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Yamu marina to become 'test case'

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Human Rights Commissioner Wasan Panich, who is leading the investigation into whether permission should be granted for a marina to be built at Cape Yamu, announced January 7 that the project was developing into a "test case" on guidelines for similar developments in the future.

K. Wasan made the announcement at a public hearing at the Phuket Merlin Hotel, where people voiced their opinions on whether The Yamu Ltd company should be permitted to build a 39-berth marina, a hotel covering 100 rai and other facilities on the eastern cape.

At the hearing were local villagers for and against the project, as well as a panel of officials from relevant government departments.

"We are holding The Yamu marina project to be an example for other new marinas yet to be built in Phuket. We are concerned about Phuket's capacity to support many marinas like this one and what effects construction of such marinas will have," said K. Wasan.

Last year, Commissioner Wasan was contacted by angry villagers on Koh Yao Noi about a 85-meter pier and breakwater project that was fully approved, but without their knowledge. The project was later scrapped by its Bangkok-based developers.

"We are concerned that [if we make] a mistake in allowing this project to continue [then] it will contravene the intent of environment preservation law, which simply specifies that it is illegal to destroy the natural environment. If the Yamu project



"We are holding The Yamu marina project to be an example for other new marinas yet to be built in Phuket," Human Rights Commissioner Wasan Panich.

is allowed to proceed and then has an affect on the natural environment there, then I will need to know who will be held responsible.

"So, in this case we are waiting for the IEE [Institute for Environmental Education] to very carefully consider the environmental impact before deciding whether or not to allow the project."

"At the meeting, we also discussed why it seems that anyone who owns beachfront land in Phuket can easily apply to build a marina.

"So we are now considering putting in place regulations specifying zones where such coastal development would be allowed. These laws could be

applied throughout the country, but would be especially important for Phang Nga Bay and Phuket.

"In Phuket, there are people who depend on fishing to make a living, so we cannot ignore them in a way that will destroy their way of life," K. Wasan said.

"Now, we are waiting for the report from Phuket Vice-Governor [Worapoj Rattasima] and to review the environmental-impact assessment before we can make a decision on the Yamu project," he added.

V/Gov Worapoj said, "The provincial government has not yet granted permission for this marina to be built. We cannot decide quickly because local villagers are still divided on the issue."

Man murders pregnant girlfriend

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: An enraged man slashed the throat of his pregnant girlfriend as she was working at a 7-Eleven store in Phuket City at 3:45 am on January 7.

He was arrested by police the same day as he was preparing to leave the island.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Nos Svettalekha identified the victim as 26-year-old Vipaporn Yimaim, a native of Chainat.

As she was working behind the counter at the 7-Eleven branch on Srisuthat Rd in tambon Talaad Yai, Phuket City, her throat was slashed by a man wielding a 10-inch knife.

Col Nos identified the killer as 29-year-old Nuchan Munmeema, a native of the northeast province of Sakon Nakhon and the victim's estranged lover.

Nuchan fled the scene but was caught by police at 8 pm the same day as he was waiting for a bus at Phuket Municipal Bus Station.

"He was planning to travel to Surat Thani so he could catch a train to Bangkok and get to his home in Sakon Nakhon," said Col Nos.

"Nuchan was angry with Vipaporn because she had wanted to end her relationship with him.

"He has been charged with murder and is now in Phuket Provincial Prison.

"No-one has yet shown up to post bail for him," said Col Nos.

"Vipaporn was two months pregnant. Her body is now at Vachira Phuket Hospital," he added.



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Phi Phi pee turns deadly

KOH PHI PHI DON: An American tourist on holiday at Koh Phi Phi Don fell to his death after he stopped to relieve himself at a rocky outcrop on the way back to his bungalow after celebrating New Year's Eve at a local bar.

Sub Lt Noppadon Klompong of the Krabi Muang District Police outpost on Koh Phi Phi Don identified the deceased as Michael Saul Schwartz, 64.

Lt Noppadon said he received a report about 6 am New Year's Day of a dead Caucasian man.

The body of Mr Schwartz was found face up, covered with bruises and wedged between two large boulders in a dark spot under a Bodhi tree.

Local people refer to the bluff from which he fell as hin lek fai [stone, iron and fire] because of the large boulders at its base, he said.

As his trousers were unzipped and covered with urine, Mr Schwartz is believed to have lost his footing and fallen down the slope after he stopped to urinate, he added.

Lt Noppadon estimated that Mr Schwartz died about three hours before his body was discovered.

Doctors at Krabi Hospital said that Mr Schwartz suffered five broken ribs, one of which punctured a lung, added Lt Noppadon.

Mr Schwartz had been a guest at Kachita Hotel on Koh Phi Phi Don for a month at the time of his death, he said.

A search of his room there uncovered an expired Israeli passport and a large quantity of medicine, perhaps indicating that he was suffering from an illness, the officer said.

The US Embassy has thus far been unable to contact any relatives to claim the body.

The Israeli Embassy has also been contacted in the hope of contacting his relatives, Lt Noppadon said.

— Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Holiday road toll: 6 dead, 76 injured

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: The road toll in Phuket during the holiday season "seven days of danger", from midnight December 28 to midnight last night, stands at six dead and 76 people injured in a total of 72 accidents, Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha was told January 4.

Of the accidents reported during the period, two-thirds were attributed to alcohol and almost all of them involved motorcycles.

The announcement was made at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall comprising officers from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) and

Phuket Provincial Health Office and Phuket City Police Traffic Inspector Lt Col Teerawat Leamsuwan.

At the meeting it was reported that the sixth victim during the period was Bunlue Na-Thalang, 75, who died on January 3 after his motorcycle fitted with a sidecar and a Toyota car collided at 6.10 pm at the U-turn in front of Thalang Post Office. K. Bunlue died at the scene.

During the road-safety campaign, 62,013 motorists were stopped at the nine checkpoints on the island manned by a total of 342 officers, with 12,180 motorists charged for violations.

The most common charge was driving

without a license (4,780 cases), followed by driving while not wearing a seatbelt (2,203), riding a motorcycle without a helmet (2,052), drunk driving (2,030) and riding a motorcycle deemed unsafe by police (1,115).

Some 78% of accidents during the period were at night, with 74.67% of them occurring on state highways.

V/Gov Tri said, "We were more prepared this year — our campaign was more extensive and we had more checkpoints than last year — but we still could not decrease the death toll during the period."

During the same period last year, three people died and 32 people were injured in 35 reported accidents.

Chalong Bay Marina construction delayed

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: The second phase of the Chalong Bay Marina project is being redrawn, following complaints from local fisherman to the Human Rights Commission that its construction could harm the local environment and destroy their livelihoods.

Human Rights Commissioner Wasan Panich on January 7 chaired an ad-hoc committee meeting at the Phuket Merlin Hotel to discuss concerns expressed by local fisherman with representatives of the various government agencies involved in the project's controversial second phase.

The first phase of the marina, now nearing completion at a cost of 70 million baht, comprises a pier with floating berths for 44 yachts.

The second-phase, already budgeted at 300-million-baht, would have expanded the pier to accommodate 210 berths.

Also to be built on the expanded main pier under Phase 2 would have been a multipurpose building serving as a one-stop service center for tourists arriv-



A computer-generated image of the completed Chalong Bay Marina.

ing by yacht. Services offered there were to include a Customs and Immigration checkpoint and safety center.

The expansion would serve the needs of rich investors and yacht owners, but offer little to local residents; dredging of the seabed to accommodate large yachts and the construction of breakwaters would damage the marine environment in Chalong Bay, opponents have claimed.

On January 7, Marine Department engineer Somchai Somanaskhajornkul said that with so much opposition, the

project could not go forward in its present form.

However, the Marine Department and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) have discussed reducing the expansion to 100 berths and using floating breakwaters, not fixed ones, he said.

New plans based on these changes have been drawn up, he said, adding that the Marine Department is now waiting for the OrBorJor to hold another round of hearings and will wait for the public response before taking any further action on phase 2.

Call for witnesses to horse accident

RAWAI: Police are calling for witnesses to a collision between a horse and a motorbike on Wiset Rd on January 3. The accident occurred about 3:30pm and it is understood that the motorbike had a sidecar. More information is sought to assist in the investigation.

The collision, at the entrance to the Phuket Riding Club on Wiset Rd, splintered the horse's leg bones and a veterinarian was called in to euthanize the animal.

Lt Surasak Jaidee of Chalong Police Station told the Gazette this afternoon that, "No person has come forward claiming to be the horse's owner and I haven't had a chance to speak with the man who was driving the motorcycle. I have been told that he was not seriously injured."

"It would be helpful if anyone who was a witness to the accident would come to Chalong Police Station, because we are unsure of what happened," Lt Surasak said.

"We have spoken to the veterinarian who was called in, and he said that he decided to put the horse down by lethal injection because the animal's injuries were too serious to treat," he added.

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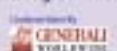
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Bars threatened over national mourning

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET (*Kom Chad Luek, Gazette*): Muang District Chief Wisit Kurattanavej on January 3 threatened to blacklist entertainment venues that do not follow the government's request to observe the national mourning of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana, who passed away January 2.

K. Wisit made the announcement at a meeting to discuss a ban on "entertainment noise" during the 15-day national mourning period, which began January 2.

At the meeting were Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rathasima and top officials including Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth and Phuket's three district chiefs.

After the meeting it was announced that each District Office today began distributing a letter asking entertainment operators to not stage any live music performances and not use any sound systems during the 15-day period.

In the meantime, apart from the request for silence, entertainment venues can trade as usual.

They will be able to resume their loud noise levels on January 17.

There was no comment as to whether the island's shopping malls and other large-scale retail venues would be allowed to continue with their noise generation or not.

As for public celebrations, the Phuket Provincial Red Cross Fair currently underway at Saphan Hin will continue until

January 7 as originally scheduled, but with all concerts and stage performances canceled.

The ban on celebrations will also affect Children's Day on January 12. "Activities can still proceed as planned but we ask that organizers adjust the entertainment lineup so that it is in line with the request for silence, which will show children how important the Royal Family is," Vice-Governor Worapoj said.

Bars and clubs in Patong were open for business as the ban commenced. During the first night of the mourning period, police requested that the volume of music at Club Lime on the beach road be turned down. On the same night, Seduction Discotheque on Soi Bangla enforced restrictions on dancing inside the venue.



RUSH HOUR

A 26-year-old male, still clutching his mobile phone, is pulled from the overturned wreckage of the minivan he was driving after the van and a timber-laden truck collided on Chao Fa West Rd, near Wang Thalang.

The truck was making a right turn in the road when the accident occurred at 7:30 am January 8.

A child passenger in the minivan was seriously injured in the accident and has not yet been able to talk with police.

The minivan driver and passenger were both sent to Phuket International Hospital.

The truck driver was not injured.



Woman believed abducted after new husband murdered

CHERNG TALAY: A jealous ex-husband allegedly stabbed his former wife's new husband to death just before dawn on January 5, then fled the scene with the woman.

Cherng Talay Police Duty Inspector Pol Lt Col Jessada Sangsuee identified the victim as Runnapa Sriburam, 31, a native of Kalasin province who was staying in Soi Layan in Cherng Talay at the time of his death.

The victim's body was found about 5:30 am in his workers' camp quarters. There was one stab wound to the base of his left ear, two to the left side of his chest, and multiple wounds to his left arm. His belongings were scattered around the room, sug-

gesting a violent struggle, Lt Col Jessada said.

The victim and his wife, identified only as "Noy", married on New Year's Day.

According to witnesses, the murder was carried out by Noy's estranged husband. Police are now investigating his name and current whereabouts, Lt Col Jessada said.

"Witnesses said they heard loud noises consistent with a fight, then saw Noy leaving with her ex-husband. When they went to check on Runnapa, they found him dead and reported the murder to the police," he said.

"We believe that the man abducted his wife after killing her new husband," he added.

Hotel worker lost at sea

KOH RACHA YAI: Marine Police on January 8 were still searching for a worker at The Racha resort who was washed overboard when a wave overturned the small catamaran he was sailing on January 2.

"The incident happened about 7 pm, about 500 meters off the west of Racha Yai Island," Capt. Chatchai Sakdee said.

The catamaran was hit by a big wave and flipped over. On board were hotel workers Surat Rakangthong and Muhammad Ameer Saho, both 23 he said.

The men, both recreation events staff at the resort, were sailing a small Hobie Cat used for resort guests, he added.

"K. Surat said that he saw K. Muhammad wearing a life vest and holding onto the side of the boat, but after the large waves had subsided K. Muhammad was nowhere to be seen," he said.

EC approves Democrat win

PHUKET CITY: The Election Commission (EC) on January 7 confirmed Democrat Party candidates Tossaporn Thepabutr and Rewat Areerob as the winners of the Phuket round of the December 23 general election, said Boonyakaiti Rakchartcharoen, director general of the Administration Department of the EC.

A five-member EC team arrived in Phuket on January 3 to investigate a charge lodged by rival candidates claiming that K. Tossaporn's wife, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, had unfairly used her position to help the two candidates.

Phuket Election Committee (PEC) investigation officer Ratchapon Thongnuengarm, who is leading the investigation team in Phuket, told the *Gazette* January 7 that the EC investigators dismissed the complaint after ruling there was insufficient evidence to prove the charges.

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Looking for harmony

Starting at 9:30 am on Children's Day, January 12, Phuket Aquarium will play host to the Saphan Jai Community Festival, one feature of which will be the opening of the InSIGHT Out! children's photography exhibit.

On display will be photos taken by 117 children from communities in Phang Nga and the Deep South, all of whom will be arriving in Phuket for the exhibition as part of a cross-country caravan bus tour that has also made stops in Bangkok and Mae Sod, along the Burmese border.

Jeanne Hallacy, a freelance television producer and photojournalist, is the executive director of the InSIGHT Out! project. Jeanne's work has largely been focused on social and human-rights issues in Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand.

The Saphan Jai ("bridge between hearts") Community Festival comprises two major events, she explained. The first, held in Khao Lak on December 30, featured a concert by Thai songs-for-life pioneers Caravan and the German band The Durgas, as well as stage performances by the children and the opening of the latest InSIGHT Out! exhibition.

One goal of the the Saphan Jai festival is to demonstrate how the InSIGHT Out! project creates friendships among children who come from communities that are commonly isolated from one another.

"All the kids are going in a convoy of buses, from Phang Nga to Phuket, stopping at schools along the way to give presentations of their exhibits. They arrive in Phuket on January 11, then on Children's Day they will open

Ever wondered what would happen if you were to give your digital camera to a child? Most seasoned parents would tell you, without a moment's hesitation, that the camera would be broken within minutes.

A group of international photojournalists who covered the tsunami disaster in 2004 are showing the world that children can not only be trusted with photographic equipment, but they can use it to capture unique and insightful images.

Gazette news editor Stephen Fein spoke with the executive director of the InSIGHT Out! project.

their exhibition at Phuket Aquarium," Jeanne explained.

To mark the opening, the InSIGHT Out! project will have its own tent at the aquarium, which will admit all children free of charge and ply them with free ice cream.

The Saphan Jai event is centered around the photography exhibition. The children will present slide shows in the main auditorium, including documentaries by some of the students.

Outdoors, there will be a tent where the children will run a one-day mini-workshop for children visiting the aquarium that day. Any child who wants to learn how to take a photo will be joined by a group InSIGHT Out! children, given a camera and allowed to take photos in and around the aquarium.

Jeanne explained how InSIGHT Out! came into existence. "The program was started by a group of professional photojournalists, like myself, who had covered the tsunami. We all wanted to give something back to those communities and the kids

to kind of 'turn the tables' on the media, if you will. Because, as you know, media are always looking for the sad stories of kids — those who lost their parents and homes. We thought we would empower them with their own tools to let them document their own communities by themselves and aid the recovery process as kind of a healing tool."

The first year the project was started, it was very much focused on the tsunami-affected communities in both Phang Nga and Bandar Aceh, Indonesia.

Now, coming to the end of its second full year, the focus has shifted away from the tsunami and continued to build on its primary strength: peace building through integrating communities that are normally segregated, helping them to establish real friendships and break down misconceptions.

"The photos were a huge success and the exhibition got huge media acclaim. It was covered in the Asian Wall Street Journal and by television networks such as CNN and ABC, which ran feature stories about the exhibits. Some of our kids won prizes in photography contests organized by National Geographic, Asia Books and others," said Jeanne.

"The four communities we



This photo of a student at Wat Communeeyake in Phang Nga was taken by sea gypsy boy, Mac Klatalay, 11.

began our work with in Thailand, who are traditionally segregated, are the Muslim community, the Buddhist mainstream community, the Moken [Sea Gypsy] community and the children of illegal Burmese migrant workers," added Jeanne.

"They go around taking photos on assignment in each others' communities. For example, you might have a Muslim kid going to work at a rubber plantation where Burmese rubber tappers work, taking photos there. You'll have a Thai-Buddhist kid from Baan Muang going to take photos at the Baan Narai prayer services, his first time ever going to a mosque," she said.

Jeanne described photography as the conduit to help reach the project's goal of promoting peace through friendship.

"It helps kids to recognize that cultural and religious diversity exist, but that we are all part of the same community even though it is comprised of all these

different groups. That's essentially the ethos of the project. The photography we produce is a by-product of that," she said.

Presenting the exhibitions and public speaking are part of another goal of the project: to develop youth leaders. Some of the older children stay on as assistant staff. They help the foreign volunteers train the new children. The children range in age from eight to 15 years old, but the bulk are aged around 11 or 12. The older children of 13 and 14 are those who have returned to help as staff.

To meet the need for a better understanding between communities in the Deep South, the InSIGHT Out! project has recently taken on work in the conflict zones in the southern border provinces.

This year, they added six schools from Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat. Two of the schools had been burned down and some of the children's parents had been

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through a child's eyes



A thought-provoking image of sea-turtle hatchlings, as captured by Boonsita Silasuwan, an 11-year-old Buddhist girl living in strife-torn Pattani province.

killed in the conflict. Forty-six children out of the 117 that will visit Phuket on Children's Day are from the Deep South.

The InSIGHT Out! children get together three times a year for a one-week intensive-training workshop. At other times, they continue the training with weekend workshops in their own communities with groups of 15 to 20 children. For the southern border provinces, the trainers go to see them as part of a mobile project.

After Children's Day, the trainers are scheduled to visit Pattani for another session.

"It's all pretty exciting and cool. The exhibitions have gotten a really good response and the kids have been remarkable, especially the youth leaders. The core leaders now know how to

do many of the technical aspects of the workshop, such as downloading digital images into our database, which has thousands of photos. They also have some basic Photoshop skills," Jeanne said.

"Currently, all the trainers are professional Thai and Burmese photographers. The kids in Phang Nga are recruited through their schools and two NGOs: the Burmese Foundation for Education and Development and the Duang Prateep Foundation. The rest of our partners are Thai schools, the Baan Muang School and Baan Narai school. In the southern provinces, it is done entirely through the schools. We let the teachers select them, usually based upon merit and interest," she added.

"At the exhibition, every kid

has at least one image on display.

We also have what we call oversized posters, producing a photo essay on a 2-meter-by-1.5m poster. For example, one of our Burmese kids has become a real leader and he is our chief photo technician now. He grew up on a rubber plantation with his family and began working at age six. He did an essay about his family life," she said.

The free InSIGHT Out! kid-to-kid photography workshops on January 12 Children's Day will take place from 9:30 am to noon and 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Places will be limited to the first 60 children who apply. Parents please note that The Saphan Jai Community Festival is a non-alcoholic event.



Photo by 14-year-old Burmese girl Chit Su Hiaing, the child of immigrant workers living in Phang Nga.

A glimpse inside a mosque during prayer services captured by 11-year-old Nurma Yama, a female student at Tessaban 4 school in Narathiwat.



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Blood-donation drive

PHUKET CITY: The blood bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital will hold blood-donation collections in Phuket City at the following locations and times:

January 18: Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Yaowarat Rd, 10 am to 3 pm

January 24: British International School (BIS), Koh Kaew, 10 am to 3 pm

The blood bank also accepts donations daily at its office in Vachira Phuket Hospital, open Monday to Friday (8:30 am to 8 pm) and Saturday and Sunday (8:30 am to 3 pm).

For more information call the blood bank at 076-361234 ext 1285 or the Phuket Red Cross office at 076-211766.

Exhibition celebrates the diversity of Thailand

PHUKET: A photo exhibition titled "Thailand: 9 days in the Kingdom" is on display at Central Festival Phuket's event hall, located beside Watsons on the second floor of the shopping mall, and will continue until January 16.

In January of 2007, 55 photographers spread across Thailand for nine days to create a body of photographic work that would encompass the country's character in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday.

The project saw 21 nationalities taking part, with 44 photographers shooting 106,767 digital photos, some 5,000 gigabytes of digital storage used and 425 pictures selected.

The project was organized by the Singapore-based publisher Editions Didier Millt, using the same concept as the successful book *Thailand: Seven Days in the Kingdom*, which was published by the same team in 1987 to mark the 60th birthday of HM King Bhumibol.

Overall, more than a year of planning was undertaken to ensure that the country was covered comprehensively.

The project's assignment editors wanted the photographers to take pictures not only of rice farmers, for example, but also of the folk musicians whose songs they know by heart.

For more information visit www.9days-inthekingdom.com.



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Queer News

Abbot aberration under investigation

NONTHABURI: When Commander Kritsapha Suksaengdao from the Department of Civil Aviation walked up to Luang Por Prasit Sithikaroh, abbot of Wat Sainoi, on December 26 and offered a polite *wai*, the abbot probably thought nothing of it.

After all, the abbot was the most revered monk in the province and counted many high-ranking military and government officials among his throng of followers.

In this instance, however, it wasn't a blessing or advice the commander was seeking.

Rather, he had something to sell, and at 4 million baht it wasn't going cheap. It was not a Buddhist artifact or adornment for the temple, but a VCD.

The aviator claimed the disc showed the 82-year-old abbot in the throes of passion with a middle-aged woman.

The commander was quick to assure the abbot that he had no part in recording the images. Rather, but had by chance come across someone selling the VCD in the town and, in a desire to protect the good name of the abbot, had bought it for 4 million baht.

Now he would like refunding from the temple, he said.

Suspecting that the commander's story may not have been the whole truth, the abbot called for the temple director to help him with negotiations.

Apparently willing to lose some money to gain merit, the commander lowered his price to 2 million baht.

Suspecting blackmail, the temple director decided, perhaps somewhat short-sightedly considering the material on the VCD, to call Col Thanee Ketjulom, Su-

perintendent of Sainoi Police Station.

Col Thanee told reporters, "[When the police were called] Commander Kritsapha saw that the situation didn't look good and made a dash for his car and tried to escape.

Officers managed to stop him on his way home and brought him to Sainoi Police Station for questioning.

"He refused to give a statement, however, saying that he wanted to wait for legal counsel from the Judge Advocate General's Department.

"We therefore decided to seize the VCD as evidence and make an appointment to question the suspect later. He was then released."

Lt Col Chamnan Wong-sriphueak, an Inspector at Sainoi Police Station involved in the investigation, said that police still had to interview other witnesses at the temple.

He confirmed that the VCD did apparently show a monk having sex with a woman.

Police are now hunting for the female star of the film, he added.

Lt Gen Prinya Jansuriya, Commander of Nonthaburi Provincial Police, said that he had instructed his officers to charge Cdr Kritsapha with blackmail.

Gen Prinya said that after closely watching the VCD he could confirm that it shows Luang Por Prasit having sex with a middle-aged woman in the abbot's room at Wat Sainoi on

December 21. The 20-minute VCD reportedly began with the as-yet-unidentified woman hiding the camera with a view of the bedding in the unsuspecting abbot's room and then sitting waiting for him.

After a while, a man resembling Luang Por Prasit enters the room and makes straight for the bed, where the woman massages

him for about 10 minutes before removing her clothes and having sex with him once.

Judging by the highly skilled way the woman had massaged the abbot in the recording, police believe the woman is a

professional masseuse.

With such a promising lead, investigators are now scouring local massage parlors to find her. They believe she was in on the blackmail plot, Gen Prinya added.

As the abbot appeared to be voluntarily partaking in the sex and did not appear to have been drugged, the VCD would have to be passed on to Sangha authorities so they could discipline the abbot, Gen Prinya said.

Phra Thammakittimuni, the highest-ranking monk in Nonthaburi province, said that he had yet to receive an official report of the incident.

As soon as one is received, a thorough investigation would be launched as the allegations were very damaging to the image of Buddhism, he said.

Source: Khao Sod



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A Canadian tourist was shot dead and his wife wounded early on January 6 near a pub in Mae Hong Son province after a scuffle with a policeman.

Pol Sgt Maj Uthai Dechawiwat claimed shots were fired accidentally after the couple tried to snatch his pistol from him.

The 37-year-old policeman, who was released on bail after being charged with murder and manslaughter, said he had struggled to get his service pistol back from John Leo Del Pinto and his wife Carly Reisig.

He used the gun to threaten them when he was on the ground after the couple had beaten him up, he said.

Del Pinto, 25, was shot in the mouth, then the bullet traveled through his shoulder. He was also shot in the left side of his torso. Reisig, 24, was shot in the left side of her torso.

Sgt Maj Uthai initially fled, but turned himself over to Pai District Police soon after.

Quoting witnesses, case investigator Pol Lt Col Sombat Panya said the couple had been drinking in a local pub called Ting Tong. They became involved in a drunken brawl after Del Pinto, who recently arrived in Thailand, found out that Reisig had become pregnant with a Thai man known as "Fuen".

Apparently, the couple continued arguing after they had left the pub when Uthai arrived at the scene, near a bridge, on personal business. Uthai approached them and asked them to be calm, but both foreigners allegedly turned and attacked him.

The officer said that Sgt Maj Uthai was beaten to the ground by the couple. After managing to get up, Sgt Maj Uthai pointed his service pistol at the couple to ward them off, but Del Pinto tried to snatch the pistol from him, he said.

After a scuffle, shots were fired and the couple fell to the ground, he added.

Del Pinto died at the scene about 2 am and Reisig was sent to a hospital in Chiang Mai, where she is in a stable condition.

Lt Col Sombat said he had not interviewed Reisig and no charges had been filed against her as this report went to press.

Review on catfish ban. The ban on catching rare giant catfish along a stretch of the

Cop shoots Canadian dead, injures his wife



Meet you more than half-way

A tour bus bound for Chiang Rai from Bangkok on the afternoon of January 3 jumped the median strip and slammed into this 18-wheel rig in Lampang's Sobprab district. Eighteen injuries were reported, but no deaths. However, Thai roads claimed the lives of over 400 people during the government's recent '7 days of danger' holiday-season safety campaign.

Mekong River in Chiang Khong district of Chiang Rai is likely to be reviewed this year, after a group of local fishermen demanded resumption of the traditional catch.

Phisit Wanatham, chairman of the Chiang Khong Giant Catfish Group, said 12 of 68 fishermen who specialize in catching the rare fish want to continue fishing this season, beginning in April.

The ban was imposed last year by local Thai-Lao authorities after international environmental group WWF led a movement to stop harvesting the endangered species in order to prevent its extinction.

Viral threats. Thailand faces a higher risk of dengue fever, bird flu and hand-and-foot-mouth disease outbreaks next year due to changes in the global climate, the Ministry of Public Health has announced.

Global climatic changes affect the spread of disease-caus-

ing viruses, the director of the Bureau of Epidemiology, Dr Kumnuan Ungchusak, said.

There were 60,625 cases of dengue in 2007, causing 83 deaths. There was a marked increase reported in the highlands of the North, particularly among the hill tribes of Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son.

Normally, dengue outbreaks occur in lowlands, but their spread to the higher northern parts might be caused by the change in the global climate, which affects the reproduction and survival of the Aedes mosquito and the dengue virus it carries, Dr Kumnuan said.

The ministry plans to host an international conference on dengue fever next year.

The event is expected to be held in Phuket in October.

The ministry will also keep a close watch on the bird-flu virus in 2008, Dr Kumnuan added.

Between 2003 and 2007, 25 people suffered from avian influenza and 17 of them died.

Although there were no new human cases in the country during 2007, the virus has spread

widely throughout the region with new human cases in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Indonesia and most recently a cluster of human cases in Pakistan.

With ongoing outbreaks in poultry and new human cases in the region, the ministry is worried the virus is continuing to develop and adapt into a human-to-human transmission instead of poultry-to-human as before, he said.

Cyber Baan. Millions of Thais are now experiencing a new means of communication through online communities, mostly social-networking communities Windows Live Space, Facebook and Hi5.Com.

Of the 6.7 million Windows Live users in Thailand, around 1.4 million of them use Windows Live Space. The Windows Live Space population in Thailand represents the largest online networking community in the region and the ninth largest in the world.

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

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Ten Iranian nationals were arrested on suspicion of burglary last month after a sting operation on Koh Pha-ngan.

The nine men and one woman are believed to be part of a criminal gang who preyed on foreign tourists mainly during the heavily-attended Full Moon Party.

The gang may have been involved in more than 30 burglaries around the island.

After several repeat thefts had occurred within the same hotel, police were still unable to track down the criminals.

Hotel owners began to fear that tourists would refrain from booking due to the spate.

Taking matters into their own hands, one of the establishments installed closed-circuit television in their rooms in hopes of catching the group of thieves in the act.

Soon after, the suspects were recorded breaking into rooms and stealing valuables.

The security tapes were immediately handed over to police as evidence and arrests followed at the Phangan Bay Resort in Baan Tai.

Police led a team of officers to room 508 of the hotels where the suspects were staying.

Those arrested were Kaya Torabiper, the believed gang

Iranian gang busted for Koh Pha-ngan break-ins



TUIfly Nordic offers package holidays to Southeast Asia. Additional flights were put on after the success of trips to the Andaman Sea region of Thailand from Scandinavia.

leader; Exah Amam Kolipair; Mazan Tifah; Abalfazal Barmaki; Bobec Berton; Afshin Merzaliloron; Aliba Bi Larud; Mohammadal Pau Reza; Babaali Bahman and the only woman, Nathali Evanovel.

Stolen items found at the scene included mobile phones, digital cameras, notebook com-

puters, two passports, credit cards, cash and 24 room keys.

The operation was led by Police Senior Sgt Maj Sakchai Ramchan of the Koh Pha-ngan Police Department and Prasob Tauycharoen, Chief of Baan Tai subdistrict.

Hotel owners around Haad Rin already suspected the group,

which reputedly robbed hotel rooms around the times of the Full Moon Party.

Many of the burglary victims turned up at the police station to identify stolen property.

Police believe the arrests are a major breakthrough and that confidence should be restored among island visitors.

Tree chopping causes floods. Authorities on Koh Samui have blamed November's flooding on the rapid deforestation of the island.

Koh Samui District authorities said trees on the island are decreasing in number while the number of developments around the island increases.

Not only are trees cut down to make room for the developments but they are also being used for materials in many of the projects.

With fewer trees to soak up and slow rainwater, the speed and volume of runoff from the surrounding mountains inundates and damages many of the island's roads.

The problem has increased each year, causing tremendous strain on and overflowing the island's already fragile drainage system.

The board secretary of the

local Tourism Association, Prayat Mipian said, "Previous years have shown Samui experiencing water shortages and now we have to contend with another problem, flooding."

The flooding this season caused hundreds of millions of baht in damage and the island was eventually declared a disaster area.

After the flood problems, many areas had to update drainage systems in areas where heavy development has taken place.

Planeloads of Scandinavians.

A tour company that caters to Scandinavian tourists has begun to operate flights in and out of Surat Thani airport.

The flights originate from Stockholm, Sweden, and Helsinki, Finland, on a Boeing 757, that seats 235 passengers.

Lin Weklblad is the manager of TUIfly Nordic, which offers package holidays to Southeast Asia.

She said the addition of flights came after the success of trips to the Andaman Sea region of Thailand.

The company aims to bring in 130,000 Scandinavian tourists this year and already the reservation status stands at 60% occupancy.



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By Max Rogers

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Three arrested for disco bombs

Police arrested three men for alleged involvement in the bombing of a discotheque in Narathiwat's Sungai Kolok in the early hours of December 31.

Police claimed the three confessed to the attack, which wounded 26 people, including foreign tourists.

Two bombs planted behind loudspeakers at the discotheque in the Riviera Hotel on Prachawiwat Rd went off about 4am, sending New Year revelers fleeing in panic.

Some ran to the parking lot behind the hotel and were retrieving their motorcycles when a third bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded.

Fire engulfed the motorcycles, damaging about 20 of them.

Later that morning, a similar bomb attack took place at the Marina Hotel on Charoenkhet Rd.

There, a bomb went off in a discotheque on the second floor of the hotel, sending revelers running in panic.

A second bomb then exploded in the hotel parking lot.

Police said 31 people were injured in the second hotel attack, two seriously.

Narathiwat Governor Karun Suppakitwilekarn said the three suspects were Muhammad Saki Madeurae, 23, Sahae Sa-a, 24 and Assaroh Mayi, 29 – all local men.

The arrests followed an examination of images captured by hotel security cameras, he said.

One suspect confessed that the group wanted to instigate chaos during the New Year holiday, Governor Karun said.

An investigation by police showed that the three had records of being involved in violence in Sungai Kolok and Sungai Padi



Paying her respects

Minoh Salae, an 80-year-old resident of Pattani who cannot read or write Thai, has her fingerprint stamped on a condolence book at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani campus. The Muslim woman is one of millions of people nationwide mourning the demise of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana.

districts.

Violence in the Deep South escalated in 2007, said Prof Srisompob Jitpiromsri of Prince of Songkla University, Pattani campus, who is the director of a group that monitors attacks.

The rate of violence was high in the early period of 2007 and the total number of violent incidents in the year was higher than in 2006, when there were 1,815 incidents, Prof Srisompob said.

However, both years saw less violence than in 2005, when 2,297 incidents took place.

Comparing the four years, the highest number of violent in-

cidents took place in September 2004, followed by June 2007, he said.

Politician gunned down. Jaras Chaiyo, 53, president of Thaiburi Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) was gunned down while he was leaving a funeral in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Tha Sala district on January 3.

The incident happened as guests were leaving the funeral of Damrong Iathet at Wat Phra-at in Tambon Thaiburi, Village 5.

Witnesses told police that as K. Jaras was getting into an OrBorTor pickup, a man pushed

his way through the crowd and fired a barrage of shots.

Hit multiple times in the head, K. Jaras died at the scene. After the shooting, the gunman ran to a waiting motorcycle and was driven away by an accomplice.

Led by Tha Sala District Police Superintendent Col Wisit Reutphalang, investigators collected six empty 9mm shells scattered near the body.

In addition to being OrBorTor president, K. Jaras owned a contracting business.

A source in the investigation team said that police were investigating a former soldier who was

a business rival of K. Jaras.

The man had competed with the victim for building contracts at nearby Walailak University, the source added.

Noting that K. Jaras had only a few months left in his current term as Thaiburi OrBorTor President, police believe politics may also have been a motive for his killing.

K. Jaras's business rival was also rumored to be interested in running against him for the post, police said.

Nakhon killjoy. A man stabbed his sister-in-law to death during an argument in the early hours of New Year's Day in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Cha-uat district.

Police were called to a disturbance in Tambon Cha-uat, Village 8, at 12:50 am on January 1.

At the scene, they found Somjai Klotkaow, 25, who had sustained minor injuries from a stab wound, standing over the body of her sister, Krongjit Rueangphet, 39.

K. Somjai told police that she and her husband, Sak Winoy, 27, had seen in the new year at her sister's house.

A short time after midnight, she told Sak that she wanted to return to the couple's home. Her husband, however, was not yet done with the party and wanted to stay longer.

An argument broke out and K. Krongjit stepped in to try and break it up, but Sak allegedly lost his temper.

He pulled out a knife and stabbed both sisters before fleeing, K. Somjai said.

Cha-uat District Police are now hunting for the suspect.

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

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By Skyler Swezy

Building a stable foundation

Angie's leg is swollen with lymphangitis, Siam has a damaged pelvis, Beautiful is brain-damaged and blind in one eye, and Lamberg bites. These are four horses that have received a second chance from American horse lover, Christy Sweet.

At her home in Cherng Talay, Christy also provides a home for four horses that were exploited, abused and neglected until she took them in. The horses are housed in a small stable where Christy scrubs away mange, dresses wounds and administers antibiotics. She scoops poop, fills water buckets, brushes hair and puts out fresh hay for the horses four times a day.

Appropriately clad for mucking out, Christy wears jean shorts and rubber boots as she dodges a horse's hind quarters. "I've learned not to procrastinate," she says with a smile as she rakes up a fresh dollop of horse dung.

The humble stable, housing just four of the many horses on Phuket that Christy says are in desperate need of human help and compassion, is the beginning of what she hopes will eventually become Phuket Horse Rescue Foundation.

Christy hopes that her ef-

forts will also raise awareness of the plight of these animals, which often suffer neglect at the hands of inexperienced or uncaring owners who give up on the horses when they become a financial and physical burden.

"My goal is to get legal, get a foundation set up and with some help, set up a real facility for neglected and abused horses. I also hope to continue raising awareness about how badly horses are treated at the hands of neglectful owners," said Christy.

Two years ago, unexperienced and uneducated about horses, Christy hired a Thai pony called Lumberg for a day of riding. She fell in love with him and, already having plans to move to Thailand, bought the pony from a Phuket stable.

"I thought, 'Well, I'm going to come back to Thailand to live and I don't want him to be rented out anymore. He's had a tough little life.' So I bought him," said Christy.

Soon after buying Lumberg, Christy discovered three other horses suffering from parasites, neglected wounds and depression. She bought them, too.

Beautiful, a sienna brown



Christy Sweet with Siam, an ex-race horse who has a damaged pelvis and now lives at her stable.

mare, investigates the reporter's camera strap. "Beautiful girl is a wild little child," Christy said, patting her back. "She was tied up. You don't tie a horse up because they'll bolt and hurt themselves. While she was tied up she repeatedly hit her head against a post, so she now has brain damage and is blind in her right eye. Watch out, she will run you over."

A large mustang named

Siam awkwardly lumbers over to Lumberg's stall and playfully nips him in the neck. His back legs move woodenly due to a pelvis injury. The ex-race horse can no longer support a rider, making him unable to earn a profit.

Siam was bought off a slaughter truck by a man operating rental ponies, then bought by a European woman who hoped to rehabilitate him as a riding horse but she soon realized that would be impossible. Still considering whether to put him down, she brought Siam to Christy's stable a month ago.

"He can't be ridden and occasionally he falls. Maybe a chiropractor could rehabilitate him, but I don't know enough about that. I just want him to be happy," said Christy while Siam continued to antagonize the stabled Lumberg.

Keeping four horses happy has become a full-time job for Christy.

"At this point, I couldn't take on another horse—four is my limit,

I can't physically do any more. Each horse takes at least two to three hours each day to properly care for, to groom and exercise. I'm by myself and I simply couldn't afford it," she said.

Christy is looking for volunteers with experience in horse care to help out with washing, brushing and feeding the horses, or people with no experience to horse sit. She also hopes to find a lawyer who will donate time and expertise to help prepare the legal documents needed to register the horse shelter as a legitimate foundation.

Christy is starting to find sympathizers. Last month, a Perfect Pet Companion truck arrived unannounced and unloaded 15 bags of feed that was an anonymous donation. However, it will take a lot more of this kind of good will before her stable can house and rehabilitate the large number of unwanted and neglected horses Christy says are out there.

"It's hard work. I feed them four times a day and its all I can do to stay up and feed them late at night. But I just love them though. They're so beautiful," she said.

Siam, who narrowly avoided the slaughterhouse and veterinarian's needle, can't run, but doesn't look ready to die as he trades playful bites with the Thai-pony. The scene draws a smile from Christy.

"I think horses will tell you when it's time. See, this horse is happy. He has a life; he's enjoying himself."

To volunteer, or for more information on Phuket Horse Rescue, Christy Sweet can be contacted by Email: christyksweet@gmail.com

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Sam Wilkinson
Siam Indigo

Much has been written about Phuket Old Town's resurgence from a sleepy provincial capital into a stylish, renovated hotspot. But if truth be told (and please don't shoot the messenger) there are still some grotty buildings in the old town. Let's face it: most of the gushy blurb written about the above is the work of tourism-related publications with a self-serving taste for hyperbole.

Still, there's no denying that there have been some spectacular renovations in the old town, not least of all the snazzy three-shophouse Siam Indigo restaurant situated on Phang Nga Road, near the verging-on-grotty-but-iconic On On Hotel.

This is ironic, as everyone knows that Chinese shophouses are the aesthetical scourge of the island.

Many visitors from overseas must scratch their heads in bewilderment, trying to figure out what use there is, if any, in building row after row of these hideously ugly things in the middle of nowhere.

However, downtown Phuket is another story, as its shophouses actually have tangible functions other than sitting empty by the side of back-country roads gathering dust and gecko droppings.

Shophouse chic keeps the old town in tune



Siam Indigo in Phuket City is giving shophouses a new lease of life, offering great food in a trendy venue.

They're sometimes fascinating to wander in and out of. If you ever need a size-six grommet holder for a 1956 Taiwanese-manufactured clothes spinner or an interrupted screw threader, chances are you can score in the cavernous shophouses down Deebuk Rd or Thalang Rd.

So yes, Siam Indigo slots perfectly into the spirit of shophouses, in that it serves a definite purpose – and that purpose is serving up innovative cuisine in an über-chic setting.

No one can accuse Manager Celine Masson of lacking credible taste, as Siam Indigo's

minimalist interior not only oozes bright-thinking creativity but also changes as the restaurant evolves.

Compare and contrast with the typical Patong ground-zero restaurant (or pub, for that matter) that stumbles upon a functional décor format and bashes it to death year after year.

There's eye-catching art on the walls (the venue doubles as an art gallery) and Celine has opened a colorful boutique adjacent to the restaurant. In spite of this, the buildings still retain the feel of the old town; nowhere more so than the back courtyard,

gras, mango and crispy rice noodles. Next up were baked NZ mussels with a delicious light-green spicy mango sauce.

This was pretty impressive stuff as the combination of a great balance of flavors with such light cuisine was more than welcome.

The Spanish house red washed this down beautifully.

Chicken and galangal soup was next. I'm not one of those food writers who employ such hackneyed expressions as "an explosion of flavors", but if I were, I'd not hesitate to use it to describe this dish.

For the main course, a pork cutlet with green curry sauce was served, with aubergine, baby corn and steamed rice.

To complete the evening's culinary adventure, we sampled a salmon terrine, itself a nod towards Siam Indigo's old-town setting as it greatly resembles *har mok*, a Chinese dish from Phuket's tin-mining era and still popular on these shores.

It's a funny thing, because Siam Indigo's profile on Phuket itself has been a little slow to emerge, yet it's definitely among the culinary cadre on the island and I'm not alone in claiming this.

There wasn't an empty seat in the house the evening we went – and that just about says it all, doesn't it?

Siam Indigo, 8 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City. Open Monday-Saturday 11am-late. Main dishes range in price from 190 to 490 baht. Tel: 076-256697. Email: sales@siamindigo.com

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Happily Ever After

Recently married in Phuket

Mr Ami Steimer from Israel and Mrs Mala Soccalin-game from France were married on Kata Noi Beach at Mom Tri's Villa Royale on October 30, 2007.



Sirirat Lertsupakul and Kawee Poolsup were married at Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on December 8, 2007.

Finding art in

Although the dream of Nongkhai-native Alongkorn "Kob" Poochamchote, 45, was to study art at Bangkok's renowned Silpakorn University, which has molded many of the country's well-known artists, he actually studied political science at Ramkhamheang University and began a career in the creative commercial world.

K. Kob first came to Phuket on a six-month job assignment from a Bangkok-based company that had assigned him to look for new styles and ideas. Inspired by the island's tropical flora to indulge in his passion for painting, K. Kob decided to stay.

Since then, he has made Phuket his home and has enjoyed international recognition for his artwork, setting up a studio and restaurant on the island where his work is on display.

Before coming to Phuket, K. Kob was a freelance artistic designer and organizer, commissioned for creative projects such as décor refurbishments, interior design, landscaping and flower arranging, but his passion has always been for painting.

"When I was in Bangkok, I was hired to arrange flowers and decorations for parties and events. Friends would often ask me to create decorations for their restaurants, homes, gardens or special dinners. I have always loved painting more than any of these, but rarely had the chance to indulge in it until I came to Phuket," he said.

"I immediately fell in love with Phuket. Everything is here: entertainment, relaxation, beach life, great food and supportive friends. Every day is like a holiday; I just walk to Kalim Beach, order some seafood for lunch and then walk back to my studio feeling refreshed and ready to paint more," he added.

"I first started painting portraits and flowers with water colors. I did this for three years, but then I sought to challenge myself by painting abstracts with oil colors. I found this a more satisfying medium to express my beliefs, thoughts and faith, which all are very difficult to present just with watercolors," explained K. Kob.

Internationally-acclaimed Thai artist Alongkorn "Kob" Poochamchote came to live in Phuket nearly 10 years ago. Since then, his portraits and abstract oil paintings have enthralled art lovers around the world. K. Kob is the only Thai artist to have showcased his paintings at the Fortezza da Basso Exhibition Center in Florence.

Gazette reporter Pathomporn Kaenkrachang talked with K. Kob on how Phuket life has played its part in his journey to becoming an internationally-recognized painter.



K. Kob has gone through phases with his work that represent the progression of his emotions at different stages of his life.

K. Kob's works are released in collections of no more than five paintings at a time.

"I do not want to push myself to rush paintings and get them out. Painting to order is not my style. I can't create good work like that. In fact, I've never done that. To create good art, it's important for me to work when I want to work and only release pieces when I am satisfied that they are complete," he said.

International art aficionados were introduced to K. Kob's art when he exhibited his work in a Bangkok restaurant, where the pieces were snapped up by an Australian collector.

Soon after that, K. Kob was given the chance to exhibit his art at an artists' camp in Zurich, Switzerland. "I sold 14 paintings in two days at that exhibition. It gave me renewed energy and inspired me to work

harder," he said.

The Internet has been a useful marketing tool for K. Kob. He was invited to exhibit his work at the Fortezza Da Basso Exhibition Center in Florence, Italy, in December of last year after committee members saw his work on his website. He took with him an oil painting entitled *The Color of Season*.

"As Phuket has many foreign visitors, it is a good place to make sure your art is seen by people from different countries, but I would still like to exhibit in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore, plus I think Switzerland and Australia are countries that are open to Asian art," he said.

K. Kob has gone through various phases with his work that represent the progression of his emotions at different stages of his life. His choice of colors and styles have changed with the sea-

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everyday life



K. Kob took this piece, *The Color of Season*, to the Fortezza Da Basso Exhibition Center in Florence, Italy.

sons in each of his series.

Looking back at his earlier paintings, K. Kob expressed strong emotions in the strokes and colors he used, while later pieces are calmer and show an acceptance of his life circumstances.

"I put a lot of strong feelings into my first pieces, but I feel more in control of what goes on the canvas these days. There was a period of several years when I didn't use brushes for painting.

"I experimented with other painting tools instead. This allowed me to attempt a variety of styles and has made me feel more complete as an artist," he reflected.

Following his international success, K. Kob was able to settle down and buy land in

Phuket. He now helps operate Lim's Restaurant & Bar near the beach at Kalim, where his and other artists' works are displayed for diners to enjoy while they eat.

"I am happy. I can afford to live comfortably from my work, which is born from my passion for any kind of art – and I enjoy running the restaurant. Others have helped me along the way, but I have always followed my dreams and done whatever makes me happy," he said.

You can find K. Kob's work at other locations around the island, including the Boat House Hotel and the Chedi Phuket, where his 11-by-three meter oil painting *Large Canvas* is displayed.

K. Kob summarized his life

story with a piece of advice for other budding artists: "If you do something that you love, patience and persistence will pay off in the end," he said.

"To be an artist, you don't have to go to art school, you don't have to have teachers and you shouldn't be afraid that you cannot draw or paint well. If you express yourself, whether on paper, cloth or anything else – that is art," he added.

K. Kob welcomes visitors to his studio behind Lim's Restaurant & Bar. To get there, turn into Soi 7 on the Kalim beach road (just after Patong) and go about 500 meters down the soi. A path behind the restaurant leads to his private studio. For more information visit www.kob-alongkorn.com



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This week



PLAYING AROUND: Simon Hand (center, holding placard), director of the Rawai Players' pantomime version of *Mother Goose*, joins the local amateur troupe in cheering Seth Bareiss (back, left) for the caricature poster he created for them.



REVERED REVIEW: Phuket Muang District Chief Wisit Ratanakuwait receives a souvenir copy of *Thailand: Nine Days in the Kingdom* from Songpon Pongrapeeporn (center), General Manager of Marketing, Central Festival Phuket at the launch of an exhibition of the book's photographs at Central Festival event hall on December 20. The book is a collection of photographs by 55 professional photographers to mark the 80th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



SAX SNACKS: Famed jazz musician Mr Saxman "Koh" (center) celebrates the first anniversary of the opening of Tum Home restaurant on December 21 with Managing Director Suriya Thamrangsri (right) and guests.



ON THE RISE: Janpim Aewpu (center), Project Manager of Phuket Karon Hill condominium in Karon, celebrates the opening of the condo project on December 22 with Aston Group guests Director for Asia Kunraphas Glover (left) and Manager Udomsub Srisura.



WELCOME WAVES: Enjoying creative cocktails and cool vibes at the launch party for Waves beachfront cocktail bar at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Resort are (from left) Jamie O'Rourke from Wave Entertainment, Dusit Hotel Food & Beverage Director Michael Vorderleiter, Sheraton Grande Food & Beverage Director Adam Beasley and Sheraton Grande Hotel Manager Torsten Richter.



ON THE MAP: Art aficionados join Southern Thailand artist Varaporn "Map" Ponrit (3rd from right) in front of one of her paintings at the launch of her exhibition "My Awakening P" at the Watermark bar restaurant at Boat Lagoon on January 3. The exhibition will run until January 30.



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Deck chairs and umbrellas on a busy beach present a fascinating sight. Colorful rows of chairs are a sight to behold.

On Patong Beach, the deck chairs are four rows deep and run the length of the beach. It's like a theater has been set up to watch jet planes or a comet crossing the sky. But there's no air show or astrological event, it's just the European concept of a beach holiday.

You sit in a deck chair next to your spouse with a small table for the drinks and suntan lotion between – and hey presto, there's your holiday. A faithful European vacationer will arrive at the same spot every day for two weeks.

A German couple explained, "We always book the same chairs in the front row. We've been doing it for 10 years. Fritz comes early before breakfast and puts the towels down. It works very well."

What works very well? Spending two weeks a year sitting in the same deck chair all day while generations of crabs live and die a few meters from your feet? It's an extraordinary spectacle, looking along the rows. Few bikini tops are worn where they were designed to be worn. I think one photograph could provide a plastic surgeon

Deck chair denizens



ALL DECKED OUT: Picture perfect paradise, or torturous hell? Doven weighs in.

with enough fodder for a sample catalog.

I would rather sit in an airport departure lounge than on a deck chair surrounded by other deck chairs.

"You don't have to go anywhere," explained Fritz. "The people come with drinks and hats and other

things. You can even buy your souvenirs and presents."

They told me they were planning a trip to the market. Clearly, this was a matter of some anxiety. Leaving the familiar surroundings and deck chair sanctuary, they would have to cautiously head to the market 200 meters away for a seafood lunch.

Then there is the trip to Phuket City, which takes as much planning as the journey from Europe to Thailand.

"But the best thing," they said, "is to get those chores out of the way so we can get back to

the deck chairs and enjoy the last 10 days of the holiday without having to move away from the chairs."

The beach-chair scene needs some variation. I see a strong similarity between the situation at Patong Beach and economy class on a tourist plane.

My colleague tells me that deck chairs cost 200 baht per day. What about a business-class deckchair for 400 baht? It could include wider chairs in only two rows, with an extra six inches

between them. Plastic cups for the Sauvignon blanc, Wi-Fi for the laptop on a larger table beside you and foot massages available at your chair would complete the package.

There could be a first-class section with silk-padded deck chairs and large white umbrellas, champagne and a personal masseur and oil applier. A partition could be placed around you for napping or private treatment.

The whole business needs re-examining. This way, people could choose how to do absolutely nothing except wallow in a chair.

The concept of driving to a quiet little restaurant, on a beach with less than one person for every two square meters, with no vendors and maybe even no deck chairs, is not going to fly with the Euro masses.

Thus, the best way to keep everyone happy is to make them more comfortable – and keep them away from our quiet hide-aways.

To each their own. Perhaps academics, lawyers, clerics and businessmen who commit shady acts should be sentenced to months in a Patong deck chair. That would end many a life of crime.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven



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A raw food diet is basically a vegetarian or vegan diet except that the fruit and vegetables, preferably 'organically grown', are eaten in their natural, unadulterated, uncooked state.

Lose festive fat naturally

By Nick Davies

With the festive season waning, it's time to get up from the table and start those New Year resolution diets promised after gaining even more kilos from the end-of-year binges on all things fattening.

A "raw food" vegetarian diet will bring quick results without having to suffer hunger pains.

A raw food diet is basically a vegetarian or vegan diet except that the fruit and vegetables, preferably "organically grown", are eaten in their natural, unadulterated, uncooked state. A hardcore raw foodist or fruitarian will not

possess an oven, a microwave or a grill. Their kitchen will be equipped with a blender and a juicer instead.

The weight loss and health benefits of a raw food diet are dramatic.

The transition to a raw food diet usually begins with fasting for about a week solely on fruit and vegetable juices.

This puts the body into detoxification mode and it starts to expel all the toxins from the cooked and processed foods that have built up in the body over the years.

Many raw foodists will complement their fruit fast with colon cleansing treatments, which

help speed up the detoxification process by washing out the years of accumulated food waste compacted on the intestine walls that has never been properly digested.

Fasting on fruit and performing colonic cleansing may sound extreme, but it is a safe and "natural" way of ridding the body of the toxic leftovers inside.

It contributes to the initial weight loss and better prepares the body to gain maximum benefits from the nutritious food that will follow.

The average adult's intestine may contain anywhere from two to 18 kilos of compacted waste that has never been properly digested. Not only is this ex-

tra weight to carry around, but also means the digestive system is clogged up and cannot digest food effectively.

Many people are addicted to cooked foods, caffeine and sugar in the same way that a smoker is addicted to his favorite brand of cigarette. The withdrawal symptoms from eliminating our favorite foods are the worst part of a diet. The cravings can be just as difficult to resist as that of a smoker trying to quit.

Eating nuts and soy will help replace the protein usually obtained from meat. Soybean sprouts, for example, comprise 34% protein. Almonds are one of the more expensive kinds of nut but they are full of goodness. Almonds should be soaked in water overnight so that they become soft before blending or juicing them.

A blend of fruit juices will at least quell the sugar cravings with their own natural sugars and they are a great way to kick start the day as an alternative to coffee.

This is where a juicer is useful. The goodness of several fruits and vegetables – more than you could comfortably eat – can be squeezed into a single glass.

Here are two easy juice blends using bananas. Blend the milk and flesh of a young coconut with a few bananas and voila! an instant smoothie. Almond milk also goes well with bananas.

To make almond milk, soak a handful of almonds overnight then put them in a blender. Add twice as much water to the almond nut pulp, then strain the almond milk from the pulp. Put the almond milk back in the blender and add a few bananas.

For a savory pep-up, juice three or four large carrots then blend with a stick of celery, handfuls of spinach and parsley, a green bell pepper, one or more cloves of garlic and some ginger.

Psyllium seed husk, called *thian klet hoi* in Thai, is a cheap additional ingredient to fruit drinks that helps keep the hunger pangs

away when fasting on fruit. The husks greedily soak up water, so a spoonful or two added to fruit juice thickens the drink and makes it more filling.

The husks also do an excellent job of picking up and dragging out some of the undigested food left lying around in our stomachs.

Watermelon is a natural diuretic – it helps regulate the body's waterworks, which can get a little temperamental after the excessive load of carbonated and alcoholic drinks over the festive season. Regular meals of watermelon will get things flowing correctly. In fact, young bed wetters will enjoy a dry night's sleep after a couple of watermelon feasts.

Many raw foodists will avoid milk and milk products claiming that cow milk is only for cows, not for human consumption. They do have a point. The protein structure in cows milk is different to that of human milk. Our digestive systems do not produce the kind of enzymes needed to digest cows' milk.

One substitute for milk that contains calcium is cabbage.

Boiled, it is devoid of much goodness but eaten raw or even fermented, it is packed with power

and it restocks the stomach with friendly, food loving enzymes.

Raw or fermented cabbage is also a great

supplement to include in our diets after a course of antibiotics, which will have indiscriminately killed off not only the bacteria that made us ill, but much of the "good bacteria" that is needed in the stomach to digest food.

For more information check out these: www.living-foods.com and www.rawfood.com In Phuket, psyllium seed husks are available at Atsumi Health Center at 34 Soi Pattana, Saiyuan Rd, Rawai. Tel: 081-2720571. Email: info@atsumihealing.com Website: www.atsumihealing.com



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It's tinsel time



Lustrous locks. Tinsel adds a festive shine to any hairstyle.

head highlighted with gold tinsel strands at Sirithorn "Tukta" Arksornkul's salon, Puchayarnon, at Ocean Mall in Phuket City for 10 baht per extension. She paid 100 baht for the basic set of 10 strands.

"This tinsel hair extension fashion started in Japan and was introduced here by Thai celebrity Araya A Hargett, better known as "Chompoo". She started using them at her Bangkok hair salon about five months ago, but the trend has really taken off in the past two months," said K. Tukta.

"I have about 20 colors to choose from and most of my customers are teenagers and working women. The most popular styles are gold, silver, rainbow, and green," she added.

At her hair salon on Yaowarat Rd, Pissada "Neung" Srisukkaras said that many customers have come to her for the tinsel extensions. "They are very popular at the moment. Many customers wanted the extensions for the New Year," she said.

"It's a great, inexpensive way to add a bit of color to your life, plus it is not damaging to the hair," she added.

Nong Nueng Beauty & Salon is on Soi Hongyok Uthit, Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 087-2632760. Puchayarnon. 2nd floor of Ocean Mall, Tilok Uthit 2 Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 087-502474, 085-1565353.

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Want to know what happens to all that tinsel when the festive season is over? It gets made into the latest fashion accessory.

Hair highlights have taken a new twist recently with the latest foil hair fashion from Japan to be adopted by Thai kids, teenagers and mums alike – colored tinsel hair extensions.

These long, thin hair extensions made from the same material that decorates Christmas trees have recently become very popular in Phuket as a cheap, easy way to add lively color and a subtle twinkle to an otherwise plain head of hair.

The extensions can be tied to individual strands of hair near

the roots or glued on for a longer-lasting effect. Most Phuket hairdressers are experimenting with these strands that come in a variety of colors but it's easy enough for friends and sisters to bond with each other while they bond these strands of glittery hair to real hair.

You can go for individual colors, mix and match, or if you can't make up your mind, go for the rainbow strands.

Each strand takes about a minute to tie on for a temporary flare in the hair, lasting about two weeks. Gluing the tinsel strands onto individual real hair strands can last up to two months, even with daily washing and brushing of the hair.

Purely for reporting purposes, at least that's what she said, *Gazette* reporter Natcha "Nan" Yuttaworawit had her

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As one of the most prominent and influential DJs in the world, Judge Jules from the UK is consistently in the limelight.

A household name in the UK for nearly a decade, Judge Jules is to nightlife what Marmite is to breakfast foods – you either love him or hate him.

Opinions of the man, however, cannot overshadow his successful career worldwide. Playing for the first time in Phuket, Jules will spin when he touches down at Seduction, Patong, on January 16.

Judge Jules began his career working for the former-pirate radio station Kiss FM in the UK. In 1997, he moved to the BBC to host Radio 1's flagship dance-music show on Saturday evenings.

Since October 2007, Jules has been playing on Radio 1 from 1 am to 3 am on Saturday mornings.

The Gatecrasher dance music event – one of the most successful UK trance nights of the '90s – relocated to The Republic venue in Sheffield in 1997.

At that time, trance music

was reaching its peak in popularity in the UK – and Jules was at the forefront of the genre in the public eye, making regular appearances at Gatecrasher with the likes of Paul Oakenfold and Paul van Dyk.

Jules runs the Judgment Sundays night at Eden in Ibiza and plays regularly at Godskitchen, Turnmills and Garlands events in the UK and beyond.

In 1998, Jules' enormous fan base voted him as the third-best DJ in the world in the DJ Mag top-100 poll.

Judge Jules is the quintessential superstar DJ. Flying to Belfast for a gig, he had some spare time to talk exclusively to the *Gazette*.

"I always have lots of emails and interviews to get completed at airports and on planes," said Jules.

His forthcoming trip will not be his first visit to Thailand. "I've been to Koh Samui and Bangkok on numerous occasions, but this will be my first time in Phuket."

"I was due to visit three years ago, but had to change my plans after the tsunami."

"Because I'm playing in

Samui the night before and Pattaya the following evening, I can only visit for one short day, but I'm hoping it will be the first trip of many," said Jules.

Although he will be making only a fleeting visit to Phuket, Jules will be traveling around Thailand accompanied by his wife, Amanda, who has previously provided vocals for a number of Jules' productions.

"Whatever happens, I always leave Thailand cursing the fact that I can't hang around longer," he added.

Jules has two children – Jake, 8, and Phoebe, 3. Traveling round the world on a weekly basis, Jules said that he still gets to spend enough time with his wife and children.

"If you add up the hours I spend at home with my kids, I'm probably with them as much, if not more, than someone with a regular nine-to-five job."

"Some of the week, I'm away traveling, whereas for other parts of the week, I'm with them at all times."

"It's an unconventional life, but my little 'uns understand the nature of what I do," he said.

Speaking about the club scene in Asia, Jules said, "While it's hard to generalize about an entire continent, Asia has long

had a strong dance scene – and it's getting better all the time. I visit about four times a year. Any more and I'd explode around the midriff with all the great dining."

Playing a style of trance music that clubbers in Phuket may be unaccustomed to, Jules isn't daunted by the changing state of the club scene on the island.

"With the amount of international travelers in Phuket, I've no doubt that there will be familiar faces in the crowd and plenty of clued-up clubbers, so I'm sure I'll be spinning my normal sound," he said.

Judge Jules will play at Seduction on Soi Bangla, Patong, on January 16. The cover charge is 700 baht. For further information about Judge Jules log on to: www.judgejules.net For more details about Seduction visit www.seductiondisco.com



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until January 30, 2008. My Awakening.

January 3 was the first day of K. Map's latest solo exhibition titled "My Awakening 'P'" at the Watermark bar and restaurant. Join us for a glass of wine and some exotic color combinations.

The exhibition is open until January 30.

Strong, powerful paintings that stir emotions and appeal to the passions are Varaporn Ponrit's trademark.

Contact Stuart at Tel: 081-7376184, 076-239730. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket.com

January 13 and 20. PC Group Therapy – Laguna and Chalong.

Join *Windows for Dummies* author Woody Leonhard and his band of techy irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics from 10 am until mid-day.

If you can't get Windows to work right, if Office is driving you crazy, if you need to find a decent Internet connection, if you're going to buy a computer in Thailand or if you need to get one fixed, this is the place to be.

Visit www.khunwoody.com for driving instructions. On January 13, the session will be at the Sandwich Shoppe near the entrance to Laguna and on January 20 at the new Sandwich Shoppe at Fisherman Way Business Center in Chalong.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

January 12, 2008. Saphan Jai Photo Exhibition at Phuket Aquarium.

On this year's Children's Day, Phuket Aquarium presents the outstanding photography and artwork of the InsightOut! Creative Children's Workshop and Exchange Project.

Besides the opening of a two-month photo exhibition, the children will share their work and experiences.

Come have fun with your family and learn how to take great pictures. Or join in with one of the other activities, such as action games.

The event will take place



Guitar legend Rich Harper (pictured) will be among the many guests at this year's blues rock festival.

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL BLUES ROCK FESTIVAL

February 22-23

Presented by HotelTravel.com, the third year of Phuket's biggest international blues rock festival will be huge – expanded to 12 bands – showcasing 10 of Southeast Asia's finest acts and topping it off with an American headliner each night at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.

The event will have one of Australia's top blues bands as well. Returning is guitar phenomenon Rich Harper and his band from California and another top US act will close the show on Saturday night.

from 9:30 am until 5 pm.

For further information contact K. Tu. Tel: 076-391126-15, 087-6933965. Email: prom_natt@yahoo.com Website: www.phuketaquarium.org

And best of all: entrance to the aquarium is free for children.

January 12, 2008. Malaiwana TriBallistic Relaunch Party 2008.

From 6 pm to 11 pm at Skipper's Sports Bar at Royal Phuket Marina. Live music by Indigo Pearl house band The Boom, featuring the "Sax Bomb" DJ and saxophonist Gerard Cornielje.

Also includes pre-race registration for February 3 Triballistic race and a new range of Tri-Ballistic merchandise on sale.

Adults: 1,000 baht, inclusive of buffet, one beer or glass of wine (only first alcoholic drink included) and raffle ticket. Children: 750 baht, inclusive of buffet,

three soft drinks and raffle ticket.

Tickets are available from Shaun at 089-5902015 or at info@triballisticclub.com; from Skipper's Bar at 076-360890; and from Helle Kirstein at the British International School – Phuket library.

January 12-27, 2008. French Cuisine Festival at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Mom Tri's Boathouse will host the annual "Quinzaine de la Gastronomie Française", an extravaganza of French cuisine each night from 7 pm to 11:30 pm, from January 12 to 27, 2008.

Guest Chef Maître-Cuisinier de France Jean Noël Lumineau, in collaboration with Mom Tri's Boathouse Executive Chef Tummanoon Punchun, will present a four-course dégustation menu every evening.

Each course will be accompanied by a superb French wine,

chosen by the Boathouse's Wine Director, Georges Ciret.

The Boathouse Wine & Grill a la carte menu will remain available throughout the entire festival.

For more information contact Pinyo Thippimas. Tel: 076-330015. Email: fb@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

January 19 and 26. Super BBQ Buffet at Wine Connection Bang Tao and Chalong.

A truly special BBQ buffet with cheeses, cold cuts, excellent mains, salad, desserts and live band. 650 baht per person. 6:30 pm until 11 pm. At Bang Tao on January 12 and Chalong on January 19.

For further information email Pascal at fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th or call 087-8896074.

January 16-19. Puravarna Windsurfing Rally for His Majesty the King.

The Puravarna Windsurfing Rally for HM The King, in celebration of the auspicious occasion of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday, is a rally with a course that will take contestants, for the first time in Thailand, down the west coast of Phuket.

The rally course will guide contestants past the famous beaches of the island province and cover a distance of more than 100 kilometers.

The route will start at Nai Yang Beach and pass by Surin Beach, Patong Beach and Kata Beach before ending at Nai Harn Beach. From noon until 4 pm daily.

For more information contact Thanit Raksanaves. Tel: 081-6997700. Email: ewc@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.startline.org

February 3. Malaiwana Tri-Ballistic Race at Indigo Pearl Resort.

The new Triballistic series will get underway at Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang Beach, from 6 am to 11 am.

- Senior Sprint: 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run.

- Junior Race: 200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run

- Splash & Dash: 50m swim, 3km bike, 750m run.

Registration available at www.triballisticclub.com, BIS library and at the Skippers Bar TriBallistic Party on January 12.

Registration can also be by email to info@triballisticclub.com or by calling 089-5902014. Races start 7:30 am.

For more information contact Shaun Boulter at Tel: 089-5902014, Email: info@triballisticclub.com or visit the website at www.triballisticclub.com

February 7-9. Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the Chinese new year and is the biggest social occasion on the Chinese calendar.

It is celebrated with gusto among Thailand's sizable Chinese community and legions of Chinese tourists from neighboring nations choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

February 21. Makha Bucha Day – Public Holiday.

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month of the Thai calendar, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings.

It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

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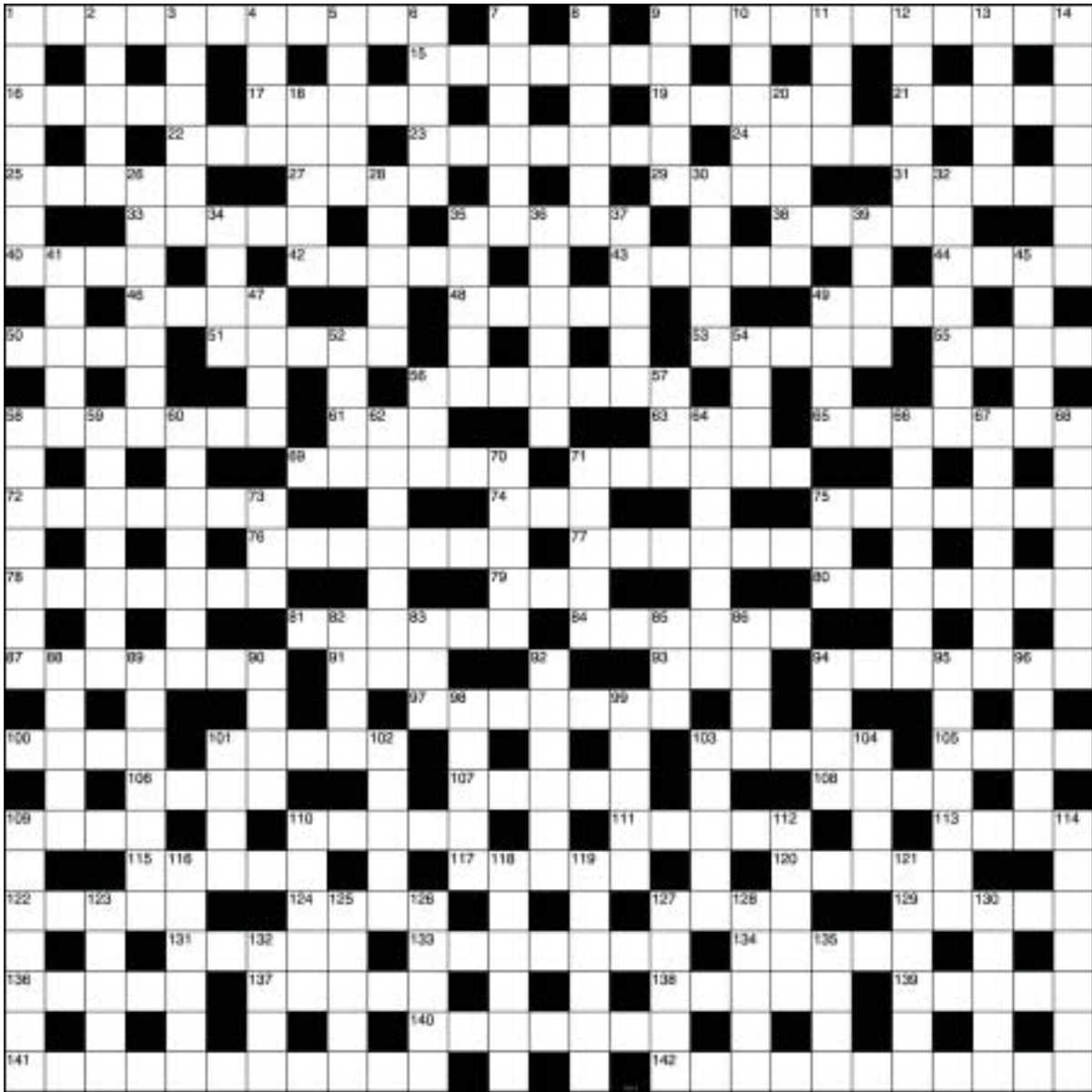


The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

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

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



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Across

1. Mixture
9. Strengthens
15. Endorsing
16. The Hunchback Of ...Dame
17. Youngster
19. Puts cargo aboard
21. Fish commercially
22. Suffers pain
23. Common law spouse (2,5)
24. Roman moon goddess
25. Parable's meaning
27. Curds &...
29. Semi-precious stone
31. Film star, Michael...
33. Pop song's flip(1-4)
35. Comic actor, Eric...
38. Very annoyed
40. Sensible
42. Male duck
43. Hymn, ... With Me
44. Smashes into
46. Knotted
48. Altogether (2,3)
49. Greek cheese
50. Which?
51. Ballet
53. Long tales
55. Warty creature
56. Spanish money units
58. Stepped (on)
61. By means of
63. Note book
65. Barely exist
69. Former (of times)
71. Covered in lawn
72. Drinking slowly
74. Immense period
75. Over-zealous supporter
76. Less full
77. Friendly
78. Bathroom off bed room (2,5)
79. Belonging to that
80. Spendthrift
81. Refugee settler
84. Cured
87. Cruel people
91. Gorilla or chimpanzee
93. Pig home
94. Defies
97. Composes (5,2)
100. Spy, Mata...
101. Computer device
103. Prepare mentally, ...up
105. Linseed oil source
106. In comparison to
107. Store for future use (3,2)
108. Seep out
109. Plant, aloe...
110. Actress, ...Roberts
111. Inappropriate
113. Regretted
115. Anxious
117. ...of Troy
120. Earth colour
122. Rubber tree fluid
124. Group, Manfred...
127. Go away!
129. Vagrants
131. Infants' carriages
133. Peculiar person
134. Garden ornament
136. Latin American dance
137. False beliefs
138. Director, Woody...
139. Singer, Jerry Lee...
140. Makes possible for
141. Sports tally displays

Down

1. Picture theatres
2. Coin-operated timer
3. High standards
4. Curved doorway
5. From Dublin
6. ...& Big Ears
7. Horsefly
8. Loop
9. Eskimo shelter
10. Fawning person
11. Space flight organization
12. Unbroken
13. From Baghdad
14. Bonding alloys
18. Chopped with ax
20. Country group, the... Chicks
26. Assisted in crime
28. Avoid (capture)
30. Pins for hammering
32. Carbonates
34. Frosted (cake)
35. Take by force
36. Rogues
37. Mexican dip
39. Pub drinks
41. Detest
45. Breakfasts or dinners
47. Condemn
49. Cigarettes
52. Replica
54. Helps
56. Full-time golfer
57. Health spring
58. Decorative tufts
59. Averse (to)
60. White thin-petalled flowers
62. Self-centred act (3,4)
64. Assault
66. Extras
67. Incarcerates
68. Rugby take-downs
70. Weird
71. Grind (teeth)
73. Golly, ...whiz!
75. Small number
82. Floor rugs
83. Jewel
85. Egyptian snake
86. Views speculatively
88. Quickly
89. Duplicate
90. Anon
92. Dr... & Mr Hyde
94. Puerto..., West Indies
95. Raging fire
96. Torment
98. Islamic deity
99. Remove (badge)
101. Chief
102. Actress, ...Barkin
103. Simmer (eggs)
104. Humans, ...sapiens
109. Amounts
110. Burglar's crowbar
112. Steak cut (1-4)
114. Stops
116. Uncover
118. Make beloved
119. Internet letters
121. Gives birth to pups
123. Musical time
125. Showy flower
126. Nuzzles
127. Cut wildly
128. Gaped at
130. Singer, David...
132. Ammunition
135. Aware of

Solution on next page

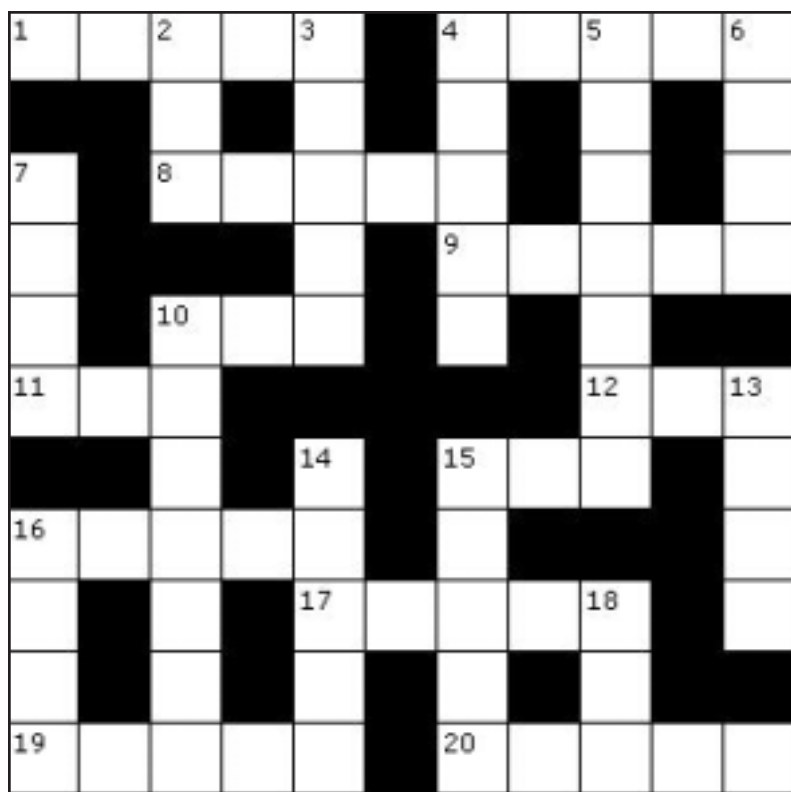
su|do|ku

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

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

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

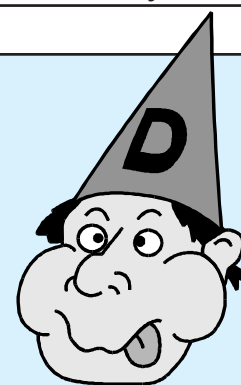
1. Hard work
4. Not sleeping
8. Garbage
9. The best
10. Used for playing snooker
11. Hot drink
12. Type of metal
15. Not wet
16. Spicy ingredient
17. Bird
19. To be excessive in attention
20. Final sum

Down

2. Play a part
3. Lead on
4. Pains
5. Stress
6. Where a surface begins
7. Horned animal
10. Furniture
13. Used for smelling
14. Sleepy
15. For sleeping under
16. Low temperature
18. Cashew...

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. Only seven prisoners were inside which fortress when it was stormed by French citizens July 14, 1789? | 7. The Maxwell Montes region is the highest point on which planet? | 14. The music for which Cuban dance has a slow duple meter? |
| 2. At age eight, which Polish-French composer played a piano concerto by Ghrivetz in public? | 8. Which boxer's slogan, "I am the great," was inspired by wrestler Gorgeous George? | 15. From the French for "rotten pot", what word refers to any mixture of unrelated objects? |
| 3. It's traditional to float two or three of what on top of Sambocca liqueur? | 9. What is the largest island in the Indian Ocean? | 16. What five words begin the novel <i>The Waste Land</i> ? |
| 4. In a leap year, an extra day is added to which month? | 10. Bodhisattvas are personifications of the virtues of which founder of a religion? | 17. What is the art movement super-realism also known as? |
| 5. Which drummer of the Beatles did Ringo Starr replace in 1962? | 11. The name of which Swedish car company means "I roll" in Latin? | 18. Which renegade woman was shot 23 times on May 23, 1934? |
| 6. On March 10, 1996, which singer performed a song on the balcony of Buenos Aires' presidential palace? | 12. In WWII, Germany built more than 1,100 of which submarine, more than half of which were sunk? | 19. A steamboat, a condor and Mount Chimborazo appear on which country's coat of arms? |
| | 13. A menorah is the symbol of which international organization? | 20. Which six-letter word means a dark cloud? |

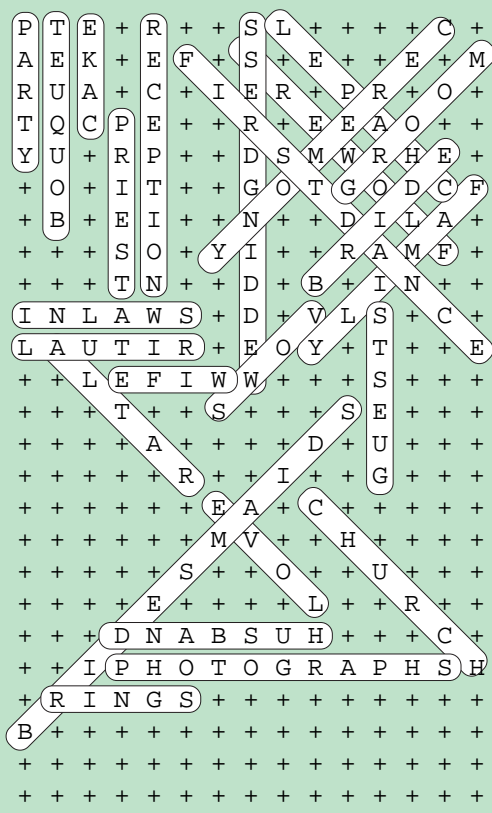
Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

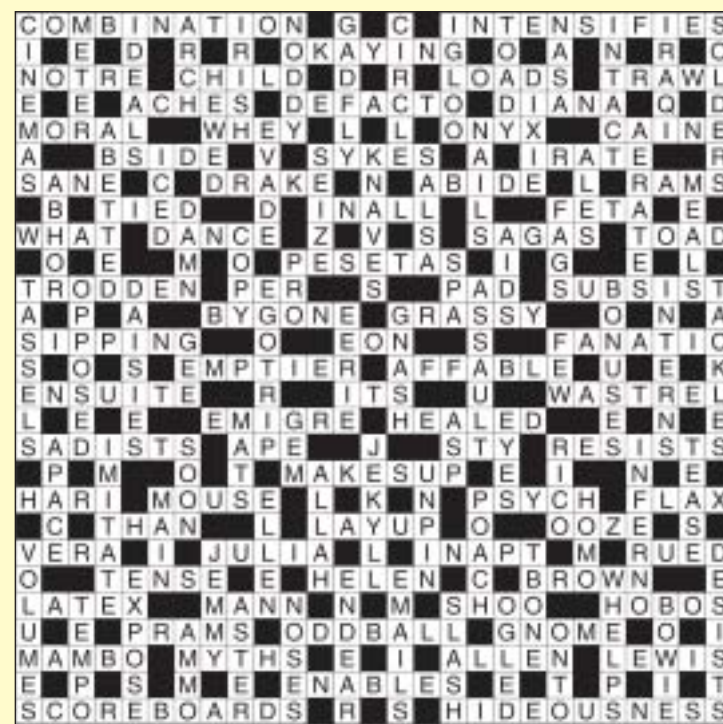


Hidden Words SOLUTION



Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Bastille; 2. Frederic Chopin;
3. Coffee beans; 4. February; 5. Pete Best; 6. Madonna; 7. Venus;
8. Muhammad Ali; 9. Madagascar;
10. Buddha; 11. Volvo; 12. U-boat;
13. B'nai B'rith; 14. The habanera;
15. Potpourri; 16. April is the cruellest month; 17. Photorealism; 18. Bonnie Parker; 19. Ecuador; 20. Nimbus.



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



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What women really want

Another Christmas and New Year has been and gone and the stress has disappeared, although we haven't started to worry about the extra pounds we've piled on yet.

The presents have been exchanged – whether we like them or not is another story – and we now have another year to decide what our other half will want for next Christmas.

There is a certain type of woman who knows exactly what she wants, which is, in very particular order, a large house with a show-off address, a size-zero figure, another handbag – you know the script.

Yet most women, frankly, are confused by their desires. They want symmetry and order and big glossy hair, but they also want spontaneity, successful dinner parties and pets.

We do like bling, but we also like the discreet glint of tiny gold earrings.

We dream of being whisked off to the Banyan Tree for a week of petal-strewn baths and class-A spa treatments, but there are also plenty of times when we would rather just stay at home and play Scrabble.

Our definitions of luxury depend on our moods, on where we are in our lives and how close we are to getting what we've always wanted.

If there is one rule that holds true for all women, it is that the minute they get what they want,

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SECRETS

they move the goalposts.

You can also guarantee that any woman – with the possible exception of the size-zero handbag-a-holic – will resent being given what she wants if she has had to ask for it or prompt the giver in any way.

This is because what a woman really wants, above all things, is for someone (a man) to be so focused on her desires, so attentive to her every whim, that he will know what she needs just by exercising his emotional intelligence.

Scarily, for the male present-buyer, the most luxurious gift can actually score negative points if the woman on the receiving end doesn't feel it demonstrates the right amount of insight.

We hate thoughtless expensive presents – don't give us beauty boxes, they're for your

mothers – as much as we dislike flowers you've bought from the petrol station.

We love a logo-stamped box rustling with tissue, but not if what's inside is red and has tassels. Such a gift rings chosen-by-his-secretary alarm bells.

Underwear can be good, but it has the opposite effect if it's three sizes too small – there are few things sadder than having to struggle through the January sales to exchange the cute dolly size for something more robust.

If you're buying a ring, it has to fit, or we will feel like one of the ugly sisters. Silver-lovers will balk at gold and vice versa. The right bag could work, but the wrong bag will make us feel guilty because we're over the label-loving stage.

All of this suggests that women are impossible to please: fussy, quick to take offense and horribly conscious of where and how things have been bought.

It all boils down to one important message: what women really want is attention. As much of it as you can afford.

(This, by the way, is the key to understanding women generally. When we sulk or nag, have a fit about our hair, spend too much on clothes, obsess about our weight, obsess about redecorating the house, fall out with our friends, lock the bathroom door and refuse to come out – nine times out of 10, it's because we feel neglected.)

We don't need gifts to prove that we are loved, but when present time comes around, we can't help but rate the gifts in terms of their attentiveness score. It actually doesn't matter



whether we get diamonds or a bathrobe – what counts is that you, not some abstract female, have been in the buyer's thoughts.

We want attention and we want attentive and indulgent presents.

Spoiling, decadent, surplus-to-requirement presents that flatter the most superficial aspects of our nature are what we're after.

Maybe even presents designed to get us more attention, like 100% cashmere loungewear, some strappy gold shoes or one of those cashmere scarves that looks as if it was knitted for a giant in a fairy tale.

Luxury comes in many forms, but what women understand by it is anything that is all about us and our pleasure and nothing to do with what is practical or sensible or appropriate.

If you think we'll be mad with you for buying that gorgeous evening gown that we tried on for

a joke, well, we might, but we'll be crying with joy, too.

The good news is that attentive luxury doesn't have to cost the earth – an ornamental orange tree would do it for the keen horticulturalist; a pair of winter sunglasses for the fashionista. The bad news is that you do need to know your subject.

I know this advice is now too late, but there's always next year. Cut out and keep, gentlemen.

Oh, and by the way, if my other half is reading this, I do love my new iPod Nano. We're not that complicated. We just take a bit of getting used to.

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

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The great high school novel

Just as William Faulkner carved out a fictional universe in Yoknapatawpha County of Mississippi, 58-year-old Richard Russo has fashioned his own literary world out of the depressed little towns of upstate New York.

In *Nobody's Fool* and *The Risk Pool*, his characters are crafty, cantankerous, profane and, very often, drunk.

Everyone in these little towns has known each other from childhood and, if they don't escape, they watch each other grow old and die.

Seven years ago, *Empire Falls* won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and, like *Nobody's Fool*, was made into a major movie.

Now he's back with a magnum opus, *Bridge of Sighs* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2007, 528pp). Again, Thomaston is a small town in decline after the closing of its tannery, a carcinogenic sumphole that routinely stained the local river red.

In a twist this time, the hero is a cheerful, teetotal optimist named Lou Lynch whose life has followed in the path of his equally upbeat father and produced a near-exact clone of a son. He tells his

story in plain speech with these opening words:

"First, the facts.

"My name is Louis Charles Lynch. I am 60 years old, and for nearly 40 of those years

"I've been a devoted if not terribly exciting husband to the same lovely woman, as well as doting father to Owen, our son, who is now himself a grown, married man."

His story follows a baby boomer childhood in the 1950s and runs up to the present day. His father, Big Lou, rose from a milkman in the slum of the West End to a grocery store owner in the middle-class East

End.

His son Owen now jokes about the "Lynch Empire", which now encompasses three corner convenience shops, a video-rental store, an ice-cream store and a couple of apartment buildings. The family lives in the wealthy Borough section of town.

A civic booster nicknamed "Mr Mayor", Lou Lynch has set himself the task of writing his hometown's history, but it turns into the story of his own life along

with family and friends.

An only child, lonely, bookish and shy, his sole childhood friend was neighbor Bobby Marconi, who protected him at school.

The son of an abusive father and cowering mother, Marconi escapes Thomaston, reverts to his mother's maiden name of Noonan and establishes himself as a rich and famous painter, wandering from London to Paris to Barcelona to Rome.

The narrative point of view then shifts to Noonan, established in Venice, who has never returned to his hometown and, in fact, hasn't been back to America in 20 years.

After a series of marriages, he's now conducting an affair with a married gallery owner. The banter in this section is sophisticated and cutting.

Lou Lynch has faithfully written to him over all these years, enclosing newspaper clippings, and is now planning a trip to Italy. Or rather, his wife is planning the trip: Rome, Florence, Venice. As departure day nears, the couple fret that they haven't heard from Bobby. In high school, the trio had been the best of friends. This

is the narrative tension that hurtles the plot forward.

Their friendship became cemented with Bobby returning from a long absence at a military boarding school, to which he'd been banished by his father after a legendary fistfight with the town bully.

In a beautifully written set piece, we see the Lynch family swapping highly comical dialog at their grocery store: the genial Lou, his sharp-tongued wife Tessa and his rakish brother Dec. Lou Junior has gained a great deal of confidence now that he has a girlfriend.

Sarah is a talented artist who has adopted the family. Joining the family, Bobby, despite himself, is hugely attracted to Sarah.

Two-thirds through the book and 17-year-old Sarah takes over the story.

The plot now takes a hugely unexpected shift – jumps the rails, really – and gallops to a violent conclusion that segues into a long gentle coda that ends with an unexpected addition to the Lynch family.

The main characters are all 60 now, but their fates were sealed in high school. You could call this "The Great American High School Novel".



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

One flied over the cuckoo's nest

When a baseball player flies out, announcers invariably say something like, "Last time up, he flied out too."

I believe the correct wording should be, "He flew out." Your decision?

Mark O'Keefe
Grosse Pointe Farms,
Michigan.

Barbara replies:

"Flew out" is appropriate for away games, except when the team took a bus. Sorry. Just kidding.

In his classic-style manual *The Careful Writer*, published in 1965, Theodore M. Bernstein wrote, "You won't find it in most dictionaries, but 'flied' is the past tense of 'fly' in one specialized field: baseball."

The only thing wrong with that pronouncement today is that you do find this fact noted in contemporary dictionaries.

Why is "flied" right? It's because the verb comes to us directly from the noun "fly", meaning "a fly ball".

As Steven Pinker explains in his classic 1994 book *The Language Instinct*, this is the same logic according to which we say, "They ringed the city with artillery" (formed a ring around it).

We don't say, "They rang the city with artillery."

Likewise, we say, "He grandstanded to the crowd" (played to the grandstand) instead of, "He grandstood to the crowd."

When we make verbs out

Welcome to Word Court, where Barbara Wallraff unravels some of the mystery that shrouds the English language, debunking confusing usage and clearing away the clutter that stops clear understanding – all by answering reader's questions.

of nouns, we instinctively make them regular – so "fly" in baseball follows the same, regular pattern as "cry" and "try", with a past tense that ends in "–ied".

I often hear or read the word "and" used when I think the word "to" would make more sense.

For example, "I am going to try and get some work done tonight," or, "Try and see if you can go out today." Is it correct to use "and" in these sentences?"

Eric DeCarlo
Schenectady, New York

Barbara replies:

"Try and" is informal, that's for sure. Nonetheless, it has a good long history. In his 1926 book *Modern English Usage*, H.W. Fowler argued that it's an example of "hendiadys":

"The expressing of a compound notion by giving its two constituents as though they were independent" a construction that was "chiefly a poetic ornament in Greek and Latin".

That's a bit fancy, I think. In casual conversation, "and" doesn't bother me in "try and..." or other phrases such as "look and see" or "nice and warm".

But none of these belongs in formal, crafted writing.

just seem to make much sense.

Brian Hagen
Madison, Wisconsin

Barbara replies:

Now that I have my copy of Fowler down off the shelf, I can tell you that this rhetorical device is called "tmesis", which means "cutting" in Latin.

"Another" has been cut in two and "whole" put in the middle. "Whole another" doesn't make sense, but "a whole other" does.

There were elegant ex-

amples of tmesis, like this from the *King James Bible*: "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law."

Nowadays the device is heard in the likes of "Un-freaking-believable!"

Barbara Wallraff is a weekly syndicated columnist for *King Features* and a contributing editor and words columnist at *The Atlantic Monthly*, where she has worked since 1983.



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Totally fed up with spam

Email is not the only kind of spam. Spam is also real estate agents who put up so many signs and billboards trying to sell paradise that they end up diminishing their own product. The next time you drive along the road from Patong to Kamala, count the number of large billboards from real estate agents that block and spoil the view. During a recent drive along that road, I counted 20 large signs from one real estate weenie, and 13 from another, along one half-kilometer stretch.

Nobody likes spam, which is defined as any "unsolicited commercial promotion". Would you hate me if I annoyed and wasted the time of 100 unwilling strangers to find one willing customer? Of course you would, because that selfish action breaks the social contract that exists between the public and the salesmen.

That long-established social contract says "aggressive advertising is not the same as being rude. Be polite, and respect the public's time and quality of life, or the hatred you generate is directed squarely at you and your business. If you must advertise, then give something back to the community."

This is why the public appreciates ads in newspapers, on TV and on the radio: the advertiser is giving us something and in return – we reward him with our attention.

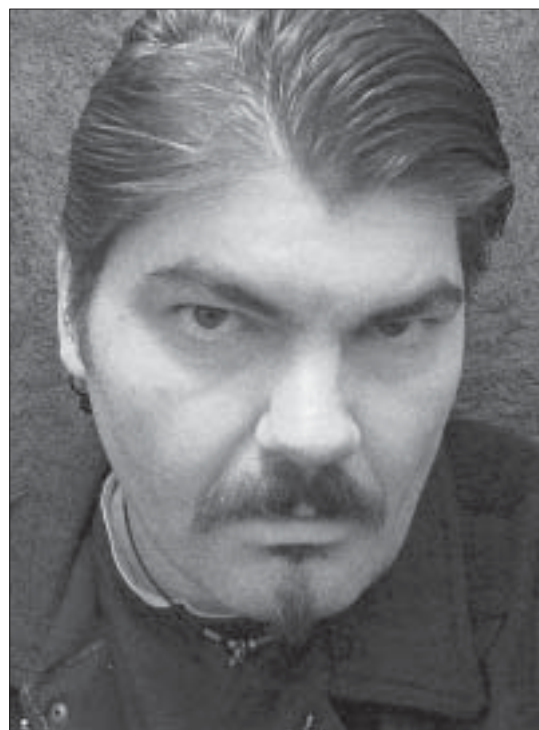
Spam breaks that rule. It's

FIRST PERSON

Seth Bareiss has lived in Asia and the Pacific Rim for the past 18 years, working in the fields of tourism, web communications and art.

Here, he vents his rage at spammers, pointing out that spam is more than unsolicited email. The term can also be applied in a general sense to encompass any of the similarly selfish, parasitic and annoying sales techniques that abound these days.

He also challenges vendors to measure the real cost of breaking the social contract between salesmen and the public.



wants you to endure after you've already paid for a movie. Why should you pay 120 baht for a movie ticket and then pay again with your time and patience? Bill the movie house for your time, at the same rate you are paid at work. Charge the same rate for disposing of junk mail stuffed in your mailbox.

Spam is also the guys who make your utility poles look like a tornado in a trash bin, putting up hundreds of "buy my boat, rent my house, buy my junk" posters.

Those guys can't be bothered to spend a penny on supporting the local newspaper, radio, magazine, Internet forum or community bulletin board. They'd rather make your neighborhood ugly – because it's cheaper. They have a moral deficiency and a greed that erases their sense of what's right and decent. Because they lack the objectivity to realize that they are quickly making their neighbors angry.

"Ad Creep" is both a noun and a verb. It's a word coined by AdBusters.org to describe these rude, invasive, irritating advertisers and their increasing degradation of the community's peace, time and environment. Don't tolerate it, because their abuses will continue until you say "No".

Bug your local mayor until these rude market-warriors weigh the harm they do to the community and to their own business reputations.

a cheap shot from a jerk, someone who will annoy others simply because he *can*, trading the discomfort of 100 strangers to put one baht in his pocket.

Spam can also take human form. It's twerps who ride around in a posse of annoying speaker-trucks. It's the sidewalk sales jerks on Soi Bangla who don't realize that their "Hi, boss, how're you doing, watches, tuk-tuk, taxi, pretty lady?" up-your-nose presentation drives off more customers than it pulls in. These guys

desperately need leashes, or at least an education in how not to drive away customers.

Spam is guys on three-wheel motorcycles who use loudspeakers to scream the same annoying sales pitch every day in a residential neighborhood, hawking things that we can darned well buy from the quiet convenience store on the corner.

Don't let them fool themselves into believing that just because their grandfathers pushed carts and shouted with their own

vocal cords, in the days when customers didn't have motorbikes, that this is permission for them to do the same thing with 100cc engines and 500-watt speakers.

Spam is the local karaoke operator who thinks that louder is more attractive and hasn't noticed that the ear-warfare actually drives away customers, and doesn't care that locals can't sleep or think during that racket.

Spam is the 25 minutes of commercials the movie house

Retiring in Thailand

I seem to be unable to obtain a firm answer about immigrating to Thailand. I am 72, in good health, have a pension and social security and complete health coverage. I would not be a drain on Thailand, but would contribute to the economy.

I am sailing to Thailand on my 32-foot sailboat, alone. You have to be in good health to do this. I do not want to work, I want to become a permanent resident in Phuket. I have visited a number of times and have found it to be extremely friendly.

How do I obtain permission to immigrate to Thailand and become a permanent resident?

Susan A Meckley
Hawaii

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

There are many ways to stay permanently in Thailand, but in your case I suggest that you obtain a non-immigrant O-A "retirement" visa from a Thai embassy or consulate outside of Thailand before arriving.

Then, once you arrive in

Issues & ANSWERS

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Thailand, you will need to report to Immigration to be issued a one-year permit to stay, which requires you to report to any Immigration office every 90 days.

You will need to renew your one-year permit to stay every year.

However, please be aware that the requirements for the one-year permit to stay may change while you are staying in Thailand. This may include changes to the amount kept in a Thai bank account and so on.

The current requirements for obtaining a retirement visa, which can also be viewed at www.immigration.go.th, are:

1. You must have been issued a temporary non-immigrant visa;

2. You must be at least 50 years old;

3. You must have proof of income of not less than 65,000 baht per month, or an account deposit with a bank in Thailand of not less than 800,000 baht as shown in bank account transactions for the past three months, or annual income plus bank account deposit totaling not less than 800,000 baht as of the filing date of application.

You will also need to provide with your application form a copy of your passport, proof of income, such as a retirement pension, interest earnings or dividends and so on, and/or a certificate of a local bank account deposit together with copies of bank account records.

Education visas for foreign school children

I am a British national and have just moved to Phuket. I was told by the Thai Consulate that once I was here and my kids were in school that they would arrange their education visas.

I am now told that you need a certain amount of money in the bank for this to happen.

Please inform me as to which answer is correct.

Sam Mavrou

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

To obtain the non-immigrant ED "education" visa for children, you do not need to present any bank account details; you just need to present the documents from the school to prove that your

child is studying there.

Most of the international schools in Phuket will provide this document for you, as they regularly do so for their foreign students.

If you wish to apply for the visa for yourself in case you need to look after your children, you will need to apply for non-immigrant O visa as a guardian.

For this, you will need to present a minimum of 500,000 baht in your bank account (the money must have been deposited in a Thai bank account at least three months before applying).

You will also have to provide your passport as well as supporting documents from your child's school with your application.

Teaching kids to save the dogs

After a series of meetings with Phuket's director of education, the Soi Dog Foundation will commence an education program in schools around the island.

The first class will be held with pupils from Muang Thalang School early this year. If successful, the program will be expanded to more than 60 schools in Phuket.

Gill Dalley of the Soi Dog Foundation devised the program. Mrs Dalley was recently nominated as Asian of the Year by Singapore's Channel News Asia, making her the first non-Asian to be nominated for the award.

Mrs Dalley, who lost her legs three years ago after rescuing a dog from a flooded water-buffalo field, will be featured in a documentary about her work with Phuket's dogs.

The documentary will be shown in 15 Asian countries later this year.

Speaking about the education program, Mrs Dalley said, "We are excited about this development. It is something I have

wanted to do for a long time. I firmly believe that the only way we can change people's attitudes to animals is through educating the next generation. There is a desperate need to reduce the stray population.

"The program will explain to children the work of the Soi Dog Foundation, focusing on sterilization.

"The lessons will teach children how to be responsible pet owners and will focus on HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's message to his people regarding the country's stray dogs," she said.

"HM The King, in the forward to his book about his dog Tongdaeng, requested his people to adopt stray dogs, rather than import expensive luxury breeds, which take a toll on the economy of the country.

As he pointed out, stray Thai dogs are usually humble and faithful to their owners. They are also extremely intelligent. Most have the desirable qualities people want from a pet dog," added Mrs Dalley.

"The first lesson will be held at the

Phuket dog shelter. As well as a structured lesson, there will be activities and interaction with the dogs. Our aim is that the children will learn to understand dogs and the problems they face.

"We want to inspire them to become the eyes and ears of their community, reporting to us about stray dogs in need of sterilizing and persuading owners to have their own dogs sterilized, rather than allowing them to breed and add to the problem," she explained.

Waraporn Jittanonta, who has worked extensively with the International Red Cross and UNICEF, will co-present the lessons with Mrs Dalley.

Nick Anthony of Indigo Real Estate, who has offered to donate several thousand copies of his recent children's book about his own ex-stray dog Princess Sausage, described the program as "wonderful news".

I wish them every success in this venture. Clearly, there is a need for it. With Phuket's population growing along with the amount of garbage on the streets, the stray-dog population on the island should also be increasing.

However, it isn't - mainly because of the Soi Dog Foundation's efforts in ster-

ilizing more than 17,000 dogs and cats in Phuket.

It could be argued that frequent road kills are a factor in the lack of a population increase, but the number of dogs killed on the roads is tiny and countered by the numbers of puppies brought onto the island each week for sale at pet shops and markets.

Studies show that in areas almost completely cleared of dogs, the numbers rapidly increase again to their former level within a few months.

Major poisoning campaigns were carried out in Bangkok for years before they were outlawed as inhumane. The population never decreased. Similarly, in Bali, where the number of stray dogs is estimated to be around 500,000, such campaigns have been fruitless.

Next year, a research team funded by the Australian government will spend several weeks on the island to study the methods used and see if these methods can be used to deal with feral cats in Australia.

To contact the Soi Dog Foundation, visit their website at www.soidog.org, email john@soidog.org, or call 070-508688.



By Top Dog

In The Stars

by Isla Star

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): It's not too late for Capricorns, who thought they were already perfect, to make some New Year's resolutions. One of these should certainly be to raise your tolerance levels. Early next week you are likely to become impatient for no valid reason and this could impede progress at work. A romantic day on Sunday encourages optimism where a fledgling relationship is concerned.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Attention from others this weekend helps to float your boat after a tedious week has passed. You learn that someone in your social circle has more interest in you than previously thought. Those already in a committed relationship should make this fact clear. Monetary matters are subject to minor disputes mid-

week; your tendency to misplace important papers will hold up progress.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A stalemate situation at work mid-week will necessitate further discussions, but you shouldn't despair. Having clear and concise aims will encourage others to take you seriously and help bring the end into sight. This weekend, you hear a juicy piece of gossip on the grapevine, but it would be wise not to pass it on. Where love is concerned, absence makes your heart grow fonder.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A quiet week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Aries. If you are having second thoughts about a business commitment, it would be wiser to back out before digging yourself into a hole. Where money is concerned, you

will have to wait longer than expected to receive a due payment. While some gentle pressure may have the desired result, heavy demands could have the opposite effect.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You can be forgiven for thinking there just aren't enough hours in the day to accomplish everything. It will be necessary to trust others to assume some responsibility, even though you normally prefer to be alone at the helm. On Tuesday or Wednesday you receive confirmation that your plans were the right ones to make.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those born under the sign of Gemini who have amends to make should receive the opportunity to do so this weekend. Swallow your pride and say the right thing as the person concerned will be a useful future contact. The color golden chestnut can enhance your creativity this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Those of you who would change their present occupation at the drop of a sunhat should spot a good opportunity this week. Objections from those close to you will dissolve when they realize that this move is best for everyone.

Those who are single can look forward to some excitement in the weeks ahead. Allow a potential romantic partner to see you in the best possible light this weekend. The number five comes alive on Tuesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your steady head for business can help reap rewards during the remainder of January. Don't commit to the first opportunity unless it's written in stone, something more lucrative and interesting is waiting around the corner. Those with a partner should be prepared to provide necessary pampering this weekend. The color hot pink can enhance your appeal.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Those born under the sign of Virgo who have encountered stumbling blocks in business recently are advised to brush up on their communication skills. Don't assume you know something unless you have actually been told what is going on. Wednesday is the best day for instigating an important meeting with someone who can help you get ahead. Wear citrus shades to help overcome your lazy tendencies. The number 3 is lucky on Monday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A roller-coaster week is fore-

cast where finances are concerned. Those of you who made a risky investment at the end of last year should be able to breathe a sigh of relief. However, it is not advisable to take the same sort of chance again. If bills are higher than normal take the trouble to check, monetary mistakes are indicated this week.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpios aren't normally shy people, but this weekend you could well be tongue-tied. An attraction of the opposites is forecast to take place and this could lead to an uplifting romantic period. A jealous acquaintance born under the sign of Aries may try to prevent this relationship from getting off the ground. Where work is concerned, you should soon have a second chance for the promotion that passed you by last year.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Those born under the sign of Sagittarian who are keen as mustard to use experience accumulated last year can look forward to an unusual offer this week. Your determination to have a healthier bank balance could be compromised by a partner's holiday plans. Wear a piece of topaz to encourage more optimism.

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In my previous article, I suggested how to use your computer securely at home: have antivirus software and a personal firewall, use automatic updates and do regular backups.

Here are two additional security measures that you can take:

If you have a wireless access point at home, use MAC address filtering and WPA (Wi-Fi protected access). The standard WEP (wired equivalent privacy) is 100% insecure.

Even if you have an old wireless hub that only supported WEP when you bought it, chances are that you can now download a firmware upgrade to WPA from the manufacturer.

Second, do not continually use your system as an administrator. Evil programs that try to take over your system usually need administrator privileges.

If you are logged into the system as a regular user, or even a power user, most malware can be stopped in its tracks.

On Linux and Mac OS X, this is relatively easy. On Windows XP, this is a nightmare and I am currently living it.

When I got a new Thinkpad T61 a month ago, for the first time a Windows user, I took the plunge to practice what the information security (infosec) pros teach.

I could easily fill an entire column with the problems I am having trying to function as a normal user on Windows XP. If you want to know the gory details or have any questions, send me an email.

Microsoft advertises Vista as greatly improved over XP by having a new feature called User Account Control (UAC). "UAC is meant to enable users to run with standard user rights, as opposed to administrative rights," they say.

It is commendable that in the year 2006 Microsoft has finally – finally – decided to embrace one of the basic principles of security: the principle of least privilege (note the sarcasm).

In its present lousy state – it's a Microsoft version 1.0, after all – there are just as many recommendations to turn UAC off as there are Microsoft fanboys who actually use it. Perhaps I will give Vista and UAC a spin in 2010 when Service Pack 2 comes out.

So, the bottom line is, functioning as a non-administrator on Windows is best left to the ultra-geeks.

The following recommendations to be safer while in cyberspace are called "administrative access controls", in infosec vernacular.

An enterprise will have se-

Saving you from sniffers, leakage and identity theft



If you have to use MySpace, Second Life, Facebook and so on, use different free email accounts to separate your identities, or else you are at risk from identity theft.

curity policies and guidelines that an employee must or should follow. At the consumer level, you simply need to try to control yourself.

Wireless hotspots and Internet cafés. Fortunately (or unfortunately), wireless hotspots are a rarity in Phuket – unlike in Singapore – so wireless-access-point spoofing is not a huge issue. Still, the line is unencrypted, so you have to presume that all user names, passwords and other sensitive information can be seen (called "sniffing") by somebody else.

If you use an Internet café on the island, presume that the

PC you are using has a keylogger on it and is recording your keystrokes, which means that it's a good idea to later change any passwords used.

Human trust is also a factor. In Patong, during the day, I go to Woody's Sandwich Shoppe to use his wireless network; at night, I visit Steve at his Crow's Nest bar on Soi Seadragon and use his wireless network.

Online purchases. Use a sepa-

rate bank account for online purchases and put only the amount you need into it.

If your credit card or debit card info is hacked, or if your PayPal account is tied to this account, you minimize the amount you lose.

Credit cards are better than debit cards because it's much easier to contest charges on your credit card.

Online banking. Internet banking is a service that I had to be

dragged kicking and screaming to use, but since I travel a lot, it's indispensable.

Make sure your bank uses two-factor authentication, which means that if a keylogger is recording your keystrokes and receiving them over the Internet, he or she cannot break into your account.

Using a keychain token device that produces one-time passwords and sending passwords via SMS to your mobile phone are good ideas.

Compartmentalize online identities. If you have to use LinkedIn, Facebook, MySpace, Second Life and so on, use different free email accounts to separate your identities – and never crosslink them.

Use a separate email for your professional life, one for your personal life, one for your social life and others for areas such as hobbies, fantasy sports and political forums.

Let's face it – privacy in Asia is a low priority. By leaking information about yourself, cyberspace folk can know more about you than your family.

I hope these tips on what is called "personal data leakage prevention and endpoint protection" – with a dab of "risk management" – will help you in the future.

Ignacio Evans is an information security consultant based in Southeast Asia who tries to be in Phuket whenever he can. Email him with questions, complaints or comments at: iggy69.e@gmail.com

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ON THE MOVE

Nichakamon "Bowie" Khajorn, 27, from Bangkok has been appointed Gallery Manager of D Gallery at Royal Phuket Marina.

K. Bowie graduated with a bachelor's degree in Faculty of Liberal Arts from Rajamangala University of Technology in Bangkok.

She has previously worked as Managing Director's Secretary at Vakom Oversea Education Consultant Co Ltd in Bangkok. She has also worked for City Mall Group Co Ltd (main management for Emporium) in Bangkok.



Somnuek Wanleang from Bangkok has been appointed General Manager of Prompt Techno Service Co Ltd, Phuket branch, on the bypass road.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Engineering from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Thonburi.

He has more than 30 years' experience in engineering, including 10 years as Facility Project Engineering and Facility Maintained Supervisor for National Semiconductor Co Ltd (Thailand).



Fredrick Arul, a Malaysian national, has been appointed Assistant Vice-President of Hospitality Services for Laguna Phuket.

With 20 years experience in the hotel industry, Mr Arul joined the Sol Melia Group in 1996. He spent a period in Spain as the Corporate Director of Food and Beverages.

He spent four years as the General Manager of the Melia Purosani in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and in 2004 he was appointed as General Manager of the Melia Hanoi, Vietnam.



By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Over the past year 22,888 new motorcycles and 9,725 new sedans and pickup trucks were bought and registered in Phuket, bringing the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office (PPLTO) total revenue for the past calendar year to 178 million baht.

Charot Klinmanee, Chief of Registrar of the PPLTO, told the *Gazette* that the provincial office's total income for 2007 was an increase of just over 14% on the 156 million baht collected in 2006.

The registration of new vehicles garnered at total of 29.089 million baht for the PPLTO's coffers, up from 28.614 million baht in 2006. Of this, new sedans in 2007 earned the PPLTO 22.85 million baht, compared with 21.92 million in 2006, while new motorbike registrations accounted for 2.285 million baht, up from 2.197 million baht.

Registration of new pickups saw 3.653 million baht in revenue, up from 3.584 million baht in 2006, while new vans earned

Car registration figures continue upwards drive

183,700 baht, up from 116,500 baht.

New vehicle registrations raised the total number of vehicles registered in Phuket from 189,981 in 2006 to 209,114 vehicles in 2007, including 135,694 motorbikes (up from 125,412), 36,524 cars (31,600), 31,213 pickups (28,669) and 2,019 vans (1,934).

New sedans earned the PPLTO 100.44 million baht in revenue, up from 82.824 million baht in 2006, while new bikes accounted for 15.186 million baht (up from 13.974 million), new pickups 29.141 million baht (B26.473m) and new vans 2.569 million baht (B2.388 million).

The number of commercial transportation vehicles, those sporting green license plates, grew slightly over the year. There are now 501 taxis and limousines



Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office Chief Registrar Charot Klinmanee takes on yet another stack of new vehicle registrations.

in Phuket, compared with 494 in 2006, and 497 registered tuk-tuks on the island, up from 488.

However, there was a huge surge in the number of motorcycle taxis, with 2,508 motorbikes being registered for commercial use, up from 1,223 in 2006.

Making up the bulk of the PPLTO's revenue over the year was re-registration of vehicles, earning the provincial office 148.747 million baht in revenue, up from 126.953 million baht.

"The number of new vehicles, both cars and motorcycles, in Phuket increases every year because the economy here is still performing well," K. Charot explained.

"In Phuket, people have the financial capacity to buy a car to have a comfortable life, so that whenever they want to go somewhere they can go. When you see an ad on TV for the latest model just launched and see the same model already being driven in Phuket, that's because people here keep updating their cars with new models because the economy is still good," he added.

The number of cars in Phuket increases every year by about 15% to 20%, with sedans being more popular than pickup trucks. The number of motorcycles also increases every year,

but only by about 10%, he added.

"I think one of the main reasons that there are a lot of vehicles on the road in Phuket is because public transportation on the island is still not widely available. But even if Phuket had a good public transportation system, many people would still not use it because it would not be convenient for their lifestyle," he said.

K. Charot explained that another factor was that many people come to Phuket to work and bring their cars with them. "You can see a large number of cars on the road in Phuket that do not have Phuket license plates. None of these cars are included in the statistics," K. Charot said.

"Also, the new car market is very competitive in Phuket. Dealers are offering test drives and attractive repayment schemes, including zero interest for specified periods and some are not even asking for down payments from buyers," he added.

Also expected to boost the PPLTO coffers, K. Charot said, is the annual license plate auction, this year with 301 individual registrations to be auctioned off at The Metropole hotel in Phuket City on March 22 and 23. Last year, the auction raised 11.62 million baht.

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A typical investment is only beneficial when it rises in value. Therefore, an investment that can be profitable when prices either rise or fall can open a new window of opportunity for investors. It can also diversify the types of assets that are typically held in a portfolio.

AMT Futures, which I first wrote about early last year, offers three funds. First, the IQS Fund. This fund certainly has a lot going for it. It makes money and lots of it. In 2007, it rose, net of charges, by 34.4%.

For most funds, this would be described as a good year. For IQS, it was around average. From 1996 until the end of 2006, the fund's average was 35% a year – a total of 2,850%.

For those concerned about investing in stock markets, relax. IQS does not invest in them. It invests in 14 different areas: gold, copper, natural gas, crude oil, cotton, sugar, UST Bonds (US government), Canadian dollars, British pounds, Japanese yen, coffee, wheat, soybeans and soybean oil.

IQS does what is known as “emotionless” trading – all trading is undertaken by computers and not humans. The advantage

Keeping the ego at bay proves to be profitable

of a computer-based system is that it has no ego and reacts purely to mathematical realities. The disadvantage is that it is not actively intelligent and therefore, for example, was completely unaware of the 9/11 terror attacks.

AMT management decided after 9/11 not to interfere with the system. This created a major problem for the global futures market, as the New York Futures Market was no longer a participant. But, of course, the “show must go on”.

New York trading was, initially, limited to two hours daily but within a week new premises were up and running in New Jersey. For patient investors, IQS, after a very unpleasant downturn, performed extremely well in the subsequent upturn.

This is ideally a fund for patient investors. It is not a fund for people who by nature or habit are “worriers”, since it is vola-

tile. For most investors, it should represent a small but interesting part of their portfolio.

AMT Futures also runs its CFL Fund, which has “multi-managers” who externally manage the six funds that comprise the CFL Fund.

This fund has a good track record, although this is flattered by an extremely high return in its first year, 1998. In 2007, the fund rose 9.13%. Respectable, but not exciting.

The fund has a very broad range of investments including everything from Japanese gov-

ernment bonds to orange juice to lumber. Again, this fund seeks to profit from either rising or falling prices. Some strategies employed are “emotionless” while others are actively managed.

Then AMT threw something interesting into the mix: the SAV Fund. This fund is simply 25% IQS, 72% CFL and the remainder cash.

Returns have been outstanding. From inception in 1998 to the end of 2006 net returns were 699%. The previous five years yielded +285%: three years at 72% and 27% for 2006. Now

for the bad news: the fund rose only 17.22% in 2007.

The message that this fund delivers is the importance of compound interest and it leaves well-known global indexes such as the S&P 500 and CSFB Hedge Fund Index close to the starting gate.

It has also served to protect investors from involvement in the sub-prime fiasco. When managers such as AMT Futures “get it right” over substantial periods of time and to such an outstanding extent it is surely worthy of further examination.

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



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

VITAL STATISTICS

Company registrations down 31.6% in 2 years

Type	November 2005	November 2006	November 2007
Limited company registrations	117	108	80
Limited partnership registrations	26	62	28
Limited companies changed	306	364	415
Limited partnerships changed	32	37	37
Companies deregistered	16	19	21
Partnerships deregistered	14	7	7

Source: Business Development Office

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TINY TIGER



This pint-sized golfer can hit a ball more than 30 yards – and he hasn't even celebrated his third birthday yet.



Patrick "Junior" Dobson's interest in golf was first sparked when he was bought a set of plastic golf clubs. Junior picked up his first club and swung with a natural movement, much to the amazement of his father, Alan.

At that time, Junior was 18 months old. He has since progressed to his first set of junior clubs, cut down to size.

Twice a week, Junior knocks out a box of balls at Loch Palm Golf Club.

Although he is rarely able to get his shots in the air, Junior usually whacks his balls about 30 yards along the ground.

"He's a bit young to understand putting skills yet, but that will develop with age," said Alan.

"Tiger Woods was hitting balls at age two and a half, so who knows what the future holds for Junior. We have to keep it fun and interesting for him as much as we can and see what develops by the time he is six or seven. Then we can call the pros in, because we don't want him picking up any bad habits," added Alan.

Junior arrived in Phuket on holiday with his family about five and a half years ago. The Dobsons fell in love with the island and decided to make Phuket their home.

"One thing's for sure," said Alan. "I wish someone had taught me to play golf when I was three."

After each visit to Loch Palm, Junior is rewarded with an ice cream.

"Tiger's father used psychology a lot when Tiger was young. Things like getting Tiger to ask him to go and practice. This way, he felt he didn't force tiger ever to go and practice and play – it all came from him," said Alan.

"There is no point in forcing anyone to do anything if they aren't enjoying it, but the better you get, the more enjoyable it becomes. I'm trying to adapt to some of Tiger's dad's philosophies. We'll just have to wait and see," he added.

Cricketers ready for 2008 season



A New Year and a new cricket season is fast approaching. The first match is slated for January 13, but there is still time to join a side for keen cricketers on the island.

PHUKET: Phuket's cricketers are preparing for the 2008 Island Furniture Cricket League, once again organized by the Phuket Cricket Union (PCU).

This year will see five teams competing for the coveted title.

The new season will get underway January 13, when last season's winners the Liquid Lounge Lizards, formerly The Academicals, will take on last season's runners-up the Island Cricket Club.

Matches will be held at Cherg Thalay Wittayakom School, near the Laguna complex. Organizers are currently working on obtaining use of a second venue.

Other teams competing in the league this year are Patong Cricket Club, Phuket Cricket Association and Village Cricket Team, an addition to the league made up of players from The Village on Coconut Island, Koh Maphrao.

Games are 11-a-side, 35 overs, played to one-day rules. Each team will play every other team twice in a round-robin format.

At the end of the season, the top two teams by points will meet in the season final, which is currently slated for the end of April.

Supplied by Steve from The Shires Pie company, food is available at all games.

Any keen cricketers in Phuket looking to join a side have the chance to join Patong Cricket Club, who recently lost a number of key players.

The first match for Patong Cricket Club will be on January 20. Anybody interested in playing can call Mark Whetton at 086-1208346.

Although cricket is the name

of the game, there is a strong emphasis placed on the social side of participating in the league. Post match warm-downs take place in Patong.

Other important dates for cricketers are:

February 22-24. The Cricket Association of Thailand will host the second Thailand Inter-Regional Tournament in Chiang Mai.

Teams from the four main regions of Thailand will get together for a round-robin contest. Last year, Phuket came third.

April 16-20: The fifth Phuket Cricket Sixes tournament will take place in Karon.

April 21-27: A touring side from Australia will be in town looking for a few games while they are on the island.

For more information contact Mark "Scarfy" Whetton, tournament director of the PCU. Email: scarfy@loxinfo.co.th The Phuket Cricket Union website www.phuketcricket.com is currently under construction.

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Photo by Dan Miles

Charity fun runners raise 150,000 baht

PHUKET: Courts Megastore organized the Courts Run for Care on Sunday, January 5 to raise funds for Life Home Project Foundation.

A total of 150,000 baht was raised through entry fees, individual donations and a large donation by Courts.

About 150 runners set off at 7 am from Courts Megastore on the bypass road, running 13 kilometers to the Life Home Project Foundation at Koh Sireh.

The winner of the men's race was Amnuay

Thongmitr, who finished the course in 44 minutes. He fended off opposition from Sinchai Srikha and Sitthiporn Sungthong.

The women's title went to Siriyakorn Kamlai, with Anong Piriya-preuk and Chamaiphak Klanprakone finishing in second and third places respectively.

The winners in each category received 10,000 baht, with 5,000 baht going to the runners-up and 2,500 to the athletes who came in third.

Rafters to paddle for charity

THALANG: Teams are invited to sign up and construct their own rafts for the 2008 Rotary Charity Raft Race set to take place February 24 at Laguna.

The fun charity event is being held to raise funds for the various projects that the seven Rotary Clubs of Phuket are involved with, including the Tha Chat Chai fishing village, child kidney transplantation, as well as assistance to Thalang community.

The event is being organized by Rotary Club Laguna Phuket with the other six Rotary Clubs helping with the proceedings.

The annual race is a fun

social occasion and Jan Verduyn, president of The Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket, is hoping that a record number of teams will take part this year.

Teams will be required to build a raft off-site from whatever materials they can lay their hands on. Rafts must hold a minimum of five persons and a maximum of eight.

The entire crew of each team must be on board to take on the 800-meter course at Laguna lake. Rafts must complete the course without sinking.

Prizes will be awarded for originality and creativity in the

building of the rafts. Marketing effectiveness will also be taken into consideration, as rafters are encouraged to build their vessels in keeping with a theme befitting of their company and team.

The race will be held at Laguna Elephant Camp, opposite Canal Village. Teams will be able to take and assemble their rafts on February 23. Rafts must be launched by 10:30 am on race day.

Teams must paddle their way along a pre-set course, pick up an abandoned member of their crew and paddle back to port.

For further information contact K.Yen at 076-362870.

Call for entries to Phang Nga Bay Regatta

PHANG NGA: Touted as Asia's most fun sailing event, the 11th Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta will this year will be held from February 7 to 10.

Organized by Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), registration for the regatta will take place February 6 at Chandara Resort, Ao Por.

Day one of racing will take sailors from Ao Por to Koh Chong Lat, located in the northeast corner of Phang Nga Bay. The party at the end of the day will be held at the seafood restaurant in the village of Laem Sak.

On day two, sailors will race from Koh Chong Lat to near Ao Nang, Krabi.

Racing on day three will be from offshore the Krabi mainland to the Phi Phi Islands. The run from Krabi will take sailors to the northern tip of Koh Phi Phi Don, where the beach party will take place at PP Erawan Palms Resort.

On the final day of racing, the regatta will sail from Phi Phi to Nai Harn, at the southern end of Phuket. Puravarna Phuket Yacht Club, formerly Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, will hold an extravagant beach party at Nai Harn Beach.

For more information visit www.bayregatta.com

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: In the first week of play of the new-and-improved Patong Darts League (the league now has a Sick Buffalo among its numbers), the games will be as listed below.

The Sick Buffalo Bar is located on the access road to Banzan Market, off Nanai Rd, perhaps so that as soon as the sick buffalo dies it can be whisked off, butchered and sold to tourists.

January 15: Sick Buffalo v Queen Mary; Beach House v Dog's Bollocks; Valhalla v Piccadilly; Simply Red v Off-shore; Market Bar v -Shakers (home teams listed first).

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

New Wichit Municipality offices open

WICHIT: The finishing touches are being made to the new Wichit Municipality offices, built at a cost of 35 million baht. Located on Wat Thepnimit on Chao Fa East Rd, the building's opening ceremony is expected to be held by the end of February.

Construction of the three-story building began at the end of 2006 and municipality officers moved into their new offices last year.

"Although we haven't had the official opening ceremony yet, we have moved all works and officials from our previous office and have been serving people from our new offices since August 27," Wichit Municipality Deputy Mayor Chaiwat Phung-rang said.

He explained to the *Gazette* that the new building replaces the municipality's old one-story office on the grounds of the adjacent Wat Thepnimit School.

That building is now slated to become an elderly citizen's club, though plans and budget have yet to be drawn up, said K. Chaiwat.

The first floor of the new building features a reception area and lounge, public relations and information desk, and offices for the municipal treasury, revenue, registration and public health offices.

The second floor houses the education division office and the senior administrator rooms, including the mayor's office and offices of the three deputy mayors. On the same level is the Phuket office for Disaster Prevention and Migration Department and a small meeting room for 20 people.

The third floor features the "community hall", which can seat 150 people; the municipality council meeting room, which can seat



100 people; the mechanical division office and a Muslim prayer room.

Also on this floor is a room that officers hope to convert to a gym. "We have not installed any fitness equipment yet, but we intend to open this as a gym for our officers and the public," said K. Chaiwat.

"We have 137 officers to serve the people in the nine villages in Wichit, which together have about 35,000 people. More than 100 people have already come to see us at our new building, most of them for building permits and about tax and municipal fees – and some people have come to file complaints about services in their areas, too," he said.

The 35-million-baht budget for the new building does not include 14 million baht allocated for interior decoration and office materials.

An additional 8.5 million baht has been set aside for landscaping and a parking lot, which is expected to be completed by the end of January.

The building was designed by architects 3D Dimension Co Ltd and construction has been carried out by contractor Saha-yotha Co Ltd.



Above: The new Wichit Municipality offices have now opened to the public, but landscaping, parking areas and some other facilities have yet to be completed.

Left: The new building features mezzanine levels to allow in natural light.

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Your Tropical Garden...

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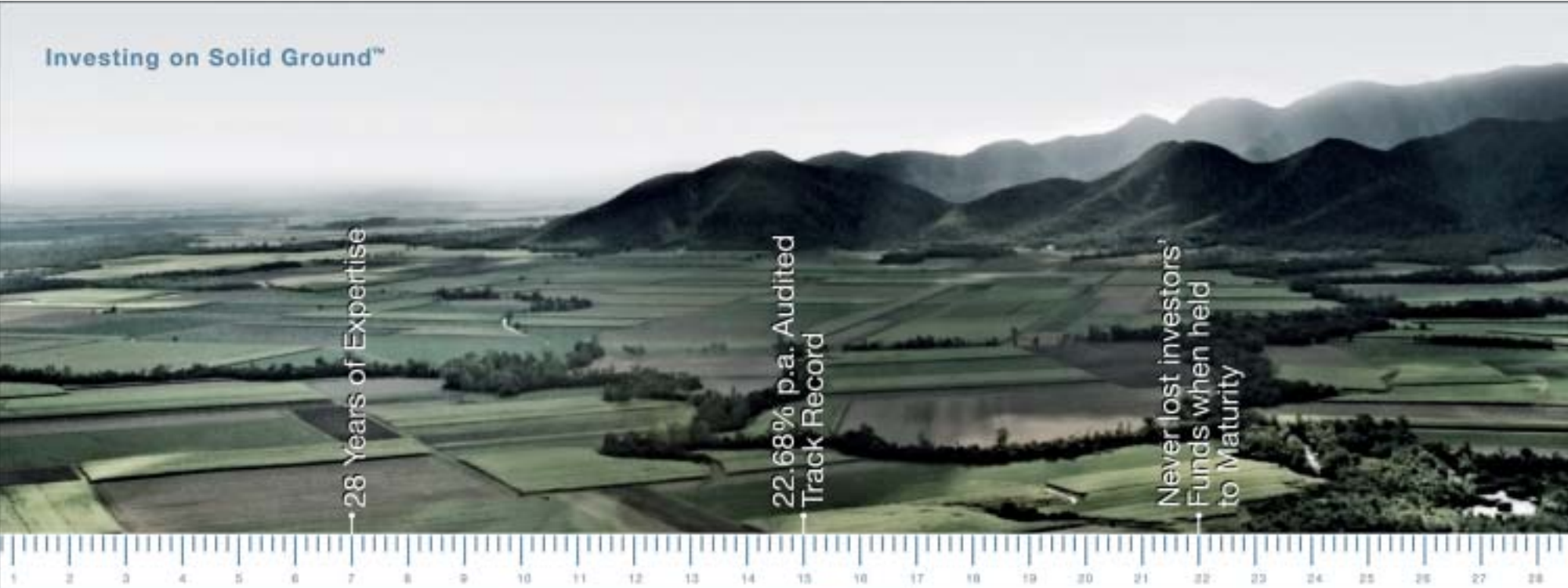
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Time : 6pm – 9pm	6pm – 9pm
Venue : Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort Mali Glass, Beach Front	Dusit Laguna Resort Casuarina Hut

All are welcome.

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Home of the Week

Kata

This recently-completed property in Kata features a combination of contemporary Asian and Balinese influences highlighted by the use of materials including concrete, wood, tiles and marble.

The home has an internal area measuring 280 square meters and sits on plot of 524sqm with impressive views of the Andaman Sea.

At the front of the house is a large, undercover garage, which has a covered stairwell that leads to the main entry level. This leads up to a terrace area and the infinity-edge swimming pool – a 31.5sqm saltwater pool with views over Kata Beach and the sea beyond.

Inside the home are three bedrooms all with private bathrooms en suite. The master bedroom has a whirlpool bathtub and sea views and there is a balcony perfect for soaking up the famous Andaman sunsets.

Interior floors are made of high-quality hardwood, as are the ceilings of the outdoor sections of the building.

A Western-style kitchen, open-plan living and dining rooms and laundry room are all on the main level and have access to the pool area.

The entire property is air-conditioned and some furniture is included.

The quiet life in Kata



This home's design takes advantage of the expansive bay views.

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For more information contact Patrick Lusted. Tel: 076-288-908. Fax: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com



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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

I'd like to start off this week with an apology for what's to come – a shameless attack on the Welsh. Well I'd like to, but I won't.

What is it with their obsession with daffodils and dragons? The dragon may be the Welsh national symbol, but it wasn't even incorporated into the Union Jack, even though the flags of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were included. The Welsh have never forgiven us.

Having said that, the English have their moments when it comes to compulsively declaring their Englishness. Is it really necessary to walk around in an English football shirt or paint your face white with a red cross just because your football team happens to be playing? They're going to lose anyway.

Brazilians are even worse, but at least their soccer team stands a good chance of winning. It would seem that there are few areas of female Brazilian bodies that haven't been emblazoned with that blue globe logo – and long may the tradition continue.

Canadians are probably the worst for national symbol emblazonment, if such a word exists. What is it with that maple leaf? OK, it's part of their flag, but does it need to be everywhere? If you're in the vicinity of a Canadian, you can bet that there will be some form of maple-leaf logo nearby.

I've even come across Americans who indulge in the maple-leaf thing – they have even been known to tell people that they're Canadian. This isn't some sycophantic admiration or jealousy situation – they just don't want anyone to think they're American. Sad but true.

Then there are Australians. They aren't quite sure what they want to use to identify themselves, so the kangaroo is often the obvious choice. Either that or they choose to wear something yellow (they'd probably call it gold) and green, or paint themselves those colors.

The Kiwis are a little more subtle. They spend most of their



The cycad is an ancient breed that requires a lot of patience. Kind of like Bert...

The world could learn from ferns

time telling the world that they aren't Australian. A tremendous source of national pride is their All Blacks rugby team, and when they start playing their Kiwi supporters start waving around black flags emblazoned with the silver fern national emblem.

Ferns, specifically cycads, are what I had in mind when I sat down to write this. Although it's known as the sago palm (or *palm sakoo* in Thai), it's definitely not a palm. Cycads are among the oldest plants on earth, unchanged for millions of years, originating in East Africa.

Cycads could easily be mistaken for ferns with their large, stiff, feather-like leaves that appear in whorls from the center. Varieties range in height from one meter to several meters.

Although cycads are fairly

tough, there are a few things that gardeners wanting to grow them should know. Cycads don't grow at a particularly stable rate, but can decide to produce a whole year's growth in a short burst. The new leaves are delicate and will need plenty of room to open and harden up.

It's best to grow your young cycad in a flower bed to protect it from your strimmer or lawnmower. Choose a site that has decent drainage and work a few bucketfuls of grit into the soil before planting it.

All cycads are either male or female and it takes a year to know which sex the plant is. At maturity, the plants produce large, yellow cones – the male cones produce the pollen, which is carried by insects to the female cones. Soon after, the male cones

rot away. Having at least one of each in your garden will make pollination more likely to happen, though you won't know which is which initially.

The seeds inside the female cones take months to ripen. The reddish seeds are toxic to humans (not that anyone would be daft enough to eat them), but attract birds that disperse them.

Cycads grow relatively

slowly, but they live to an old age, which makes them ideal bonsai plants, if you have the patience. When growing cycads in pots, use terracotta if you can find it and make sure you allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings.

Ideally, young cycads need their roots to be allowed to run deep to establish. They produce a main stem that stores food and will stunt the plant if it grows twisted. Cycads also have special coralloid roots that show just above the soil.

Cycads can be transplanted, though it's a fairly stressful process for them. They may lose their leaves after being moved, but should recover in a year or two.

Reproducing them from seed can be equally slow. Often, not many seeds produce new plants, but if you really want to try, plant the seeds halfway down in sterile soil and place in the shade. Keep the soil lightly moist and never wet. You'll probably have to wait several months before any seeds sprout.

Cycads do their job perfectly, with the minimum of fuss. Decidedly unlike the Welsh and Canadians, who could learn a lot from ferns. The Kiwis already have, it seems, but if I hear one more of them tell me they're not Australian...

Bloomin' Bert can be contacted by email at: bert@bloominbert.com

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Design

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Starck contrasts in luxury design

For a modern design that will stand out from the rest, you need to employ a modern designer who will think way out of the box and come up with a concept that will always be a talking point. In fact, why not combine the talents of two of the world's most talked about modern designers to create a contemporary tropical living environment?

The result of such a menage is The Yamu Club Villas. Homes there are tailor-made to owner's specifications based on a series of seven different designs conceived by the combined creativeness of two great designers: Platinum Circle honoree architect Jean-Michel Gathy, of Denniston International Architects, and the fiercely independent, no-nonsense Philippe Starck, whose innovative designs range from mass-produced products for the home and office to concept cars and neo-classic interiors.

Bringing these two designers together to "imagineer" a luxury residential development has resulted in an exclusive collection of modern tropical homes, all nestled among 3,200 square meters of rocky cape in a resort-like setting with breathtaking views of the Andaman Sea.

Stunning views are a bonus that comes with many properties on Cape Yamu, but the main talking points for residents of The Yamu Club Villas when they hold their housewarming parties will be elements of their home's design, such as the red tiled infinite hori-



zon swimming pools, the cubic rooms with glass and the contemporary-baroque fusion interiors.

With so much glass and open space incorporated into the villas' designs, one would think that privacy would be an issue but the villas have been carefully planned and laid out to ensure the

villa residents remain secluded from each other while enjoying an expansive vista.

Philippe Starck, hailed as the "New Design" talent of the era, is possibly one of the most prolific designers living today.

Home, interior and industrial design are just a few of the areas Starck has helped evolve and toward a higher level of functional aesthetics.

If you're the kind of person who surrounds themselves with designer items, then you may well have already reclined in a weird looking but surprisingly comfortable Philippe Starck chair or you might have enjoyed the ergonomic feel of a Philippe Starck optical mouse. You may have even brushed your teeth with a Philippe Starck toothbrush.

The Philippe Starck touch in the design of the Yamu Club Villas has resulted in a modern baroque tropical living concept that

is so daring in its detraction from the norm that it is dangerously close to being too artistically unique to live in.

The design team of two such prodigious talents has worked with wonderful synergy.

As a result, the villas with their clean and simple lines still retain key elements of traditional Thai architecture while somehow managing to adhere to the concept of seamlessly blending in with their beautifully natural surroundings.

With an eye for engaging design with the elements, Belgian Jean-Michel Gathy is a much sought after architect and planner of exclusive resorts. Whether it is the luxurious tents of Aman-resort, Indonesia, or the Chedi Muscat, Oman, Jean-Michel Gathy's concepts always seem to fit perfectly with the location's topography and culture.

"Bringing these two globally renowned lifestyle artists together to create the Yamu Club Villas has enabled us to offer a contemporary international lifestyle arrangement in homes that still retain the key elements of tradi-



At The Yamu Club Villas, the talents of two of the world's most talked about modern designers have been combined to create a contemporary tropical living environment.

tional Thai architecture," The Yamu Club Villa's director of communications and client services Scott Gorsuch explained.

"We chose Philippe Starck to help us create a luxurious, exotic and glamorous place to live, knowing that nothing else like this has been done in Thailand before," he added.

The idea is that the hotels and villas should blend into the environment with a simple yet elegant harmony.

The high-ceilinged rooms can be opened up to the elements by drawing back large glass walls, exposing a pool with a shallow section where guests in deck chairs can rest in a few inches of cooling water while enjoying a view over the ocean.

The decor in the bedrooms is all glamor but the wood floor and granite bathtub subdue it all with a back-to-nature feel; the ceilings of polished cement add a distinctly fashionable element.

Central environmental control panels are used to adjust the air conditioning, lighting and can even raise the television from the foot of the bed at the touch of a button.

"The mini-bar is definitely Starck. He's used yellow and green glass with a lot of gray, mirrors and onyx, which is a simple and elegant mix," Scott added.

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Property Gazette

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100sq wah, ready to build. 2km from Nai Thon Beach. 10,000 baht per sq wah. Tel: 084-0526400, 081-4669597. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se

PATONG APARTMENT

Two bedrooms, 2nd floor, 160 sqm, great location, 500 meters to beach. 8 million baht. Tel: 087-8817600.

SHOPHOUSE AT PATONG BEACH

Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, beach road. 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE NEAR GOLF COURSES

The house is on Nermi Hill just before Patong Hill on the Kathu side, very quiet area with security. 5 mins to 4 golf courses. Tel: 087-8062407. Email: tse.goran@gmail.com

Nara Place

Sai-Yuan Soi, Sai-Mak-Ree 1



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www.naraplacephuket.com

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote title deed, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. For details call 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.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 VILLA RAWAI

Super-modern, 2-story with pool. Ready to move in. 12 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

BUILDING FOR SALE in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach



- ◆ 4 stories, first floor have large area convenient for restaurant or bar.
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PATONG CASTLE

From 3.5 M



Stylish contemporary tropical apartments of one, two and three bedrooms enjoying expansive terraces, beautiful ocean view with tropical sala and jacuzzi. 15% Rental guaranteed for the first three years and finance available to foreigners.

Kata Ocean View CONDOMINIUM

From 4.7 M



Mediterranean style ocean view apartments located in a natural beauty spot of Kata hills. One, two, three bedrooms apartments ranging from 72 to 162 sq.m. Foreigners eligible. Now on phase 2. Rental program available.

VILLASUKSAN

From 9.8 M



New development of contemporary Balinese style Villas combining luxury, space and affordability. A choice of two, three bedrooms pool villas now offered at very attractive pre-construction prices. Best location in Nai Harn Beach.

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Property Gazette

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms are en suite 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

PORNSAWAN CONDOTEL

1 unit, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons. Call K. Soontaree. Tel: 086-6866003.

BALI BEACHFRONT

or mountain house, 4,990 euros, 10 year/freehold 29,990 euros. Krystal Court Penang, 158sqm townhouse, 99,990 euros. Email: berndpfluger@yahoo.de

BIG TOWNHOUSE

in Rawai. 9 Rooms: 180sqm. Garden: 70 sqm. Balcony: 50 sqm. Aircon. 2.5 million baht Tel: 084-4454614.

BUILDING FOR SALE

About 5,500sq ft, located on main road to Kamala Beach. Excellent shape. Apartment on top floor. Contact K. Pen. Tel: 081-8111067.

44-ROOM CLINIC

4 rai of land, 6,500sqm of living space. Near airport. 38 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062. Email: clinicsale@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW VILLA - RAWAI

Super-modern, 2-story with pool. Ready to move in. 12 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

VILLA WITH POOL

Land and Houses Park, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European kitchen. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

PHUKET CITY HOME PROJECT



- * Detached house for sale
- * 105sq wah, 2-story
- * Upstairs has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- * Downstairs has maid's room
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- * Laundry room
- * Dining room with one dining table
- * Remote control door
- * 3 aircons
- * Bathtub

Price 5.95 million baht. Contact K. Nathnarin at Tel: 089-9739873.

FOR SALE

Large family house on one rai, beautiful and quiet land on hillside, lots of trees, near Rawai and Nai Harn. 6.5 million baht. Contact for info. Tel: 081-2525665.

THAMAPRAO LAND PLOTS

7,500 baht per sq wah. 100sq wah, ready to build on. 1km from mission hills. Tel: 084-0526400, 081-4669597. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

PATONG FREEHOLD

Studio room in condo. 40sqm. Totally renovated, fully furnished, sea view in central Patong, near Jungceylon. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 084-8485450. Email: enzoarturo@yahoo.it

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



51.4sqm, 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.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN SAI YUAN



Soi France. Spacious open-plan. Swimming pool. 2 ensuite bathrooms. Modern kitchen. Convection oven and fan. Nice garden of native plants. Parking space. Perimeter wall, gate and water tank. 320sqm. 5.9 million baht. Contact Miss Kob. Tel: 081-2733303.

CONDO FOR SALE

In Patong Tower, mountain view. There are 2 units available now. One corner unit, 75sqm, fully furnished at 5 million baht. And, middle unit, 62sqm, unfurnished, at 3.5 million baht. Also there are more unfurnished mountain-view units available for sale. For more information, please email: sales@phuketislandrealestate.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

KATA BEACH



Superb new two-story twin house. 3 bedrooms (two with balconies), 3 bathrooms (one en suite with bathtub), 5 aircons, hot water in all bathrooms and fully-fitted Western kitchen and private well. Situated at the end of a quiet cul de sac 800m from the beach. A very well-finished house ready to move in. 4.95 million baht. Tel: 081-2714261 (Thai), 089-2905594 (Eng). Email: henryasia50@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Situated in desirable Choafa Thani, this 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom (2 en suite) house with living room, kitchen/dining, study, garage and laundry room is in a secure compound. Backs onto water and has mature garden. ADSL and UBC installed. Price: 7 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: bimvool@aol.com

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Patong Beach, run as 5-star hotel, 100m to the beach. Income guarantee from the developer. Sales contract at 300,000 baht. For more info please contact K. Oi. Tel: 045-30272542. Email: oi1@rocketmail.com

PRIVATE ISLAND

9-rai private island for sale. Ten-minute boat ride from Phuket/Koh Siray. White sand beach, lush, perfect little getaway! 15 million baht. Tel: 085-8807954. Email: lukeremmers@yahoo.com

HILL LAND FOR SALE

12 rai overlooking Loch Palm golf course, lake and entire valley with 180° view. 1.9 million baht per rai. Contact K. Noi. Tel: 087-2698492.

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

Properties For Rent

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HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent, 25,000 baht per month and for sale: 4 million baht. Call Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketisland-homes.com

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

2-bedroom bungalow for rent in Cherg Talay, short- or long-term with maid service available. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-8911826. Email: info@baanboosakorn.com

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Close to BIS school, 24hr security, 5 bedrooms, 2 parking spaces, pool, maid's room. Family and child friendly. Available now. Tel: 081-4077403.

NAI HARN BEACH

Great 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, apartment. Lovely lagoon views right near the beach. Reasonable rent. Tel: 081-9252155. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, private pool. Rent: 45,000 per month. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

BOAT LAGOON LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, UBC, TV. Long- or short-term rent. Pool, sauna included. Call K. So at Tel: 081-3444473, 081-8622962.

PATONG / KALIM LUXURY APARTMENT

Luxury apartment for long-term lease (up to 2 years) for caring tenant. Single or couple (sorry, no one under 18). Privately owned. Double-bedroom, bathroom en suite, lounge/dining, kitchenette. On 3rd floor of Sunset Beach Resort (junior suite). Hotel on beach front. Balconies (bedroom and lounge) overlook waterfall-swimming pool. Apartment service not included but available at own cost. Business center has high-speed Internet. Kalim Beach is a very easy walk (500 meters south) to Patong Beach. 30,000 baht per month. 60,000 baht deposit required. Email: madzorba@bigpond.net.au

RAWAI HOME WITH POOL

1 or 2 bedrooms, furnished, UBC, ADSL. 12,000 baht per month and up. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

HOUSE AT CHALONG

for long-term rent near Palai beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, garden, car park, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

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in Rawai. Renovated, aircon, TV, DVD, kitchenette, hot water. Tel: 086-9456650. Email: phuketcomfortcondos@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

PRIVATE HOUSE FOR RENT



Soi Ruam Nanachart Sai-yuan, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, aircon, furnished, telephone, ADSL. 5 mins to Nai Harn, long-term only. 30,000 baht per month (negotiable). Tel: 076-215367, 081-5351570.

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 K. Nui at Tel: 087-3830936.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th For details, see our website at www.chalongparadise.com

NEW FURNISHED VILLA



close to Laguna. 300sqm. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, living-room, dining, kitchen and pool. 2 mins to Laguna. Long- or short-term rent. Please contact K. Gai Tel: 081-7344324 or visit our website at: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



3 bedrooms, aircon, telephone, UBC, 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

NEW SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Near Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

LONG-TERM LAND FOR LEASE

Ko Yao Yai Island, Near Ao Klong Son area. 5,033 rai/8,052sqm available on 30-year leases. 5 minutes to the beachfront, 300 meters. 1.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-261375, 089-4730990. Fax: 076-261375. Please email: kasina888@gmail.com

PRIVATE HOUSE FOR RENT

Soi Ruam Nanachart Saiyuan, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, aircon, furnished, telephone, ADSL. 5 mins to Nai Harn Beach, long term only. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-215367, 081-5351570.

KAMALA

Beautiful bungalow, 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, very large living room, all-teak kitchen, furnishings, private pool, UBC, ADSL, excellent security. 35,000 baht per month long-term only. Tel: 081-8111067.

3-BEDROOM POOL HOUSE

25,000 baht/month short- or long-term. New house. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

2-BEDROOM VILLA

Weekly or long-term. 3km from Mai Kao Beach, 10 mins to golf course and airport. European standards, new sala, 25sqm and antique furniture. Tel: 081-7197015. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

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CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

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, 3 bathrooms (2 en suite), living room, study, garage, kitchen/dining room, fenced garden, furnished, UBC, ADSL. 35,000 baht per month. Near Wat Chalong. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

BUNGALOW FOR RENT, BANG TAO

Furnished, 1 bedroom, aircon, hot water, Internet, cable TV. 700 baht per night, 10,000 baht per month (long-term). Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

NAI HARN HOUSE FOR RENT

1km to beach, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 35,000 baht per month, 1 year minimum. Tel: 081-3971835.

SEAVIEW VILLA FOR RENT

A stunning, 5-bedroom villa with infinity pool, vast deck, BBQ area and full housekeeping services. Perfect for a big family or a group of friends. Tel: 076-260468. Email: ops@theestategroup.com

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for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, includes washer and dryer. Large terrace and canal. Only minutes from shopping centers and international school. Long-term rent, 1 year minimum, 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2820567. Email: crystaleva1@hotmail.com

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Great location near Lotus. 30 stories, 10m x 15m, 8 parking spaces in front. Showroom, 4 offices, 4 bedrooms, 3 toilets, 5 aircons. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-1951394, 081-9583135. Email: astec99@yahoo.com

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New house for rent: 25,000 baht per month; or for sale at 4 million baht. Tel: 087-264-6808, 083-1743880.

WICHIT VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, brand new furniture, TV, DVD, CD, ADSL Internet, dishwasher, washing machine, etc. 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-526597, 084-48494882. Email: brickyjon@yahoo.com

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

Living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, roof, terrace, 2 aircons, little garden, ADSL, telephone. Loch Palm Club. Long term: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

FOR RENT AND SALE

in Kamala. Hotel room: 1.3 million baht. Condo (2 bedrooms), rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-7945411.

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

Furnished studio for rent. Aircon, TV, UBC and ADSL. 5,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

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For 4 people on 9th floor in Patong Sky Inn, new and beautiful apartment. Hot water, aircon, cable TV, DVD, near restaurants, bars, laundry and beach. Has swimming pool. 40,000 baht per month or 2,000 baht per day. Tel: 086-2773817. Email: myprojob@hotmail.fr

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HOUSE FOR RENT SRISUCHART 2

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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.

2- & 3-BEDROOM HOUSES FOR RENT

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A 5 stars "jazztaurant" in Kata, now has vacancies in the following positions:

• Waiter / Waitress	3 positions
• Bartender	2 positions
• Cleaner	1 position
• Gardener	1 position
• Sous Chef (Thai kitchen)	1 position
• Sales Manager	1 position

Qualification

- Some year experience in specified field.
- Pleasant personality, Service minded.
- Excellent command of English.
- Fun and trendy.

Ratri Jazztaurant
74/1 Patak Road, Karon, Phuket 83100
Tel. 076-333538 Fax. 076-333539
E-Mail: info@ratrijazztaurant.com

Foreign Language Speakers

Manager & Customer Service people
French, Swedish, other European,
Korean, Japanese, Russian.
Seeking smart, happy people
Customer service Sales support
Full-or part-time.

Please send CV to **danielr.mcdaniel@gmail.com**

Professional Property Management Solutions

PIPS Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Job Vacancy

- 1. Operation Supervisor (Surin Area)**
 - Excellent spoken and written English.
 - Experience in property management and operations.
 - Ability to manage and lead a team.
 - Computer literate.
 - Ability to demonstrate initiative and a high level of independence.
- 2. Operation Office Co-ordinator**
 - Excellent written and spoken English.
 - Secretarial administrative experience essential.
 - Ability to support and co-ordinate the admin and paperwork of the Operation dept.
 - Computer literate.

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co., Ltd (PIPS)
393/2 Moo 1, Sriroanthorn Road, Chergtalay, Phuket Thailand 83110
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

JET DINGY
4.7 x 2.2m with 120hp Force Inboard Jet. New electric and trailer. 400,000 baht. Tel: 076-242091, 081-7370557. Email: dive_block@web.de

ALUMINIUM BOAT
for sale: Sessa, 3.9L Italian motor with 25hp Johnson. Includes trailer. Sale by foreigner. Tel: 089-7309608.

ROBERTS 57FT MOTOR SAILOR
Built of steel in 1998. 180hp 6-cycle diesel. Diesel generator, good condition. US\$135,000. Tel: 086-2762626.

IMPORT TRI HULL
V8 Volvo 18ft, fiberglass tri-hull. Seats 8. Ski, fish, fun and fast. Very stable trailer. Free mooring or safe storage, 3 months for 350,000 baht (trades ok). Tel: 085-4734619. Email: piratespizz@gmail.com

50-METER
luxury yacht. Licensed for 60 pax and can take 12 guests overnight. A perfect yacht for a luxury resort or hotel. Speed: 16 knots and a 5,500km range. An extremely economical yacht at only 49 liters per hour. Tel: 080-1462877. For more info email: info@asiasuperyachts.com and see our website at: www.asiasuperyachts.com

24-METER WOODEN



sailboat built of ironwood 9 years ago. Yanmar diesel engine and Geny 7 sails. US\$55,000. Tel: 086-2762626.

ENGLISH PROGRAM
Satree Phuket School requires native speakers to teach science or mathematics. Salary starts at 30,000 baht plus 8,000 addendum (under the conditions). Interested persons please call: 076-211034 ext 144 or send a resume to email: a_pupatanun@hotmail.com

PA/SECRETARY
Must be able to understand all accents of the English language and understand English people speaking in Thai. Being attractive will help in pursuing your dream job with your dream boss. Please contact Khun Montree at Tel: 081-7887991. Email: scott@beerphuket.com

RESTAURANT, HOTEL & TOURS
Guesthouse in Patong with restaurant and tour business is searching for a cook, receptionists (day and night) and tour staff. Please contact for more details Tel: 089-9325175. Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

PHAETHON CO LTD
needs 2 female staff with good spoken English and computer skills for our office near Tesco-Lotus. Contact for details at Tel: 087-5278532, 084-8989274.

SALON STAFF
needed for busy salon/massage/bar in Patong. Please contact for details at Tel: 089-2553700. Email: markhigson497@msn.com

ACCOUNTANT
Destination Air requires experienced accountant for immediate employment, full-time, at our Phuket International Airport office. Tel: 076-328505. Fax: 076-328598. Send CV by email to arrange interview: pat@destinationair.com For details, visit our website at www.destinationair.com

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Island Job Mart

Home2Thailand Exclusive Real Estate is a professional service provider in property agency services, villa project management and consultancy. We are seeking suitable qualified candidates in the following positions:

Real Estate Sales & Marketing Manager

Manage residential and corporate sales in the Phuket region, preparation and execution of plans including sales and marketing campaigns, organize & attend exhibitions. The applicant must be well presented, service minded, dynamic & energetic with pleasant strong interpersonal skills.

- Male or female - Thai Nationality only
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- Minimum of 5-year Sales experience in Real Estate
- Proficiency in spoken and written English, additional languages a bonus
- Proficient with MS Office applications & computer skills
- Strong Leadership and Management skills
- Excellent Communication & Interpersonal skills
- Self-motivated & able to work independently
- Essential knowledge of the local area and property ownership guidelines
- Have own car

Real Estate Sales Executive

- Male or female, 25+ years - Thai Nationality only
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Proficient with MS Office applications & computer skills
- Minimum of 2-year Sales experience in Real Estate
- Excellent Communication & Interpersonal skills
- Well organized and proactive
- Have own car

Email your CV with a recent photo to: hr@home2thailand.com
Home2Thailand Exclusive Real Estate - 8/44 Moo 3, Chermatay (Surin beach), Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076 270 577 | Fax: 076 271 182 | Attn: Ms. Nalinthipa Tansuttiwanit

Scandinavian Divers

One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has positions available in the following departments:

- 1 Office Manager, Kao Lak office
- 1 Booking staff, Kao Lak office
- 1 Booking staff, Patong office
- 1 Accountant, Patong office
- 1 Driver, Patong

The driver needs to have good knowledge of hotel locations, and spoken English is an advantage.

For the office manager and booking position in Kao Lak the following qualifications are needed:

- Thai nationality.
- Enthusiastic and well organized.
- Office skills including accounting, bookings, computer database, Excel and Outlook.
- Good command of spoken and written English.

You must have interpersonal skills, be a team player and able to work under pressure. We offer you a full time job with good working conditions and salary. One day off per week.

For the booking position in Patong the following qualifications are needed:

- Excellent skills in spoken and written Thai
- Good skills in spoken and written English
- Good knowledge of the dive business – persons with a dive certificate will have a major advantage
- Good knowledge in working with a computer
- Presentable and flexible

For the accountant position in Patong knowledge of Quick Book will be an advantage.

Interested candidates, who fit the above profiles, please Email your resume immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Khao Lak: Phone 076 485 908 or Mobile: 0857437946
Email: khaolak@scandinavian-divers.com

Patong: Phone: 076-294 225
Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com

FLUENT ENGLISH-SPEAKER
required for email tasks, research, writing and general administrative duties. Email: admin@languagesinaction.com

EDEN DIVERS
Reservations staff needed. Must speak good English. Salary depends on experience. Thai female preferred. Contact Andrew at Tel: 085-7654677.

HOTEL MANAGER

Looking to hire an experienced hotel manager for 30-room resort. Email resumẽ giving experience, availability and salary desired. Tel: 076-383280, 084-7453742. Fax: 076-383280. Please send to: ltmesneg@aol.com

MOM TRI'S VILLA ROYALE

Mom Tri's Villa Royale is set atop the headland of Kata Bay between two of the most beautiful sandy beaches on Phuket, Kata Noi and Kata Yai. We would like to invite candidates to apply for the following positions:

- Executive Sous Chef
- Yoga Instructor

Tel: 076-333568. Fax: 076-333001. Please submit your resumẽ with recent photo by email to Human Resources: hr@villaroyalephuket.com

PART-TIME SECRETARY

Seeking part-time Executive Secretary for administration of construction management/engineering company in Patong. Flexible hours. English required; construction/engineering background helpful. Tel: 02-6367600. Fax: 02-6367007. Contact at email: rabco2@verizon.net

SECRETARY NEEDED

English and bookkeeping skills required. Thai national. Pls contact me for further details. Tel: 086-3418781, 081-1371001. Email: solitude001@aol.com

SECRETARY REQUIRED

GM requires Executive Secretary. Thai female, 24-35, who can speak English. Please fill out application at Wine Connection, Chalong. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wineconnection.co.th

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Our business is the **Computer Graphic, pre-press** service. We are part of a large international company serving business communication. For more than thirty years, our pre-press services have constituted our core-business. Through three market channels - catalogues, magazines and advertising - we are recognized throughout Europe for the extreme quality of our products and our incessant striving for technological progress. CLX pre-press services combine the state-of-the-art technology, experience and quality of service that has gained us client appreciation and international recognition.

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A supervisor is responsible for the day-to-day performance of a small group. It may be a team or a shift. The supervisor has experience in what the group does. The supervisor's job is to guide the group toward its goals, see that all members of the team are productive and resolve problems as they arise.

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Thai staff with at least 2 years experience in working with photoshop, and basic English knowledge

Qualifications:

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- Age between 25-35 years;
- Experience with Adobe Photoshop;
- Fluent in English.

Fluency:

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- Italian language.

Roles include:

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- Able to work under pressure;
- Sense of the responsibility;
- Optimist.

Interested candidates are invited to send CV in english to the following address:

CLX-ASIA,
Chaofa Rd, Palai Soi 2, 44 Moo 3,
Chalong Sub-district, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel **076 380666**
Email: simone@vsdma.com

Contact to: mamclx@vsdma.com, tel. 076 380653

TECH TRAINER

Seeking knowledgeable person to teach computer hardware assembly, very basic programming and introduction to Linux. Students are my two sons (ages 13 and 14). Please contact for details at Tel: 081-5362069. Email: pat-james@myway.com

HOTEL STAFF KATA

Thai-national receptionist. Good English skills required. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 087-2674091.

ADMINISTRATOR/SALES SUPPORT

1 position. Thai nationals only. Qualifications:

- Good command of spoken and written English.
- Computer and office administration knowledge.
- Good team player, flexible, open-minded.
- Having a driving license will be an advantage. Contact Tropical Homes Real Estate Tel: 076-326125.

Please send CV, photo and expected salary to Email: info@tropical-homes.net

JOB VACANCIES

- * General Manager
- * Assistant to General Manager
- * Sales Manager
- * Sales Officer

Thais or foreigners invited to apply. English skills required. Contact at Sinthavee Hotel Phuket.

Tel: 076-211186

Fax: 076-211400

Email: sinthavee@hotmail.com
www.sinthaveehotel.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Well-established real estate company is looking for an Office Assistant. Must be familiar with Microsoft Word, Excel, Adobe, Photoshop, etc. Must speak and write English. Good remuneration for the right person. Thai nationals only. Please apply by replying to this ad. Tel: 087-8822856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

STAFF FOR INTERNET

business in Rawai. Thai female staff wanted full- or part-time with computer skills and basic English knowledge. Good salary. Please contact Tel: 076-288808, 081-0909640. Email: info@phuket-car-rentals.com

Employment Wanted

CONSTRUCTION

German foreman with 2-years of Thai working experience. I speak English and Thai. Tel: 085-7988669. Email: johann.phuket@gmail.com

BRITISH ENGLISH TEACHER

20 years' experience. Available for private lessons, business, kids or conversation classes. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

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I have 50,000 English songs and would be happy to perform shows at your bar or restaurant. Tel: 086-5150234. Email: rogerthai@hotmail.com

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Breakers Bar & Grill seeks:

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Tel: 081-923 5743. Fax 02-7427601. Email: pangja_ja@yahoo.com

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machine, 2 flavors and swirl. Brand-new, warranty! Only 45,000 baht. Sushi/cake cooling counter display, 150cm. New warranty, only 16,500 baht. Tel: 086-5413629.

LEATHER AND TEAK FURNITURE

- Cream colored leather sofa and 2 chairs.
- Teak coffee table and 2 end tables.
- 2 teak night tables plus 2 lamps.
- 6ft teak bookshelf.

Tel: 089-9701597. Email: ldschultz2@gmail.com

25' JVC TV

Purchased in May 2007. Excellent condition, moving. Price: 3,600 baht. Tel: 087-2705177.

TWO JBL SPEAKERS

New, 1,000 Watts. Two stands. Value: 40,000 baht. I will sell for 33,000 baht. Please contact for more info at Tel: 081-0815996.

GLASS DINING TABLE AND SOFA

Lovely, quality, glass dining table set with six pastel-colored dining chairs. Paid more than 100,000 baht new from Panache shop in Emporium Bangkok. Will sell for 24,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9507788. Email me for lovely photos at: simon@kingsimon.com

GOING BACK TO EUROPE

Set of furniture and many other things. List on request. Tel: 087-8861513. Email: philippe.lehenaff@wanadoo.fr

SAMSUNG SLIM TV 29"

Selling for 5,500 baht; cost 8,000 baht. 6 months old, like new. Tel: 085-7888262.

HIGH QUALITY SOFA

Very comfortable, quality sofa, paid 83,000 baht new in Bangkok. Washable cushion cover, quality material, with two matching foot stools on wheels and many extra cushions. Email me for photo. Will sell for 25,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9507788. Email: simon@kingsimon.com

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Two sets, each comprising 4 chairs, a bench seat and a table. Heavy duty. Ideal for a beer garden. 20,000 baht per set. Tel: 089-5915330. Email: absoluteautos@hotmail.com

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Good condition, complete with light. Call for details. Tel: 076-342280, 081-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

DAVIDA MOTORBIKE HELMETS

2 Davida open-face motorbike helmets. 1 size M, 56-58 Union Jack, 1 size S, 54-56 Aus flag. Leather lined, peaks, made in UK to UK standards. 6,000 baht each ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-350020, 089-5902014. Email: shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com

Articles Wanted

WANTED CONCEPT 2
rowing machine. Contact Lee. Tel: 085-7810950. Email: leebecley@yahoo.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)
For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of our donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Contact K. Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or sue.arnulphy@piwc.info)

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to join private English-style livery yard. Beautiful riding facilities will soon be available for 6 horses. 4 x 4m stables, 40 x 20m sand manege, 15m covered schooling ring, 50 x 50m show jumping paddock and 20 x 50m turnout paddock. Experienced live-in grooms, qualified dressage/jumping instructors, secure on-site riding and long beach hacks. Friendly, social atmosphere, new friends, wine and BBQs await like-minded residents. Assistance offered to parties interested in purchasing horses. Availability limited, members only, strictly closed to the public. Please contact Elizabeth for further information. Email: elizabeth@luckytiger.org

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Boat Lagoon marina. Excellent value, easy work, everything for 2 million baht. Tel: 087-8817600.

PATONG OTOP BAR SALE

Patong bar OTOP for sale at 675,000 baht. Please contact Loz or Craig at Tel: 089-647 5895 (drop the 0 if calling from outside of Thailand). Tel: 084-6283503. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

PRIME BANGLA SPORTS BAR

Profitable sports bar with pool table and 42" TV. Three floors, lady's room and furnished apartment. 4 + year lease. For 3 million baht. Email: gv1970no@yahoo.no (inquires only).

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Located on the commercially busy island of Koh Phi Phi, these two-storey, newly constructed business premises are located very close to the beach and other retail units. The building is accessed via a roller shutter door into a white tiled ground floor complete with fitted toilet. The staircase gives access to the second floor with white tiles and a panoramic window overlooking the front of the premises. Complete with a 15-year lease and low monthly ground rent, these premises are highly suitable for use as a shop, bar or restaurant. Email: sgiandubh69@hotmail.com

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US\$70,000 needed for my general promotions ASIA-WIDE. I could generate US\$9 million or more in 4 years. Share 70/30 every 90 days. Minimum investment of US\$1,000 to US\$10,000. Those interested contact. Tel: 081-4151894.

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MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

2-floor massage shop on busy road, in front of 3-star hotel entrance. Has 9 massage beds and 4 massage chairs, with room for more. Has computers for internet style cafe. 790,000 baht, 2 years and 7 months contract. Tel: 083-0532718, 081-1491884. Fax: 076-345537. Email: willandnid@gmail.com

KARON BAR FOR SALE

Fully-equipped bar for sale. For more information contact at Tel: 089-9087183.

BEACHFRONT RESTAURANT



Opportunity for exclusive beachfront restaurant/cocktail bar serving Millionaires Mile.

*Kamala beachfront - south end near Rockfish

*2 access points: walk-in off beach promenade and main shopping street.

*2 Storey concrete structure, currently used as a residence

*Suitable for conversion into exclusive restaurant.

*Approximately 200sqm inside/outside

Sale price is 12.8 million Thai baht or 255,000 euros. Hurry before the Thai baht appreciates further.

Email:

paddypower99@yahoo.com
Tel: 0818943839 (Don)
or 0848507706(Jean)

BEAUTIFUL RESTAURANT

Beautiful restaurant for rent or sale, on 4th floor of 4-story building, apartment on 3rd floor, staff room on 4th. Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

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For sale, 2 + 3 year lease. 7 rooms and shop, all rooms furnished. 3 large rooms with fridge, TV, aircon and bathroom. 4 small rooms also with bathrooms, lounge and kitchen. Space to build 3 extra rooms. Tel: 087-3196458, 087-2670957.

**DON'T MISS THIS
OPPORTUNITY**
Nice curtain shop for sale with equipment and staff ready to start, located near Chalong. Tel: 081-8937068.

**NIGHTCLUB
URGENT SALE**
One partner leaving country, other moving to Chiang Mai. Hence urgent sale required for a nightclub just off Bangla Rd. 180sqm, all new construction. 3-year lease with 3-year option. Excellent opportunity. All reasonable offers considered. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

PATONG BAR
Large bar & restaurant in prominent position 100 meters from beach. Good turnover and profits. For full details please contact K. Wayne at Tel: 089-6529620, 617-3824 5397, 084-8494562; or Email: curtain_unlimited@hotmail.com

BANGLA BAR/CLUB
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**SEAVIEW APARTMENT
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Includes bar, tour company and 3-year lease. 10,000 baht per month rent and 1.4 million baht key money. Bargain! Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-473 1351.

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looking for a partner / investor. We have contracts to build from Jan/08 over 30,000sqm of buildings. We need to invest in a mobile crane, truck, excavator, scaffolds and steel formwork, etc. Please contact us in German, English or Thai. Email: phuketconstruction@hotmail.de

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Large bar-restaurant with pool table, couches, plunge pool, Wi-Fi and cable TV. Fully-equipped kitchen. 1.5 million baht. Please contract for more information. Tel: 087-062 8681. Email: mrbeanowilson@hotmail.com

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**ITALIAN
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for sale near Laguna entrance. Proven success, ready to move in. 4 million baht. Rent for 30,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information at Tel: 085-7839062.

**INTERNET AND
LAN-GAMES**
Internet and LAN-games in Rawai. Please contact me for details at Tel: 076-288636, 084-8516179. Email: franck2548@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE
Bangla Rd. Please contact K. Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

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Email: info@siam-legal.com

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