

Phuket Gazette

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Chalong appointed new police chief

By Semacote Suganya

CHALONG: Following the recent spate of muggings and robberies that have marred the south of the island, former Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Col Samarn Chainarong took up the post of Superintendent at Chalong Police Station on November 9.

The move, which saw former Chalong Police Superintendent Col Chalit Kaewyarat transferred to Takuapa District Police Station in Phang Nga, came as part of an annual reshuffle ordered by Royal Thai Police Headquarters in Bangkok. Col Samarn's jurisdiction covers Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn and Kata-Karon.

A number of recent crimes in Phuket, including the burglary of Don's Mall in Rawai November 2, have been linked to the shortage of police officers covering the large area that falls under Chalong Police's control.

Phuket Provincial Police Superintendent Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch has continued to request more officers and a new police district at Kata-Karon.

Col Samarn, who in 2004 served as deputy superintendent of Phuket Town Police Station, said that in order to boost security he has ordered an increased number of police patrols throughout his jurisdiction.

A number of checkpoints have also been set up, he added.

Col Samarn Chainarong announced that Chalong Police officers on November 8 had arrested two of four people involved in a series of robberies, recovering 67 stolen items.

Col Samarn said in a press release that Chalong Police had been monitoring the gang and



New Thais

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit (center) cuts the ribbon to officially launch Phuket's Mobile Registration Service Van at Banthai Beach Resort & Spa November 13.

The goal of the project is to register as many as possible of the estimated 300,000 migrant Thai workers in Phuket as official residents of the province. With only about half of the Thais living in the province currently registered, Phuket loses out on annual budget allotments based on population.

Meanwhile, Chalong's Police's new Superintendant Col Samarn Chainarong (pictured, inset) will be hoping that the increased number of registrants will lead to the appointment of the extra officers the island desperately needs.

pulled over Kaewjai Sooksabai, 35, as she was driving along Narisorn Rd in Phuket City. In her car, police found a stolen notebook computer and wireless Internet aircard, he said.

Kaewjai, who works as a parking attendant, was arrested and taken to Chalong Police Station. Police then swooped on known-accomplice Cherdchai Thunchart, 27, at his home at an undisclosed address.

Cherdchai, originally from Trang province, was arrested and at his home police recovered 66

stolen items, including cellphones, cameras, amulets and notebook computers, said Col Samarn.

Kaewjai and Cherdchai have been charged with robbery and are being held at Chalong Police Station.

Col Samarn named two accomplices to the robberies: Prasert Nasorn and Piya Thunchart.

"Kaewjai sold the stolen items around the island. The other three drove around at night, looking for empty houses to rob," he said.

Patong porn director caught red-handed

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PATONG: A Kathu Police investigations unit arrested an Indonesian adult-film producer in his hotel room November 8 after he was caught conducting a photo shoot with a Thai ladyboy.

Pol Sub Lt Nitikorn Rawang, duty officer of Kathu Police Station, said the bust took place at 4:20 am.

After receiving a tip-off that a video shoot was taking place in room 314 of the Sup Inn on Soi Patong Resort, police entered the room to find it had been converted into a makeshift studio.

Police arrested Indonesian Farisa Riyadi, 35, and took 32-year-old Thai ladyboy Phinit "Nong Ning" Lakharn, 32, for questioning at Kathu Police headquarters.

Nong Ning, from Yasothorn, who has undergone complete gender "re-assignment" surgery, told police that she agreed to pose for the Indonesian in return for 1,000 baht cash.

Mr Riyadi offered the same payment package to other ladyboys in the Bangla area. Many also had sex with other models for 3,000 baht, she said.

The models had to sign consent forms and all were aware that the images were intended for global distribution, she added.

Evidence seized in the raid included sexual stimulation items, a video camera, a laptop computer with Internet access and VCD packaging sleeves.

The suspect was sent to Phuket Provincial Court and released after paying a fine, Pol Sub Lt Nitikorn said. He was unable to remember the amount of the fine.

Nong Ning was released without charge.

Global pub crawl to tour Phuket

PHUKET: Fun-seeking Australians will be quenching their thirst on the island next year as part of the first Round-the-World Pub Crawl organized by Australian tour company Thirsty Swagman.

The group of 25 drinking travelers will enjoy a month-long party, traveling "Around the World in 60 Pubs", starting from London on March 24, 2008.

They will be draining the kegs in more than 60 pubs and bars across four continents over 25 days in 11 worldwide destinations, including Munich, Prague, Reykjavik, Dusseldorf, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, Honolulu and Cancun.

Phuket was the only Thailand crawl-stop selected by the group due to its "reputation for nightlife and choice of pubs and bars with live music", said Karen Logan, Media and Online Manager at Thirsty Swagman.

The globe-trotting pub crawlers pay AUS\$11,900 for what Thirsty Swagman founder Kenneth Hart hails as, "the ultimate adventure to the finest nightlife destinations on earth, without any boring sightseeing or early wake-ups".

VIP monk to join meditation session

PHUKET CITY: The next free monthly meditation instruction session will be held at Wang Kung Restaurant behind Suan Luang Park on Sunday, November 18.

This month's teaching monk is Phra Boonchoo Ariyadhammo, who is fluent in English and has been based at the Dhammakaya International Meditation Center in Azusa, California since 2001. He also holds an MBA from Georgia State University and is a PhD candidate at the University of the West in Rosemead, California.

Admission is free and all are welcome to join the 90-minute sessions. For details call 081-979-3669 or 081-3704005.

Elite Calendar girls coming to Phuket

PHUKET: Twelve top international models are in Phuket to shoot the Phuket Calendar 2008 in a bid to raise the island's image as an exotic holiday destination.

The calendar, to be produced at a cost of 5 million baht by Elite Model Management South East Asia, will feature 12 sexy models in swimsuits, batik and casual wear at a variety of locations around the island, including Heroines' Monument in Thalang, Phuket FantaSea, Jungceylon, Patong Beach, Koh Racha, Rawai Beach and Laem Promthep.

Woranoot Kunopakanphun, manager of Elite Model Management South East Asia, told the *Gazette* that the theme of the calendar will be "Paradise in Phuket", with the *Phuket Gazette* as local media sponsor.

A production team of about 30 people, including the models themselves, began the five-day series of shoots on November 14. A small team from Elite Model Management arrived beforehand to find suitable locations.

The initial run of the calendar, to be distributed free to the public and government offices, will be 10,000 copies. Project co-sponsors, however, are expected to order copies for their own distribution, said K. Woranoot.



HOT DATE: The front cover of Elite's calendar last year, which was shot on location in Pattaya. This year, the girls are coming to Phuket.

Phuket prepares for national elections

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Crowds of supporters turned out to cheer Phuket's national political party representatives as they registered their candidacies and drew lots to be assigned their ballot numbers at Phuket Community Hall on November 12.

Eight candidates representing four of the five political parties running in the December 23 national election turned out on the first day of registration.

Registration closed November 16.

The five parties competing in this year's general election are: The Democrat Party, the Thai Nation Party, Palang Prachachon, Ruamjai Thai Chart Pattana Party and Puea Pandin Party.

Each of the five parties is represented by two candidates in Phuket.

Phuket Representatives for the Democrat Party are Tossaporn Thepabutr and Rewat Aree-rob, who drew number 1 and 2 ballot numbers, respectively.

Sgt Sorranun Sane and Somchart Somnam, Phuket Rep-



Supporters turned out in droves to cheer their candidates as they registered for the December 23 national election.

representatives for the Thai Nation Party, drew ballot numbers 3 and 4 respectively.

Phuket Representatives for the Palang Prachachon, the second to draw lots on the day, are former Thai Rak Thai representatives Dr Sriyada Shinawatra and Wisut Santikul. They drew ballot number 5 and 6, respectively.

Phuket Representatives for the Ruamjai Thai Chart Pattana Party are Chawit Tungku and Chaipitak Apichitsitthikul, who drew ballot numbers 7 and 8 respectively.

Puea Pandin Party representatives were set to register their candidacy and draw lots for their ballot numbers on November 15.

Gambling tops October crime statistics

PHUKET: Gambling topped the latest crime statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police, with 197 arrests in October.

In second place, 94 people were arrested for drug-related cases, of which 64 involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine) with a total of 7,128 pills seized.

Seventeen people were arrested for the use of cannabis, with 4346.74 grams (4.3 kilograms) confiscated.

There were three arrests for inhalant abuse and six for possession of *krathom* (an indigenous Thai plant that acts as a mild stimulant) with 499 leaves seized.

Nine people were arrested for possession of an "inhalant" with nine bags of contraband seized, while two people were arrested for possession of "ice" (crystal methamphetamine) with four small bags seized.

There were 88 cases of theft reported, seven involving motorcycles, with arrests made in 57 of the cases.

Four attempted murders were reported in October, with three cases "solved". Twelve arrests were made from 20 reports of assault.

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IN DUE PROCESS

It's high season again, and the Immigration Hall at Phuket International Airport is jammed with tourists waiting to be processed so they can begin their holidays.

Local Health Office issues cholera advisory

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) is advising the public to exercise caution regarding food cleanliness following a surge in the number of cholera cases nationwide.

PPHO Chief Dr Wanchai Sattayawutthipong said Phuket is among 40 provinces with reported cases of cholera. "There have been 62 reported cases of the disease in Phuket, but the situation is under control and less widespread than in other provinces, such as Ranong, where more than 200 cases of cholera have been reported," he said.

Cholera is caused by a bacteria, which can enter the body through contaminated food or water.

"The bacteria that causes cholera was found in raw cockles being consumed in Kon Kaen but cockles from Phuket have turned up negative in recent lab tests," Dr Wanchai said.

He advised that the best way to avoid contracting cholera was to avoid raw meats and unhygienically prepared food, especially seafood such as shrimp, and food that had been left a long time.

Tour agent found stabbed, throat slashed

KATHU: Tung Tong Police are investigating the death of Sommai Chumee, 37, a travel agency representative found with his throat slashed in his home at the Ira-wadee Ketho residential development on November 9.

Tung Tong Police Inspector Lt Col Kittipong Klaikaew confirmed reports that the victim had been stabbed repeatedly in the neck but had sustained no other injuries.

He said the murder was probably carried out in the early hours of Friday.

Restaurant worker and friend Attiket Chanwongsepaisal found K. Sommai, originally from Phatthalung province, lying face up and naked on his bed about 1 pm, Col Kittipong confirmed.

Initial investigations revealed that the victim had been working as a representative for

two local tour agencies, he said.

Col Kittipong denied reports that the victim had been robbed of 800,000 baht in cash, including pounds sterling, and other valuables including a laptop computer.

None of the people police have questioned reported that K. Sommai had that much cash, he said.

However, Col Kittipong added that one Caucasian friend of the deceased said that he had lost a few tens of thousands of baht that had given to K. Sommai for safe keeping.

Police are investigating a wide range of motives for the murder, including jealousy and a possible business dispute.

Police have not ruled out that the killing may have been the result of a break-in and robbery attempt.

Col Kittipong declined to

B5m of fake goods seized in Patong

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET CITY: Thai Regional Customs Bureau 4 and the Phuket Customs Office held a press conference November 9 at Phuket Customs House to announce the seizure of counterfeit goods worth 5 million baht from a wholesaler in Patong.

After being arrested and confessing to trading in counterfeit goods, the wholesaler was released November 9 without charge.

Regional Customs Bureau 4 Director Rakop Srisuppa-at and Phuket Customs chief Jakson Kitarmorn showed the media the goods, which comprised 4,326 purses, handbags and pieces of luggage together with more than 10,000 items of clothing bearing the names and logos of well-known brand names, including Billabong and Polo.

The media was told the counterfeit goods robbed the government of tax revenue and tarnished the nation's image and would soon be destroyed.

The press conference followed the arrest of Manote Srirat at 207 Soi Patong Beachlord, off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong, on the morning of November 8.

K. Manote was not at the press conference. His case would be turned over to police for



GOING SOMEWHERE? A wide variety of luggage, shoulder bags and wallets were among counterfeit goods valued at 5 million baht seized by Customs on the morning of November 8 in Patong, the center of Phuket's brisk trade in knockoff goods.

processing, the press conference was told.

"This case serves to remind those who want to trade in illegal goods in Phuket that they will be arrested," said K. Rakop.

"Manote confessed that he bought the merchandise from a trader with the intent to supply retailers. Phuket Customs will continue to investigate and track down two retailers alleged to have sold goods bought from him," he said.

K. Manote was released on November 9. He will face no further criminal prosecution, said K.

Jaksorn.

The 5-million-baht price tag was Customs' estimated wholesale value. The total retail value would be far higher, K. Jaksorn noted.

The haul was the biggest seizure of counterfeit goods by Phuket Customs in 10 years. Although counterfeit, the goods were of a very high quality, he said.

However, Customs has to take into account Phuket's image when deciding to conduct raids on small retailers operating in areas popular with tourists, he said.

Case closed on Korean's death

PHUKET CITY: The police investigation into the death of Korean tour guide Kim Kyoung Hoon, 39, who fell to his death from the rooftop of The Metropole hotel in downtown Phuket City on November 2, has concluded that Mr Kim's death was the result of suicide.

Phuket City Police Capt Krerkrit Ritnuang told the *Gazette* that Korean embassy officials initially suspected that Mr Kim's death may not have been suicide but the investigation has revealed no evidence to conclude that he was murdered.

"The case has been closed and our findings will be sent to the Public Prosecutor and the Phuket Governor," Capt Krerkrit added.

— Natcha Yuttaworawit

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Tourists accuse Patong

On October 21, an Internet user started a thread entitled "Hotel in Phuket simply a trap for tourists!" on the Phuket forum of the ThaiVisa.com website.

The user accused staff of the Sea Sun Sand Resort in Patong of robbing himself and other guests of cash stored in their room safes and covering it up by erasing segments of CCTV surveillance tapes.

The issue sparked some 91 blogposts. Here, *Gazette* staff report on the official reaction to some of the accusations.

Holidaymakers on the record



From Jan and Warren Corley (pictured) and Gary and Jenny Ellix

After a 12-day trip to Phuket in October, I wanted to advise you of our experience at our hotel the Sea Sun Sand in Patong.

After talking to surrounding restaurant and shop workers it seems to be common knowledge to the locals. We had been staying at the hotel nearly a week and had been using the safe in the room for our money, which was in cash.

Our friends had their money in \$1,000 lots and when going to the safe they noticed one of the piles did not have an elastic band around it, so they checked their money.

There was \$200 missing out of two of the piles and \$100 miss-

ing out of the other one. We checked our safe to discover \$350 missing.

We then told our Swiss neighbors and some other people sitting by the pool what had happened and went up to report the theft to the reception.

On our arrival there were two other guests reporting the theft of American dollars out of their two rooms. The reception staff told us that no one could get into the safes and that we were wrong.

Repeated requests to talk to a manager or the owner either in person or on the phone were met with repeated denials. We were basically told to shut up and go back to our rooms.

While at reception, another couple came up to report the theft of money out of the safe. After discussions, the less naive of the victims decided not to waste any more time of their holiday seeking out the police and went back to their rooms.

At the Tourist Police office, there was a note on the door saying they weren't available. It was Friday and they were closed on the weekend, so we went to the local police...

They weren't particularly interested until the two Swiss men came in to report the theft of francs out of both of their rooms.

The policeman admitted that

they have had a lot of problems with this hotel, but had not been able to do much about it because the staff were not very helpful. They would send a detective around to the hotel, he said.

After waiting five hours, the detective came, talked and joked with staff, at one point even caressing the reception man's elbow.

He then told us that they were not very forthcoming and were calling all of us liars. The detective said he would be back at 2 pm the next day with his captain.

When they eventually came the next day, six of the victims were at the reception and together with the detective. They were shown some video surveillance footage that had a lot of deleted parts.

There was some footage of a cleaner walking into one of the victim's rooms with no cleaning products at all and walking out minutes later with a towel scrunched up in her hand. Surely suspicious, but the staff were all adamant that it was nothing.

They said we were all liars trying to get out of paying our bills, which [in our case] had already paid. The detective then said he would take the girl down for questioning and the police left in their car. The girl, another cleaner and a male from the reception left in another car.

Whether they made it to the police station we don't know, but they came back laughing.

The male from reception just smirked and patted his back pocket.

Again, repeated requests to talk to the manager or owner were met with denials. We were told the owner would be coming from Bangkok after we had all left Thailand and wouldn't come back any earlier and wouldn't talk to us at all.

It appears to be a well-run racket involving most if not all staff and they rely on people not



The Sea Sun Sand Resort as seen from the street.

knowing exactly how much money they have and not noticing the theft of a couple of notes.

Becoming very frustrated by the charade, we bought some drinks and sat in the reception area to warn people not to leave money in their safe and to check if they already had money in it.

This angered the staff. Incredibly, and within minutes, they had police at reception.

After more heated discussions, we were told to pack up our bags and get out or we would be spending the next three days in a Thai jail. After going down on Monday to the tourist police again and finding the same note on the door, we finally said "enough is enough".

We decided that there was no way of stopping them. The only way to help fellow tourists was to use the Internet and spread the word to anyone who would listen. As the victims were Australian, Swiss, German, Japanese and American we figure we

can let quite a few know.

We found it very distressing to be treated like criminals for complaining about being victims.

OFFICIAL REACTIONS

The *Gazette* presented printed copies of the initial blog to several top officials to get their reactions. Phuket Tourist Police chief Pol Maj Bundit Khaosutham said he was unaware of the case.

Concerned, he said he asked the hotel in question to submit a police report of the incident with his office. He then faxed a copy of the one-page statement, written on Sea Sun Sand Resort stationery, to the *Gazette*.

The statement issued by resort General Manager Preecha Nuwongsri listed the first two guests' theft claims as follows: Room A201: US\$100 and 50 euros missing; A202: US\$200 missing.

As the guests were unsat-



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hotel of 'theft racket'



The Sea Sun Sand Resort in Patong has attracted the wrath of disgruntled tourists who claim that a number of items, including large quantities of money, were stolen from their room safes while they were out.

ified with the review of the CCTV tapes, they were told then to file a complaint with the police and request an investigation.

The guests replied by asking: "If we do not file a complaint, would the hotel be prepared to let them check out free of charge?" They were told that was impossible, because the police first have to be called in to see if there was in fact any theft.

They were asked why they would be willing to accept such compensation, when the amount of the theft they reported (if any theft did occur) was more than what was owed to the hotel.

After talking with the first two, the occupants of C104 and C105 soon appeared and reported

\$500 and \$350 [currency not specified] missing from their safes two days earlier.

They then spoke to the guests in rooms C106 and C107, who also claimed to have been robbed of similar amounts.

They all went to report it to the police, since they all knew each other. The guests went out and came back a while later with a copy of the police report, saying the police would return between 4 pm and 6 pm.

But at the specified time period the police did not arrive, so they were asked to wait.

As they were waiting, the guest from room C105 went to talk with other guests, telling them that his money had been stolen.

He was told not to say that, as there was no proof and the hotel's reputation was at stake, the statement ended.

GM Preecha, who was on vacation when the incident took place, later told the *Gazette* that the hotel opened five years ago and had numerous security features, including a single access way and CCTV. The hotel has been a hit with tourists, enjoying 100% occupancy even in the low season, he added.

After talking with his front desk manager who was on duty at the time, he said he thought that perhaps the guests wanted to file a false insurance claim, then became embarrassed and reacted angrily in an attempt to save face

when confronted with the truth.

It is implausible as none of the room maids were on duty at the time of the alleged theft, K. Preecha said.

"Our staff tried to get more detail from the Thai wife of one of the Australian tourists who checked in at 6 pm that night. They thought it would be easier to communicate with her, but she was evasive.

"That night they were drinking whiskey, making a lot of noise and using bad language in the reception area, giving bad information to other tourists.

"We asked them to drink someplace else, but they wouldn't stop. Finally, the police asked them to check out and I think this

caused them to lose face," he said.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak recently told the *Gazette* that Thailand is one of the top countries for insurance fraud, with many tourists reporting thefts to police to acquire the police reports.

They then file a claim with their insurer and receive a free vacation, he said. When the police investigate and request evidence such as receipts, many of the tourists are unable to produce them. Many become aggressive, he added.

Asked about this case, he said the tourists who had come to his station were asked to return to his police station for further questioning, but none had.

A police review of the CCTV footage revealed no evidence whatsoever of damage to or theft of their property, he added.

He promised to raise the subject at the monthly Phuket Provincial Security Committee meeting at the Katina Hotel in Phuket City on October 29.

At that meeting, Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Chartchai Nichothanond confirmed what has superior had already told the *Gazette*, "It is very difficult for the staff to open a guest's safe unless they know the combination.

"We asked the victims to come back to the station for further questioning, but not one of them actually did," he said, noting that the tourists showed signs of annoyance when asked to do so.

"Without further questioning it simply isn't possible to determine whether or not their accusations are true," he said.





 <p style="text-align: center;">Sai Taan Villa, Rental / Resale "By Invitation..." (Bang Tao)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Conveniently located at the entrance of Laguna 5 Star Resort ❑ Villas comprise three bedrooms, with a separate lounge, dining room and spacious kitchen ❑ An option to add a fourth bedroom ❑ Private swimming pool 10 m by 4.5 m ❑ Long & short-term rental is available ❑ Phase 1, 2, 3 - 100% sold out. 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Blue Canyon Country Club, Resale "Lifestyle Living in Stunning Golf/Sea View" (Mai Khao)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Own an apartment in one of the world's most famous & exclusive golf clubs and resorts ❑ Freehold title is available & newly renovated ❑ Located only 10 minutes drive from airport ❑ 3 bedrooms duplex with terrace ❑ Beautiful golf course views with partial sea views ❑ Long and short-term rental is available ❑ Lifetime - golf club membership included ❑ European style kitchen & open bar counter 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Phuket Pavilions Phase II : Valleys Suites "Make Money While Others Sleep" (Layan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 18 2-bedroom suites & 6 penthouses available for purchase after 100% sold out in Phase 1 ❑ A minimum guarantee 7% NETT rental return for first 3 years ❑ With proven track record on the excellent rental income for Phase 1 ❑ All apartments & penthouses with individual swimming pool ❑ No future additional maintenance charge
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Looks like the Andaman Sea has returned some unwanted donations. This pile of trash, waiting for beachgoers at Kamala, arrived just in time for the beginning of high season. It's a good thing the newly-elected *OrBorTor* president of Kamala vowed to clean up the beach during his campaign. It seems he has his work piled up for him.

TRASHING Phuket



Activities to be held to mark International Day for Disabled

PHUKET: International Day for Disabled Persons 2007 will be on November 28, with a range of activities scheduled for Phuket and around the nation.

The Phuket Disabled Persons Association, in association with the Phuket Social Development and Human Security Office, is presenting a day of fun activities for disabled persons at Phuket Community Hall on Palien Rd, Phuket City, from 7 am to 3 pm.

Among the activities are a presentation of gifts, free health checkups, free haircuts and a demonstration showing how disabled people can take part in the national election on December 23.

Any person interested in donating money, food, drinks or other gifts can do so at the Phuket Social Development and Human Security Office at Phuket Provincial Hall on Narisorn Rd before November 27.

For more information call 076-212726 or 076-240414.

Queer News

Friendship ends in deadly debate

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: Political discussions can get a little heated the world over, but in Thailand few provinces are more renowned for fiery political debate than Nakhon Sri Thammarat, where formerly close friendships have been known to fall to pieces over political disagreement.

In the latest case, however, the debate turned fatal.

In the early hours of November 8, Wichan Santiwarakul, 31, a member of Bang Nop Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) was shot multiple times at the funeral of Khim Meenuan, 70, in Village 4 Tambon Bang Bon Hua Sai District around 1 am. He died on route to Hua Sai hospital.

The cause of his murder? Having the temerity to suggest to fellow mourners that People Power Party (PPP) leader Samak Sundaravej wouldn't dare appear in a televised debate alongside Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Witnesses told police that following the funeral rites, guests, including many local politicians, sat down to eat and drink. They also began watching a televised debate among leaders of some of the Kingdom's prominent political parties. Among those taking part was K. Abhisit. Marked by his absence was, K. Samak, self-confessed nominee of ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

After a fair amount of drinking, the guests began to discuss the performance of the various party leaders. Witnesses reported that K. Wichan, a staunch Democrat, began to taunt his friend Thepnimit "Yai Thep" Khongjan, 31. Yai Thep, Chief of Tambon Bang Nop Village 1 and a PPP supporter, was forced to

endure K. Wichan's charges that K. Samak dared not face K. Abhisit in a live TV debate.

Enraged by the slur on the very man charged with keeping the spirit of Thai Rak Thai alive, Yai Thep pulled out his .38 pistol and unleashed a fusillade of fire at K. Wichan, hitting him in the left temple, neck and shoulder.

An eyewitness, who asked not to be named, told reporters, "After the ceremonies were done, the guests, including many village chiefs and *OrBorTor* members watched the party leaders debate about a number of issues on Modernine TV. As it got late and the guests got drunk, they began to discuss politics. K. Wichan, a big fan of K. Abhisit, mocked K. Samak, saying that he didn't dare come and share his opinions with the leaders of all the other parties.

"This riled Thepnimit, who had been drinking heavily and was

already struggling to control himself. Thepnimit went on the attack, defending K. Samak. He then pulled out a pistol and shot K. Wichan repeatedly until he fell off his chair and collapsed on the floor. Thepnimit then ran to his car and sped away," the witness said.

Col Athip Nakhomnee, Investigating Officer at Bang Nop Tambon Police Station, said that K. Wichan and Thepnimit were close friends who had gone to school together and lived in nearby villages. Before the incident they had been chatting and drinking happily together. The problem started when they turned to discuss politics, Col Athip added.

Police contacted Thepnimit's relatives, asking them to persuade the man to give himself up. If Thepnimit does not surrender voluntarily, a manhunt will be launched, police said.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Brass band and choir contests

PHUKET CITY: Brass bands and choirs are invited to compete for cash prizes in contests to be held at the Saphan Hin gymnasium, with the winners putting on free performances on December 4 and 5.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana explained that the objectives of the contests – being organized by Phuket City Municipality, Phuket Rajabhat University, Siam Kolkarn Music School and Big C Phuket – are to pay respect to HM The King, to celebrate his 80th birthday and to support the development of music among youths in Phuket and nearby provinces.

There are three categories of competition in the band contest: under-15s, under-18s and a contest for bands of five to nine members.

The band contests will be held in the gymnasium from 6 pm to 11 pm on December 2. The winners will go on to perform a free concert from 6 pm to 11 pm on December 5.

The choir contest, in which mixed choirs of no more than 15 persons may enter, will also be held on December 2.

The winners of the choir contest will perform a free concert in the gymnasium from 6 pm to 11 pm on December 4.

To enter either contest, apply at Siam Kolkarn Music School on the upper level at the Big C supercenter by November 25.

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By Natcha Yuttaworawit
& Nick Davies

Setting a wish afloat

A full moon will light the sky and the glow of thousands of candles will decorate Phuket's waterways on the night of November 24 as Phuket celebrates Loy Krathong, probably one of Thailand's most charming and spectacular traditional festivals, which offers thanks to the water goddess Mae Khongkha.

Loy means to "float" and a *krathong* is a lotus-shaped vessel made with sliced sections of banana tree stems and decorated with folded banana tree leaves and flowers. A candle, three incense sticks, coins, a few strands of hair and fingernail clippings are placed on the *krathong* before it is put afloat on the water, to be carried wherever the current will take it.

Loy Krathong is a family event with young and old taking part in the traditional ceremonies that culminate in the evening when the *krathong* are set afloat and wishes are made. It is also a time when young love blossoms in a romantically charged atmosphere.

Traditionally, a courting couple will release a *krathong* together with the strands of the pair's hair and nail clippings in it. The distance the current carries their vessel of love is supposed to predict their fate as a couple. A *krathong* that sinks or one that doesn't get carried away by the current is not a good sign of things to come.

When the candles and incense sticks are lit, a wish is made and thanks are given to the water goddess as the *krathong* is set afloat from the sea shore, the banks of a lake or river or even on a small pond. The *krathong* is believed to carry away the maker's bad karma and make wishes come true for the following year.

Beauty pageants called "Noppamas Queen Contests" are a traditional activity on Loy Krathong, performed in remembrance of Noppamas, a legendary figure from the Sukhothai period. Ancient transcripts refer to her as the chief royal consort



Beauty pageants called 'Noppamas Queen Contests' are a traditional activity on Loy Krathong.

Photo by The Nation.

of historical Sukhothai King Lithai. She is said to have made the first decorated *krathong* to float on the river for the occasion.

Families spend the day making their *krathong* to float in the evening but many roadside stalls around the island will be selling *krathong*, especially near waterways and beaches.

Here is a roundup of some of the Loy Krathong festivities being held around the island:

Phuket City. Phuket City Municipality is holding Loy Krathong festivities at Saphan Hin from November 22 to 24, with stages and stalls in front of Phuket Community College, at the activity court in front of the gymnasium and, of course, along the waterfront.

A Thai country and folk song contest for the city's students will be held during the night fair on November 22. On November 23 there will be a drawing contest during the day and a junior

Noppamas Queen contest will be held in the evening for local students.

During the day of November 24, a miniature garden model contest will be held. In the evening, nine parades will be making their way from Karon City Municipality offices to Saphan Hin from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The parades will be different themes to honor HM The King, the nation, different faiths, Brahman faith, Mae Khongkha (goddess of water) and the legend of Noppamas as well as more general themes of culture, Loy Krathong and the present-day.

After the parades arrive at Saphan Hin, local fishermen will perform a *Kor Jan* boat ceremony by releasing a decorative boat into the sea from Klong Bang Yai, followed by nine fireworks in honor of HM The King.

Karon. Karon Municipality is holding Loy Krathong Festivities at Karon Park, locally called the *nong harn*, from November 16

Krathong Festivities at the T-junction entrance to Laguna Beach Resort on November 24, from 7 pm to 10:30 pm, with a highlight pop performance by the popular Thai singer Moss.

There will be fireworks, balloons and lighting decorating the fair as well as a *krathong* five meters wide and 400 lights floating on the lagoon.

Other activities include dancers from Bangkok, with Phuket girl Miss Teen Thailand 2006 Amelia Jacobs live on stage, a Noppamas Queen contest, a *krathong*-arranging contest, a puppet show by Huachiew Chalermprakiet University as well as games booths and lucky draws.

To enter the Noppamas Queen contest or the *krathong*-arranging contest, apply at Cherno Talay Municipality offices (Tel: 076-324440); Laguna Phuket PR department (Tel: 076-362300-399 ext 1304, 1305, 1307); Seng Ho bookstore at Robinson department store in Phuket City; or at the Laguna Holiday Club office on the 2nd floor of Central Festival Phuket.

Mai Khao. A day and night of Loy Krathong activities is being held at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa on November 24.

The resort's gardens will be transformed into a traditional village fair setting with a food festival, traditional Thai games and *krathong*-making lessons during the day.

Evening celebrations will be held at the Lotus Pavilion with a variety of authentic foods accompanied by classical and modern Thai dance performances, as well as a Miss Noppamas beauty contest.

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Two Trang men have confessed to the killing of four-year-old Natjaya "Wawa" Sadan, who was found naked and beaten to death under a bridge in Phatthalung earlier this month, police in that province have announced.

The suspects were named by Trang Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Prasert Jansawang as Wichit Yongsata, 45, Wawa's stepfather, and his natural son Aekalak Yongsata, 23.

At a press conference on November 11, Gen Prasert told reporters that Wawa disappeared from a pickup truck at a market in Trang, where she had been left unattended by her mother, Rachana Taraodee, 25, as she went to do her shopping.

Three days later, Wawa's body was found under Khlong Tao Bridge in Phatthalung.

Gen Prasert said that on November 10 police requested an arrest warrant for the pair from Trang Provincial Court. They based their application on witness statements and forensic evidence implicating the two men.

The pair initially denied any involvement in the killing, but after a night of heavy questioning they confessed that they and two other men had murdered Wawa, Gen Prasert said.

Wichit admitted that he had killed Wawa because he was angry that Wawa's maternal grandfather, Mukda Saraodee, 65, had transferred all of his assets to Wawa and not to K. Rachana, who Wichit had married about six months ago, Gen Prasert said.

K. Mukda told reporters that Wichit had always been welcome and respected by the family, which had helped him with his career many times and given him a place to live.

Wichit chose to repay the family's kindness with this brutal act, K. Mukda said.

As a large crowd had gathered outside the police station to catch a glimpse of the suspects, extra officers were called in to

Man confesses to killing stepdaughter Wawa, 4



A policeman and 10 civilians were wounded when a remotely-detonated bomb exploded at a porkseller's stall at Muang Mai Market in Yala's Muang District on November 6. Police suspect the bombing was in retaliation for the arrest earlier that morning of religious instructor and alleged insurgent Sukri Joehae, wanted in connection with seven other bombings in the area.

control the crowd and prevent a lynching. The two men wore balaclavas during the announcement.

Student shot. A technical college student was shot dead as he was riding his motorcycle in Songkhla in the evening of November 10.

Witnesses reported that Kasakon Sanghakon, 18, a first-year student at Songkhla Technology School, was riding home from the market in front of Wachiranukul Songkhla School around 9:30 pm when two youths on a motorcycle began trailing him.

Realized that he was being followed, K. Kasakon sped up in an attempt to escape his pursuers. When he slowed down to round a corner near the offices of Ruam Jai Ku Phai volunteer rescue foundation, the youths

caught up and the boy riding pillion drew a 9mm pistol and fired three times.

After K. Kasakon fell off his motorbike, his attackers rode away at high speed. Volunteers from the Ruam Jai Ku Phai Foundation rushed him to Songkhla Hospital, but he died en route. An examination showed the victim had bullet wounds to the back, shoulder and wrist.

Police collected two empty 9mm cartridges from the scene to be used as evidence. Police are questioning friends and relatives of K. Kasakon to try to shed some light on the identity of his killers.

Four times 115. Police in Trang's Na Yong district arrested a father and son and confiscated 115 kilograms of *krathom* leaves on November 9.

Khlaow Thongrot, 31, and his son Songwut Thongrot, 18, both from Waeng district in Narathiwat, were arrested as they were preparing to drive to the Deep South, where the leaves were to be sold, police said.

On searching the suspects'

Opel sedan, police found 115 kilograms of *krathom* leaves, 48 bottles of cough medicine, an 11mm pistol together with magazine and seven bullets and a bankbook showing deposits of more than 40,000 baht.

The two men admitted that they had bought the *krathom* from a relative in Na Yong with the intention of selling it with the cough medicine to youths in the Deep South, police said.

Krathom leaves and cough syrup are the principal ingredients of "Four Times a Hundred", a new drug cocktail sweeping the Deep South.

Another ingredient commonly added to the mix is mosquito repellent.

Tree terrorists. A man was arrested November 8 for illegal logging on National Park land in Surat Thani's Don Sak District.

After receiving information about logging activity in Ban Chong Khao Khan Bet National Park, about 30 police officers set off to the park to investigate.

In the park, they found that

five trees had been felled and cut into about 350 planks of wood.

Placed under immediate arrested was 40-year-old Ord Khao-on, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Khanom District.

The felled trees included White Seraya (*Parashorea stellata*) and *champak* (*Michelia champaca*), both protected species.

Ord told officers that he had been hired only to help transport the wood and had taken no part in cutting the trees down.

He was hired by fellow Khanom district resident Chaliow Damsuk and was working with five other men whose names he didn't know, he added.

Forestry officers said they did not believe Ord's story. They handed him in to Don Sak District Police to be charged with logging protected forest land without permission and possession of wood from a protected species.

Don Sak District Chief Phaisan Trithanya said that he believed there was an "influential figure" funding the operation and that Ord was just a hired worker.

As it is an unspoiled area, Ban Chong Khao Khan Bet National Park is the target of influential businessmen who would like to use the area for agriculture, especially palm and rubber plantations, K. Phaisan said.

District authorities will increase security measures to prevent any recurrences, K. Phaisan said.

He also called for village headmen, tambon chiefs and the public to work together to protect the forest.

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

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Warning issued over 'chat rooms'

Chat rooms and social-networking websites have opened a new channel for criminals to prey on Thai youths, the Thai Health Promotion Foundation has warned.

Ekkalak Lumchumkhae of the children's rights group Mirror Foundation said that while many major chat rooms had been taken offline, the problem remained because operators linked servers to home phone lines and continued to run the chat rooms illegally.

Such services reportedly charge three baht for 30 minutes, which was cheaper and more convenient for youths to talk with their friends and strangers than by telephone.

At least five girls under 15 went missing after using such chat rooms, K. Ekkalak said.

Many girls under 18 were using chat rooms, so men were drawn to them to buy sex or coax them out to rape them, he added.

Many kids became addicted, chatting at least 10 times a day and many parents had contacted the foundation out of worry about their kids' behavior, such as going out at night with "friends" they did not know, he said.

The government should set up an agency to register and regulate chat room operators so that their services would be appropriate and would show responsibility to society and prevent abuse, he said.

ThaiHealth official Sunit Chettha said that people post personal information in chat rooms, thus putting themselves at risk.

Ill-intentioned people could access information to learn users' routines and behavior and to pretend to make friends with them before persuading them out for sexual dates or physically attack them, he warned.

Reality check. Most people can tolerate a corrupt government as long as their personal wellbeing is cared for, an opinion survey by the Center for the Promotion of



Monkey business

Wild monkeys climb over a man posing near the Khmer-style Phra Prang Sam Yot Temple in Lopburi as part of a rehearsal for the annual Lopburi Monkey Banquet Festival on November 25.

National Strength on Moral Ethics and Values and Abac Poll Research Center has revealed.

Culture Minister Khunying Khaisri Sri-aroon said that the poll indicates that most Thais lack a clear conscience of what is right and wrong.

The mindset could bode poorly for the December 23 general election, she noted.

K. Khaisri called on everyone to exercise caution and look back to see how crooked governments had hurt the country. "Poor people can be ethical. We should embrace sufficiency economics," she said.

Study tour tragedy. The owner and operator of a longtail boat was charged with recklessness leading to deaths following the drowning of three passengers in Samut Prakan on November 4.

Indonesian postgraduate student Lino Kalady Kiyato and Thais Nongnuch Paiboon and Wiman Vetchakul drowned when the longtail carrying a group of about 40 academics sunk in a canal after striking a submerged electrical power pole.

Boat owner Jamnong Khienjamnong, 40, turned himself in to police the following day. He told police he was taking the

group to Klong Ta Perm Pier so that they could take a bus back to Bangkok when he heard a loud scrape under the boat, followed by water flooding in and passengers screaming.

The boat sank before he could reach the shore, so he helped passengers to safety before fleeing the scene to calm down before turning himself in, he said.

The group of 36 scholars from Chulalongkorn University, including postgraduates and researchers from Australia, Japan, Indonesia and Vietnam, were returning from a trip to inspect coastal erosion in Phra Samut Chedi district when the accident happened.

Mammoth mystery. Initial tests on six elephant corpses found in Chanthaburi last month indicate the cause of death as ingested herbicide, but it is not yet clear if deliberate poisoning was involved.

Samart Sumanojitraporn, director of the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department's Wildlife Protection Office, said traces of paraquat and pesticide had been detected in the elephants' stomachs, though more detailed testing was needed.

Wild pachyderms and people had clashed in 22 places around the country, he said.

His office will bring residents and local authorities together to talk so they do not harm wild elephants.

The office will propose provincial "disaster-zone" funding to pay compensation to residents whose farms are destroyed by the elephants, he added.

Opting out. Labor Ministry permanent secretary Juthathawas Inthara-suksri expressed dismay at an announcement by 112 private hospitals that they would not renew their contracts with the Social Security Office (SSO) after the current agreements expire on December 31.

Many private hospitals are willing to take over the government subsidy to treat SSO beneficiaries under the deal, he said.

K. Juthathawas called the announcement a one-sided and unprovoked attack on the bureaucratic system. "They did not talk about conditions; all they talked about was how much money they had and how much more money they wanted."

"You can be sure that I am worried about their statement. I am sick of all this. Complaints are being made non-stop, despite our close and constant attention to the matter," he added.

K. Juthathawas also questioned the quality of service at the 112 hospitals, which he said were the subject of many complaints each year.

Free prosthesis. Suphansa Wichanant, who lost her right arm in a vicious attack led by an off-duty Saraburi policeman in February, will soon be given a free prosthesis courtesy of the Royal Thai Police.

Suphansa Wichanant was brought to the Police General Hospital in Bangkok for an initial fitting for the prosthesis, which normally costs 57,000 baht.

K. Suphansa, 25, was working as a karaoke hostess at the time of the attack. She now makes a living selling garlands in a market in Pathum Thani, to which she travels from her home province of Angthong every day.

The officer behind the attack, L/Cpl Nirut Thammasap, was dishonorably discharged after being suspended temporarily following the attack.

He and two security volunteers, Nirand Kongtham and Prasan Bundok, are standing trial for attempted murder and assault resulting in severe and permanent injury, police said.

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



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Good news. Bang Niang road is finally getting a drainage system. After years of lamenting about the problems of frequent flooding along this road, there is finally some action.

Bang Niang residents and business people are holding their breath, hoping that this time the drainage system is one that will work. Nothing much to do other than to wait and see.

Hopefully the pavement will be cleaned and repaired at the same time, but my guess is that this is too much to ask for.

Several new shops have opened or are in the process of being completed along Bang Niang Road. This is a good sign, since Bang Niang Rd left a rather abandoned and empty impression with visitors during past high season.

Many happy returns. Many tsunami survivors who lost their businesses in December 2004 have returned, the latest one being the pizzeria "Pinocchio" featuring Khao Lak's first wood-fired pizza oven, opening in the same spot where it was stood in 2004.

Hotels and resorts in Khao Lak announced an occupancy rate of 70% for late October and early November, while most are already fully booked over Christmas and New Year.

Bang Niang, unplugged



Poseidon Beach, south of Khao Lak Lamru national park, is one of the many features that make Khao Lak an attractive destination to tourists. Now that high season is upon us, residents of Khao Lak are hoping for a booming period.

Bad news. The damaged section of highway near Khao Lak Lamru national park is still yet to be repaired. Some earth-moving equipment, including an excavator and tractor, has been parked near the site, but there is no machinery in place that would suggest a plan to tackle this serious problem.

We are also wondering why only one set of warning lights is functioning at a time.

Just a few hundred meters further down the highway in the direction of Tab Lamu, several accidents occurred due to heavy rain. Even after seven months of downpours, local drivers still find it an impossible task to drive un-

der wet conditions, especially on the curvy highway section leading up to Khao Lak Lamru national park.

The guard rails at the aforementioned curve are being repaired or replaced on an almost monthly basis. Not a week passes by without a serious accident occurring there, yet no measures have been implemented to make this curve safer for unaware or careless drivers.

Reader's proof. While most of the reader's comments I receive in regards to my Andaman Coasting column are positive and supportive, I remember one particular email with very negative and offending content that was sent to me in February.

The reader, who lives in Phuket, claimed that what I wrote about Khao Lak being back in business was all a pack of lies and that there is nothing but a desert up here. Obviously, he was not up to spending the money and time to physically drive up here and have a closer look at what the place is really like.

Not being too concerned about this, I waited for a reader's letter that could counterbalance these unfounded accusations without me having to make any statements at all.

So here it comes, unbiased and unedited, sent to me on November 2:

"We have spent time in Khao Lak prior to the tsunami and then much of the past three years helping in the recovery. We are in Khao Lak for several months and Khao Lak is back. It's a changed place, but as good as before. The people here are so determined and the effort to recover has been sensational and deserves the reward of tourists returning.

"There are stunning beachfront resorts, a delightful village with nice shops and many places to eat fresh local seafood. Some

restaurants to eat at include Jai, Dragon, Happy Lagoon and the more-upmarket Busraba. Places to stay include Nang Thong beach resort, which is fantastic, but the choices are many and all are very good.

"Khao Lak deserves some media support to complete the recovery process. If you take a look at Khao Lak, visit Monty the tailor – his story is worth hearing because he helped many people after the tsunami."

Thank you. This issue of Andaman Coasting is number 72, which means six years of writing about Khao Lak for the *Phuket Gazette*.



**ANDAMAN
COASTING**
By Franky Gun

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all *Gazette* readers and to the people of Khao Lak. I believe that no other destination in Thailand within the past six years has gone through as much change, tough times, hardship and despair

as Khao Lak has done.

No other destination in Thailand has such a great, functioning community showing such passion and determination to get everything back to normal.

Everybody who still believed in the area and worked so hard on Khao Lak's comeback can't be thanked enough.

Their efforts will never be forgotten and will be appreciated by the thousands of tourists who will visit Khao Lak this season to once again find the tropical paradise that keeps them coming back.

A new, polished and shiny holiday destination is up and ready to welcome and serve its guests. We made it.

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



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Skippers, worthy of a salute

The old Portuguese saying “come as a stranger, leave as a friend” seems especially applicable to Skippers restaurant and bar. The location doesn't hurt either, on the Royal Phuket Marina boardwalk, just a mast's length from a few million dollars' worth of gleaming yachts.

Peter Hay – the skipper – is one of those warm, enthusiastic people ideally suited to the hospitality business; he actually likes people.

Peter has been in aviation for 36 years, recently retiring as senior captain after 23 years' service with Cathay Pacific. Why embark on a new career as a restaurateur?

“I've been fascinated with the food and beverage industry all my life. I wanted to open my own restaurant and be able to offer value for money. I'm not into pretentious ‘posey’ restaurants and I object to being ripped off when I go out to dine, particularly when I'm asked to pay unreasonably high prices for average wines,” he said.

The success of Skippers' recent opening indicated that Phuket's east coast is in need of more quality establishments.

The long, light and airy sports bar with yacht view has an area for bands and plenty of floorspace for dancing. The idea is to encourage musicians to jam and display their musical talents and kids are especially welcome to do so, too.

There is, thankfully, an



Skippers' decor harks back to the ocean liners of yesteryear – comfy, yet classy. Photo by Lori Ashton.

acoustical separation between the bar and the restaurant that allows diners to converse in peace even if a band is in full swing.

Sports fans can watch the likes of Formula 1 and the Premier League on the 120-inch flat-screen television, or old movies when there are no major sports events being televised.

The outdoor terrace in front of the bar has a Mediterranean feel and is great for alfresco dining and parties.

We started our evening at the bar with a couple of glasses of Lindeman's Premier Selection Shiraz 2006. This Aussie red is rich and dark with hints of blackberry fruit and a long finish, an ideal wine to

build an appetite. An example of Skippers' value for money philosophy, it sells for 1,200 baht a bottle. Wine prices range from 990 to 2,300 baht a bottle – most being below 2,000 baht. The

Champagne, a Martin Laurent Reserve Brut, is reasonably priced at 3,900 baht.

Moving into the classic ocean-liner-lounge-style restaurant, we had the pleasure of being joined by Peter and the Marketing Manager for Skippers, Crystal Riedemann. An erstwhile professional ballet dancer turned itinerant restaurateur, Crystal spent 15 years working in restaurants from her South African birthplace to Madison Avenue, New York, and she has cruised three quarters around the world aboard the yacht *Minico*.

It was a call by the owners of *Minico* that brought Crystal and her husband to Phuket, initially for two months, but Crystal's talent for public relations and motherhood intervened and they simply never left.

The friendly atmosphere is engendered by the lively and welcoming crew of management and staff, anxious to please and taking obvious enjoyment in seeing customers having a good time.

On Peter's recommendation, we ordered a bottle of Sacred Hill Sauvignon Blanc 2005 from his adopted country of New

Zealand. Rich and intense persistence of flavors, aromatic with big fruity characters and exceptional value at 1,200 baht a bottle.

My starter of Skippers Chicken Liver Paté arrived in good time from the kitchen of Head Chef Lee Prothero and Sous Chef Sirasak Tongkhot. Skippers doesn't skimp on portions and this was large enough to be shared, had I been feeling that generous.

Three large scoops of fine-paste paté served with bowls of cocktail onions and black olives and a portion of toasted wheat-grain bread from the bakery at Les Anges across the boardwalk. The muted liver flavor, acidity of the onions and nutty taste of fully ripened olives urged me to keep this marvelous dish to myself.

My companion ordered the Andaman Tiger Prawn, pan fried and skewered with a stick of lemon grass to a rice-and-ratatouille base and served with a pesto and balsamic vinegar sauce. Cooked through but still moist, the prawn is a succulent mate for the Provençal mix of courgettes, tomatoes, green and red peppers, onions, garlic and aubergines.

For its Duck à l'Orange, Skippers uses slices of roasted duck in an orange reduction sauce, served on a bed of kale with pommes gratinée and a garnish of orange slivers with green aubergines. The duck cannot be cooked past pink in the middle or it will lose its moisture, but there were no such worries here. The slight bitterness of the kale countered the sweetness of the orange sauce and a balance of flavors was retained.

Next, the Stein's Seared Sea Bass was named after the celebrated British seafood chef Rick Stein from Cornwall, England. A goodly-sized pan-fried fillet of sea bass topped with strands of crisp deep fried turnip, was served with a wedge of pesto infused mashed potato with a covering of ratatouille and a cream sauce. The textures of cream and crunch and the acidic against alkaline flavors yielded a taste bonanza.

For dessert we shared a Trilogy of Crème Brûlée. One Cointreau-infused cream garnished with a fresh orange segment, one Kahlua with a slice of fresh Kiwi fruit and one traditional vanilla flavor cream garnished with a fresh strawberry and star fruit – scrumptious.

We even had an invite to join Peter for his weekend hobby of karting. “The best fun you can have in 10 minutes with your trousers on!” Talk about friendship...

Skippers, Royal Phuket Marina. Open 11 am to 1 am, last kitchen orders at 11:30 pm. The cost of a hearty feed for two is about 1,800 baht. For details visit: www.skippersphuket.com For functions contact Crystal Riedemann. Tel: 076-360890. Email: info@skippersphuket.com

On the menu WITH Alistair Why Skippers



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Happily Ever After

Recently married in Phuket

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Australia were
married at Laguna
Phuket's Chapel-on-
the-Lagoon on
October 13.

Beauty's search

Many will remember bumbling Screech in "Saved by the Bell" and cute Drew Barrymore in ET. And what about Donny Osmond, the young singer who still hasn't managed to grow up? Child stars aren't exclusive to the United States, however – Thailand has its own breed of childhood prodigies, caught somewhere between infancy and adolescence, between innocence and stardom.

Look kreung Maria Giulietta Consentino, 15, better known just as Giulietta, was the star of this year's Miss Teen Phuket contest, but even before she'd thought about winning that accolade, Giulietta had already begun her quest for fame.

Born July 2, 1992, to Italian civil engineer Dr Salvatore Consentino and Thai national Sutiruck Potigunha, Giulietta also has a younger, less famous brother: Mariano, 12. Giulietta got her first glimpse of fame mere months after escaping from her mother's womb. While the Consentino family lived in Bangkok, Giulietta was thrust into the spotlight in a number of advertisements. At four months old, Giulietta was the star of her first photoshoot, for *Rak Louk* mothering magazine.

Barely able to gurgle her appreciation for her fans, Giu-

lietta became the face of Nestlé, a videophone brand, a fabric softener and medicine made by Woodward's Gripe Water. With a glittering career already behind her, Giulietta moved to Chiang Mai with her family when she was one year old. In 1996, Giulietta modeled baby dresses and appeared in real-estate advertisements.

Stepping back from the lime-light, in 1997, five-year-old Giulietta moved to Italy with her family. Rejecting a number of offers for high-profile appear-



Giulietta jokes with students at Wichit Songkram School during a visit after winning the Miss Teen Phuket contest in September.

ances, Giulietta knuckled down to concentrate on her primary education.

Growing up in the southern Italian province of Enna in Sicily, Giulietta attended Nunzio Vaccalluzzo primary school in Leonforte before moving on to Dante Alighieri-Giovanni Verga middle school. After a brief stint at A. Lincoln linguistic high school, Giulietta's father moved the family to Phuket in June this year. Before returning to the motherland, however, there was still time to get in a few last-minute adver-

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tisements for Innovactiva computer school and, with her younger brother, Notice Tour travel agency.

Although just 15 years old, Giulietta can speak seven languages. She is fluent in English, Italian and Thai, but can also speak some German, French, Spanish and old Latin. But Giulietta's talents don't end with her perfect skin and sharp tongue – she is also a keen sportswoman and enjoys running, water skiing and hip hop dancing.

In 2006, Giulietta won the Nicolas Green award for her painting of a chess board with a hand removing the queen, symbolizing that life is like a game of chess in that death can come at any time. She called the piece *Chessmate to Death*.

"I want to concentrate on my studies and graduate before embarking on a full time career. I enjoy the arts and would like to be a singer or music producer, but I also want to help poor people and do charity work. I want to play a part in helping to solve human problems," says Giulietta.

On one fateful day two months ago, Giulietta was walking with her mother's friend through a shopping center in Phuket. One minute she was window shopping for shoes and bags, the next she found herself signed up for the Miss Teen Thailand contest.

Although Giulietta was initially unhappy with being entered into the contest, her mother persuaded her that it would be a good opportunity to learn a few things about the world.

"My mother applied for me. On the day of the contest, she told me we were going to the beach, but then she drove the car to the Miss Teen contest instead. I fig-



Giulietta poses with her guitar during the Dutchie Girl contest at the Port Arena, Jungceylon, in August.

'From being in the Miss Teen contest I learned that to be in the entertainment industry you need to be strong in both mind and body,' she says.

I want to learn about fun things and face new challenges," says Giulietta.

One of those new challenges is the Yamaha Singing Contest southern region heat, to be held December 15 and 16 at Metropole Hotel. Among her multitude of talents, Giulietta is a budding singer and guitarist. She can sing in English, Thai and Italian.

If Giulietta wins her heat, she will go forward to the national competition to be held in Bangkok in May next year. Anyone who wants to catch a glimpse of Giulietta in action can see her on stage November 24 at the Loy Krathong event in Saphan Hin where she will be performing with her band Alpha.

Giulietta dedicates most of her free time to striving toward becoming a famous singer. Not

content with achieving stardom, she told the *Gazette* that she wants to help disadvantaged people around the world.

Giulietta is keen to finish her studies. Although she says that school in Italy is different to Thailand. She enjoys learning Mandarin and Thai languages here.

"From being in the Miss Teen contest I learned that to be in the entertainment industry you need to be strong in both mind and body. I also learned that it's important to be able to live with different people from different places and cultures," says Giulietta, who is also a certified massage therapist.

Sure to make someone the perfect wife in the future, Giulietta has a talent for cooking Italian food. She also wrote for *La Sicilia* newspaper in Italy about the differences between Thai and Italian cultures, also urging people to be aware of global warming.

And now the question on the tips of the tongues of every schoolboy in Phuket: does Miss Teen have a boyfriend? Giulietta admitted that she's actually more like a boy herself because she is both sporty and adventurous, which means that most boys in Phuket are too scared to approach her.

Giulietta is happy with her current single status, she says. There is hope yet.

Fans of Giulietta can log on to www.fansmariagiulietta.jimdo.com

ured it wouldn't be so bad to try a new thing, but I certainly didn't expect to win a place," says Giulietta.

On September 16, Giulietta faced off against 45 other would-be beauty princesses and came out victorious, wooing the judges with her singing and guitar-playing antics, booking her place in the grand final in Bangkok October 7.

During the final, the 45 girl-rivals camped in Samui together for three days before heading to Bangkok to get down to business in a battle of brains and beauty.

Giulietta made it to the last 15 in the final and she now has the honor of wearing the Miss

Teen Phuket 2007 crown until next year's contest.

Not just a pretty face, Giulietta says, "I think that beauty competitions make no sense because people can't choose to be beautiful. People should compete with their talents, because we can all practice our talents. I made many new friends at the Miss Teen contest, I improved my Thai language and I learned a lot of important social skills.

"I just wanted to know how it would feel to be up there on stage and on TV. I thought it would be good to win the 100,000-baht prize so that I could give it to charity. I don't want to participate in beauty contests any more.

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This week



LATINOS AT LATINO'S: Latino's in Rawai on November 2 served traditional treats and drinks from Peru brought in especially for the occasion by Peruvian Ambassador Carlos Velasco Mendiola (3rd from left). Joining him are Panamanian Ambassador David Guardia (2nd from right), Latino's owner Jorge De la Torre (2nd from left), Chef Pablo Lopez (3rd from right) and staff.



TESCO TEEN: Tesco-Lotus turned 13 on October 29 and the Phuket branch celebrated its eighth year. Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima cut a cake and popped bottles of champagne with Tesco-Lotus managers and customers. Giving back to the community, Tesco opened a donation box with 160,000 baht for the Senior Citizens Association.



SAND CASTLES: (from left) Shin Home Sales Manager Ariya Chotikiatkij and Marketing and Sales Director Chayika 'Sand' Wongnapachant visited the *Phuket Gazette* on November 2. They presented Managing Editor Chris Husted a bottle of wine and an invitation to the grand opening of Dalaaburi on November 23. Also present are *Gazette* General Manager Niladaa Mastanawattanukul, Marketing Manager Natthira Susangrat and Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanaapaporn.



ONE FINE LADY: Russian Ambassador to Thailand Yevgeny V Afanasiev is given the honor of christening *Lady Eileen II*, belonging to Geoffry Burt (right), with champagne at the luxury yacht's launch on November 1.



INTERNATIONAL CAPS: Volleyball Camp Players students pose with US Olympic beach volleyball coach Dane Selznick (back, right), his brother Bob (back, left) and CJ Prieur (back, center). The camp was given *Gazette* caps as part of the newspaper's sponsorship of the Swatch FIVB Beach Volleyball Tour 2007 held at Karon Beach.



DOUBLE DELIGHT: Two Chefs Bar & Grill celebrated the grand opening of its second restaurant in Karon on November 3. At the celebrations are (from right) Two Chefs' Billy Agren and Hendrik Ojelind, PR Manager Kittikanya 'Jib' Robchob, Manager Krister Westberg, and Chef Yesper Zetterquist.

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Thailand needs plastic surgery

I have watched visitors to Thailand stand stunned, in total bemusement, at the supermarket checkout counter as the smiling till girl wraps a small box of mints in a shiny, new plastic bag that's going to pollute her lovely country for possibly millions of years to come.

If you buy a single apple in Thailand it absolutely has to be wrapped in polythene and then placed in another plastic bag at the checkout. The Thais even hand you sticky drinks from a roadside stall in a plastic bag with a straw protruding.

"Never miss an opportunity to increase the level of plastic in the environment" seems to be the Thai motto and it's followed with a dedication rarely seen in other public activities, such as observing the rules of the road for example. I've been enjoying Thailand's gracious hospitality for almost 20 years and it's been ever thus.

Like so much of our once-lovely earth, Thailand is drowning in its own waste. More than 25 million tonnes of waste a year, much of it plastic, goes into landfills all over this country. Think about the word "landfill" for a moment. It's grimly descriptive, isn't it?

We've all heard about the way developing nations "leapfrog" in the adoption of the latest technology, but not necessarily in their adoption of the basic essentials of civilization. So, too, with the adoption of polluting packaging it seems.

The closer recent forebears were to barely scraping a subsistence living from the earth, the more people seem to revel in the wonders of bright, modern over-



wrapping of every little doo-dad that bought from the latest mega shopping "destination".

This is sad indeed. It is such a small and obvious step for governments and corporations to legislate a "bring your own bag" policy, or charge for a new plastic bag, with the resulting money raised going into toward environmental protection.

Scandinavia and Ireland have been leaders in introducing such policies since 2002, and Ikea in the UK recently instituted a policy of charging for plastic bags with the proceeds donated to the Community Forests environmental organization. But here in Thailand that's unlikely to work.

Thailand's premier residential, retirement and holidaying regions such as the islands of Phuket and Samui are major pollution culprits. Being islands, the prob-

lems are exacerbated by limited availability of land to "fill" and the proximity of the dumps to expensive real estate developments.

It's all well and good adopting a sort of "toilet assumption" attitude to garbage. If you flush and it disappears, why do you have to ever think about it again?

Well, if you happen to live beside one of Thailand's burgeoning island landfills, you do. Nature has an intriguing way of striking back when she is damaged.

Groundwater sources eventually become contaminated. Insects and vermin over-breed and the next thing you know they are

swimming about in your infinity pool, for which you've just paid millions of baht.

We are all interlinked into Mother Nature's rhythms and there's no way of opting out of the vicious cycle of environmental damage.

So, while the frenzy to build property developments to sell to foreigners from all over the world continues, Thailand is storing up a massive pollution problem in which these investors in "paradise" are all going to share. It doesn't matter how many millions you pay for your island villa, when the plastic waste reaches critical mass, it will cause havoc without deference to bank balances.

The sort of highly discriminating international investors who buy into high-end property in countries such as Thailand can flee just as quickly as they arrive. These buyers are very selective, and

the world is the canvas upon which they can paint their retirement or holiday home dreams.

It's not just a case of "buyer beware", but also "seller beware" when you are dealing with plastic waste.

Today's boom in bright plastic wrapping will be tomorrow's bust in the high-end property sector, if the legacy of all those "landfills" comes sliding down the hillside into the backyard of your "paradise".



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Sandra Cantzler, dpa

The sky's the limit

I want to take you higher – that seems to be the motto adopted by shoe designers for the coming winter season 2007/08.

Expect an onslaught of high-heeled boots and booties and even pump wearers will find themselves standing taller than they have done for years.

Pumps and high heels are eternally in fashion in some form in Europe. Such elegant footwear is certainly flattering to wear and that is important since the hottest fashion trends for men and women are all about showing off the feet and legs to the best effect.

Women's pencil skirts, leggings, skinny jeans and wider tops – today's new silhouettes and no-frills clothes designs provide more scope for adding glamor to an outfit by wearing distinctive shoes and bags.

"Accessories can be used to make a statement too and bring some color to an outfit," said Jelena Juric, who works for the Frankfurt-based rag-trade magazine *Textilwirtschaft*.

"More volume is the emphasis for women's tops and blouses while skirts are body-hugging. This is great for shoe fashion since it puts the feet and legs in the spotlight," said Katharina

As the cool season begins, women are starting to walk tall again with boots such as these from B&R The Charte on Sawatdirak Rd, Patong.

Martin of the Deichmann shoe chain based in Essen.

The vogue for geometric design in clothing is reflected in equally clear-cut lines for shoes. According to the GDS international shoe and leather goods show in Dusseldorf, the 2007/08 season will be characterized by almost sculptured, architectural shapes.



"Minimized forms and high quality materials are set to play a prominent role in shoe trends for

the coming winter season, predict the GDS fashion scouts," said Andreas Rose, a stylist from Frankfurt.

"Lavish and high shine finishes are big this winter," said Andreas Rose.

Metallic finishes are also the talk of the town, with silver and discreet mineral hues to the fore. Golden, bronze and coppery tones are expected to dominate for special occasions.

Meanwhile, the color spectrum of the new winter shoe materials is essentially dark, say the experts at the Salamander shoe company in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Highlights are provided by red, purple and ultramarine blue and green.

Quality nappa, suedes and patent leathers exude an air of luxury with the higher heels. Flat, rounded ballerinas will remain popular this winter too and sports boots will have their place on the shelves, yet a mood of extravagance is in the air.

"Elegance is back again and extra-high heels are all the rage," said Jelena Juric, summing up the current direction. The new restrained look bans too many deco-

orative details and so all eyes turn to the shape of heels themselves.

These range from chunky block forms to cone-like tapered versions and massive platform soles. The latter have inspired designers to use their imagination to the full.

"Some of them are virtual works of art," said Stefanie Koehn, a hairdresser and fashion advisor, commenting on the outlandish designs seen, such as asymmetrically-stacked plateaus.

There is not only a large selection of different heels to choose from, the types of different shoe on sale for the autumn and winter months have grown considerably in number too.

Pumps, ballet flats and ankle boots are at the forefront of fashion, according to the German Shoe Institute in Offenbach. Alongside them are the so-called dandy slip-ons and lace-ups, which bear a strong resemblance to men's loafers, and knee-high boots with stiletto-like heels.

Ankle boots were "must haves" for dedicated followers of fashion last winter.

"Now they have really taken off," said Stefanie Koehn.

The classic 1980s shoe style has returned with a vengeance with lace-up, slip-on and zip-up versions on offer. Knee-high boots are not being neglected either, although the popularity of the ankle boot has put them in the shade a little.

"From a fashion point of view they are still important though," said Kathy Wenderoth, a buyer with the Goertz shoe company in Hamburg. She sees them as ideally complementing cardigans and straight trousers.

The combination of pumps and platform soles works well this autumn and winter and despite the coming cold, peep toes have also lost none of their allure. Those open-toe Mary Janes – the name given to a shoe style once reserved for children – are available in all sorts of versions too.

Just because it's raining in Phuket, there is no need to hide the toes either, thanks to what was once regarded as a fashion taboo, namely wearing open-toe shoes with thick tights or socks.

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The 54th Macau Grand Prix, set to take place from November 15 to 18, will mark 25 years since the first Formula 3 Grand Prix was held there, a race completely dominated by Ayrton Senna (pictured), who secured pole position, wins in both legs and fastest lap.

While Formula 1 has taken the spotlight as the most watched motorsport in the world, the lesser-known Formula 3 has been the test track for many Formula 1 greats.

Among those taking part in that seminal event in 1983 were Gerhard Berger, now team boss of Scuderia Toro Rosso; Martin Brundle, the voice of ITV in England and probably one of the most talented F1 drivers never to win a race; and David Hunt, brother of the late world champion, James.

For 1985 it was again a Teddy Yip car, that of Mauricio Gugelmin, which won at Macau, while in 1986 it was Andy Wallace.

The following year it was Ulsterman Martin Donnelly who claimed victory.

Michael Schumacher was an unremarkable 21-year-old in 1990 when he won the Macau Grand Prix in dubious circumstances that year, but less than a year later he was in a Formula One car.

His Macau victory was tainted by Schumacher putting a following Mika Hakkinen into the wall on the last lap of the second leg of the Grand Prix by "brake-testing" the Finn as they headed towards Lisboa Bend.

At the time, everyone presumed it was Hakkinen's over-exuberance that had caused him to run into the back of Schumacher's Reynard, but subsequent events over the years have cast doubts on the reality of the situation.

It was in 1991 that David Coulthard came home in the leading position, the 20-year-old Scot demonstrating an innate talent that prevails today.

Of the all drivers in the 1991 Macau Grand Prix, only Coulthard and Rubens Barrichello remain in Formula 1.

"The Macau Grand Prix is recognized as the most prestigious event in the F3 calendar. Winning the Macau event meant a great deal for me at the time," said Coulthard.

From Senna to Conway: who's next for Macau F3?



Macau F3 Grand Prix winners

1983	Ayrton Senna (Brazil)
1984	John Nielsen (Denmark)
1985	Mauricio Gugelmin (Brazil)
1986	Andy Wallace (Britain)
1987	Martin Donnelly (Britain)
1988	Enrico Bertaggia (Italy)
1989	David Brabham (Australia)
1990	Michael Schumacher (Germany)
1991	David Coulthard (Britain)
1992	Rickard Rydell (Sweden)
1993	Jorg Möller (Germany)
1994	Sascha Maassen (Germany)
1995	Ralf Schumacher (Germany)
1996	Ralph Firman (Britain)
1997	Soheil Ayari (France)
1998	Peter Dumbreck (Britain)
1999	Darren Manning (Britain)
2000	Andre Couto (Portugal)
2001	Takuma Sato (Japan)
2002	Nicolas Lapierre (France)
2004	Alexandre Prémat (France)
2005	Lucas di Grassi (Brazil)
2006	Mike Conway (Britain)

"I think that win brought me to the attention of others in international motorsport.

"The event itself is unique in terms of atmosphere and due to the circuit. It's almost like a junior Monaco event in as much as you have to be accurate and there's no margin for error," he said.

In 1992, David Coulthard became the first Macau winner to return to defend his title. Unfortunately, victory went to Sweden's Rickard Rydell in the TOM Toyota.

Portugal's Pedro Lamy was second to Rydell, but in third spot was a French-Canadian by the name of Jacques Villeneuve, who went on to win the Formula 1 world drivers' title in 1997 before being unceremoniously fired from BMW Sauber just last year, his final season in Formula 1.

Rydell tried hard to win in Macau, always qualifying well, but the top perch of the podium always eluded him.

"Before winning in '92, I had good chances to win in 1988 when I qualified third, in 1989

when I was on pole and again in 1991 when I got pole position, so I thought it was just right that I finally did it," said Rydell.

In 1998, then newly-crowned Japanese F3 champion Peter Dumbreck recorded the closest finish in Macau, crossing the line just 0.003 of a second ahead of second-placed man Ricardo Mauricio.

Dumbreck said, "The Macau win still goes down in my career as my best victory.

"The race was like qualifying every lap. I could see Ricardo Mauricio in front and Enrique Bernoldi behind, but I was in my own space and could only see my position from my pit board as I passed the pits.

"I remember seeing P1 as I passed to go onto the last lap and thought I need to push for one more lap but not too hard that I hit the wall. It was just enough – and even now it makes me shiver how close it was."

Another name that featured in 2000 was Indian driver Narain Karthikeyan who took pole position and led comfortably before

crashing out. "It was probably the biggest race I've led in my life and then crashed," said Karthikeyan.

Trevor Carlin, Karthikeyan's team boss at the time, said, "Narain had a big lead and he was pushing hard to get away. He braked a little bit late for one corner and just as he braked he caught the throttle pedal with his foot, which made the car accel-

erate a little earlier than usual. He lost control and hit the wall."

In 2001 Trevor Carlin ran Japan's Takuma Sato, now a Super Aguri driver in Formula One. Sato did not need to enter Macau as he had already signed with Eddie Jordan for 2002 in Formula One.

Sato, though, was determined to win the Macau Grand Prix.

"Macau Formula 3 was my biggest ambition when I was a junior driver. For me the challenging circuit, the history and the prestige of the event made winning Macau a dream come true," said Sato.

Doom-and-gloom merchants are predicting the Macau Grand Prix will not survive. The disruption, the closure of roads and the general distraction from gambling, are all cited as sound reasons why the Macau Grand Prix should be dropped from the calendar.

But if you read the comments of drivers, team owners and private entrants, you will understand that they are unanimous in one aspect: Macau is unique; an event that is so challenging that every driver wants to win here. For that reason alone, the Macau Grand Prix will endure and, hopefully, prosper.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

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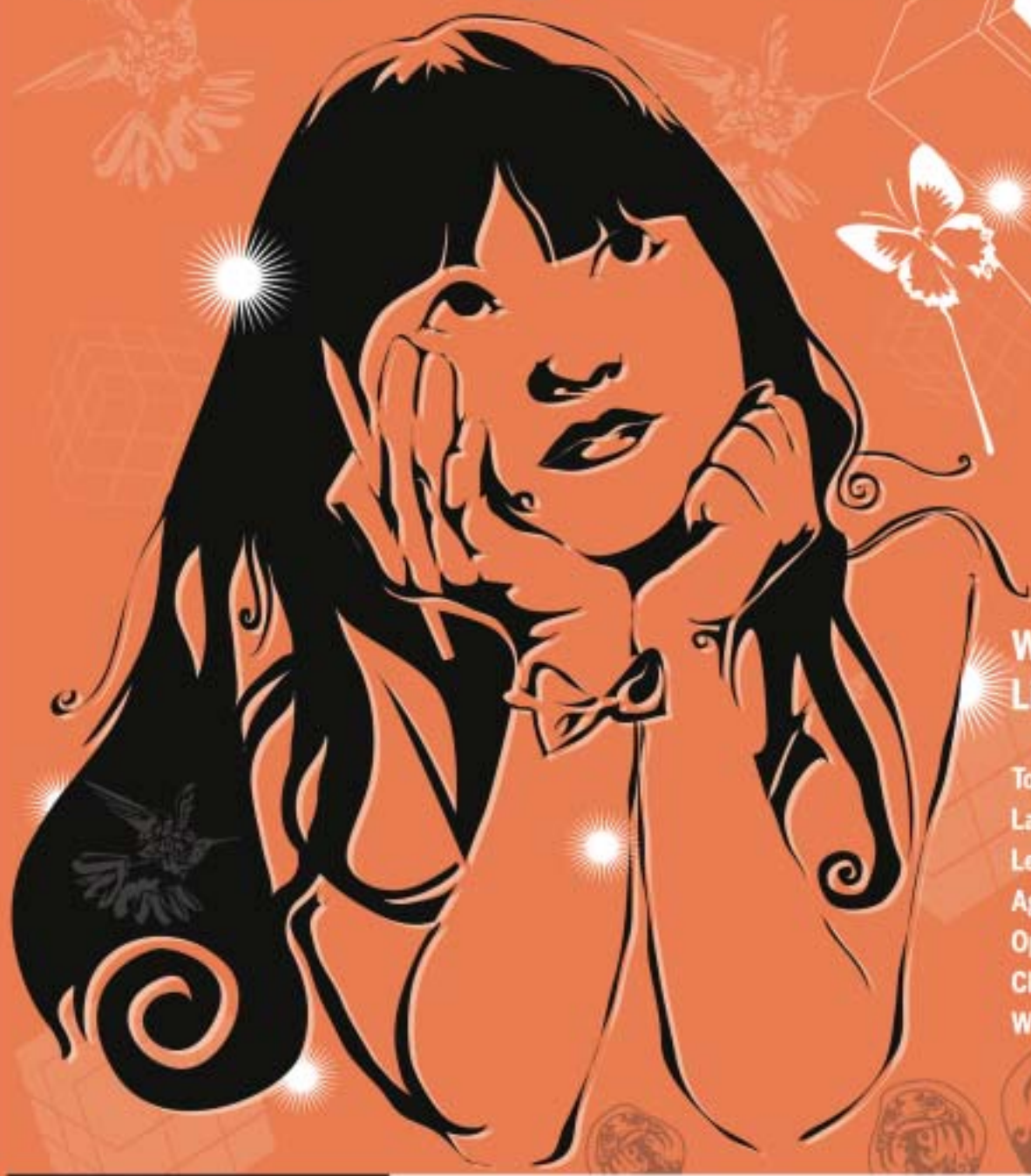
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Age: 14-18, up to December 1, 2007

Opening date for submissions: November 1, 2007

Closing date for submissions: December 10, 2007

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Let's admit it – we all love a good wedding. Though in Cyprus, where I am at the moment, big fat Greek weddings are anything but enjoyable.

It generally involves standing in a sweaty queue, dressed to the nines and in my best heels, to exchange an envelope full of money for a piece of crusty cake. Not exactly my idea of a great wedding bash.

The best weddings I've ever been to were in London, but even there, wedded bliss doesn't come cheap. And according to a friend of mine, who is single and therefore a popular wedding guest, other people getting hitched can damage your savings account quite severely.

According to Ellen, weddings in England have become a lot more than somewhere to wear your best outfit and then shimmy to crap pop music.

Marriage is certainly back in vogue, with experts claiming the rush of celebrities tying the knot has convinced young couples that marriage is cool.

But the downside to all this is that weddings are an expensive business – and these days not just for the happy couple, either. Everything from the hen party to the bash itself has become a lavish production for which guests are also expected to fork out.

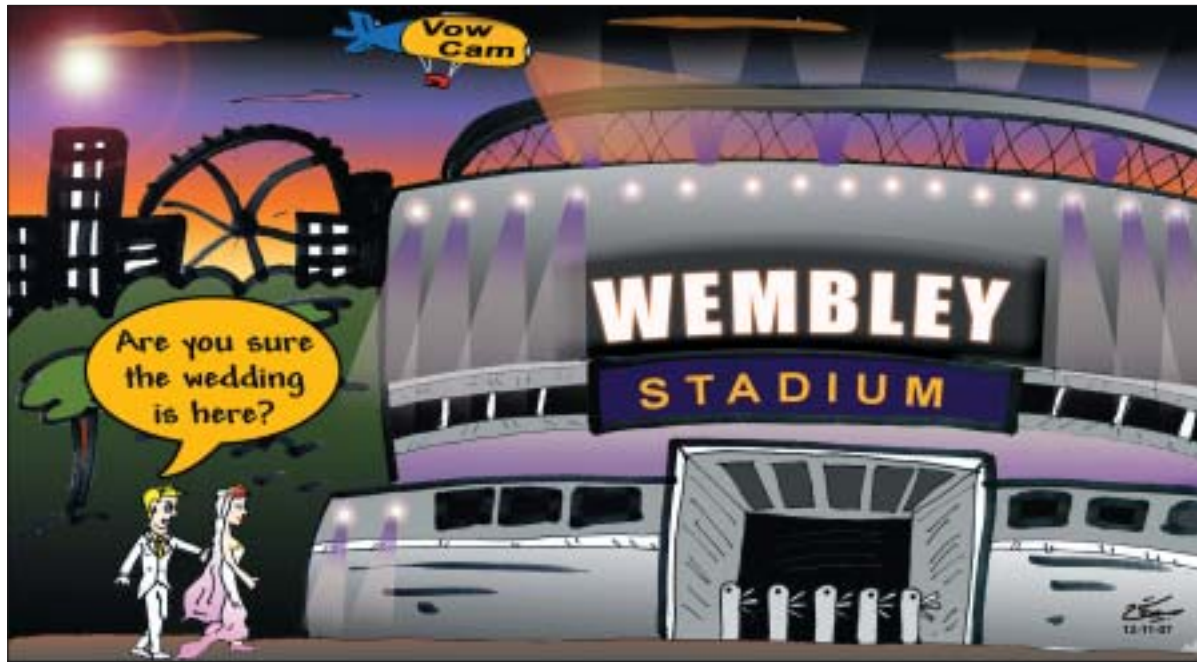
An evening reception at the local golf club has now become a four-day stay in a Scottish castle; a John Lewis kettle is now a

Le Creuset casserole dish; and a Marks & Spencer shift dress is now a Matthew Williamson frock.

Take the hen do. Forget the good old-fashioned piss-up in a nightclub. According to Ellen they have now become weekend breaks in manor houses. New York shopping sprees and European city breaks are also de rigueur these days.

Forget cheap flights – think about the cost of the hotel and the fact that you'll spend your precious weekend trapped with a bunch of hens with whom you

Here comes the bride... and there goes my Visa



actually succeed in gathering all of your friends in one place to celebrate YOU? Next time it happens they'll be dribbling sherry and you'll be in a box.

I nearly faked a wedding just so I could ensure a full house for my 21st birthday, although in the end I settled for an ordinary party. A few people did make lame excuses and didn't bother to turn up.

The good news is that in London – and I haven't yet given up hope that the Mediterranean will follow suit soon – the Big Wedding Backlash seems to have started. The new cool thing these days is to eschew the super-hyped bonanzas of recent years in favor of heartfelt lo-fi events instead.

I recently attended a "back to basics" affair in a room above a pub, which was great, and the sentiments were just as moving as those at a big bash.

But the truth is, since I have sworn I would never do it again myself, and all thoughts of money aside, I will always prefer to be a bystander at the more spectacular affairs. It's like being a football fan: you don't have to play the game to love it.

And I'd rather be watching at the new Wembley Stadium in London than in the local park.

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

may not have anything in common, especially their UK£80k salaries. Keeping up with city high fliers or aristo-toffs is no joke when winning and dining en masse in London.

Then there are the wedding lists. One friend desperately scanned a particularly pretentious list only to find the cheapest present the little darlings required was a serving spoon

that retailed for the equivalent of 4,460 baht!

Even having a starring role in the wedding can be a backhanded privilege. Ellen was looking forward to her American debut as a bridesmaid. Then she discovered that her Vera Wang ensemble was going to set her back UK£320 (21,000 baht) – and that

was after she paid for her return flight to Charleston, South Carolina.

It is particularly galling when you consider that it is unlikely that she will have much reason to wear an organza wrap, silver faille bustier and ankle-length A-line skirt again in the near future – unless she wears it to her own wedding when she finally bags a husband.

Meanwhile, there's the fact that the Big Day can actually turn into a Big Week. Her Charleston experience apparently started with an Oyster Roast plus steel band and fireworks display.

This was followed by a formal rehearsal dinner for 100, then the beach day with the wedding ceremony, grand buffet and live band in the evening. The finale was a prawns 'n' grits Sunday brunch.

Even in Britain, what was once a day out is now at least two nights away in a Bed & Breakfast. Whatever happened to popping just over the border to Gretna Green in Scotland to tie the knot?

I may complain about the

cake and envelope culture – if you can call it that – in Cyprus, but judging by Ellen's stories she has now become a full-blown wedding tourist. Travelling miles for love. Other people's, that is.

I get invited to lots of weddings, a few too many, judging by my empty bank account. This is weird, considering that my recurring, conversation-halting faux pas is to refer to weddings as funerals. As in "I had so much fun dancing to Abba at uncle Tom's funeral." Freudian, or what?

There are of course many similarities between the two. As with funerals, you can't refuse a wedding invitation. Like *Six Feet Under* on cable TV, they are both essential viewing. No-shows are a no-no.

This seems to me the only advantage of getting married. I mean, how often is it that you

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The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words about staying in a hotel. 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.

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

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

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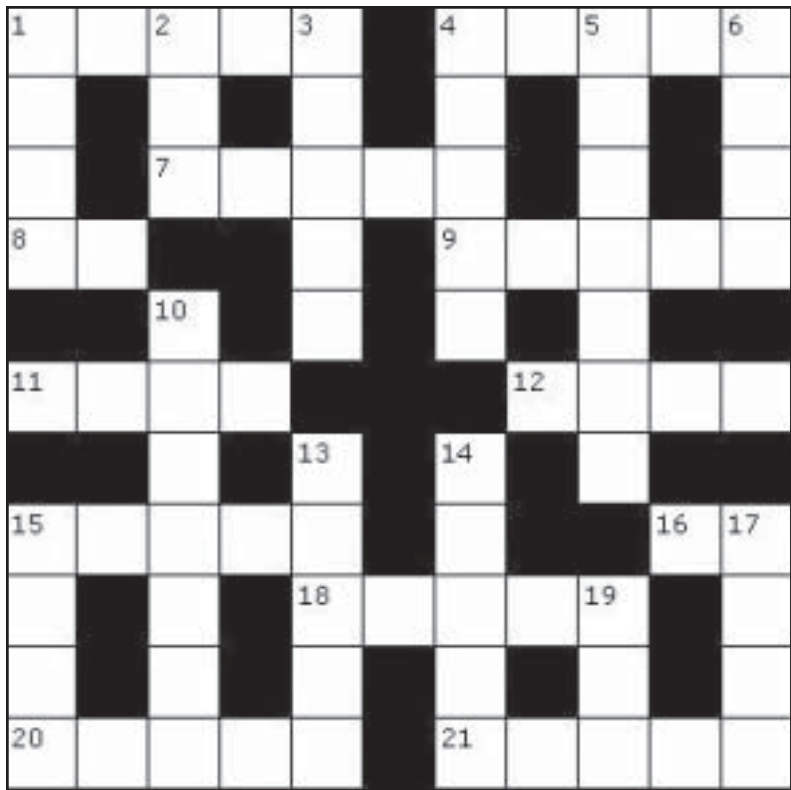
- Across**
1. Of money management
6. Inclinations
12. Actress...Love Hewitt
17. Paired (with)
18. Yellowish-brown
19. Disrespect
20. Rescuer
21. Walkers
22. Lease again
24. Drains (udder)
26. London's ...Court
29. Completely satisfy
33. Follow
36. Exterior
39. Trudge
41. Give birth to pup
42. Iraqi, ...Hussein
43. Sharp-tasting
44. Brindled cat
46. Sir ...Newton
48. Heathen
50. Jetty
52. Avid
54. Calcutta natives
56. Crazy
58. Equally balanced
60. Miaows
61. Burgle
62. Mortar workman
66. Deletion
67. Washington scandal
70. Unheard-of
71. Curved fruit
72. Hare relative
73. Muzzle
75. Widen (pupils)
76. Stem (flow)
77. Without assistance
78. Magic potion
80. Liqueur, ...Maria
81. Slightest
82. Fattier
85. Less experienced
88. Novices
90. Kitchen mixer
93. Wears fancy costume (7,2)
95. Small ocean
96. Scoffing laugh
97. Fraud
99. Cigar dust
100. Authorize
102. Soft drink
104. Squash (fly)
105. Lockjaw
108. Gem side
110. Eye or ear
112. Affable
114. Flowering shrub
117. Actress, ...Lee Curtis
118. Competitive struggle (3,4)
119. Dispute
120. Middle
122. Building levels
126. Horse's cry
129. Stoneworker
132. Molten rock
135. Medical test
136. People sharing name
137. Contrive
138. Organize feast
139. Light-purple color
140. Efforts
141. Aircraft passenger restraints (4,5)
142. Spy writer, Len...
- thoughts (5,2)
Influence
Actress, ...Blanchett
Brazilian soccer star
Rewords (text)
Crawled
Ethiopia's Addis...
Topic
Hindu dress
Jolt
Stretchy material
Most honourable
Bloodsucking insects
...O'Donnell
Actor, Alan...
Cooking fat
Pallid
Candies
Fan
Wood surface
Game hunter
Approaching
Non-rural
Writer, ...Fleming
Actor, ...Murphy
Prongs
Ambition
Bonding agent
Become less formal
Nonporous
Escapade
Twilight
Lamb's mother
Tiny amount
Standardised images
Study
More disobedient
Motorbike fenders
Sped on foot
Strolling
Private teaching
Revolves
Walked like duck
68. Invaders
69. Emerges from sleep
74. Actress, Ali...
79. Washed out
81. Engages (gears)
83. Lustful look
84. Irish activists (1,1,1)
86. Period of time
87. Twig shelter
89. Map pressure lines
90. Bunk
91. Single printed page
92. Rapture
94. Come forth
96. Actress, ...Foster
98. Mausoleum, Taj...
101. Fete, ...Gras
103. Performer
106. Exploiting
107. Aye
109. Longbow timber
111. Singer, ...Cole (3,4)
112. Pull a face
113. Non-commissioned officers (1,1,2)
115. Auld ...Syne
116. Obliquely
117. Bringing bad luck to
120. Canadian flag leaf
121. Sherlock Holmes' creator, Arthur Conan...
122. Capture
123. Undisguised
124. Delight
125. Extract (metal)
127. Incompetent
128. Long-necked bird
130. Sadly
131. ...& twos
133. In existing condition (2,2)
134. Honey liquor
- Down**
1. Toastmaster
2. Proprietor
3. Reveals secret
- Solution on next page**

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

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

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. Unfair
4. Happy
7. Warning
8. Emergency Room
9. More
11. Bishop of Rome
12. Pain
15. Remedied
16. ...The King
18. River mammal
20. Runs away
21. South-Asian country

Down

1. Sweet
2. America
3. Jumps
4. 007 ...Bond
5. Salad veggie
6. Spiritual practice
10. Sanction
13. Gods
14. Mattress
15. Baby cow
17. Breakfast
19. Type of music

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 fruit is a symbol of fertility in mythology? | 8. Which former president was stripped of immunity in Chile in 2000? | 15. The Latin phrase <i>anguis in herba</i> means what? |
| 2. Oymyakon, the world's coldest inhabited place, is in which region? | 9. Which billionaire set a flying record of 3 days, 19 hours, 14 minutes? | 16. In which country does Yamoussoukro feature the world's tallest basilica? |
| 3. In music, what is a hemidemisemiquaver? | 10. Which insects' name means "little fly" in Spanish? | 17. Which company introduced the first handheld mouse? |
| 4. What product was designed as a surgical disinfectant before being sold in stores? | 11. In 490 BC, Pheidippides ran about 23 miles from what plain to Athens? | 18. Which author's <i>Silent Spring</i> launched an environmentalist movement? |
| 5. Of the three Gorgons, who was the only mortal? | 12. The first summer Olympics broadcast in color were held where? | 19. Under what type of tree did the Buddha attain enlightenment? |
| 6. On what plain of Tanzania do vast land migrations of animals still take place? | 13. Which boxer said, "He can run, but he can't hide"? | 20. Who was poisoned, shot and thrown in the Neva River in December 1916? |
| 7. In aerodynamics, what is the vertical force acting on a plane due to flow of air over its aerofoils? | 14. Dr Livingstone never discovered the source of which river? | |
- Answers below**

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

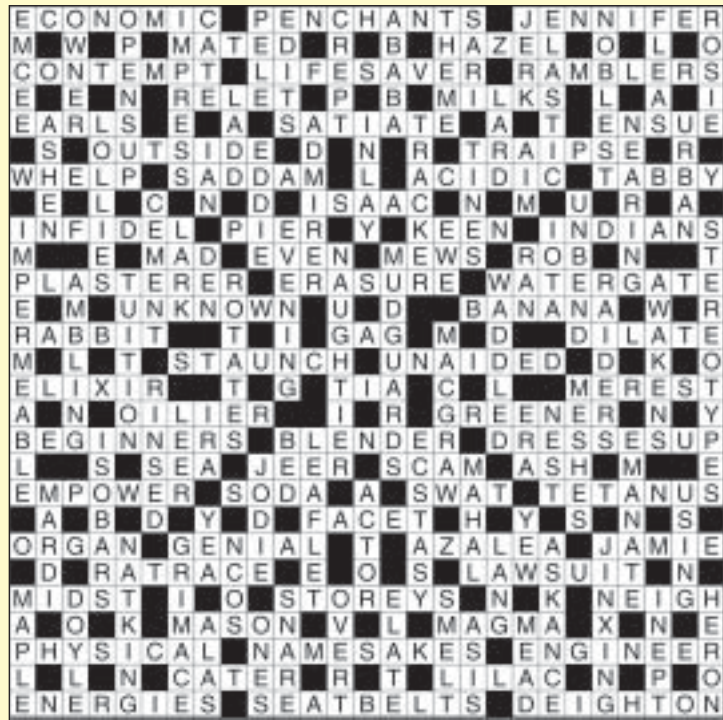
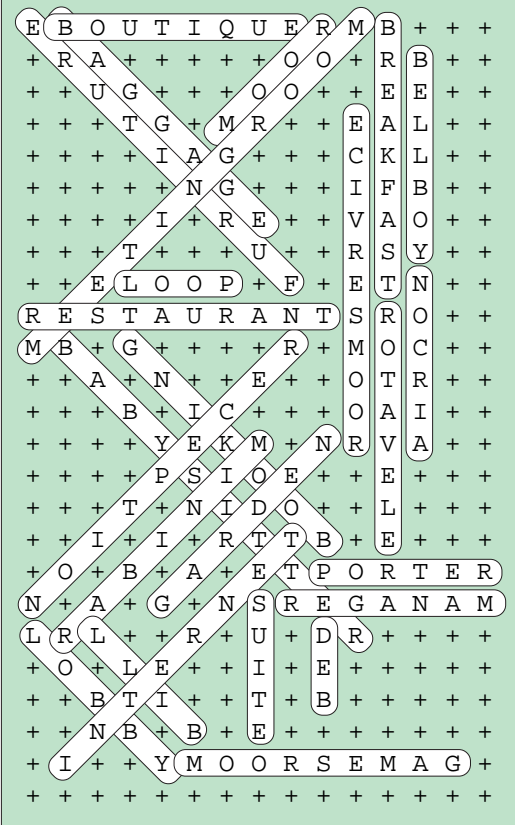
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Pomegranate; 2. Siberia; 3. 64th note; 4. Listerine; 5. Medusa; 6. Serengeti; 7. Lift; 8. Pinochet; 9. Howard Hughes; 10. Mosquito; 11. Marathon; 12. Mexico City; 13. Joe Louis; 14. The Nile; 15. Snake in the grass; 16. Ivory Coast; 17. Xerox; 18. Rachel Carson; 19. Bodhi; 20. Rasputin.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





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Jonathan Kaplan is an excellent writer with vivid descriptive skills. He's a journalist, teacher and documentary filmmaker. Oh, and he's a surgeon. Following the first volume of his memoirs, *The Dressing Station*, the second volume is called *Contact Wounds* (Picador, London, 2006, 276pp) and subtitled "A War Surgeon's Education". He's worked in all the garden spots: Angola, Mozambique, Eritrea, Kurdistan, Shan State in Burma and, most recently, Baghdad. He's a little vague on why.

"Free your mind and your arse will follow," was the claim of some profound dope-head graffiti near my London flat (along with 'Drugs: Just Say Maybe'), but in all my dreams of travel, of involvement in the world, I had never imagined the range of options that could present themselves by letting that career steering-shudder turn into a swerve," he writes.

He describes filming a documentary about dolphin hunting in Japan and treating war wounded in Burma and adds, "In those places the doubts that stalked my career progression were forgotten, the question of my destiny deferred. Unpredictability is seductive..."

"I kept intending to settle back into my professional career – to be a full-time hospital surgeon and make a worthwhile contribution to society – but my work amidst repression and pillage and random death had stolen from me some belief in the endurability of human endeavour."

In his first book, he had written about being an air ambulance doctor in the US,

A surgical vagabond



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

a ship's medical officer in Asia and a battlefield surgeon in Mozambique. His second book hop-scotches about areas of his life untreated in the first.

Kaplan was born in 1954 in Durban, South Africa, the grandson of Jewish immigrants. His father was a World War II Army surgeon in North Africa and Italy. He then joined the fledgling state of Israel in its first War of Independence, during which he met his wife, also a doctor.

Kaplan caps off an idyllic childhood in South Africa with a summer spent on a kibbutz at the age of 14. He learns a lot but despairs of his fellow South African kids who taunt Arabs as "sand kaffirs" and "bush hogs".

Eventually he despairs of Israel for

building a wall around itself: "I have not returned".

He continues with an engrossing account of his love life and medical training in Cape Town, followed by meticulous and often harrowing tales of his early surgical experiences in London. The highlight of the book is his stint as a battlefield surgeon in the war-torn town of Kuito in western Angola.

The fight here was a Cold War battlefield between the government supported by Russia and Cuba and the UNITA insurgent army supported by the US and South Africa.

Here he is on his arrival at the Kuito airfield in a battered UN transport plane: "We followed the rise of the shadowed highlands from the coastal plane, climbing and climbing. At maximum altitude, with Kuito visible as a smudge on the dark plateau, the aircraft stood on one wingtip and began a corkscrew dive that pressed us into our seats. Far below, the airfield's oily streak – its runway haloed by zigzag trench lines – whirled like a spinning clock-hand around

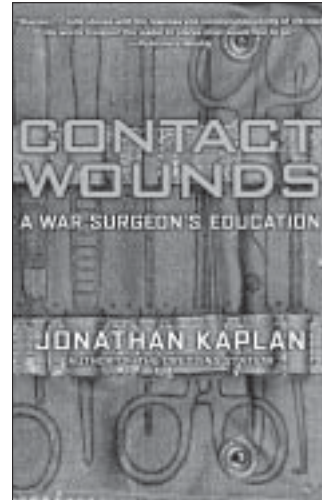
a grid of streets that enlarged with each rotation. Columns of smoke slanted above the land to the east where the front line lay."

Back in London, he veers back to humor in his recollection of being a technical advisor on a TV medical drama.

"Patients – violin prodigies with brain tumours, last-chance-pregnancy fashion models, epileptic airline pilots – were forever being wheeled to the operating room by the got-the-shakes surgeon, nymphomaniac nurse and alcoholic anaesthetist amidst a welter of barked TLAs (Three-Letter Acronyms) and the portentous symphony of the machines that go beep. I'd always found it hard to suspend be-

lief at such melodramatic overload."

His final section on Baghdad isn't funny at all. It's a furious indictment on the criminal incompetence of the American occupiers to provide basic services or simple security, to a hospital system that once had been the best in the Arab world.



EVENTS CALENDAR

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

Until November 17. Chalong Bay Fishing Tournament 2007.

The final fishing day is November 17 with prizes given from 8 pm. For further information contact Uwe Schitteck. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: uweschitteck@yahoo.com

Until November 17. BIS International School Football Sevens.

This international football tournament is one of the school's highlights. The tournament will take place at BIS 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. There will be more than 500 visiting football players from Thai and international schools in Southeast Asia.

For further information contact Patrick du Preez. Tel: 076-238711-20. Email: ppreez@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

Until November 24. King's Cup International 80-80 Rugby.

In celebration of HM The King's 80th Birthday, the 2007 International Rugby 80s Tournament will take place until November 24. The games will be played at Sanamchai Stadium in Phuket Town and will feature four international teams: Thailand, Australia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

For more information contact Kwanta. Tel: 081-5858222. Email: thairugbyunion@yahoo.com Website: www.thairugbyunion.com

November 17. ChildWatch Charity Golf Competition.

Four-ball Texas Scramble at the Canyon Course of Blue Can-

yon Country Club. Registration at 11 am and shotgun start at 12 pm. Prize-giving dinner at 6 pm. All proceeds in aid of Child Watch Phuket.

Entry is 4,950 baht per golfer, including green fee, caddy fee, event shirt and prize-giving dinner. For details contact Blue Canyon Country Club. Tel: 089-8749080. Email: martin@bbap.org Website: www.bbap.org

November 17. How to survive a Tax Audit.

Network Advisory Team Ltd (NAT) would like to invite you to join a half-day seminar with advice about how to survive a tax audit.

You will have the chance to learn and ask questions directly from the managing director of NAT, a chain of professional, English-speaking accounting firms in Bangkok, Phuket and Koh Samui.

The seminar will be held at the Phuket Merlin Hotel from 1 pm until 4:30 pm.

For more information contact K. Jantima at 081-5379285. Alternatively, contact NAT, Phuket branch. Tel: 076-212989. Email: info@thaiaccounting.com Website: www.thaiaccounting.com

November 17 and 24. Special BBQ Buffet Dinner at Wine Connection Chalong.

Special BBQ buffet dinner with cheeses, cold cuts and a live band for 650 baht per person from 6:30 pm until 11 pm.

For more details contact Pascal. Tel: 087-889 6074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

November 24. Sixth Annual QSI Fun Run, 1- & 6.5-kilometer races.

QSI International School of Phuket holds a fun run and auction each year to help raise money for important school projects and to promote good health.

This year's run will be held at the Bang Wad Dam. The run will be divided into two separate runs: 1 and 6.5 kilometers. Participation medals will be given to the first 200 registrants, along with gold, silver and bronze medals to the top three finishers in each age category, male and female.

For further information contact QSI International School Phuket. Tel: 076-354077, 081-6334279. Email: qsi.funrun@gmail.com Website: www.qsi.org

November 24. PIWC Gala Ball.

Phuket International Women's Club will hold the most prestigious event of the 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: 087-2776948. Email: arnulphe@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 chateaux in France: Château Pichon Comtesse de Lalande (Pauillac, France) and Château L'Angelus (Saint Emilion, France).

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 076-330015 for details.

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 further information 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.

Call 076-324060 or visit www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com for details.

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

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

December 6-9. PIMEX 2007.

The annual Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) will be showcasing all aspects of the marine industry, from high-end pleasure craft to boating industry services.



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We need reinforcements

The transfer of Chalong Police Superintendent Col Chalit Kaewyarat to Takuapa District Police Station in Phang Nga means that Col Samarn Chainarong will now be responsible for fighting crime in Phuket's southernmost areas of Chalong, Rawai and Nai Harn, as well as Kata and Karon.

The transfers, part of the annual reshuffle orders issued by Royal Thai Police Headquarters in Bangkok, should not necessarily be considered as a step downward for Col Chalit. Indeed, his new post is a step up to a district police chief, whereas in Chalong he was chief of a sub-district police station. His new ambit includes the tourist areas Khao Lak and Bang Niang.

A Phuket native who served as deputy chief before being promoted to the big chair in Chalong, Col Chalit was greeted with cheers by local residents when he took over the reins in Chalong back in 2003. Unfortunately, in the four years since then, fast-paced urbanization and rapidly growing population of the district have seen the number of high-profile crimes in the area skyrocket.

While the unreported population problem is island-wide, nowhere are its impacts more dramatic than in Rawai and Chalong. Native residents are so few there that the social networks that are crime's greatest deterrent have been overwhelmed by an unprecedented influx of "outsiders" – thousands of migrant Thai workers, foreign tourists, expatriate residents and foreign laborers, both legal and illegal.

With no commensurate increase in the number of officers, it should come as no surprise that the number of violent crimes in the district has risen.

Even after the still-unsolved slaying of Norwegian expat resident Simen Sparre Knudsen in September, there seemed to be no lull whatsoever in the number of violent nighttime muggings. The recent, well-coordinated robbery of a landmark like Don's Mall in Rawai is yet another indication of how grim the situation has become.

While the installation of Col Samarn has seen a visible increase in the number of patrols in some areas, one can only wonder how long the effort can be sustained over the vast area for which the small station is responsible.

It is high time that the Royal Thai Police top brass in Bangkok honor Phuket Provincial Police Superintendent Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch's requests for more officers and for a new police district to cover Kata-Karon, which is currently under Chalong Police jurisdiction.

Failure to do so will only result in continued deterioration of law and order in the south of the island, which in turn will have a long-lasting, negative effect on tourism for the entire island. – **The Editor**

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

The Phuket Gazette

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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.

Thank you for the 'fake' seizures

Regarding "Customs seize B5m of fake goods" [*Gazette* website, November 10], this has been the best news I have heard from the business world of Patong. It's about time someone stopped the cheap rip-offs being sold in Patong.

I have a business here and in Bangkok, and I feel so annoyed when walking down the beach road and surrounding areas, being hampered and pestered by the street vendors trying to part with this crap.

Will
Phuket

New Chalong police chief is good news

Hopefully this change of command ["New Chalong Police chief announces robbery arrests", *Gazette* website, November 10] will increase the security in the Chalong, Rawai and Kata areas.

I've been a happy tourist many times before in Phuket, but unfortunately, due to the horrendous increase in crimes and murder in Phuket, I've decided to shift to Hua Hin this year.

I think police security is much more efficient up there and that the police in Hua Hin are not at all "mob-like" as in Phuket. Maybe it's because there is a royal palace there.

JH

Order in the court

I wrote to the *Gazette* several months ago asking for advice on what to do for non-paying employers. You asked me to keep you posted on the outcome of my research and here it is:

My ex-boss, an Asian foreigner, owed me a large amount in pay, expenses, commissions and so on and hadn't paid in several months.

He then terminated me without severance pay, so I went to the police, Labor Office, Social Security Office, Revenue Office and finally the Provincial Court – who seemed to be the only ones with any power to act.

They do not have any English speakers at these offices, but all their services were free and they were eager to help.

The Provincial Court took my statement and set a trial date for one month later, to which they summoned my ex-boss by mail.

He sent his attorney to the first hearing to "negotiate". One month later he was forced to appear or forfeit, and the public prosecutor led us in negotiations before the trial.

I did not hire an attorney. However, my ex-boss came with two Thai representatives.

The public prosecutor pressured me to take the first offer so that we would not go to trial and therefore "no one would have to be blamed".

I said that I would not accept the first or second offer, which were very low. This frustrated several people as they were clearly uncomfortable with conflict, not to mention that the consequences for a foreigner going to trial and being found guilty are severe.

After the negotiations, we took a five-minute break and met in the court room before three judges.

They asked where we stood... and we each stated our cases. They ruled that my ex-boss had four months to make two payments totaling the full amount

that was owing to me.

However, they added that he would need to pay all social security payments and income tax owed on my behalf within five days, which was about 26,000 baht in total.

Apparently, he is not allowed to leave the country and he also received a very stern warning, especially since I was without medical insurance.

The court was to receive the payments on my behalf to ensure that he would pay on time. This all took about 20 minutes.

I did not have to pay any fees and the process took four visits, each visit about three hours long, to the Provincial Court over the course of 2½ months.

I would encourage anyone else to do the same. I feel that I received a fair trial.

However, I strongly advise having a convincing Thai speaker with you to plead your case.

Former Realtor
Phuket

The shopping nature of progress

I understand the concern from the local Thais about the new Tesco-Lotus supermarket being built, however, Chalong Talay and the surrounding areas are becoming home to many different nationalities and therefore the needs of these people must be met.

We need somewhere to do our weekly shop that doesn't mean a 45-minute drive to the nearest "proper" supermarket.

The mini-marts are quite basic and do not meet our needs.

Basically, we need a one-stop shop. I'm all for having Tesco-Lotus in Chalong Talay.

Alison McMillan
Chalong Talay

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

UNDER PRESSURE: Phuket faces growing number of suicide attempts

There are many differences between the cases of men and women who attempt suicide. Females make up most of the cases of suicide that we come across.

For some reason, women choose to harm themselves more than men, while men normally use more violent methods. More men succeed in suicide attempts than women.

Most women who attempt to commit suicide do so by overdosing on drugs or medication or else drinking a toxic substance, such as floor cleaner.

Chemical liquids are used because they are found in household products that are easy to get hold of and have a quick effect. Men usually try to hang themselves or use some kind of weapon.

In October, we counseled a number of people at Vachira Phuket Hospital whom we were worried might attempt suicide, including 993 who were suffering from mental problems, 275 who were depressed and 238 who were suffering from anxiety.

Those statistics are made up of old and new patients. Many people choose to continue counseling for a long time.

The number of people who come to the hospital for counseling is continuing to grow.

Last month, Vachira Phuket Hospital dealt with six cases of death by suicide – the most in any one month so far this year.

We worry about the unregistered people living here who have moved to Phuket from other provinces.

FIRST PERSON

On November 1, Thalang Police received a call from the village headman of Village 1, tambon Srisoonthorn, saying that a woman had hanged herself at her home.

Another two women attempted to commit suicide on October 31 – one drank bleach; the other, floor cleaner. Both survived the attempts.

Last month, Vachira Phuket Hospital gave counseling to more than 1,500 people whom doctors were worried might attempt suicide.

Here **Dr Chanuan Sampatanarak**, resident psychiatrist at Vachira Hospital, speaks out on why more and more people have been attempting suicide recently and what the implications are for Phuket as a community.



They are a large group and often find themselves feeling lonely and depressed. They have nobody to turn to when they have problems. They leave their homes and their families behind and come here and have nobody to talk to.

We should be the first people they come to when they have problems in life.

People in Phuket often don't have time to take care of their own friends and family.

Everybody works long hours and now there are many single-parent families. Values in Thailand are changing and there is less importance placed on extended family than in the past. If

people have problems, they should be able to turn to their families.

Most cases of suicide occur in depressed people who go around looking sad and unhappy. These people like to live alone, in private. They often say negative things about wanting to die and to leave this world.

People like this need to be cared for and should not be left alone because they may end up harming themselves.

Suicide-attempt survivors in Phuket tend to be working people aged between 25 and 35 years old.

These people have a lot of responsibilities in their lives and

so they also have many problems. Most of their problems are about business, family or relationships.

Our research has found that about half of all people who suffer from mental problems and attempt suicide are addicted to a substance, usually alcohol.

Research like this can help us to look at the reasons why people attempt suicide. When people become addicted to a substance, it affects their thought processes.

We have found that the three main reasons for people to commit suicide are because they don't have a friend or family member to talk to; because they

feel that they cannot solve their problems; and because they feel that their lives are not worth living. The last thing that most of these people think before they attempt suicide is that they can't escape their problems. In reality, these problems are just a small part of their lives and most people are able to see this.

At Vachira Hospital, we have a three-step plan for all suicide survivors. The first step is to help them by talking to them and finding out what their problems are. Then we find out if there is a key figure in their lives – someone they can talk to and whom they trust. The final step is to work out what they want to do in their lives. If they have positive plans and do not still wish to harm themselves, then we will encourage them to return home.

We usually prescribe medication to help suicide survivors who suffer from anxiety or are emotionally unstable. Then comes something called cognitive behavioral therapy, which involves changing the person's attitude and opinions to reflect positive things.

Finally, we have a system of neuro-linguistic programming that involves a suicide survivor remembering positive, happy times in their life.

When people harm themselves, it is their way of saying to the world that they have a problem and that they need help.

Those who survive suicide attempts are trying to say something to the world in their own way. We have to help them by communicating with language and discouraging harmful actions.

Immigration hurdles after moving provinces

My farang wife and I have type-O retirement visas. These were issued on December 17, 2006, at the Immigration office in Phuket City.

In September, we moved from Phuket, to live permanently in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province.

On September 5, we visited the Immigration Office in Surat Thani town. There, we each completed a Form 47, where we reported our home address as still being in Phuket because we did not have the necessary paperwork to show a residential address in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The next Form 47 reporting date is December 5.

Our questions are:

1. Now that we have the paperwork verifying our new address in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, can we go to any Immigration office to report our new residential address?

2. What paperwork is needed to support a change of address on the Form 47? We built our own house and we lease the land from a Thai company. Do we need any papers other than a copy of the lease?

If Immigration does accept the change in our residential address before December 17, the date that we must renew our type-O retirement visas, then:

3. Can we apply for type-O visas at the Immigration office either in Surat Thani or Nakhon Sri Thammarat?

4. If "yes", what paperwork do we need to present, in addition to the following standard list of documents required by Phuket Immigration:

- bank certificate of funds 800,000 Thai baht each person;
- birth certificate;
- marriage certificate;
- passport;
- health certificate.

Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done?
Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities?
Submit your queries or suggestions to us and
we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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

The Immigration office in Surat Thani has told us that we must apply for new one-year type-O retirement visas in Phuket.

The officers at Surat Thani also said that while we are there, we should ask for the Phuket Immigration office to change their records of our home address.

Is this correct?

Don & Inge McMahon
Nakhon Sri Thammarat

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

You can register your new residential address at the Immigration office in either Surat Thani or Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

You will need to bring your lease for the land, the house registration papers (*tabien baan*) and you and your wife's passports.

You should check with

whichever office with which you will register your new address whether they require any other paperwork, because some officers ask to see some documents from the landlord or even require that the landlord go to the office with you.

After you have registered your new address, you do not need to travel back to Phuket to renew your permits to stay.

You can do this at the Immigration office in the province where you are registered as residents. The documents required are listed in Order 606/2549 Article 7.21 – see <http://www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/2notice/rtp606EN.pdf>

I suggest you apply to renew your permits to stay at least one month before they expire, and you should call the office where you will apply to confirm which documents are needed as such requirements often change with prior notice.

Tackling Phuket's little pest problem

When you think about which creatures pose the greatest danger to humans, you're likely to think of tigers, crocodiles and sharks. In reality, such creatures pose little threat.

The most dangerous creature to humans is the humble mosquito, which through its role as a vector of disease probably causes more human misery than any other organism on the planet.

Despite the fact that it is largely preventable, malaria strikes over 300 million people per and is responsible for more than three million deaths per year. Fortunately, cases of malaria are uncommon in Phuket.

Although one of the biggest dangers to any species is man, more animals die from disease than predation. As dogs and cats are particularly susceptible to many of the small creatures here in Phuket, pet owners need to ensure that their animals do not suffer due to these pests.

Diseases prevalent in Phuket can be avoided or treated if prompt action is taken.

Dog heartworm (*dirofilaria immitis*) can be a life-threatening disease for canines. The disease is caused by a roundworm. Dogs and sometimes cats are infected through the bite of a mosquito carrying the larvae of the worm.

The worm is dependent on both the mammal and the mosquito to complete its life cycle. The young worms (called microfilaria) circulate in the bloodstream of the dog.

These microfilaria must infect a mosquito in order to complete their life cycles. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on the blood of a sick dog. Once inside the mosquito, the microfilaria leave the gut of the mosquito and live in the body of the insect, where they develop for two to three weeks.

After transforming twice inside the tissue of the host mosquito, the third-stage infective lar-

vae move to the mosquito's mouth parts, from where they are able to infect an animal. When the mosquito feeds, the larvae are deposited on the surface of the victim's skin.

The larvae enter the skin through the wound caused by the mosquito bite and burrow in to remain there for three to four months. If the worms have infected an unsuitable host, such as a human, the worms usually die.

The prevalence of the disease in dogs and cats cannot be completely eliminated, but it can be controlled or prevented with pills or injections, or both. Prevention is still the best cure.

The flea is another pest here. Most dogs carry fleas. They usually cause nothing more than an annoying itch, but many dogs are allergic to fleas and can suffer enormous discomfort. Some dogs even develop a condition called "flea-allergy dermatitis", which as its name suggests in an inflammation of the skin.



Dogs can suffer greatly from fleas, ticks, maggots and all manner of nasty parasites. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, Top Dog always says.

Flea-allergy dermatitis occurs if a dog has an allergic reaction to flea saliva. Symptoms can include scratching, chewing, licking, irritated skin and hair loss, which leads many people to assume their dog is suffering from mange. With flea-allergy dermatitis, however, the hair loss is invariably at the base of the tail and on the lower back.

Your veterinarian can diagnose flea allergies with an intradermal skin test. If your dog is carrying fleas, then it's likely that your home will be infested with flea larvae.

You should continually spray your carpets, rugs and soft furnishings with a proprietary spray, available from veterinarians. Think of fleas as tiny vampires; if a dog is infested with them, it can lead to anemia and death.

Ticks are the biggest danger to pets. I have covered them before, but I want to stress the danger they pose. They are notoriously difficult to eradicate and are literally everywhere. Death from tick-borne diseases is the biggest cause of death to dogs in Phuket.

It appears that some ticks carry diseases while others don't. After blood tests and autopsies carried out by the Soi Dog Foundation, a protozoan parasite called *babesia* has been deemed as the biggest threat locally. Diagnosis

is easy: If your dog is weak and depressed, check his gums; if they are pale, then there is a good chance that the dog has *babesia*, which lives in the blood.

Prompt action is necessary if your dog is to survive. Treatment involves painful injections, intravenous drips and intensive nursing. Although you cannot prevent your dog from picking up ticks when outside, if you suspect that ticks are in your garden then at least one of the pest-control companies here can spray your garden to eradicate them.

An equally nasty creature is the screw worm. These are, in effect, maggots. If your dog has an open wound, the chances are that one or more flies will find it and lay eggs therein. Once these eggs hatch, they turn into maggots that will literally eat the host alive if not removed.

The maggots can be killed and removed, but they can inflict severe damage if not dealt with promptly. If your pet suffers an injury causing an open wound, have it treated promptly and monitor it closely until it is healed.

Next month I will take a look at what products are available to tackle these pests.

To contact the Soi Dog Foundation, visit their website at www.soidog.org, email john@soidog.org or call 081-788-4222.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Employ caution when dealing with Taurus this weekend as your feelings of superiority are certain to raise the red flag. During the remaining two weeks of November, many of you will be faced with an important decision regarding a family problem. You are advised to put your own needs first as these have probably been ignored recently. If your birthday falls during the coming days, you can look forward to a calm year ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A metaphoric mine-field at work can be navigated by not taking sides. This is *not* an auspicious week to ask for a pay rise or improved employment conditions. When the dust has settled, put your case forward. Personal relationships are well starred you should enjoy a flirtatious encounter with Libra on Sunday. Those of you already committed will learn that your partner has hidden depths. Number 3 is lucky on Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Certain fair-weather friends will show their true motives this weekend. Those of you who suspected that you were being taken for a ride will need no further proof. Now is the time to streamline your social circle in order to benefit from better relationships. A money matter is best settled mid-week when the stars will back your attempts to put finances in order. The color peach encourages sweetness of mood.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Settling a disagreement with Pisces will be a hard nut to crack early this week. Your diplomatic skills should prevent lasting damage, but re-assess this relationship, particularly if it is business oriented. The stars are shining on your efforts to make a romantic impression on Capricorn as long as you take it slow. Wear citrus colors to encourage energy to flow.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): An unusually edgy mood will have a negative effect on your relationships this week. The best solution is to take time out to be alone and meditate on what is bothering you. It appears as though there is a personal issue that you are reluctant to face, but as soon as you do, the air will clear. Where a new love is concerned, you should not have unrealistic expectations. The scent of ylang ylang encourages peace.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Life is all go this week and the only foreseeable problem is that others may not be able, or willing, to match your pace. Make an effort to slow down this weekend or you could burn out. Gemini has noticed your romantic interest and is considering whether to respond, but Scorpio is too hot for you to handle.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your creative juices should be flowing this week and the more you can accomplish, the better. At least one of your ideas promises to come to fruition by the end of this year. Focusing on the most realistic project is advisable as you could be sidetracked by pie-in-the-sky plans. Tuesday is the best day to tell Aquarius that you're interested in getting up close and personal.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A new career path is revealed this week and those of you who are prepared to take a few risks have the best chance of success. Your partner may take some convincing, but if you are sympathetic to their concerns all should go according to plan. Family matters are highlighted midweek when children are likely to get into some trouble. Get to the bottom of the matter before judging.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Travel falls under the spotlight during the last two weeks of November and those of you who can pack your bags at a moment's notice are sure to enjoy the trip. If you have too many responsibilities to leave behind, don't even consider it. Another opportunity to get away will present itself soon. Finances are forecast to improve and you could soon be considering relocation.

LEO (July 24-August 22): All is sweetness and light on the home front after a minor problem is ironed out. A family member got hold of the wrong end of the stick and the situation should be left behind as quickly as it arose. At work, your talents are about to be even more appreciated, but more responsibility is unavoidable. Wear the color emerald green to promote more balanced energy and sharper thinking.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your down-to-earth outlook is difficult for others to relate to this week. Lighten up and make allowances for the fact that not everyone sees things the way you do. A misunderstanding with Cancer at the start of the week will probably be caused by your stick-in-the-mud attitude. Leo is interested in finding out what makes you tick and this person could be your soul mate.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those of you looking for ways to improve your finances will discover a possible solution this week. Scorpio could have interesting tips, but Aries has only one thing on his or her mind – romance with this person is not recommended. A new hobby will provide an outlet for your artistic talents and much needed relaxation. The number 7 could be lucky on Wednesday.

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In search of Phuket ICT City

I don't dare utter the phrase "Phuket ICT City" to my computer-savvy friends any more because of the reaction I get: eyes invariably roll up to the sky, some folks twitter, others positively guffaw. But I remember vividly, seven years ago, sitting in front of a computer screen in Colorado, discovering a half-baked website that talked about creating a computer nexus in Phuket.

It made a lot of sense to me then – the lure of a Phuket ICT (information and communications technology) Brigadoon figured prominently in my decision to move to Phuket. It makes a lot of sense even now, although I tend to be as skeptical as my friends.

Why so skeptical? Since June 8, my Internet connection has gone completely dead at least 30 times. Outages have lasted from two to 12 hours. When the Internet's up, I've experienced massive slowdowns that leave my ADSL lines acting like dial-up modems – nothing goes through, pages don't look right, sometimes I can send mail, sometimes I can't. I'd estimate that, between June and October, I experienced Internet problems at least once every two or three days.

Some people need the Internet to keep their businesses running. I'm one of them. When the Internet goes down, I'm dead. My business comes to a grinding halt. I can't update my webpages and I can't research for my books or articles. I lose touch with my publishers and I can't even do any banking.

I suspect that other parts of Thailand have had problems, too. For example, on October 25, I wasn't able to log on to the website of Kasikorn Bank for an entire day. Checking with a couple of friends, I found that they couldn't log on to the websites of Siam Commercial Bank or Krung

Thai Bank, either. Anywhere else in the world, bankers would be jumping out of windows and regulators would be hauling out the whips.

Last month I had an opportunity to vent my frustration in front of the Committee on Science, Information and Communication Technology for Thailand's National Legislative Assembly – parliament's ICT committee.

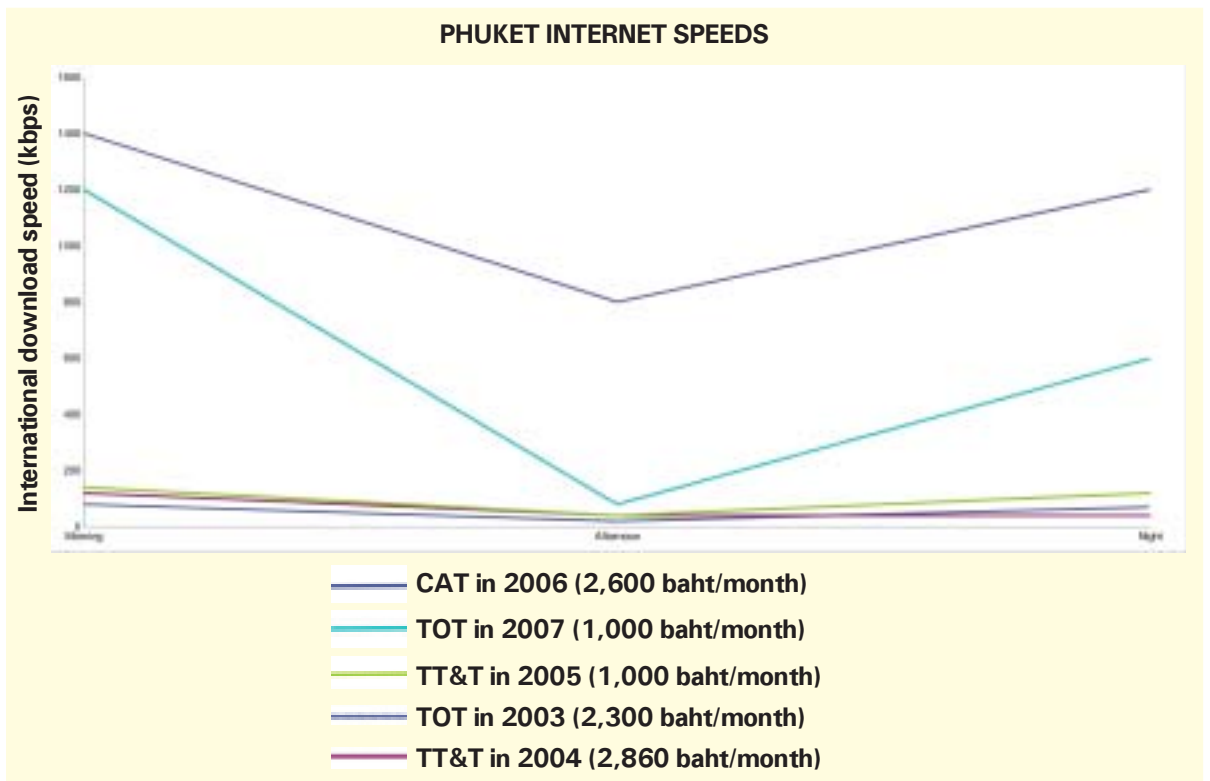
Several members of the committee, including Chairman Dr Supat Poopaka, ventured to Phuket to ask a straightforward question: What happened to Phuket's ICT City project?

In this column, and several future columns, I would like to answer that question. I would be interested in hearing your views, too, either by email (woody@khunwoody.com) or at one of the Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions.

The main problem facing Phuket in its attempt to become an ICT hub lies in its Internet service. Internet access is faster and more reliable than it was when I moved here seven years ago, but it's still woefully inadequate.

The graph on this page shows how things have become better in some ways, but stayed the same in many others.

In 2003, I had a TOT line that delivered a then-whopping 80 kilobits per second (kbps) download speed. That was about twice typical dial-up speed – well, in the morning.



By afternoon, the line slowed down to 20kbps, but while other people had trouble getting dial-up connections to work, TOT was usually up and bleeping. That line cost 2,300 baht a month.

In 2004, I moved over to a TT&T line. It was considerably faster in the morning – 120kbps – but it, too, slowed down in the afternoons and on weekends. At night, it wasn't any faster than the TOT line. That line cost 2,860 baht per month.

In 2005, the big news was fast, cheap ADSL. I signed up for a 1,000-baht-a-month TT&T line, and the speeds were respectable – about 140kbps. But again, the afternoon and weekend slowdown was noticeable.

In 2006, I installed a 2,600-baht per month CAT ADSL line. Through much of the day I now have download speeds between 1,000kbps and 1,600kbps. At peak times it rarely dips below 800kbps. It isn't perfect, it goes down from time to time and sometimes (particularly since early June) it slows to a crawl, but the difference between that

line and all the others I've used is like night and day.

Earlier this year, TOT claimed that it had improved its 1Mbps (about 1,000 kbps) ADSL line, so I tried again. The 1,000-baht-per-month line delivers 1,000kbps or more in the morning. By mid-afternoon, it's regularly down to dial-up speed.

Why the slowdown? TOT and TT&T are grossly over-subscribed, which means they're selling a "service" they can't deliver. In the afternoons, more customers log on and you suddenly have 20 people trying to suck through a tiny straw.

TOT and TT&T have recently started offering 2Mbps (2,000kbps) lines. A friend of mine in Patong paid to have his 1Mbps TOT line upgraded to 2Mbps. He kept meticulous records, before and after. The result? His 2Mbps line frequently hit 40kbps in the afternoons – not one whit better than the 1Mbps line.

I read an interview in a local newspaper with a VP of one of the telephone companies. He

described the recent spate of Internet outages as a "hiccup". My blood pressure went up as I read his comments. What we're experiencing in Phuket isn't a "hiccup". If a construction worker accidentally digs up a fiber-optic line and the Internet goes down for a couple of hours, that's a hiccup. What we're witnessing with the extended, massive, island-wide Internet outages and slowdowns since early June isn't a hiccup.

More than that, the V-shaped graph you see on the page doesn't show a hiccup. It shows a repeated daily cycle of slowdowns during peak hours – that's an overworked system. That's too many subscribers. That's the result of years and years of charging for services that can't be delivered.

Is it any wonder why my friends laugh when I have the temerity to talk about "Phuket ICT City"?

More next week.

Woody (www.AskWoody.com) writes computer books and articles. Have an idea for making Phuket a real ICT center? Drop by the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong on Sunday from 10 am to noon and let's talk about it. Directions to the Shoppe are at www.KhunWoody.com

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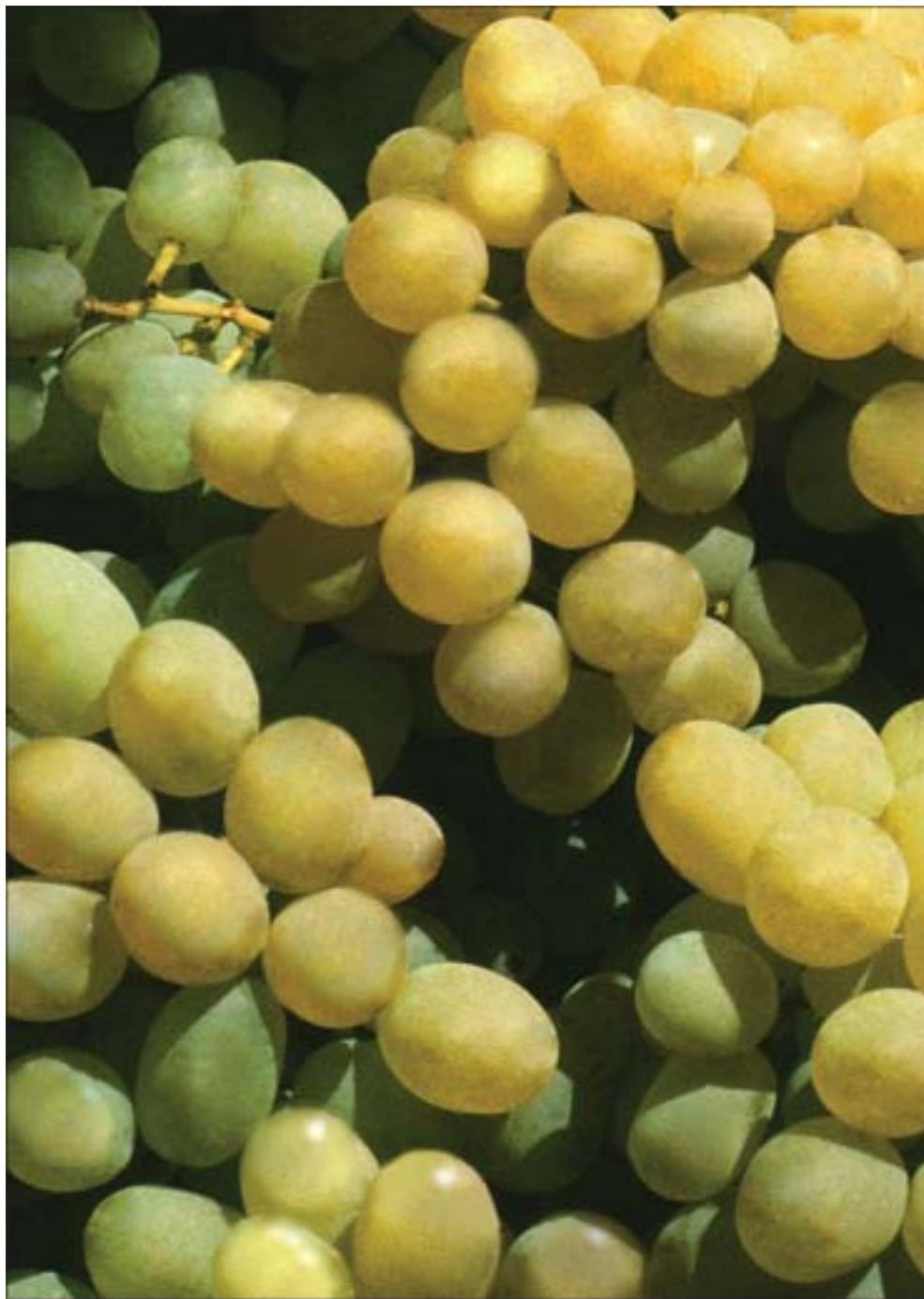
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Global stock markets enjoyed substantial returns during October and the announcement by the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, of a further cut of 0.25% to the Federal Funds Rate on October 31 was marked by another increase: gross domestic product (GDP) figures for the US economy revealed a higher-than-expected annualized growth rate of 3.9% for the third quarter.

Then, in one day, the stock market soured. At one stage on November 1, the New York Stock Exchange had to introduce trading curbs to slow the descent of the market.

A downgrade from "market performer" to "market underweight" given by a CIBC World Markets analyst to Citigroup, America's largest bank by total assets, focused attention back on the subprime crisis.

The market suddenly remembered the huge losses announced by Swiss banking giants Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) and Credit Suisse, as well as the recent write downs due to exposure to US subprime.

Worries about structured investment vehicles (SIVs), collateralized debt obligations and so on took center stage once again. Memories surfaced of Merrill Lynch's announcement of US\$4.5 billion of losses that somehow rose to US\$8.4 billion in two weeks.

Merrill Lynch chairman and CEO Stan O'Neal then retired, while Citigroup announced third-quarter losses of US\$6.5 billion before tax. Further concerns rest with the reality that Citigroup holds assets in SIVs and related "commercial paper" (unsecured, short-term debt instruments issued by a corporation) of some

Big banks hammered by subprime losses

US\$80 billion in off-balance sheet operations.

Much of this "paper" is likely to end up on the liability side of Citigroup's balance sheet. Citigroup also has the lowest tier-one capital ratio of all the major US banks and is therefore the least prepared to absorb these losses.

Then there are worries that foreign banking groups, such as Barclays and HSBC, being exposed to these problems.

It makes for a remarkable contrast

when one views the various adverts of these banks about their wealth-management abilities when the reality is that they cannot differentiate between good investments and rubbish.

What they cannot sell to their clients, they will have to absorb as substantial losses. Some banks are prepared to sell any old rubbish as long as it makes a profit. It also brings into question the ability of some banks to assess risk management.

On November 3, it was announced that 166,000 jobs were created in the US during October – well above analysts' expectations. Markets moved upwards just seconds after the release of this information. Within three days, markets had moved from euphoria, to despair, back to euphoria.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson



Citigroup headquarters in New York (pictured) was shaken up November 4 when it was announced that Citigroup CEO Chuck Prince (inset) would be 'retiring' after pre-tax, third-quarter losses of US\$6.5 billion.

On the same day, there was talk of the "Goldilocks" scenario (not too hot, not too cold – low inflation and interest rates, ample liquidity, strong growth). Art Cashin, chief floor trader for UBS operations in the US, remarked that however happy Goldilocks may be, she still might be presented with an eviction notice at any moment.

Repossessions of properties in the US are up 30% from the previous quarter and 100% over a 12-month period.

Worst hit is Nevada, where one out of every 61 houses in the state has been repossessed. You would think that banking creditors in the US would be adept at selling off these houses, but they're not.

The second interest-rate cut announced by the Federal Reserve at the end of October was mainly designed to appease credit markets. One prominent US economist described the US

housing markets as having experienced a catastrophe.

We are experiencing only the early part of the problem – worse is yet to come. Banks are yet to admit to even knowing what their losses are going to be. It is as if they were holding warehouses full of fruit they could not sell, most of which is going to rot.

It is to be hoped that Wall Street's problems do not spread to Main Street – in other words, that the problems in the housing market do not move further through the economy.

The problems at Citigroup came to a head in a board meeting on November 4. It was announced that Citigroup CEO Chuck Prince would be "retiring".


Citigroup was going to write off between US\$8 and US\$11 billion as an additional amount for the last quarter of 2007. There will be further provisions for losses that will be necessary in 2008.

Bill Gross of Pacific Investment Management Company, often known as the "bond king", believes that the US will escape recession, but the Fed will be forced to reduce interest rates to 3.5% as unemployment moves to over 5%.

He believes this process will take between 12 and 18 months. He said to investors in a Bloomberg interview in early November that if they have only one investment idea, it should be to invest part of their portfolio internationally.

What's strange is that the broader economy continues as if this problem does not exist.

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



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ON THE MOVE

Saroj Suwinchai, 59, from Suphan Buri, has been appointed Director of Phuket Provincial Highways Office. K. Saroj graduated with a degree in engineering at the Prince of Songkhla University. He has worked with the Highways Department in many provinces during his career spanning 20 years. Before moving to Phuket, K. Saroj was Director of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Area 2 (Tung Song) Provincial Highways Office for a year.



Surin Maneemas, 45, from Trang, has been appointed Food & Beverage Director of Aplina Phuket Nalina Resort & Spa. K. Surin has a degree from Ramkhamhaeng University and began his F&B career more than 27 years ago. In Phuket, he has worked at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and Sheraton Grande Laguna Beach Resort. Before joining the Aplina Phuket Nalina Resort & Spa he was F&B Director at Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa.



Phuket native **Danai Ekanich**, 31, has been appointed Managing Director of Phu Ke Ta serviced apartments and hotel on Thepkrastrti Rd in Phuket City. He graduated with a degree in Marketing Management from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok. Before taking up his latest position, K. Danai worked for the family business Rassada Gas Partnership, which operates the PTT gas station next door to Phu Ke Ta.



By Semacote Suganya

PATONG: Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort with Absolute Vacation Club has joined with former Wimbledon tennis player David Lloyd and Sea Pearl Co Ltd to build a 136-unit, mixed-use development at the south end of Patong.

The project, called the Absolute Sea Pearl Villas Spa and Resort will be located on 38 rai near Patong Grand Ville, off Sirirat Rd.

Lloyd, who operates a chain of successful fitness clubs and tennis clinics throughout the UK, will be the exclusive agent to sell units.

Supachart Ruamsamu, managing director of Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort, said that Absolute Vacation Club will put forward not more than 20% of the total investment required. "It is a property development, not a timeshare project, as has been reported," he said.

"We have been discussing the design plans for six months.

Absolute inks deal for B650m Patong project

There will be a total of 136 units, including condominiums, villas, shared pool villas, honeymoon villas, private pool villas and garden villas," he added.

The completed project is expected to have a total value of 650 million baht.

"Construction of the project is starting now, with the infrastructure being installed and will take two years to complete," K. Supachart said.

K. Supachart explained that Absolute Vacation Club's core business is timeshare. The company started abroad about 10 years ago and entered the timeshare market in Thailand about six years ago, he said.

"The timeshare rights of Absolute Vacation Club's clients are guaranteed by the Hutchinson group, which guarantees timeshare rights for units in about 2,000 resorts worldwide. So, their members have a lot of confidence in them," he added.

However, K. Supachart went on to explain, "Absolute [Vacation Club] is also involved in property developments, and they buy and sell properties to support their members.

"All units [in this project] are for sale, but if owners later want to sell their units, Absolute Vacation Club may buy them back so that their members can have somewhere to stay."

"We will later appoint an international management company to oversee the running of the development," he added.

"Bryan Lunt, the chairman of Absolute [Vacation Club], and David Lloyd are both happy to join together in this project, but we are still in the early stages. We have signed a memorandum of understanding, but we have yet to settle on the share of ownership," said K. Supachart.

"The Absolute Sea Pearl Villas Spa and Resort is located near the Patong Grand Ville, which Absolute took over in November," he added.

K. Supachart explained that the project is aimed at both foreigners and Thais who want to invest in properties.

"The project will have a David Lloyd health and sports club, which will make it very attractive to buyers. We expect the project will be sold out within 18 months," he said.

In marketing the project, K. Supachart said, "Marketing will focus on [promoting] international standards from development right through to on-going resort management.

"We have online awareness, with our website linked to more than 25 real estate-related

websites, which will generate thousands of inquiries from around the world."

On the street, he added, are signs using the brand-awareness of the Absolute Sea Pearl hotel, where a beachfront office has been set up.

"Local staff and agents are ready to answer all Internet, telephone and walk-in inquiries," he said.

The popularity of Lloyd's chain of fitness centers is expected to add appeal to the resort. "David Lloyd was a pro tennis player.

"He now has centers in Dubai, Cyprus and Barbados. Absolute Sea Pearl Villas Spa and Resort will be David's first project in Asia.

"David will make Thailand one of his several second homes and looks forward to creating a network of first-class David Lloyd Ownership Resorts throughout Thailand, with Phuket being the first," he said.

Prices of the units have yet to be announced.

VITAL STATISTICS

International passenger traffic rises 26%

Type	October 2006	October 2007	% change
Domestic passengers	255,984	297,163	16.09%
International passengers	120,520	151,833	25.98%
Domestic cargo (tonnes)	909	1,033	13.64%
International cargo (tonnes)	269	544	56.73%
Domestic flights	1,472	1,986	34.92%
International flights	1,061	1,272	19.89%

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Muay Thai results

Bangla Boxing Stadium Patong, November 2:

75lbs: Chamnandeth Nakornsri d. Yodseankrai Phuket;
95lbs: Chodchoi d. Pechwanlop Phuket (KO round 3);
140lbs: Hemmarat Krabi d. Pechuangman Nakhonsri;
180lbs: "New" Australia d. Phanasin Patong (KO round 4);
170lbs: Neungpichit Krabi d. Decho Nakhonsri (KO round 4);
160lbs: Tonpech Phattalung d. Piyapong Nakornsri (KO round 4).

Khao Lak Stadium inaugural event, November 2:

Main event: 125lbs: Watchara (Kiatbunjong) d. Chaomailek (Sor Thantawan);

Sub-main event: 125lbs: Khunsuek (Kriangkrai) d. Saenchernglek (Prasonchock);

Others:
124lbs: Yod Awut (Patong Gym) d. Petchsiam (Phantip);
100lbs: Kong Esarn (Jara) d. Kratingchai (OrBorTor Kamala);
140lbs: Kusattha (Kongkaew) d. Breeze (Rawai Muay Thai);
126lbs: Sara (Rawai Muay Thai) d. Namthip (Jethip);
100lbs: Pornsaksit (Jethip) d. Nong Nueng (Patong Gym).

OrBorTor Klong Yang Boxing Stadium, Krabi, November 3:

Main event: 115lbs: Inseekhao (PKP Rachanont) d. Kingchang (Manoprowit);

Sub-main 1: 118lbs: Khaosanit (Pranprai) d. Penek (Sitnumnoy);
Sub-main 2: 124lbs: Mapralong from Sunchai Gym d. Taweesaklek from Taweesak Gym.

Num Phuket is a Phuket-based Muay Thai writer covering the Southern Thailand region. He regularly contributes to Muay Siam magazine. Unless indicated, results are as they appear on the fight card. Boxers' camps are in brackets.

Thai boxers miss out

By Scott Mallon

This year has been rough for Thailand's boxers. Several challengers failed in their world-title quests, Pongsaklek Wonjongkam lost the championship he held for over six years and multiple up-and-coming fighters suffered shocking losses from opponents they should have easily defeated.

However, women's light-fly-weight champion Samson Sor Siriporn, a former prison inmate, has turned out to be the shining star of Thailand's sputtering boxing scene. On November 19, she will defend her title for the second time against Japanese fighter Momo Koseki.

In the past two weeks, Narongrit Pirang, better known as "Fahsan 3K Battery" (58-9-1, 35 KOs), dropped a not-so-close decision to IBF Super Bantam-weight champion Steve Molitor (25-0, 10 KOs).

Also, Denkaosan Kaovichit came within a point of winning the WBA flyweight title from Takefumi Sakata. Thai fighters have always had difficulties when fighting abroad and it seems the curse is destined to continue.

Narongrit "Fahsan 3K Battery" Pirang v Steve "The Canadian Kid" Molitor
Not many gave Fahsan 3K Battery a chance against The Canadian Kid in his IBF super bantam-weight title fight.

Fahsan, rated seventh by the IBF, is a fighter best recognized for being on the wrong end of a Manny Pacquiao KO punch.

In a division rich with talent, Molitor was looking to make a statement against the more experienced Thai, and although not known for his power, most did not expect Fahsan to go the distance. The two fighters were ten-



Sor Siriporn celebrates after her win over Japanese fighter Anri Nakagawa. Sor Siriporn will defend her title against another Japanese fighter on November 19.

tative at first, Molitor using his footwork to glide around the ring while popping jabs, Fahsan following the champion. The champion continued to control the fight with a snapping jab, allowing him to close the distance at will.

Fahsan was clearly out-gunned and although relentless in his attack, simply did not have the skills or physical attributes to contend with Molitor.

Molitor, 27, looked to be cruising to victory when a little over a minute into round seven Fahsan's overhand left connected squarely.

The champion toppled backwards, falling onto the ropes, visibly shaken – but didn't hit the canvas.

Professional boxing rules state: If the ring ropes prevent a fighter from going down from a blow, the referee shall declare a knockdown. Referee Rocky Zolnierczyk did not apply the rule and the round continued.

With his hands held at his waist, Molitor danced out of danger to survive the momentary

scare, but the message was loud and clear: "Wake up, this guy isn't going to quit."

The 60-second break between rounds let Molitor clear his head. The inconsistency of Fahsan's attack provided Molitor additional time to recoup. The "Canadian Kid" stiffened his jab and avoided Fahsan's wild swings with subtle movements to his left; the fight was once again his.

By the tenth, Molitor was sticking and moving, firing out a stiff jab that left the Thai befuddled. Although Molitor was faster, stronger and infinitely more skilled than Fahsan, he could not end the fight. At the end of the bout, all three judges declared Molitor the victor.

Their scores: 119-109, 119-109 and 120-108. The *Gazette* scored the bout 118-110 in favor of Molitor.

Denkaosan Kaovichit v Takefumi Sakata

zGone in 40 seconds – that should have been the tag-line for the Denkaosan Kaovichit-Take-fumi

Sakata bout. That is all it took to rob Denkaosan of the title he deserved to win. Five years ago, Denkaosan challenged Eric Morel for the WBA flyweight title, losing by an eleventh-round KO. This time around, Denkaosan came within seconds of defeating Takefumi Sakata for the same title, only to have a referee's questionable point deduction cost him the championship.

Denkaosan, 33, bolted out of his corner from the start, eager to bring the title back to Thailand. After controlling the first two minutes of the bout, he landed a perfect straight right to the jaw of Sakata, dropping him with 17 seconds left in the round. Sakata rose shakily from the canvas two seconds later and battled back in the remaining seconds to stave off defeat.

The next few rounds were back-and-forth affairs with neither fighter seizing the advantage. Denkaosan took the middle rounds and by the eighth, Sakata, cut over his left eye, took on the look of a desperate fighter. He picked up the pace, winning rounds nine and ten.

With batteries now running low, they battled in the center of the ring, neither giving an inch. Sakata's eye was bleeding profusely, Denkaosan was being hit with punches he avoided earlier.

The turning point of the fight came in round nine, referee Mark Wilson gave Denkaosan a warning for excessive clinching. With only 40 seconds remaining in the bout, he penalized the Thai one point for the same infraction, effectively costing him the title. The judges scores: 113-113, 115-112 and 112-114 – a draw – Sakata retains his world title. For what it's worth, the *Gazette* scored the bout 114-112 for Denkaosan.

Although previously warned for the infringement, the point deduction could not have been more ill timed and was by all accounts, unnecessary. So unnecessary that Kaovichit's promoter, Naris Singwancha, is lobbying for a rematch within 90 days.

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Mother Nature mixes it up for ACYC fleet

By Leslie Hand

AO CHALONG: Varying conditions dogged the fleet that took to Chalong Bay to compete in Race 14 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series November 3.

Sunshine and light winds through to downpours driven by strong winds, a passing squall and menacing waterspouts provided variety to the racing conditions.

Eight boats put on a colorful display with spinnakers hoisted during the downwind legs and crews enjoying feisty sailing.

The race saw the debut of a slick catamaran named Attitude F28. Cheers to owners Mark Horwood and David Hutcheson, winners of the Image Asia Encouragement Award for their inaugural sail and race.

With one race remaining, class placements and overall winners are still up for grabs. Series awards will be awarded at the year-end party on November 30.

The last race day of the ACYC race series will be November 18. Briefing is at 10:30 am and race start is midday. For



Attitude F28 under sail in her debut ACYC regatta

more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074.

Race 14 results:

Racing class. 1. Nereida (Roger Diggleman).

Cruising class. 1. Four Winds (John Fenn); 2. Eos (Harry & Susan Usher).

Multihull class. 1. X Cat Riot (Bob Brindley); 2. Seekhronghuk (Tim Milner); 3. Moto Inzi (Roger Kingdon).

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Queen Mary continue to roll over all opposition, with their latest victory an 8-1 throttling on the road at Piccadilly. The only signs of life from Piccadilly came when Ulf upset Billy to take the opening singles, but it was all downhill for Piccadilly after that, as Queen Mary came back to win nine unanswered points in easy fashion.

Billy did get his revenge in the beer leg, closing out with a double bull.

Please send match notes to darts@phuketgazette for inclusion in this forum, which happens to be the longest-running "sports" column on the island.

November 6 results: Dogs Bollocks* 8 Market Bar 1; Piccadilly 1 Queen Mary* 8; Offshore* 5 Beach House 4; Simply Red* 7 Valhalla 2; Shakers bye (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (30); 2. Dogs Bollocks (24); 3. Offshore (22); 4. Piccadilly (20); 5. Shakers (16); 6. Simply Red (12); 7. Market Bar (11); 8. Valhalla (5); 9. Beach House (4).

November 20 match-ups: Market Bar v Simply Red; Shakers v Piccadilly; Offshore v Dogs Bollocks; Valhalla v Beach House; Queen Mary bye (home team first).

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International rugby returns to Phuket

PHUKET CITY: Back after a one-year hiatus because of the 2006 coup, 80-80 rugby returns to Phuket this week – albeit downsized from what organizers had hoped would be a large-scale, international tournament.

The King's Cup Rugby-80 tournament begins November 16 and will run until November 23 at Sanaam Chai stadium in Phuket City.

Although teams from nations including Wales, England and France had expressed interest in taking part in the tourney, only four teams will compete this year. They are Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka and Australia.

Pornchai Prachaniyom, chairman of the competition, said, "The Thai national team will be in action against a new team from Laos who have been playing competitively for only five years."

"The Australian side is coming from Canberra and features a number of players who have played rugby in England. The national team of Sri Lanka will also be in action."

Games will be broadcast in Thailand by True Visions.

The matches will be played at Sanaam Chai on a round-robin basis. Play begins November 17 with Thailand facing off against Australia and Laos taking on Sri Lanka.

The tournament will culminate with the third-place playoff and grand final on Friday, November 23.

The final will begin at 7:15 pm with teams battling it out on the pitch for the tournament cup.

Keep an eye out on November 19 for the local derby, as Thailand will square up against neighbors Laos at 5:30 pm.



The last time 80-80 rugby came to Phuket, in 2005, the Thai national team, seen here in blue and white, had to do battle with a strong Japanese side (in red). This year the Thais will face teams from Australia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

K. Pornchai said that he hopes Phuket will be able to host another international rugby-80s tournament.

Teams will be awarded three points for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss.

The tournament is being officially dubbed "In celebration of HM The King's 80th Birthday, International Rugby-80 Tournament 2007".

Rugby 80-80 involves full, 15-a-side matches in which all players must weigh not more than 80 kilograms at the start of the season and 85 kg during the season.

The weight restriction gives nations where players who are of smaller build a better chance of competing against teams who traditionally field bulkier players, such as from Australia and New Zealand.

The downsizing of the tournament from international spec-

tacle to regional battle is to compensate for a last-minute change in venue.

The tournament was originally slated to be held at Karon Stadium, but the disrepair of the pitch left the playing surface unsafe for competitive rugby.

Tournament schedule

Saturday, November 17
5:30 pm Thailand v Australia
7:15 pm Laos v Sri Lanka

Monday, November 19
5:30 pm Thailand v Laos
7:15 pm Australia v Sri Lanka

Wednesday, November 21
5:30 pm Australia v Laos
7:15 pm Thailand v Sri Lanka

Friday, November 23
5:30 pm Third-place playoff for bowl and shield
7:15 pm Final for cup and plate

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Home of the Week

Mission Hills



A home with a mission

Located on 800 square meters of land at Mission Heights, about two kilometers from Mission Hills Golf Course, this property is situated in a private community of just six homes.

Construction on the single-story building, which has three bedrooms and 270sqm of living space, was completed last month. Aimed at Western owners, the property has an ample 530sqm of garden.

The master bedroom of 20sqm comes with a fitted wardrobe and dressing table. The room, which overlooks the patio and pool area, features an en-suite bathroom complete with bathtub.

The second bedroom, also 20sqm, is furnished the same as the master bedroom, including en-suite bathroom.

The third bedroom, also with en-suite bathroom, is 16sqm.

The kitchen features a range of modern, Western appliances and leads through to the large, open-plan living area of



more than 80sqm.

In keeping with the scale of the home, outside by the pool deck is the 90sqm swimming pool and even the car port is larger than usual at 44sqm for two cars. Joining the car port are two utility rooms, one of 8sqm and the other 6sqm.

As well as being fully air conditioned, the home features a temperature-controlled solar-

heated water system.

This abode is for sale at 12.25 million baht.


For further details contact Kay at SEA Property International. Tel: 076-381490, 081-737-0552. Fax: 076-280539. Email: kay@sea-property-international.com Website: www.sea-property-international.com

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

As the convenience of condo living becomes more popular in Phuket, interior furniture suppliers are adapting to the growing market by offering furniture sets custom designed and fitted for individual condominiums.

In Bangkok, living in a condo has been the only way to live for years, but Phuket is just beginning to see a rise in condominium living.

Condos often come complete with fitted furniture, but usually with the same, standard look. Ultimately, owners tend to want to customize their units with some personal touches. Phuket has more than its fair share of furniture stores, but only a few specifically cater to condominium residents.

The recent opening of SB Design Square has expanded the range of furniture suited to condominiums, with custom-designed fitted kitchens and living room and bedroom furniture sets that offer stylish functionality and are optimized for limited space.

Much of Phuket's workforce is made up of people from other provinces. Many seek the convenience of living in a condominium. The only drawback is the limited space, which requires careful planning to decorate and furnish it.

Elevate your status with custom condo furniture



THE WHITE ROOM: White furniture and furnishings are currently popular when it comes to condo furniture, says SB Design Square Store General Manager Noppakul Goesiripong.

Most of the fitted furniture sets of wardrobes, beds and cabinets with dressing tables for urban living comprise light-weight particle board and E1-approved (European standard class 1) glass. The units are in modern tropical style and can be easily and practically arranged in the limited space.

SB Design Square Store

General Manager Noppakul Goesiripong says that white is in vogue for condo furniture.

"Many customers choose white because it looks tasteful and also helps a condominium look more spacious. White is also a versatile color which goes with both traditional and modern tropical styles," he said.

Some of the condo-furniture

brands represented at SB Design Square offer advice to customers for fitting out condos. Give their interior designers your condominium measurements and preferences on style and they will dream up a set of furniture that meets your specs.

Once the design has been decided on and ordered, delivery can take up to five days.

For more inspiration, ideas or advice check out the showrooms on the second and third floors of SB Design Square or visit the website at www.sb-furniture.com.

SB Design Square is opposite Big C on the bypass road. The store is open daily, 10 am to 9 pm. Tel: 076-304-150-9.

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Construction Update

by Semacote Suganya

Buying into a golfer's paradise

The Fairway Resort is a luxury boutique holiday destination designed with golfers in mind. Twelve luxurious Balinese-style villa apartments set amid expansive greens offer a holiday investment plan for holiday golfers.

When complete in late 2009, golf enthusiasts will be able to buy time slots in the collection of eight one-bedroom and four two-bedroom villa apartments with resort-style facilities and services adjacent to golf greens.

The four two-story villas offer 58-square-meter single bedroom apartments on the upper levels and 116-square-meter two bedroom apartments on the lower levels. Both upper and lower apartments will command views over the surrounding golf greens.

Facilities surrounding the villa apartments will include a 21x7 meter pool and a 72-seat restaurant above a glass walled gymnasium, which will give exercisers panoramic views of the lake and manicured surroundings.

Other services available at the resort will include WiFi Internet access, laundry service, 24 hours security, daily maid services, room services and a complimentary minibus shuttle service.

The development, currently about 10% complete, is under construction in Kathu. It is next to Loch Palm Golf Course, five minutes from the new Red Mountain Golf Course and a 15 minute drive to Phuket Country Golf Club.

The Fairway Resort concept and management is co-ordinated by Legacy Group Property Development & Management Services, who have brought in Suwannarat Civil Co for the construction and Team Consultant Phuket Building to oversee project management.

Simon Youens, Develop-



The Fairway Resort offers golf enthusiasts the chance to buy into a luxury property in a resort-like setting without having to go through the hassle of actually owning a property.

ment and Project Manager for Legacy Group, said, "Everything is available here for golfers to come and enjoy staying in fully furnished luxury serviced apartments with fully equipped kitchens and living areas, including LCD televisions," he said.

The walk-through reception area offers a place for people to meet. The spa will be upstairs providing a range of treatments for up to five people at a time.

The Fairway Resort villa apartments will not be for sale. Instead, investors will be able to buy time at the resort with all the facilities and services included.

"We are offering keen golfers the opportunity to buy the right to spend two weeks a year for up to 30 years at the resort and take advantage of the facilities and services," Mr Youens said.

An investment of 699,000 baht up buys the right to stay two weeks a year, every year for 30 years at one of the resort's one-bedroom villa apartments.

"Although this kind of arrangement is often referred to as 'time share', we are offering an investment plan that allows investors to have a holiday home in a resort-like setting without the hassle of owning the property,"

added Mr Youens.

Investors will pay a flat fee with no additional costs to consider and they will also have the option to rent out their annual period. They will, however, have to pay extra to play golf as the surrounding golf greens are not part of the resort.

"We offer a rental option of 6% raising year on year, meaning investors can make their time slots available for others through

our management services, which will rent out the property on the investor's behalf and return 6% equivalent to their annual payment," Mr Youens said.

Mr Youens expects to attract golf enthusiasts in their mid twenties and up from Europe and Asia. "We have had a good response from Singapore, Hong Kong, Sweden and the UK, where we have launched promotional campaigns," he said.

The villa apartments are built to European standards with a flexible investment plan that allows investors to book consecutive periods and use up their allotted time accordingly over a shorter period if they desire. Any remaining time left over can also be bequeathed in a will.

"We believe this is a unique holiday resort option for the island," Mr Youens said.

"We offer golfers the opportunity of a holiday in Thailand with easy access to Phuket's prestigious golf courses without having to spend a lot of money.

"We provide time in luxury resort-style apartments at a very competitive prices," he added.

Apartment lease prices range from 699,000 baht (one bedroom) to 1.798 million baht (two bedrooms).

For more information, contact the sales office at 081-7196088, or 081-5379684 (English), or 089-6498703 (Thai). E-mail: info@thefairwayresort.com Website: www.thefairwayresort.com

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Stripes just don't do it for me. There's something about them that just reminds me of zebras – possibly the most ridiculously decorated animal on the planet. Have they not realized by now that black-and-white stripes don't help them to blend into the background? It's not surprising that so many of these idiotic animals get eaten.

Yes, I know that if all zebras in a group have black-and-white stripes it means they're more difficult to pick out individually, but I've got an idea: how about making themselves, I don't know, "Savannah" color? Wouldn't that be a little more effective for hiding?

What about tigers then? At least they've got it partly right – their stripes do help a bit, I suppose, but I don't recall seeing many jungles with orange and black striped color schemes.

For me, stripes bring back ghastly memories of children's TV presenters in their scary dun-garees and stripy sweaters – what were they on? They traumatized an entire generation of Brits with their "hello children", their pink hippos, zip-mouthed puppets and sexually-ambiguous bears. I can't blame the stripes,

Stripes aren't all black and white

but they were present nonetheless.

Back in the 80s, there was actually a more irritating stripe-wearer than Geoffrey from the children's show *Rainbow* – Waldo, star of those giant books with massive pictures in which this ridiculous character happened to be hiding. *Where's Waldo?*, I believe they were called. Who cares where he is? Why didn't they just make him bigger? The whole thing was beyond me.

Wide-screen films in letter-box format? Those massive black lumps at the top and bottom of the screen are seriously irritating stripes. That wide thing is fine for the cinema, but having massive chunks of your TV screen filled with huge, black stripes is a complete waste of time. It's always the artistic films too; you're hardly likely to experience this annoyance with your Shrek DVD.

Scraping the bottom of the annoying-stripes barrel are stripy trousers. We've all seen them: grown men parading around in leg apparel that should be restricted to professions associated with the



Zebras, our lost friend Waldo and Geoffrey from Rainbow are all failures when it comes to stripes, but this prayer plant seems to have got it right.

circus industry. Gaudy striped trousers are just plain wrong.

This talk of stripes was bound to lead eventually to something green, growing and living in

Phuket – the calathea ornata, or prayer plant, (*nok kum* in Thai) fits the bill perfectly. It's one of the stripiest plants on the planet.

Originally, all members of the calathea family are from areas of the tropical Americas, such as Brazil, Guyana, Columbia and Nicaragua, so they are basically jungle plants.

Calathea ornatas have dark-green, oblong-shaped leaves with distinctly defined white or pinkish stripes going from the midrib to the margin of each leaf. These leaves should be used as television test cards – their stripes really do stand out.

One of the weird things about the leaves is that their undersides are a deep magenta color – quite an odd combination, but probably one of the reasons that makes them popular.

The calathea ornata will grow to between 30 and 60 centimeters high. It is one of those plants that's happy in a pot indoors, but will be even more content in a shaded area of the garden, reasonably well-protected from strong winds.

Calatheas grow by means of a creeping rhizome, but don't appear to be invasive. The calathea ornata doesn't cope well

with being moved around, so it's a good idea to plant it as soon as you've got it home from the garden center. Some people suggest putting it in a pot before being thrust into the garden, but I don't see the point – it's got to face the world some time.

If you're planting from a rhizome (the potatoey root bit), about the only thing to remember is not to plant the rhizome too deep, as this will invite fungus (or would that be fungi?) and may cause root rot.

Freshly-planted rhizomes need oxygen to grow new roots and will die if the planting medium is too dense or wet. After planting, water the soil thoroughly, then don't water again until the soil is getting dry. Keep it evenly moist (but not wet) when shoots start to grow and leaves start to unfurl.

Should you decide to keep it potted in the house, bear in mind that indoor plants need to be transplanted into a larger container every now and then or they become root-bound and their growth slows down. Water the plant well before starting so the soil will hold the root ball together when you remove it from the pot.

If you have trouble getting the plant out of the pot, you could try running a blade around the edge of the pot, gently hitting the sides to loosen the soil. If that doesn't work, then my personal method involves a large hammer – smash the pot off.

The calathea ornata is everywhere in Phuket and you could take home a reasonable-sized plant for less than 200 baht – it's not going to break the bank.

Despite its stripy appearance, the calathea ornata just doesn't seem to have the irritation factor of its stripy counterparts – it just sits there quietly growing without annoying anyone. The creators of stripy trousers and DVD films could learn a lot from this plant, but I think zebras are probably a lost cause. Lions – go for it.

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HOUSE IN RAWAI FOR SALE

2 floors, 70sqm, corner unit, 25 years left on lease, option for 30 more years, only 1.2 million baht. Tel: 076-383052, 086-9529517. Email: condotel@web.de

NEW SEAVIEW CONDOMINIUM

New seaview condominium units - 60, 120, and 180sqm. Overlooking Chalong Bay and Rawai Bay. From 1.8 million baht. Contact Kuno Tel: 660-819685963, 660-819685963. Email: kuno@bayproject.com or see our website at www.bayproject.com/invest/index.htm

RAWAI SEA VIEWS

2 prime, deluxe, adjoining studios, furnished and remodeled. Excellent investment. 9.25 million baht each. Tel: 084-0571420.

LAND FOR SALE

in Sai Yuan, 0.81 rai or 1,320 sqm on Soi Tristar. Call K. Ohn at Tel: 081-9706503.

LAND AND HOUSE



Lakeside pool villa in Land & House Park. Comes with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon and Western kitchen with appliances. Tel: 081-8921715.

14-ROOM HOTEL

Lovely 14 guest-room hotel with swimming pool on Rat-uthit Rd. Only one year old, this successful business provides a good income and is easily managed. Great location, great reputation and an attractive price, 22.5 million baht. Tel: 081-3700084. Email: ian@teflplus.com Details and photos can be viewed at www.patonghotel.t35.com

EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

A beautiful 3-bedroom villa in an exclusive area on Kata Hill. Sea view, pool, etc. All set in a beautiful landscaped garden. Includes all furniture. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE

for sale or lease, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and garden view. From 1.3 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG

3 bedrooms, large living room, large kitchen, private garden and more. Gated community. Only 7.9 million baht ono. Tel: 081-894-1804. Email: sanaralang@yahoo.de Photos available at www.bayoli.de

AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, top floor, north Patong, 20 steps to the beach, freehold. Price: 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276-5117. For photos please email: jihshand@gmail.com

RAWAI BAY VIEW CONDO

Sale or lease. Foreign freehold. From 360,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, quiet area. 3.4 million baht ono. Must see. Contact Tel: 081-9795755, 081-7475293. Email: chillihouse@hotmail.com

SURIN LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

MODERN UNIQUE RESIDENCE

An unusual modern property with a variety of uses. Includes 3 suites and swimming pool. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLAS

Baan Boosakorn is an exceptional luxury estate of only 6 exclusive villas situated just 4 kms from Layan Beach. Beautiful homes and great investment. Finance available. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-891-1826. Fax: 076-238940. Email: info@baanboosakorn.com For more details, visit www.baanboosakorn.com

LUXURY HOUSE FOR SALE

at Ao Por. Stunning view, good place for investment, 3 bedrooms with furniture, private pool. The onsite clubhouse offers full service, spa, gym, golf, tennis. Call for more information. Tel: 087-8984338.

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

90-year lease, 27sqm, credit acceptable. 480,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

STUNNING HOUSE, QUICK SALE

The only stunning house on top of Patong Hill. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, storeroom, office, car park, terrace and a large free area for house expansion and a big swimming pool facing 3 beaches. Located in a private and secure area. Very good for investment. Tel: 081-8921108. Fax: 076-345-821. Email: info@grottino-beach-inn.com For details visit www.phuketreal-estatesolutions.com

LUXURY PROPERTIES

for sale or rent in Bang Tao, Yacht Haven. Please visit our website: www.janepropertyphuket.com

SEAVIEW LAND CHALONG / RAWAI

Chanote, 1.16rai (1,860sqm), 3-phase electricity, scenic sea views. Price: 7 million baht. Contact at Tel: 086-6829091. Email: marketing@tropical-living.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket airport, close to the beach, 10 rai. 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW, FLAT LAND - RAWAI

Access from main road. 20 x 80m (1 rai). Company available, no transfer fee. Only 15 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale - one on 1 rai of land and the other on one rai. Both are located in a good residential area 5 min from the Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more information. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

NAI HARN HOUSE

in quiet foreigner area near the beach. 2 bedrooms, 264sqm of land, phone line, cable TV, and Internet. Excellent price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 087-9261381, 089-9829460. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

in Nai Harn, Soi Naya. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, living room, kitchen, 3 aircons, 2 phones, cable TV, furniture, garden, 60sq wah. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7864509, 085-4295385.

RAWAI HOUSE

ready for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, garden, car port and built-in furniture. 6.3 million baht. Tel: 081-6067410.

LAND & HOUSE PARK

Chalong recently built house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 terraces, great quality and safe. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 076-378359, 085-7863213.

DISTRESS SALE

Kamala. 22.5 rai of land, 45% with seaview, Chanote. 1.7 million baht per rai. No agents! Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

POOL HOUSE FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 3-4 bedrooms, living room, big pool, sat TV, Internet, auto gate. From 6 to 9 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

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Property Gazette

2-STORY HOUSE



for sale in Kamala on 1.5 rai of land. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 ensuite. Wine cellar, teak walls, hardwood floors, furnished, 2 phone lines, large pool and landscaped garden in safe and exclusive area. Includes Mazda 626 and Thai holding company. 18 million baht. Contact K. Gary. Tel: 081-8922942.

PAY OVER 5 YEARS, NO INTEREST



New modern house with beautiful, fenced palm garden on one rai of land. Private with 100 sqm terrace, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (one ensuite), alarm, 12 ceiling fans, garage, own water well, sprinkler system. 5.5 million baht, or 1 million down and 5 x 900,000 baht a year. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

BEST BARGAIN IN PHUKET



Spacious, detached house on 260sqm of land in quiet estate with swimming pool and 24hr security. Centrally located in Chalong within minutes of Phuket city, shopping centers and beaches. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western-style kitchen, large living room, all fully-furnished. Quick sale, price only 2.95 million baht! You will not find anything better under 4 million. Contact K. Harry. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

ATTRACTIVE HOUSE

for sale in secure environment. 2-story, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, living room, kitchen/dining, laundry, garage. Mature fenced garden, backs onto klong. Furnished, UBC/ADSL. 6.9 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 084-8439579. Email: bimvool@aol.com

REPOSSESSION SALE

Apartment. Beautiful new 1-bedroom apartment on 5th floor overlooking Kata Beach. 5-star hotel services including pool, gym and international bistro. Was 5.9 million baht, now reduced to 4.9 million baht. Tel: 084-0639223, 081-7888280.

MUST SELL BARGAIN HOUSE

Lovely Swiss-style, 3-4 bedroom, 2-bathroom, 2-story single standing house on large land area (195sq wah) with Chanote title. Nice quiet area, cul de sac road, lovely garden, cable TV, phone line, alarm system, new aircon. Large land plot, can build second house. Priced for quick sale, 5.9 million baht. For details see our website at http://picasaweb.google.com/kingkongsimon/SWISS_HOUSE_SALE

TWIN GARDEN BUNGALOWS

Up to 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms in secure estate near top bilingual school. 4 aircons, 2 ADSL lines, sat TV, garage. 3.9 million baht; includes CRV or Soluna car. Tel: 089-9546433, 089-2885028. Email: kjralph@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

near monument. 2.5 million, fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, Sat TV. Contact K. Robert Tel: 085-7833037 (English).

THAI BUNGALOW

Rural Ban Liphon, Thalung. 2 bedrooms with aircons, lounge, dining room, large back patio with garden. 8 min to Boat Lagoon, 15 min to the airport. 920,000 baht ono. Call Clare at Tel: 083-3906700, or in evening call 086-4702787 (English), or 086-0918355 (Thai).

HOUSE FOR SALE

at Land & House Park, 404sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 aircon, telephone, fully furnished. Space to add swimming pool. Contact K. Krit. Tel: 084-1888770.

LAND IN RAWAI

Chanote. 400sqm. Can walk to main Rawai Beach. 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-5375844, 085-0330726.

PHUKET'S NO.1 PROPERTY SITE

Visit us for all things property related! Email: sales@phuketpropertyonline.com www.phuketpropertyonline.com

NICE LAND FOR SALE

228sq wah. Chanote. Electricity and road access. 10 minute drive to Laguna Phuket. 15,000 baht per sq wah (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269.

SEAVIEW APARTMENT IN PATONG

1-bedroom apartment with stunning sea view of Patong Bay. Located on the 10th floor of Patong Tower. Only 100 m to the beach. Asking 6.2 million baht. Tel: 081-8924655. email: patongtower99@gmail.com

Chalong Bay View CONDOMINIUMS

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WWW.CHALONGBAYVIEW.COM MOBILE: 087 898 7062

LUXURY VILLAS



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new. 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K. Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more info, please visit our website: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

BEAUTIFUL CONDO FOR SALE

Immaculate, 126sqm condominium overlooking Nai Ham lagoon and only a 2-minute walk from the beach. 2 bedrooms; each with en-suite bathroom, lounge, dining room with kitchen and balcony with stunning views. Fully-airconditioned and tastefully furnished. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388809, 081-0849566. Email: nicholas@idecnet.com

SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS, BANG TAO

Beautiful view, ready to build, call to view. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

IN HEART OF PATONG



Seaview land. Nearly one rai of incredible seaview land in heart of Patong. Price includes costly and difficult to get building license, plans and project website. Can build 5 to 6, 1,700sq ft homes on this lot. Tel: 085-7987556. See plans at www.phuketserenity.com

SALE: 7.7 RAI NEAR LAGUNA

Cherng Talay. Land for sale, 7.7 rai. 2 plots, connected. Concrete road access. 7 million baht per rai. 5 minutes to Laguna area, good for developer. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com or visit our website www.landinphuket.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

3-story duplex renovation project directly on the 15th Fairway. Tel: 087-5074395. Email: radrussell@gmail.com For more details please visit www.fairway15.com

LAND FOR SALE



135sq wah of flat land in Maneekram, between Chalong and Central Festival, 2-road access to house, full public utilities, quiet area. Price: 2.6 million baht. Call Tel: 081-5697068. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

OCEAN-VIEW LAND PLOTS, BANG TAO

3-phase electric, 2.7km from beach. Ready to build. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

LAND IN LAGUNA AREA

836sqm and 640sqm plots. Both with Chanote. Please contact for further details. Tel: 087-8934636. Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

OCEAN-VIEW CONDOS

Two-bedroom apartments, all with sea views, 72sqm. Last freehold units available (foreigners eligible) starting from 3.4 million baht. Tel: 076-282394, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For details, see our website: www.kataoceanview.com

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Property Gazette

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

BEAUTIFUL LAND IN KHAO YAI

120km from Bangkok. 514sq wah in Khao Yai area. A popular tourist destination with good weather all year, 2 golf courses, famous steakhouse, hiking and camping, water sports, ATV outdoor activities. The land is a perfect rectangle, on quiet but not isolated country road. Already has big houses on each side of property and a stream behind it, can build houses, guesthouses, condos or bungalows. Chanote. 10,000 baht per sq wah. Sale by owner. Tel: 081-2707538.

RAI NEAR MAI KHAO BEACH
600m to Mai Khao Beach. Freehold. 950,000 baht. Call Kenny. Tel: 086-5713667. Email: mmcgrath2@hotmail.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KATA

Near Garden Home Hotel, nice 2-bedroom, 2-story house, no garden, Chanote. Call and ask for Thomas. Tel: 087-8858708. Email: svein@byggguiden.no

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



51.47sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd in Chalong. Price: 3.6 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

LAND MISSION HEIGHTS

225sq wah or 900sqm for 1.8 million baht or best cash offer. Concrete road, 3-phase electric, 10 min from airport and Blue Canyon Golf Club. Call Khun So. Tel: 081-3444473.

KATA BEACHFRONT LUXURY

5-star, exotic, 1 bedroom, spa, pool, ADSL, furnished. Reduced price: 8 million baht. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For details and to see actual photos visit our website at www.koumbele.com/kata1

BALI-STYLE VILLA SAI YUAN/NAI HARN

3 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, full Western kitchen with everything, marble bathrooms with Jacuzzi, private pool and gardens, shingled roof. Furnished with solid teak furniture. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 086-6845368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG CONDO

Freehold, studio, parking, pool for 1.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite with sea view. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8sqm. construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

AO PO LAND, SALE OR LEASE

Chanote title, 2,532sqm. Located on main road near Mission Hills golf. In developing area, great investment. Private sale at 6 million baht. Tel: 081-3670991. Fax: 076-321328. Email: enio99@hotmail.com

SURIN/BANG TAO APARTMENT

Club Lersuang, 2-bedroom apartment, ground floor, big pool, gym, restaurant, bar, etc. 6 million baht. Tel: 076-271870, 087-0790650. Email: mlcberg@netvigator.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

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

for sale in the heart of Patong. 2-bedroom townhouse in Benjamas. Please contact for further details. Tel: 081-7197092. Email: mailjic@gmail.com

THAI STYLE HOUSE - KAMALA



on over 1 rai of landscaped gardens. Lighted security walls, electric gate, three 10,000L filtered water tanks with local water plus ground well with automatic pump. Emergency generator, cable TV, 3-phase electricity, 2 phone lines. Large swimming pool, waterfall koi fish pond, garden lighting. 3 to 4 bedrooms all ensuite, 4 aircons, 4 ceiling fans, 2-story plus wine cellar/storage room. Teak walls and hardwood floors. Fully-furnished with many extras. Natural surroundings and mountain views with enough land for future expansion, eg. 3x2-bedroom rental units. Chanote available through holding company for foreign ownership included. Asking 18 million baht walk-in walk-out. Willing to accept 50% down and 50% after 6 months. Includes Mazda 626 sedan car. Email: gsantos512@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

50sq wah. Detached, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garden, covered parking fully-furnished, 3 aircons. Near Laguna, a bargain at 2.8 million baht. Contact owner, K. Aoy. Tel: 087-9899752.

HOUSE WITH POOL IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 4 aircons, fully-furnished. Sala, 8x4m pool, terrace on 2 levels, garden and parking. Walled and gated. Quiet area. Includes company papers and Chanote. 5 million baht. Tel: 45-244-19447. Email: bo@motto.dk

LUXURY POOL VILLAS

Five pool villas for sale, only 3 remaining. Five bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, large garden, 17m pool, high-speed Internet, solar water heater. Plot size: 1,996-2,796 sqm. Located in a quiet and private area, 15 minutes to airport. Tel: 084-1032358, 083-5092153. Fax: 076-338322. Email: thegardenkptphuket@uk2.net For details visit our website: www.thegardenkptphuket.com

TOWNHOUSE

2-story, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, garage. Next to Kathu Municipality office, 3 minutes from Big C, Central and Lotus. Special price: 1.35 million baht. Tel: 076-236590, 081-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: phuketspeedboats@yahoo.com

Properties For Rent

NEW FURNISHED VILLA



Close to Laguna. 300sqm. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining, kitchen, and pool. 2 min to Laguna. Long- or short-term rent. Contact K. Gai. Tel: 081-7344324 or see our website: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

MODERN HOUSE, QUIET LOCATION

Fully-furnished Western house with large terrace and fenced-in tropical garden. UBC, ADSL, alarm, garage, 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, full aircon and ceiling fans. Only long-term rentals. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent: 25,000 baht per month; or for sale at 4 million baht. Tel: 087-264-6808, 083-1743880.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, garden and parking. Rent: 35,000 per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

THALANG HOUSE

for long-term rent, 2 bedrooms, aircon, near waterfall. 37/136 Pernjun villa. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6831147.

BANG TAO RENTALS

Furnished bungalows, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, hot water, telephone, ADSL, car park, gated, quiet. One with aircon and private terrace: 15,000 baht per month. No aircon: 13,000 baht per month. Please call K. Tee. Tel: 086-2786465 or Betty 076-270377.

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

House for lease or rent. Pool, UBC, and ADSL. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

PALAI GREEN HOUSE

with big garden. Fully furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, ADSL, and cable TV. 12,000 baht per month. Chalong area. Tel: 081-8924311.

HIGH END RENTAL

2 minutes to BIS school, 5 bedrooms, private pool, 24hr security. Tel: 081-4077403.

THAI STYLE VILLA



Tropical villa in Rawai, long-term rental. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 aircons, 42" cable TV, fully-furnished, lovely garden and large pool. 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8916438.

STUDIO APARTMENT WITH INTERNET

Off Nanai Rd, 30sqm, fully-furnished. Includes: TV, DVD, large fridge, hot water, fan, aircon and kitchenette. From baht 7,500 per month, long-term. ADSL Internet optional. Tel: 087-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

SURIN

1 bedroom apartment, shared pool, Western kitchen, TV, DVD, etc. Gated compound, 24-hour security. Available now through Dec 19. Cheap. Make me an offer. Tel: 813-34517073, 090-66585627. Email: hktkferg@hotmail.com

BOAT LAGOON

2-bedroom, lagoon-fronted townhouse. Modern, fully-fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool. Near international school, shopping, etc. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8337836.

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

Furnished studio for rent. Aircon, TV, UBC and ADSL. 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

100SQM STUDIO

for rent with pool, overlooking golf course lake. 4km to BIS. Quiet, furnished, Wi-Fi, UBC. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

TOP VILLA, TOP VIEW FOR RENT

Thai-style with pool, on top of a private hill. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. 4km to BIS. View of golf course, lake and valley. Quiet, security guard, maid service, furnished, Wi-Fi and UBC. Yearly lease at 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

KAMALA LARGE 4-BEDROOM

villa, 3 bathrooms, 42" plasma TV, all teak furniture, kitchen, full-size snooker table, 1 rai tropical garden, private security and maid included. Price 60,000 baht a month for minimum 6-month contract. Tel: 081-8111067.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

Property Gazette

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

VILLA FOR LONG-TERM RENT

in Kamala. Consists of 1 large, 2-bedroom apartment, 3 studio apartments, swimming pool, 440sqm of landscaped gardens, private well and water supply, and private road. 1 year or more on request. 50,000 baht per month or sale available at 6.5 million baht. Contact at Tel: 084-8375985. Email: kamalarob@yahoo.co.uk

RENT HOUSE IN KAMALA

New, 2 bedrooms, 1 aircon, TV, phone, fully furnished, garage, very good. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-7002901.

BUNGALOW FOR 400 BAHT/NIGHT



4 new bungalows for rent. Fully-furnished, cable TV, etc. Weekly or long term. Please contact for more information Tel: 081-6913029, 089-7286242. Email: purimas_re@yahoo.com

CHALONG ROOM

TV, VCD, fridge, hot water, Wi-Fi, aircon. 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-4727304.

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

5 mins from INT school, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet corner location with 24hr security. Tel: 081-6770663.

HOMES FOR HOLIDAY

Near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, pool, spa. Cheap rates and weekly rates. Need car to access house. Tel: 089-5944067.

COMFORTABLE HOUSE

In secure environment, 3 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, garage, kitchen/diner, fenced garden, furnished, UBC, ADSL. 35,000 baht per month. Near Wat Chalong. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins to Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 22,000 baht per month. Please contact Khun Nui at Tel: 087-3830936.

HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE

Kathu area. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, big terrace, car park. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-3670991.

THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong. New 2-bedroom bungalows, fully-furnished, cool and quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht per month, contact K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries to Tel: 089-6521473.

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RAWAI/NAI HARN

Large luxury house on the lake, 5-6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, swimming pool. Long-term rent: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-3971835.

LAND FOR RENT AT KOH LANTA

10 rai of prime land. We used 4 rai for plane plot, 2 rai for private road, last 4 rai undeveloped. Located in business center near Klong Doa Beach. Next to 2 main roads and a private road 10 meters wide. For more info and urgent reservations contact K. Ratree. Tel: 085-8885143. Email: lantacenter@hotmail.com

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Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, large shower, terrace by the sea. Nice, quiet place 10 min from town, safe swimming, 100 ft to beach. Long-or short-term. Tel: 081-0792592. Email: jarbau13@hotmail.com

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near Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, aircons, UBC TV, telephone, furnished, private pool and garden and fully-maintained. Minimum 6-month lease: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2810452, 087-8931180.

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for rent or sale. 2 bathrooms, central hot water, aircon, European kitchen, garden, furnished. Only 10 mins to Patong and Kathu. Long-term contract required. Tel: 084-1871939, 081-7356684.

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New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully-furnished. Please contact K. Porn at Tel: 087-2740680. Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

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for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, swimming pool, cable TV, ADSL Internet. Tel: 081-6067410.

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65sq wah, 1.5km from Central Festival, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, fully furnished, garden, sprinkler, well and pump. Contact K. Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

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2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living room, teak kitchen, teak furniture, 42" plasma TV, ADSL, private security and maid included. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

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for rent, fully-furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, swimming pool, balcony, cable TV, ADSL. Monthly: 29,000 baht; long-term: 18,500 baht. Tel: 081-6067410.

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HOBIE 14 FOR SALE

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SAILBOAT

1968 islander for sale. 44-ft world cruiser, lying in Yacht Haven Marina. US\$50,000. Email: temptation44@hotmail.com

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

Length: 11m. Beam: 2.20m. Engine: Isuzu 165hp. Price 220,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8947565. Email: hade@seacano.net

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Island Job Mart

Thavorn Hotels & Resorts Phuket

Owners of Thavorn Hotel in Phuket Town, Thavorn Grand Plaza in Phuket Town, Thavorn Palm Beach Resort on Karon Beach and Thavorn Beach Village & Spa on Nakalay Bay near Patong Beach are currently looking for:

- General Managers / Resident Managers - Expats or Thais (For Thavorn Beach Village & Spa and Thavorn Palm Beach Resort)
- Food & Beverage Directors / Managers / Restaurants Managers / Asst. Managers
- Executive Chefs / Sous Chefs / Bakery Chefs / Chefs - Expats or Thais (For Japanese, Italian, Thai & main kitchens)
- Room Division Managers / Front Office Managers / Asst. Managers
- Director of Sales / Sales Managers - Expats or Thais (Japanese, Chinese, Russian & European markets)
- Executive Housekeepers / Asst. Executive Housekeepers
- Spa Manager / Asst. Spa Managers / Masseuse
- Marketing Comm. Managers / Executive Secretaries - Expats (Native speakers of English preferred)
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Interested candidates should send applications with CVs and two recent photos to:

Group Human Resources Director
Thavorn Hotels & Resorts Phuket
601 Phuket Road, Talad Yai, Phuket Town, Phuket 83000
Email: recruitment@thavorngroup.com

IndoChine
Villa Santi
Phuket

IndoChine Villa Santi, a luxury villa resort located in Kalim Beach, is preparing for resort operations and invites candidates to apply for the following positions:

1. Villa Operations Manager
2. Human Resources Manager
3. Financial Controller
4. Executive Housekeeper
5. Personal Assistant to CEO
6. Sales and Marketing Manager
7. Food And Beverage Manager
8. Front Office Manager
9. Office Secretary
10. IT Technician

All positions are required to have full fluency in English and a minimum of Bachelor Degree in related field.

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Please submit your resume with recent photo by email to human resources; thip@phuket-villa-santi.com.

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Phuket Gazette

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• **CAMERA OPERATOR**

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- Self-motivated, imaginative, well-organized
- Video filming experience
- Experienced user of video editing software
- Good spoken English
- Hold current driving license
- Flexibility and punctuality essential

Applicants are invited to send a full, detailed resume with recent photo to:

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Tel: 076-236555 Email: jib@phuketgazette.net

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

Position:
Foreign Lawyer as Assistant to Senior Associate Lawyer

Qualifications:
Law Degree, perfect written and spoken English computer word processing skills and good references

Status:
Female or male over than 30 years old

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: manager_phuket@phuket-realestate-law.com

TROPICAL PROPERTIES-PATONG

One of the island's leading real estate companies is expanding and urgently looking for 2 EXPERIENCED SALES PERSONS. Good command of English, both written and spoken, is essential. Own car is preferred but not a necessity. Good salary, high commissions, career growth possibilities and other bonuses for the right person. Thai nationals only. Please send your resume by replying to this ad or call Tel: 076-340792, 087-88228560. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

EXPERIENCED SALES PERSON

Well established Real Estate company is expanding and urgently looking for an experienced sales person. Good command of English, both written and spoken, is essential. Own car is preferred but not a necessity. Good salary, commissions and other bonuses for the right person. Please send your resume by replying to this ad. Email: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

SALES AND ADMIN

3 positions. For retail shop Rawai. Must be fluent in English and have good computer knowledge. Contact K. Kob for more information at Tel: 081-6585962.

GYMNASTICS

Gymnastic sports trainer wanted for child. Contact K. Celine at Tel: 085-7925636, or K. Nicolas 081-7286188.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

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The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

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ENGLISH SPEAKER WANTED

Urgent. Waitress needed in Phuket town. Full-time, salary 9,000 baht. Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

STAFF WANTED

Patong night club looking for club manager and waitress. Thai, male or female. 20-35 years of age. Good English, friendly and positive. Please contact for additional details at Tel: 086-9422007.

STAFF WANTED

Needed: Graphic Designer, Web master/programmer, Accountant, Cashier and Maid. Tel: 085-8877414, 086-6900444. Email: rico@southernpartner.com

TEACHERS WANTED

Experienced female teachers needed for kindergarten classes in Patong from Dec 1 - Mar 30. Excellent salary. Please call Brent at ECC. Please contact for additional details at Tel: 076-219062. Email: eccpkt@ecc.ac.th

DELIVERY MAN OR WOMAN

Thai company in Kamala looking for delivery man or woman. Any age, easy job. Must have motorbike. No need to speak English. 7,000 baht per month plus gasoline. Tel: 076-385221. giovannifrova@libero.it

WEB DEVELOPER/DESIGNER

International marketing agency requires experienced web developer. English essential, flexible salary and hours. Tel: 089-8740040. For more info or to apply, send CV to Email: claire@orchidmarketing.com, phuketweb@hotmail.com.

SPA THERAPIST

Hotel in Patong area requires 1 therapist starting immediately. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-8920038.

EDUCATED THAI LADY

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2. Spa Manager
3. Sous Chef
4. Chief Steward
5. Training Manager
6. Western Cook

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TEL: 076 289333, FAX: 076 289322
Email: hrr@sabana-resort.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

needed to work in Kamala and Patong from 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Must have good English and be able to drive. Salary: 14,000 baht per month. Contact at Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

THAI WAITRESS

Bluejuice Divers in Krabi, require waitresses who can speak a little English for the coming season. For details contact at Tel: 075-630679, 086-9734412. Email: Pspearing@hotmail.com

REAL ESTATE SALES PERSON

wanted. Property Developer in Kata is seeking an experienced sales person. Excellent English is essential. Good salary and commissions. Tel: 081-7888280.

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5/3 Moo 5, Viset Road, T.Rawai, A.Muang, Phuket 83130, Thailand
Email: HR@sea-property-international.com
www.sea-property-international.com

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2) Hostess (2)

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- Excellent presentation.

3) Waitress/Waiter (7)

- Friendly, positive, energetic and outgoing with good communication skills.
- Previous experience in upscale international restaurants.

4) Sous Chef (1)

- Fluent in English. Must be able to do ordering/stock control. Good understanding of pastry kitchen.

5) Chef de Partie (5)

- Fluent in English. Good knife skills, knowledge of fish and meat preparation and pasta making. Willing to learn.

6) Demi Chef (3)

- Some English. Good understanding of stocks, knowledge of fish and meat preparation and basic sauce making. Willing to learn.

7) Kitchen Hands (3)

- Clean and fast. Understand food hygiene and vegetable preparation.

For an interview please call 081 979 1967
or email us at benediktd@rain-hail.com

HOUSEKEEPER, MAID

& Thai cook wanted. Busy villa management company urgently requires: 1 head of house, 4 house keepers and 3 Thai cooks. Head of house needs to have a good level of English. Thai cooks should be able to prepare some basic Western dishes. Please contact K. Lek at Tel: 089-8662796. Email: contact@phuketvillasandhomes.com

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REAL ESTATE

company opening Laguna office in December needs:

- General manager
- Sales personnel

Multi-lingual is a plus: Swedish, Korean, etc. Integrity is a must. Lots of sales leads, large commissions and bonus. Be part of a company with 30-years of success. Send to email or short resume to daniel.phuket@yahoo.com

HOUSE SITTER

needed to look after a 3-bedroom house and dog in Kamala, also do shopping. Must be able to drive. Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

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Model: heritage soft-tail classic. Year 2004, with registration, 765,000 baht. Also, BMW model L-RT 1200GS, year 2005, with bike book 755,000 baht. NEW! Contact Sumon. Tel: 076-352069, 081-6919346.

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CUSTOM VFR400 100,000 ONO

Great condition, green book, UK owner, many new parts, aftermarket fairings. Email for pics. Tel: 084-8386209. nstretch4@hotmail.com

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