

F&B

- Beverage MGR

Kitchen

- Sous Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Snr Chef de Partie
- Pastry Chef

Housekeeping

- Asst. Executive Housekeeper

Engineering

- Asst. Chief
- Engineering
- Duty Supervisor
- MC/Plumber Supervisor
- D&B Supervisor

SPA

- Nurses

HR

- Training MGR

Fitness

- Fitness MGR

Laundry

- Laundry MGR
- Laundry Supervisor

Host Positions

Housekeeping Pax

- Seamstress 1
- Housekeeping 2
- Clerk 1
- Linen Attendant 1

Kitchen Pax

- Butcher/Fish Manger 1
- Commis 1 4
- Commis 2 3
- Bakers/Cooks 2
- Steward 4

Engineering Pax

- Kitchen/Laundry Technician 1
- A/C Technician 1
- Buggy Technician 1
- Painter/can fix it 1

F&B Pax

- Hostess 2
- Bar Tender 3
- Waiter 2

Gardening Pax

- Gardener 15
- Vegetable & Herb Gardener 1

Fitness Pax

- Fitness Attendant 5
- Personal Trainer 1
- Pool & Gym Attendant 2

HR Pax

- Boat Driver 2

All positions offer highly competitive salaries, a five-day working week, provident fund, housing, incentives, bonuses and meals. Please apply in writing with CV and photograph to: hrco-phuket@sixsensesdestinationspas.com

British International School, Phuket.

Teaching Vacancies for Korean Teacher

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months - 18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region.

Position: Korean Teacher (part-time) required at the British International School, Phuket, Thailand. The teacher appointed would teach IB Korean A1, IGCSE (Cambridge University) Korean First Language and a variety of other courses

Commencement: immediate

Contract length: one year (with the possibility of renewal)

Qualifications: degree, teaching certificate and relevant experience with students aged 11-18

Please e-mail a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees to: Headmaster@bcis.ac.th

The closing date for applications is Friday, 19th October 2007.

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BIS, Phuket)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand

Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992



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:
Sports Engineering And Recreation Asia Ltd.
cj@searaspports.com. Tel: 076 355-040, Fax: 076 355-039

PCS SERVICE MANAGER

Property Care Services require a service manager for its rapidly expanding Koh Samui operation. Preferred applicants are aged over 27 years, possess a degree in business-related field and have very good English skills. Own vehicle required. Great salary package available. Tel: 076-376557, 081-9586879. Fax: 076-376560. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

SALES ASSISTANT

Elite Yachting, with offices in the Boat Lagoon and Yacht Haven, is looking for a Thai national to assist our charter sales team in daily communication with our customers. Good English language and computer skills are a must. Candidate should have car drivers license and like to work in a dynamic, open-minded team. Tel: 076-273476, 081-978 6086. Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Qualified female nursery school teacher needed for a new nursery school in Chalong. Tel: 076-381523, 081-894 9600, email your CV to Info@smiley-kidz.com.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Bachelor degree in Accounting. Knowledge of taxation reporting. A/P-A/R ledger. Please contact for more details at Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: suporn@asia-marine.net

STAFF FOR MASSAGE

New shop in good location, in Karon, is looking for new staff. Please contact for more additional information at Tel: 087-2663767.

SALES PERSON WANTED

An experienced sales person is required for retail and wholesale icecream company based in Jungceylon. Salary and commission, immediate start. Contact Bay Blue Co Ltd, Tel: 086-9519406.

ADMINISTRATOR

with good English skills, age 18-25, single and must have driver's license. Also, teacher for children. Please contact for additional information Tel: 076-239209, 084-1885828.

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Black Forest
Distribution Co., Ltd. is looking for:

Accountant, male or female,
Thai Nationality
Responsibilities: A/R control,
Sales Reports, Balances
Salary: Starts from 15,000 THB

Black Forest Distribution Co. Ltd.
PHUKET
204/42 Rat-u-thit Road, Patong Beach, Phuket 83140
076 - 344 705

ROYAL LANTA
RESORT & SPA

Royal Lanta Resort & Spa is tucked away on Koh Lanta Yai island overlooking Klong Dao beach with a total of 48 traditional Thai bungalows surrounded by a lush tropical forest. The resort offers guests all the modern comforts, a selection of excellent restaurants, a variety of water activities, and a spectacular sunset every evening.

We are seeking enthusiastic applicants for the following positions:

- Housekeeping Manager
- Human Resource Officer
- Spa Therapist (3 positions)
- Waiter / Waitress (9 positions)
- Bartender (1 position)
- Cook Helper - Thai & European (2 positions)
- Laundry Attendant (1 position)
- Room Attendant (2 positions)
- Security Guard (2 positions)

Applicants should have: Diploma or experience in similar position, good command of English, service minded, a team player & have a pleasant personality.

Please email your resume with recent photograph to resortmgr@royallanta.com or apply in person:

Koh Lanta Walk in interview:
October 1st - 20th, Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm

Bangkok Walk in interview:
October 19th from 10am to 4pm at Hotel Manhattan Sukhumvit Soi 15, Bangkok.

Royal Lanta Resort & Spa
222 Moo 3, Klong Dao beach, Saladan, Koh Lanta, Krabi 81150
Tel: 075 684361 & Fax: 075 684362, www.royallantaresort.com

LIVE-IN MAID
Couple (2 adults) need a maid as soon as possible for long term at private luxury house in Kamala. Duties: cooking, cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping. We offer: live-in private room with private bathroom. 10,000 baht salary for first and second month. Then 12,500 baht for good work. Want Thai female, age 24 to 38. More than 1 year of experience in a hotel is a must. Basic English required. Tel: 086-1727974. Email: rene.koller@bluewin.ch For further details, please see our website at <http://www.romsai.ch> or email: surat.rattana@romsai.ch

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
Vibrant Thai company with Australian expertise wants your energy, ideas and enthusiasm. Come and talk to us for more information. Tel: 084-1845162. Please visit our website: <http://www.shades.co.th>

Employment Wanted

MASTER MARINER AND LAWYER
Dual qualified British National residing in Phuket seeks opportunities to apply his experience in a maritime or legal or other professional capacity. Email: mainelaw@mac.com


ENGLISH TEACHER AVAILABLE
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