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Frogman killed in Kata Bay fracas

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KARON: After an investigation by Chalong Police into the bizarre killing, apparently in self-defense, of a man in a dive suit who attacked a Swiss yacht owner and a Thai woman on the night of January 9, police finally identified the attacker as 35-year-old German national Peter Michael Schmid.

The investigation by Chalong Police included showing pictures of the dead man to hotel employees in Kata-Karon and Rawai.

On January 15, Chalong Police Superintendent Col Saman Chainarong told the *Gazette* that from the evidence gathered the attack appears to have been a botched robbery attempt.

Details of the incident, as provided to the media at a press conference on January 10 by Col Saman, were based solely on the eyewitness account of 25-year-old Trat native Porntip Pradit.

Also present at the press conference were Police Region 8 Deputy Commissioner Maj Gen Tavat Boonfueng and Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Paween Pongsirin.

Col Samarn told the media that K. Porntip called police about 11:30 pm on January 9 from aboard the 10-meter sailboat *Maria*, anchored several hundred meters offshore from the Club Med Resort at Kata.

Speaking in a panicked voice, the woman told police that Swiss national Pierre-Alain Oberson, 50, had been shot in his left shoulder and was in urgent need of medical assistance, Col Samarn said.

Chalong Police and volunteer rescue workers responded to the distress call by arranging



Mr Oberson recovers in the ICU at Phuket International Hospital after allegedly being attacked by German Peter Michael Schmid. Inset: The homemade gun he was shot with.

– Main photo by Lars Dikander

for a longtail boat to take them to the vessel. K. Porntip fired three flares from the boat to inform police of her location.

Mr Oberson was rushed to Phuket International Hospital, where he was initially treated in the Intensive Care Unit.

He was released on January 12, before being questioned by police.

After the attack, police recovered from the water the body of a bearded, middle-aged Caucasian male wearing a black diving suit, swim goggles and fins about 70 meters from the vessel.

The man, later identified as Schmid, had sustained two large wounds: one to his left eye and the other to his left wrist.

Doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital confirmed that the cause of death was blood loss from the

wound to his wrist, Col Samarn said.

Under questioning, K. Porntip told police that she and Mr Oberson were aboard the yacht that night when they noticed a man with a bag swimming toward the vessel.

Intrigued, they began to talk with the man and then invited him aboard. The man said he enjoyed swimming and diving at night, she told police.

The group drank beer and coffee together and the man inspected the vessel.

"He stayed about one hour and then said, 'I have to go.' Then he said goodbye," Col Samarn quoted the woman as saying.

But rather than leave, the man reached into his bag and pulled out a homemade gun and

Continued on page 2

Holiday season sees B2bn boon for tourism industry

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Businesses in Phuket's tourism industry enjoyed a prosperous holiday season, with many hotels fully booked and more than 2 billion baht generated by the industry during the period December 24 through January 2.

Runjuan Tongrut, assistant director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office in Phuket City, made the announcement at a press conference on January 2.

A large number of Thai and foreign tourists came to Phuket to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, with many Europeans choosing to stay on the island beyond the New Year, K. Runjuan said.

An estimated 5 million people visited Phuket last year, which generated an estimated 95 billion baht for the tourism industry in Phuket, she added.

"The numbers could be even higher; we aren't certain yet. Many hotels and scheduled flights have been and are completely booked from October through to March," she said.

Since October, 220 domestic and 287 international flights have been landing in Phuket weekly. Of the international flights, 90 have been charter flights, compared with only 35 weekly charter flights in 2006, K. Runjuan said.

"We have a lot of new charter flights arriving from Russia and other Eastern European countries," she added, including the first charter flight from Tallinn in Estonia, which touched down in Phuket on December 19.

Banphaeo Hospital to staff 'Phya Thai'

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Banphaeo Hospital in Samut Sakhon will next month sign a management contract agreeing to help the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) reopen the long-abandoned Phya Thai Hospital as a public organization, to be run independently of the Public Health Ministry.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra said that when the new facility opens, hopefully by the end of the year, it will serve as a reasonably-priced medical center for people in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

The hospital, located on Sri Sena Rd, was bought by the *OrBorJor* from the Thai Asset Management Corporation for 327 million baht in August.

OrBorJor officials recently met Banphaeo Hospital executives to discuss plans for the new hospital, which will start using some medical staff and services from Banphaeo Hospital, currently the only hospital in Thailand run as a "public organization".

Although still operated under the supervision of government ministries, public organizations are expected to operate quickly and efficiently without being hindered by the complex procedures required by the traditional bureaucracy.

"Potential hospital staffers will be interviewed in the second quarter of this year and hiring will begin around October with the aim to commencing operations by the end of the year," said K. Anchalee.



The long-abandoned Phya Thai hospital (above) will reopen with some staff from Banphaeo Hospital in Samut Sakhon, currently the only hospital in Thailand being operated as a 'public organization'.

Banphaeo Hospital Director Dr Surapong Boonprasert said, "We will help the *OrBorJor* find medical staff and other personnel needed to bring the hospital up to the standards demanded by local people. Treatment fees will be kept low, but without compromising standards."

The *OrBorJor* will be responsible for acquiring medical equipment, while Banphaeo Hospital will initially deal with hospital operations. The long-term goal is to have the *OrBorJor* run all hospital operations, said K. Anchalee.

"Within four to five years, we would expect to be managing the entire facility system by ourselves," she added.

There will be three phases in the hospital's re-development, she said.

The first phase, already underway, involves an assessment

of the building to determine where repairs and improvements are needed. The second phase will consist of restoring utilities such as electric supply, air conditioning, IT facilities, phone lines and so on. The final phase will involve staffing.

K. Anchalee acknowledged that the hospital must recoup its investment costs, but said that the project is not intended as a profit-making venture.

However, the project came under fire in October by Health Ministry officials who claimed it could lure doctors away from state-run hospitals that are already facing staffing problems.

Also, in 2004, public organizations suffered severe criticism after some were accused of abusing their greater autonomy. The Assets Capitalization Bureau (ACB), for example, paid each of its directors up to 450,000 baht a month.

"Handicapped and elderly patients will receive special benefits at the new hospital, added K. Anchalee.

"The hospital will be renamed in the near future," she added.

Full booze ban for Senatorial election

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: The Election Commission (EC) has confirmed that that voting for the Senatorial election will take place on March 2. The Phuket Election Committee (PEC) has confirmed that it is ready to conduct the polls – and the same restrictions on alcohol sales will be in force during both the advance and general polling.

Under the current Constitution, Thailand's new-look upper house will comprise 150 members.

Of these, 76 will be elected, while the remainder will be appointed by a special panel.

Under the 1997 constitution, the entire Senate was elected.

Candidates must register with the PEC between January 21 and 25 at Phuket Community Hall on Palien Rd in Phuket City.

Voters registered in other provinces but residing in Phuket can cast advance votes on February 23 and 24 at Phuket Community Hall, provided they register to do so at any of Phuket's three District Offices (Muang, Thalung, Kathu) or Phuket City Municipality Offices by January 31.

There are currently 214,329 eligible voters in Phuket, the same number registered for the previous general election.

Phuket residents who are still not eligible to vote can register at any District Office or Phuket City Municipality Office before February 20.

Unless changes are announced, a ban on alcohol sales will apply from 6 pm on Friday, February 22, to midnight the following Sunday; then again from 6 pm on Saturday, March 1, to midnight the following Sunday.

Man suspected of kidnapping ex-wife, killing her new husband

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 Rungnapa Sriburam, 31, a native of Kalasin Province who was staying on Soi Layan in Cherng Talay Village 6 at the time of his death.

The victim's blood-covered body, dressed in a white vest and black shorts, was found at about 5:30 am, lying face up in his quarters at the Wasi Construction Company temporary workers' camp.

There was a stab wound to the base of his left ear, two more to the left side of his chest and multiple wounds to his left arm. His belongings were scattered around the room, suggesting a violent struggle, Lt Col Jessada said.

The victim and his wife, identified only as "Noy", had been married in a ceremony held on New Year's Day.

According to witnesses, the murder was carried out by Noy's estranged husband. Police are now investigating to try and learn 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 Rungnapa, 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.

Col Jessada was unavailable for further comment on January 15.

Old Phuket Festival canceled

PHUKET CITY: The Old Phuket Festival, originally scheduled to take place on Thalung Rd from February 13 to 15, has been canceled as the nation mourns HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana, who passed away on January 2.

The cancellation of what would have been the 10th annual festival follows a request by the Royal Household Bureau on January 2 for a period of national mourning, during which all government officers and teachers are to wear black for 15 days.

Phuket City Municipality Deputy Mayor Kawee Tansukkanont, who also heads the committee co-ordinating activities for the Old Phuket Festival said that the committee unanimously agreed to cancel the festival this year.

"We plan to hold the festival as usual next year, although a date has yet to be set," he added.

Phuket City Municipality will hold a photo exhibition as planned during Chinese New Year, from February 13 to 15. The exhibition will be held at Thai Hua Museum on Krabi Rd.

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Getting crabby

In a bid to increase dwindling crab stocks in local waters, the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office together with other government and non-government organizations on the morning of January 10 held a ceremony to launch the island's first "crab bank", off Laem Nga in Rassada Village 3.

As part of the same ceremony, nine monks blessed 250 saffron ribbons, which were then tied around mangrove trees lining the perimeter of the Soi Kingkaew Community Mangrove Forest. It is hoped that having the trees blessed will ward off the on-going work of encroachers who continue to bulldoze and build on what remains of the last major mangrove stands near Phuket City.

Gazette reporter Semacote Suganya and News Editor Stephen Fein report.

Excitement filled the air at the end of Soi Kingkaew 3 in Rassada on the morning of January 10. Several tents were set up on the muddy ground, some with sofas for local dignitaries and government officials attending.

An MC addressed the crowd of hundreds over a public address system. Nine monks sat in a row under another tent, while yellow-shirted local children, happy to be out of school that morning, ran about with mangrove tree saplings they had helped grow and were preparing to plant.

An early-morning alms-giving ceremony was followed by speeches from Phuket Vice-Governor Worapot Ratthasima, Phuket Provincial Fisheries Chief Phairoh Suttaporn and project organizer Jaran Than-Udon of local association the NGO Rassada December 26 Group, a coalition of various NGOs, including tsunami victims and local fishermen.

A press release explained that the 151,160-baht Rassada Crab Bank project was funded by the Governor's Office last year as part of the central government's "Yoo Dee Mee Suk" (*Good Life and Happiness*) Project. It is also supported by Hilfswerk Austria as one of the Austrian Development Co-operation's community-based, post-tsunami rehabilitation projects.

The crab bank itself comprises four pens and a small hut,



The Rassada Crab Bank is located about 1 kilometer off Laem Nga, where water depths at high tide reach about five meters. The "bank" will be left unattended most of the time, causing some concern that ill-intentioned persons could stop by to make an unexpected early withdrawal.

all floating about one kilometer offshore, in a location that is passed by the crab fisherman each day as they head back from deeper water.

The pens, which are suspended from sealed plastic drums, are anchored to the sea bed at a depth that ensures a minimum of one meter depth between the bottom of the pens and the sea bed at low tide. At high tide, the bottom of the pens will float about 4 meters above the sea bed. The nylon netting has a mesh size of 2.5 inches to keep the crabs in – and predators out.

The target species is *Por-*

tunus pelagicus, poo mah (or 'horse crab') in the vernacular. A good swimmer adapted to life in the open ocean, its numbers have fallen locally in recent years to levels that have driven many crab fishermen out of business.

The first horse crab "deposit" consisted of about 100 egg-laden females delivered in aerated tanks sent from Phang Nga.

K. Jaran told the *Gazette* that local crab fishermen, with their fleet of about 20 boats, have agreed to deposit any egg-laden female horse crab they catch in the bank, to allow them to reproduce. After the crabs have re-

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about the environment



Two local school children in Soi Kingkaew are shown a female horseshoe crab and taught why it is important to the local ecosystem.

the bank, to allow them to reproduce. After the crabs have released their larval offspring, they will be recollected by the same fisherman who put them there and sold off as usual.

Trust plays a key role in the project. The fishermen will mark their crabs with permanent, waterproof makers and remove them from the pens only after they have released their eggs. However, most of the time the bank will be left unattended – with nothing to stop outsiders from stopping by under the cover of darkness to make unexpected “withdrawals”.

Based on the frequency of

fishing trips, the organizers hope that the fishermen will deposit about 10 female crabs per boat, per day – or about 50 crabs per day in total. There is no real accounting system to quantify whether the project is a success or not, but the organizers hope that an increase in local crab stocks will indicate success.

On average, a female horse crab produces about 750,000 eggs, but only about 10% of these will become larvae.

Despite the crab's reproductive strategy being well-known, until the start of the crab bank local fishermen made no effort to assist egg-laden females

in reaching the end of their reproductive stage before selling them off, he explained.

“Currently, fresh horse crabs sell at about 280 baht per kilo, but even at this price fewer and fewer Rassada fishermen have found it worthwhile trying to catch them because of dwindling catches in recent years,” K. Jaran said.

Also attending the event on a visit from Bangkok was Weerawat Paphussaro, Deputy-Director of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's Department of Environmental Quality Protection (DEQP), which co-ordinates joint efforts

between the government and a nationwide network of 56 NGOs working on environment-related issues in the country.

“The key environmental protection efforts in general revolve around increasing public awareness and getting local administrative bodies, such as tambon administration organizations to take a leadership role, said K. Weerawat.

When asked if the continued deterioration of the marine environment would doom the crab bank project to the same fate that Phuket's sea turtle breeding-and-release programs have met, he said he was optimistic that the crabs' much shorter lifestyle and reproductive cycle would result in a better outcome.

One of the key NGOs working on the crab bank and other environmental projects in Phuket is the local branch of the TorSorMor Network, a volunteer group committed to environmental protection and natural resource conservation that will likely be the first to blow the whistle if any bulldozers are spotted in the area.

Its president Pornpimol Pothisuwanawat said her group was working with the DEQP, Rassada December 26 Group and many other agencies and groups to try and get the Soi Kingkaew Community to report any further encroachment.

The group is advised by former Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising.

K. Pornpimol agreed with K. Weerawat that encroachment was still going on in the area, but said she hoped that the “ordination” of some 2,500 trees in the Soi Kingkaew Community Forest would help to draw “a line in the sand” across which encroachers would have to think twice about

crossing.

The hope is that would-be encroachers will equate the cutting down an “ordained” mangrove tree to committing a sin.

“Our activities can't guarantee 100% protection, but we feel it is much better than doing nothing,” she said.

K. Jaran agrees. He said that his group also intends to make the local community the “driving force” behind the battle to conserve what is left of Rassada's once bountiful mangrove forests, which due to on-going encroachment have now been reduced to only about 500 rai.

“At about 300 rai, the Soi Kingkaew Community Forest is the last major mangrove stand near Phuket City,” he said.

“The other 200 rai are found along the banks of Klong Tha Chin,” he added.

In his speech, K. Jaran pointed out that in addition to sustaining important local resources, reforestation work in the area also helped in a small way to alleviating global environmental problems such as global warming.

He estimated, however, that only about 10% of Rassada residents see protection of the mangroves from further encroachment as a priority issue. Most see the mangroves as a resource to be exploited, he said.

“The presence of so many dignitaries, including the vice governor, was a good sign that the effort has high-level support,” he added.

His group hope that delineating a clear boundary for the community forest behind a klong and ordinating its trees will protect what is left from further encroachment, he added.

“Any society needs clear guidelines and boundaries to function effectively,” he commented.

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Queer News

Rogue monks defrocked after temple-'tech raid

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: Places of worship are not generally considered the best places to swig booze and get down to some bangin' dance tracks.

However, three young monks in Nakhon's Wat Suan Pan turned their dormitory cell into a makeshift disco.

News of the temple 'tech came when neighbors told police that they had seen some monks leading a number of young girls into the wat in the early hours of January 7.

Pol Lt Col Somchai Muay-dee, a Crime Suppression Inspector at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police Station, took the call and made for the temple accompanied by the local truancy officer.

The inspectors found that a funeral was being held at Wat Suan Pan that night. However, about 20 meters from the main hall of the temple, thumping techno music was coming from behind a closed door in the monks' sleeping quarters.

Peering through a crack in the door frame, one of the inspectors espied three young monks, one tough-looking layman and three young girls.

The inspectors knocked on the door and the partygoers, thinking more of their gang had come to join the fun, let them in. Seeing the officers, the three girls dived onto the bed in a vain bid to hide while the men stumbled around, clearly drunk.

The cell was set up like a mini-karaoke bar with a multi-colored lighting rig, a sound system, a VCD player with microphone, a computer and eight X-rated movies. The officers counted 13 beer bottles, two wine coolers and a two-foot-long "Sparta" knife.

After notifying the abbot, all seven were taken to the police station for questioning. The three monks, one aged 21 and the other two 18, were defrocked immediately.

All seven were then released because their actions did not break any laws.

Two of the young temptresses, aged 15 and 18, were students at a well-known private school in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Police called their guardians to come and collect them and the truancy officer said that their school would be notified of their actions. The third girl, 20, was released after being photographed for police records.

As for the seventh raver, Sonkrai "Tanong" Charoensap, 27, Col Somchai recognized him as a fugitive with six outstanding arrest warrants in connection with 10 robberies during the previous month.

Col Somchai said that although police could bring no charges against the three monks and three girls, he was very happy to escort Sonkrai from temple cell to jail cell.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Top acts lined up for Blues Rock Festival

KARON: The 2008 Phuket International Blues Rock Festival will be held February 22 and 23 at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa.

This year's line up of 12 live bands will showcase some of Southeast Asia's finest live blues and rock acts, topped off with an American headliner each night.

Bands confirmed include Bangkok's Soi Dog Blues Band, Georgia Blues Band, Full House and Cannonball, as well as The Blues Machine from Pattaya and Boy Blues Band from Chiang Mai.

Also playing will be Li'l Willie and The Fabulous Hepcats

from Koh Samui and one of Australia's top blues acts, Salty Dog.

This year's local contribution comes from The Groove Doctors, assisted by Hollywood writer and blues shouter Jimmy Fame and American-born diva Bonnie Anderson.

Headlining the Friday night will be the internationally-renowned Rich Harper Band from Los Angeles, returning to a strong following in Thailand that has grown considerably over the past two years.

The Saturday night will see The Shari Puerto Experience, another top US blues act from

Southern California, take to the stage.

First held in December 2005, the Phuket International Blues Festival was organized to put Phuket on the map as an international live-music destination.

Funds raised are donated to organizations and charities dedicated to improving Phuket children's education.

For more information visit www.phuketbluesfestival.com or contact Phuket Music Production. Tel: 086-682-2639. Fax: 076 271 109. Email: phuketmusic@yahoo.com



TRASHING
Phuket

This week's Trashing Phuket hails from Srisoonthorn Rd, which falls under the jurisdiction of Cherg Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor). This lovely pile is just 300 meters from the beach, at the entrance to the access road that leads to Babylon Beach Club on Bang Tao Beach, probably to give beachgoers something to look forward to.

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Pub-smoking ban to start next month

Smoking tobacco anywhere in air-conditioned entertainment establishments and many parts of outdoor public venues will be banned as of February 17.

For open-air food courts or markets, smoking will be allowed only in designated corners, said Dr Hatai Chitanondh, chairman of the Thailand Health Promotion Institute on January 10.

Offenders will be subject to fines of 2,000 baht for smokers and 20,000 baht for venue operators.

Smoking is already prohibited in air-conditioned restaurants, but the Public Health Ministry's regulation to include air-conditioned pubs, discos and bars will take effect 45 days after it is published in the Royal Gazette.

Dr Hatai admitted that some owners of pubs and night-time hangouts might resist, as they believe a smoking ban will hurt their trade.

"Our research has found that the businesses might suffer some impacts only in the beginning. After a while, pubs and entertainment places will not only get their old customers back, but will also attract new, non-smoking patrons," he said.

Among the many markets that stand to be affected by the ban is the famous Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok, he said.

Alien worker rules. The Labor Ministry will soon implement a new law that will allow immigrant workers pending repatriation to work temporarily.

Employment Department Director-General Manoon Punyakiriyakorn said the draft bill, which has been approved by the National Legislative Assembly, would also tackle the problem of employers exaggerating the number of workers needed.

The new law requires employers to pay a per-head fee for employing immigrant workers. If they ask for more workers than they need, they will have to pay hefty fees, he said.



IN HER MEMORY

Musicians perform the royal Prakhom Yumyaam music service at Dusit Royal Place as part of royal funeral services for HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana. The performances, which begin every three hours, are held from 6 am until midnight daily.

The draft bill would also allow alien workers to apply for a temporary work permits. It also includes the setting up of an immigrant workers' repatriation fund; employers would be required to withhold a certain amount from each immigrant worker's monthly salary to contribute to the fund.

The draft law also authorizes labor officials to arrest immigrant workers who break the law, without having to obtain court orders or help from the police, but only if an immigrant's wrongdoing takes place in front of officials, Manoon said.

Youth suicides increasing. The suicide rate among persons under the age of 25 is increasing, with most young people who take their own lives doing so because of stress and psychological difficulties, according to a study by Child Watch.

Child Watch conducted a behavioral study of 140,000

young people during 2006 and 2007.

It found 7,363, or about 20 a day, had attempted to kill themselves in 2007. Of these, 659 were successful.

Smoking among young people fell from 17% in 2006 to 16% in 2007, while alcohol consumption increased from 36% to 38%.

A record 40% said they watched pornographic films, while 18% admitted to gambling on football games or buying lottery tickets.

Sexually active vocational students increased from 30% in 2006 to 36% in 2007, according to Child Watch.

Prime real estate. Pending approval by the new House of Representatives, the new Parliament may be built on a plot of the Royal Thai Army's Ordnance Department in Nonthaburi.

Pithoon Poomhiran, secretary-general of the House of Rep-

resentatives, said his committee, which has been assigned to consider a new location for Parliament, has chosen the 265-rai plot in Nonthaburi.

If the new House approves the plan, the government will have to pay one billion baht in compensation to the Army.

Nurseries upgrade. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) is planning to improve all 17,000 of its nurseries countrywide by turning them into "child-development centers" that provide quality care and enhance learning skills.

Somporn Chaibaiyang, director-general of the MoI's Department of Local Administration, said the centers will sharpen children's ability to learn and will play a key role in meeting Thailand's future manpower and productivity needs.

Among the experts that will work at the centers will be some 14,000 people now studying with MoI support at universities and

colleges in fields of medicine, public health and pre-school education.

Big plans for small tech. Thailand has set an ambitious six-year plan that would see nanotechnology-related products accounting for 1% of gross domestic product (GDP), or around 100 billion baht annually, by the year 2013.

The target is part of the National Nanotechnology Master Plan for 2007 to 2013, which was approved by Cabinet last year.

The plan was developed as a framework for local nanotechnology development to improve the country's international competitiveness.

Wiwut Tanthapanichakoon, director of the National Nanotechnology Center (Nanotec), said Thailand will move towards nanotechnology to serve seven strategic industries: food and agriculture, automotive, electronics, textiles and petrochemicals, one tambon one product, energy and environment, and medical and healthcare.

As nanotechnology is new to Thailand, a key to the plan's success will be training more researchers, Wiwat said.

Elderly educators. An amendment to extend the retirement age of government teachers to 65 is ready for the next government, Education Minister Wichit Srisa-an said on January 10.

The planned extension was expected to be one of the first issues before the next education minister. Under the new project, selected government teachers will be required to undergo performance evaluations every three years. They will be paid extra for their additional skills acquired through training programs, said K. Wichit.

Those who fail the appraisal will not receive the extra fee until they pass it, he said.

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

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Between Christmas and New Year, Khao Lak was packed with tourists. While one would expect that all businesses in Khao Lak would do well at this time, many business owners were complaining about a fall in sales compared with last high season.

Several businesses that did well in the 2006-2007 high season reported that most customers in December 2007 and early January 2008 were looking for bargains instead of the quality of products or services on offer. They would run around for days just comparing prices.

Since most Khao Lak visitors during this time of the year come from Germany, it appears that the bad economic policy and unjustified tax increases Germans have had to bear over the past years have finally taken their toll on Khao Lak's economy as well.

Businesses suffering most from this German-bred *Geiz ist geil* (greed is sexy) mentality were local dive centers, especially those catering to the German-speaking market.

One dive shop owner said he had never received so many email inquiries starting straight out with a request for a discount or "send me your best package offer" as the main content.

A restaurant owner on Bang Niang Beach reported that

Khao Lak suffering from growing pains

tourists would flock into the local 7-Eleven stores to buy bread, butter, vacuum-packed sausages, canned drinks and other supplies to get them through the day in the cheapest way possible so they wouldn't have to eat in local restaurants.

This is happening in a country where cheap, healthy and tasty food has always been one of the main attractions for tourists. Alarm bells should be ringing, or am I alone in my panic?

There are two possible explanations. First is travel operators and airlines offering ridiculously cheap accommodation with flight packages.

This attempt to make Khao Lak attractive in the low season has backfired as the cheap offers have extended far into the high season, eventually attracting the wrong clientele at the wrong time of the year.

The second explanation is that Khao Lak could be becoming too expensive.

Local business owners



Endless pristine beaches – this is what has made Khao Lak a popular holiday destination. Yet, visiting this tropical paradise has its price.

equally supported both these theories. With school holidays ending in Europe, Khao Lak experienced a brief decline in visitors at the beginning of January, a second blow for businesses that had already been hurt by this unforeseen decline of sales.

Peter Stiller, director of Holiday Service Khao Lak, has

a more positive outlook on the latest developments. "I believe that Khao Lak is on the verge of becoming an upmarket destination.

Right now, business and upmarket clientele are overlapping and you can see big differences in consumer demographics.

"Some are simply not buying or are not able to buy at all. They are here on a tight budget, perhaps being lured to Khao Lak by false information on the Internet, where Khao Lak is still promoted as a backpacker's paradise," he said.

"However, a high percentage of visitors are willing and able to pay for high-quality services. Hence, our company now invests in high-quality transportation rather than ordinary minibuses,

and we focus solely on providing a high quality of service at affordable prices."

The forgotten beach: Despite rumors that big Bangkok-based resort operators have bought large pieces of land in the part of Bang Niang Beach that sits north of the lagoon, no construction efforts are underway.

Today, this part of Bang Niang, with its picturesque lagoon, is how the southern half of Bang Niang looked in 2001, shortly before Khao Lak boomed.

Apart from the Mangold Residence, a bungalow resort still under construction, no other developments are yet apparent.

Investors should look closely into this area as land prices there are only about half that of land in southern Bang Niang.

Psychic flop: A Brazilian psychic predicted an earthquake in Indonesia for December 23, 2007, that would result in yet another devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia. Unfortunately, many local restaurant and hotel staff believed the psychic and did

not show up for work on the predicted date, causing logistical problems all over Khao Lak.

Many hotel and resort rooms were also left unoccupied around that date. Some businesspeople in Khao Lak discussed the possibility of suing the psychic for his false prediction, causing unnecessary panic and severe losses.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. Franky can be contacted at: avalon@loxinfo.co.th



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Army Chief to tour Deep South

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Anupong Paochinda on January 11 said that he will visit the Deep South to review the intelligence-gathering system in place there.

During his visit, the army chief will listen to officials to learn how they have been operating. He will then consider improvements to prevent leakage of official information, he said.

Gen Anupong said that he ordered intelligence agencies to review and screen their personnel.

His call for better internal security measures follows the arrest of three intelligence officers of the Internal Security Operations Command and seven policemen, all charged with spying for southern insurgents.

On January 10, the day before Gen Anupong's announcement, it was reported that Baan Pase School in Narathiwat's Rangae district had been closed indefinitely after insurgents detonated a bomb on school grounds, injuring two soldiers and terrifying about 140 students.

Police said the insurgents hid a homemade bomb by a tree near a school building and detonated it at 9:45 am, while two soldiers were nearby.

As all students were in classes at that time, none were injured, but the young students, terrified by the sound of explosion, screamed and cried.

Following the explosion, school management closed the school indefinitely because teachers feared for their safety.

Suspected smuggler seized. Officers from Police Region 8 Investigation Center on January 11 arrested a suspected *ya bah* (methamphetamine) trafficker wanted by Nong Khai police.

Prasongsak Thanomphao, 41, a native of Chumphon's Tha Sae district, was arrested at 6:30 am in a house in Ranong.

Police seized as evidence a mobile phone, 51,960 baht in cash,



FACING THE MUSIC

Thirteen suspected insurgents wanted by Pattani Provincial Court give themselves up to Pattani Governor Phanu Uthairat and Pattani Provincial Police Commander Lt Gen Kririn Inkaew at a press conference January 9.

a gold chain and gold bracelet, two gold rings and nine gold-plated Buddha images.

A court order for Prasongsak's arrest for possession of drugs with intent to sell was issued by Nong Khai Provincial Court October 9 last year.

His arrest followed a tip-off received by Nong Khai police that indicated Prasongsak was hiding out in the area.

Officers from Nong Khai then worked with Region 8 detectives to track down the suspect.

When questioned about the charge, Prasongsak denied having any involvement in the drug trade and claimed he was a traveling salesman.

Prasongsak's wife, Wasana Sihamunti, 32, a Lao national from Vientiane, also insisted that her husband had never dealt drugs.

Police said that they had known for a long time that Prasongsak was involved in the smuggling and sale of *ya bah*.

The warrant for his arrest was issued after other alleged members of the same smuggling network testified to his involvement, police said.

Surat Thani stickup. Police are hunting for a pair of armed robbers who made off with jewelry valued at more than a million baht in a gold shop heist in Surat Thani on January 10.

At around 4 pm, two men wearing crash helmets pulled up outside Sin Heng 2 gold shop on Chonkasem Rd.

Their vehicle was described as a yellow-and-black Honda Wave motorbike with no registration plates.

Both men walked into the shop, where one of them drew a revolver, trained it on shopowner Waraphon Tawaraphong, 57, and ordered her to co-operate.

The gunman's accomplice used a hammer to smash the glass on the display cabinets then scooped up the jewelry.

The men then ran out of the

store and escaped through rush hour traffic on their motorbike. Witnesses reported that the robbers were heading toward Baan Na San district.

Col Bunthawee Toraksa, Superintendent of Surat Thani Muang District Police Station, said that he had ordered his officers to pursue the robbers and had alerted police in neighboring districts, including Baan Na San, to be on the lookout for the pair.

Forensics officers collected fingerprints at the scene.

No images of the bandits were recorded as the shop was not fitted with closed-circuit television cameras.

Off-target. A man was shot dead on the Trang Town-Pa Lian road January 7 in what police believe was an attempted assassination

on a local councilman who survived the attack with injuries.

Liab Kruea-iat, a member of Thung Khai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), and his wife Pian Kruea-iat were returning from a market in Trang Town in a pickup truck being driven by Hian Matnoi.

As they were driving past Trang College, a youth on a motorcycle wearing a blue shirt similar to a student uniform pulled alongside and fired five shots into the truck.

All three were injured in the attack and taken to Trang Hospital, where K. Hian later died from his wounds.

Pol Sub Lt Thawon Chaisirir, the duty officer at Trang Muang District Police Station, said police believe that K. Liab was the intended target.

In addition to his Thung Khai *OrBorTor* duties, K. Liap worked as a canvasser for a *Phu Yai Baan* (village chief) who was elected recently in Tambon Thung Khai.

However, the village chief in question told police that he did not believe the attack was connected to K. Liap's canvassing.

Harbor bound. More than 95% of small and medium-sized fishing boats in Songkhla province have gone out of business because of rising diesel oil prices, Songkhla Fishery Association Vice-President Sawai Jeyakhom said on January 10.

K. Sawai said that since diesel oil rose to 30 baht per liter, only about 200 of 2,000 small and medium-sized fishing boats in the province have remained in operation.

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

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Villagers struggle to revive turtle power

By Janyaporn Morel

In times past, between November and February, villagers in Mai Khao would see leatherback turtles laying thousands of eggs along the beach, but it has been years since the villagers have seen a leatherback and they want the turtles to come back.

Manoch Saythong, Phu Yai Baan (village chief) of Moo 4, Mai Khao, told the *Gazette*, "The last time villagers saw a leatherback turtle was about a month after the tsunami. That turtle came and laid eggs, but unfortunately none of the eggs hatched."

Knowing that the turtles at Mai Khao were on the verge of being wiped out, a few years ago villagers formed a "turtle walk" group. Volunteers went on turtle patrol along the beach to ensure the area was safe for the mother turtles. With the rapid depletion of the number of leatherbacks, Mai Khao villagers were working hard to protect the remaining turtles' egg-laying habitat.

The villagers maintained the group by themselves until in 2002, JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa pledged its support and formed the the Mai Khao Marine



People help baby leatherback turtles find the sea on Karon Beach last year. Villagers in Mai Khao, once a popular beach for leatherbacks, are working towards enjoying moments like this.

Photo by Phuket Marine Biological Center

Turtle Foundation, donating 2 million baht to the cause.

Michelle Mouille, Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation Coordinator, told the *Gazette*, "About two months ago, people found leatherback tracks in the sand and started looking for the nest, but no one found it."

Leatherback turtles (*dermochelys coriacea*) are special in that they are the largest living turtle. Fully-grown adults can

grow to 2.6 meters long and weigh as much as 800 kilograms. Mother leatherbacks can remember exactly where they were born, and even after 25 to 30 years they return to the same place to lay eggs of their own – if they still can.

"The main problem," said Ms Mouille, "is the fishing boats. We have seen turtles get stuck in the fishing nets. The second problem is that there are not

enough fish in the area, so when the turtles come to the beach to lay eggs, there are no fish for them to eat.

"I think the third problem is the effect of global warming."

While the Phuket Marine Biological Center at Cape Panwa has much experience in raising turtle hatchlings, the main aim of the Mai Khao foundation is for turtles to breed in their natural surroundings.

Leatherbacks in particular are a difficult species to raise in captivity because their skin-shells are prone to infection.

They also succumb to marine pollution and commercial fisheries. Leatherbacks occasionally mistake plastic bags, Styrofoam and balloons for jellyfish and eat them, and they often become entangled in anchor lines and trapped by fishing trawlers.

In April 2003, JW Marriott was presented by Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) with the Grand Award for Best Environmental-Education Program for the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation. Since 2003, the foundation has disbursed funds to a number of organizations and projects, including Phuket Marine Biology Center and WWF Thailand, to support turtle conservation.

Other projects the foundation has been involved in include school workshops, beach and reef cleanups and recycling projects – all in the hope of returning Mai Khao to its once turtle-flush state. Many involve local communities and schools.

In February 2007, the foundation launched a project called "Clean Beach, White Sand".

A contractor was employed to clean the eight kilometers of Mai Khao Beach daily.

Thirty rubbish bins were placed along the beachfront and 30 more will be placed in other

areas of the beach.

Wooden signboards outlining how long rubbish takes to decompose will be placed at strategic points

This January, the foundation launched a new project called "Environmental Awareness and Solutions". A series of collaborations with Phuket Rajabhat University will take place every two months, starting this month.

The events will comprise education and action in the form of workshops, management projects and clean-ups.

A total of 120 students will attend each two-day workshop, which will be held at Marinade National Park in Thachattchai. The first workshop was held January 17-18, with a beach and reef clean-up slated for January 19.

Ms Mouille explained that although the foundation is based on Mai Khao Beach, it may soon start projects at nearby Nai Yang Beach, working together with the local administration and Sirinath National Park officers.

"We are inviting the national park chief to join our cleanup program," she said.

"We think the turtles will come back soon. We saw one turtle swimming around the Marriott resort a month ago, but it was not coming to lay eggs and we haven't seen it since," said K. Manoch.

"We are keeping the beach clean – we want to see them back," he added.

For further information contact Michelle Mouille, Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation coordinator. Tel: 076 338000 ext. 3252. Mobile: 081-8936001. Fax: 076 348360. Email: info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com Visit the foundation website at: www.jwmarriottphuket.com/maikhaoturtlefoundation



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Macau: Vegas of the East

Tired of the tropics and the beach? Want to visit a quaint, turn-of-the-century European town only a hop, skip and a jump away?

For decades, Macau has been a sleepy Portuguese colony offering little more than a taste of European architecture and an array of smoke-filled casinos catering to gamblers from Hong Kong and Taiwan. But now the region has been transformed into an international gaming and entertainment center – it's the Las Vegas of the East.

Soon after Portugal returned Macau to China in 1999, after nearly 450 years of colonial rule, the territory's 40-year-old gambling monopoly, controlled by Stanley Ho, ended. Bids for new gambling licenses were accepted and some of Las Vegas's biggest names began planning an invasion.

Last year, a record 16.7 million people visited Macau. This year, tourism officials are forecasting close to 20 million visitors. In 2010, the figure could be 35 million. Fifty percent of Macau's GDP and 70% of the Macau government's budget stem from gambling revenues.

Today, largely because the Chinese government has loosened travel restrictions on mainland residents, millions of Chinese enter Macau, the only place in China where gambling is legal. Visitors from across Asia now come to explore the destination.

The Macau government is racing to build bridges, tunnels,



SURE BET: The Venetian Macau Resort Hotel (above and right) heaps on some glitz and glamor to Macau's booming gambling scene.



railways and airports – even planning to spend US\$3.8 billion to build a 17-mile bridge across the Pearl River, connecting Macau and the city of Zhuhai and Hong Kong. It would then be possible to visit Disneyland in Hong Kong and then take a quick drive south to Macau.

The old Portuguese neighborhoods in downtown Macau

offer a variety of places to visit. Lord Stow's Bakery is where you will find some of the best egg tarts in the world.

Also worth exploring are the ruins of St Paul's Church, the central square at Largo do

Senado and Fisherman's Wharf, where you are more likely to find amusement rides than seafood.

At some point, however, it will be time to head to the casinos on Cotai Strip. Along the way, a visit out to Macau's oldest gam-

ing house, the Lisboa Hotel, is also worth the effort.

Crossing over the 2.5-kilometer Macau-Taipa Bridge, your trip won't be complete without experiencing The Venetian Macau Resort Hotel, a mega-hotel-and-casino complex owned by Las Vegas Sands Corp, that held its grand opening in August last year.

The 40-story Venetian with its 3,000 guest rooms is the anchor for the seven resort hotels that are under construction on the Cotai Strip. The Venetian is modeled on its sister casino resort – The Venetian in Las Vegas – and with 10.5 million square feet, it is the largest single-structure hotel building in Asia and the second-largest building in the world.

The complex hosts 350 specialty shops, more than 30 restaurants and an international food court that seats more than 1,000. There are also three 490-foot long canals with 51 gondolas complete with singing gondoliers.

Recently hosting the Challenge of the Champions tennis classic between Pete Sampras and Roger Federer in its Convention and Exhibition Center, with performances by Cirque du Soleil, Diana Ross and other famous renowned entertainers coming soon, The Venetian Macau Resort Hotel is a tourist destination in itself.

But wait, there's more. By 2009, properties from the Four Seasons, Sheraton, St Regis, Shangri-La, Traders, Hilton, Conrad, Fairmount and Raffles will be operating alongside the Venetian on the Cotai Strip.

Macau is great for a short getaway. Even if you don't strike it rich on the tables, you can experience the last remaining European conclave in Asia.

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Scott Rosenberg

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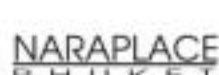
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Sweden's best perform a great gig in the sky

High on a Patong hillside among the luxury surroundings of Villa Santi while a wind-swept stage is being prepared, Cotton Club lead singer Richard Hägar is composed, relaxed and looks much younger than many musicians who have been doing the circuit for as long as he and his band have.

On stage though, Richard's subdued demeanor is cast away as he blasts out a high-energy performance and interacts with the audience as if they are old friends.

Richard is an accomplished jazz musician with solo albums to his credit and has led the Cotton Club band for nearly 25 years. Although they are often hailed as a jazz band, Richard is quick to point out that they are more like a "big band" lineup.

"Our music isn't just jazz. It's a blend of soul, disco and jazz spiced with Las Vegas-style glamor," he said as he sipped

One of Sweden's best-known entertainment institutions the Cotton Club blasted out classic and contemporary hits with a big band lineup when they passed through Phuket for a New Year's concert at Indochine's Villa Santi.

Gazette Editor Nick Davies caught up with the band before they made their way onto the stage to entertain an eager, mostly blond-haired crowd on the hillside overlooking Patong.

black coffee and gestured at the older looking band members, who made me feel like I was backstage at a Pink Floyd revival concert.

Although no stranger to being on tour, Richard explained that the concert at Villa Santi was the final leg of their first proper Asian tour as a band, which had been a unique experience.

"We travel a lot but most of our gigs are in Sweden and around Scandinavia, where we mainly do club performances.

I've heard that there are many Swedes living here though and I think we'll be playing to about 300 of them tonight," he said.

As well as giving energetic performances on stage, Richard is also the band's frontman for arranging gigs and managing the band. "I do most of the organizing myself. I've been doing it for so many years that I have a long list of contacts and I haven't really found a manager who does it better than I do," he said.

Even though the band isn't

signed to a label or tied to a producer, they have discovered a recipe for endurance and become a permanent fixture on the Scandinavian music scene with regular stage performances.

Richard is modest about the band's "greatness" and is far from pretentious about what they have become.

"We are not superstars. I mean, we'll never make a load of money, but we do make great music.

"We have a big band attitude. We all like Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis classics and take that kind of approach to the music we play, but we spice it up with elements of soul, funk and disco," he added.

Over the past 25 years the Cotton Club has performed all kinds of concerts, released a number of CDs and entertained at corporate events, festivals, TV shows and private parties.

For future musical adventures Richard wants to pursue the old school theme with an entertainment orchestra, writing music as well as playing it.

"Bands like us do mainly cover songs. The record business has turned into something very different from before. With DJs sitting in their basements and one girl doing some vocals to produce today's hits, it's much more difficult for real musicians to maneuver in the music industry," Richard lamented.

"Some of the guys in the band write music for other artists. I see the Cotton Club as a bearer of tradition. We're classical musicians like the Philhar-

monic Orchestra. I see us as much more akin to them in the way we make and play our music than anything related to the techno generation of musicians," he said.

Part of the group's secret to success is Richard's stable influence as a band leader and a level head for business. When the band is on tour, he spends much of his time managing things rather than becoming a party animal.

"Some of the guys had a night out in Patong last night and came back with some wild stories. I stayed in though. Some of them get by with just a few hours sleep a week but I just can't do it



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CROWD PLEASERS: Swedish star Kayo Shekoni (above) belts out Shirley Bassey classics. The Cotton Club's front man Richard Hugar (left) does it his way.

any more," he said.

With that, Richard excused himself to change into his stage clothes (a tight gun-metal gray suit) and introduced the band's other lead singer, Kayo Shekoni, who had joined the band for their Asian tour.

Kayo calls herself a guest artist and good friend of the band who takes any chance she can to join them on tour.

"We've known each other for a very long time, so we work very well together," she said. These guys are so experienced and we've performed together so often that it's very easy to make quick changes in a song lineup and improvise if needed."

Kayo is one of Sweden's most versatile celebrity entertainers. She was born to a Swedish mother and Nigerian jazz musician father who gave Kayo her name, which translates as "future happiness". She's certainly found happiness in a life dedicated to live entertainment.

She started out at six years old as a ballet dancer and became

a professional at 16, traveling Europe with dance troupes and Swedish celebrities. By then, Kayo was also becoming a teenage pop star, joining the band Freestyle at age 14 to produce a string of hits in the early 90s.

This encouraged Kayo to embark on a full-time singing career with record company Swemix, showing off her versatility with swinging pop reggae, disco, rap, hip hop, and, of course, some soul. Her second album *Kärleksland* (Loveland) was sung in Swedish and reached No. 4 in the Swedish charts.

After changing direction to act on the big screen and present TV shows and news, she became a household name in Sweden. Then it was back to the real love of her life, music. She teamed up with two other divas to form Afro-dite.

The female trio were close contestants in the Eurovision Song Contest and released a funky album with their Eurovision Song Contest entry *Never Let it Go*.

Kayo and the Cotton Club were certainly a powerful combination of talent, pulling out all the stops on their hilltop stage to treat the audience to glamorous performance that began with Kayo decked out in a silver sequined dress belting out Shirley Bassey's *Diamonds are Forever*.

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This week



FANTASEA TV: Staff from Taiwanese TV station Sunly visited Phuket FantaSea recently to film scenes for the TV show Mao Xian Zi Ping. They were welcomed by Sirikul Amaramorn (4th from left), public relations director of Phuket FantaSea.



TERMINAL TAKE-OFF: Phuket Airport Director Sq Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree (front row, 5th from right) poses with Phuket International Airport staff to mark the airport's opening of terminal 2 on January 8.



WEDDING BEERS: After a 10-year courtship, David Brook (center, blue shirt), proprietor of the Island Lager Bar in Patong's Sukhumvit Plaza, tied the knot with his partner Kanchana (white dress). Among the couples' friends attending the wedding celebration on January 8 was three-time darts world champion John Lowe from England (right).



WELCOME TO THAILAND: Arnaud Girodon (right), general manager of Indigo Pearl, welcomes Ukrainian singer Kuyek Karolina, also known as Ani Lorak, during her recent stay at the resort.



SANDY AND FRIENDS: Sandy Doksaeng (center) is joined for a Thai-style dinner by friends and special guests, including Pachara Kaewpet (right), Somchai Sathutam (back, right) and Aukara Amartayakul (left) for the grand opening party of Sandy's Corner restaurant on January 5.



A TASTY PERFORMANCE: On January 4, David P Shrubsole (center, wearing jacket), creative director for the Manathai Group, and Eakachai Nanjinda (left), theater manager of Sphinx restaurant in Patong, celebrated the renovation of Sphinx. They were joined by Robert J Falls (back, in white), director of Food & Beverage, Songsuwan Reoriab (right), general manager of Sphinx, and Suwalai Pinradab (center, wearing glasses), Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office director.



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In The Stars

by Isla Star

More work and less schmoozing, Capricorn

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Something that was just a half-hearted aim is forecast to become a burning desire before the end of January. Those of you who are ready to get ahead should prepare to take on extra work and cut down on social activities. If your birthday falls during the coming days, expect to see some inspiring changes in your personal life.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A disagreement could spoil your weekend. You are advised to take the high ground and not stoop to someone else's level – you will be proved right soon. Where work is concerned, overseas connections are highlighted and your talents could be in demand further afield. Sagittarius is becoming interested in what makes you tick. Allow romance to take on a life of its own and happiness will follow.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You are advised not to chase after a seemingly-attractive business proposition without doing serious research as it is likely to be a red herring. Money matters are not well-starred until the beginning of February, so the less

financial risks you take, the better. Love brings surprises for some. You will need to be flexible in order for a new relationship to succeed. The number 8 can bring good luck on Thursday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A difference of opinion that took place late last year seems to be on your mind. You will need to envisage this event as water under the bridge in order to move on. Scorpio gives good news relating to work mid-week and this could result in promotion. Delay financial discussion until after Wednesday as the stars will not support your cause before then. The color blackberry enhances your romantic attraction.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those of you who are trying to relocate are forecast to receive promising news this week. Maintaining a cool composure will be important as others probably won't move as fast as you would like. A Libran friend introduces you to someone who could be-

come a romantic partner. Those of you who are single and ambivalent about getting involved will soon realize that someone is worth their weight in gold. The number 5 can be lucky on Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You should gain insight this week concerning forthcoming changes in your life. Don't be put off if your business proposal goes down like a lead balloon on Monday. Repackaging the idea and trying again at a later date should lead to success.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Love is bittersweet for some of you when you learn that someone you've recently become interested in has plans to move away. However, there are signs that this relationship could continue. You should guard against leading an isolated existence. Get out and about to make friends in unexpected places. Tuesday is the best day for work-related discussions. Wear the color silver to encourage eloquence.

LEO (July 24-August 22): This should prove to be an auspicious week for buying and selling. Those of you who know how to strike a hard bargain will also see new chances to boost your bank balances. Love is subject to a rocky period until the end of the month. Try to remember that your partner's point of view is also valid. The scent of roses sweetens your mood.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Those of you who are still having trouble getting to grips with the New Year are advised to take some time out to regroup. It appears that you are still focusing too much on what went wrong last year. This would be an auspicious time to clear your home of unwanted objects and consider re-decorating. Incorporate the colors emerald and ruby to encourage better expectations from your life.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your energy levels should be high this week and there's a lot to be accomplished before the end of the month. Those of you who have been hoping to take a rejuvenating trip will have to wait a while. Business opportunities

are forecast to become more promising, but those considering a change of employment should not jump at the first bait. The number 7 can bring some luck on Wednesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your tenacity can be admirable, but it can also provide the rod for your back. You are advised to forget your pride for long enough to listen to friends' advice this weekend. They have your best interests at heart. A minor monetary obstacle will have to be navigated on Tuesday or Wednesday. Make sure you have your facts and figures correct before making allegations. The color maroon can encourage peace of mind.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Some of you won't know whether you're coming or going this week as arrangements are forecast to change quickly. If the edges of the big picture are blurred, concentrate on individual details. Planning ahead will go smoother after the end of the month when you learn of something to your financial advantage. Leo wants to know you more intimately.

If your birthday falls during the coming days, expect to see some inspiring changes in your personal life.

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PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC

A mother's choice

There are an estimated 6.5 billion people on the planet. Most of us were born as nature intended, but the past three decades have seen many changes in how, when and where mothers give birth.

After playing an active role in delivering his daughter at home, *Gazette* editor Nick Davies looks at the options available for mothers-to-be and compares childbirth trends in Thailand, the UK and the US.

In Thailand, the tradition of a mother giving birth at home in the village surrounded by friends and family is now almost a thing of the past. These days, most mothers-to-be are booked into a hospital and a delivery date is predicted soon after they become pregnant.

Although most Thai mothers now give birth in hospital, many still recover from childbirth in the traditional way: by spending the first week or so after giving birth in a homemade herbal sauna, drinking only hot herbal tea. This traditional post-natal care called *yoo fai* (staying with fire) is believed to help the womb return to its normal state after the strain of pregnancy and birth.

When the time comes to give birth, many Thai mothers now often choose having a cesarean section operation rather than giving birth naturally, even though some of those mothers, especially if they are from rural areas, may themselves have been born in basic surroundings, receiving traditional pre- and post-natal care.

In the UK, delivering babies by cesarean is considered a last resort, mostly performed in cases when the mother is seriously ill during labor, such as having dangerously high blood pressure or blood poisoning.

Caesarean sections are also considered for births of very large babies, breech births (baby's head up instead of down - that is, feet first), or when there are complications with twins.

Even when a baby is overdue, UK doctors often wait up to 10 days after the baby's due date before artificially inducing labor by breaking the waters and injecting the mother with labor-inducing hormones.

Dr Kittipan Tanthivej said that about half the mothers who give birth at Mission Hospital Phuket do so by cesarean operation, many choosing to have the

operation due to traditional beliefs.

"Some mothers may want to make sure they avoid giving birth on days considered unlucky by them or their family.

"They may have visited a Buddhist monk and told that a particular day will be auspicious to give birth, so they ask the doctor to deliver the baby on that day, even if it means having a cesarean operation," he explained.

"Wednesday is generally considered an unlucky day to give birth, whereas in 2006, the year of the pig, many mothers wanted to give birth on a Friday," he added.

"Another reason women choose to give birth by cesarean is because they are worried about the pain they may feel if they give birth naturally, but, in fact, the pain following surgery is much worse than giving birth naturally.

"Although mothers can request to give birth by cesarean, we do not encourage or recommend this kind of birth-day planning. It is much better for mother and baby if the baby is born naturally, when he or she is ready," Dr Kittipan said.

Childbirth specialist Dr Rujirek Leelanapapat said that about half the babies born at Bangkok Hospital Phuket are delivered by cesarean. "We have a mixture of Thai and international patients giving birth here. Most foreigners prefer to give birth naturally, but overall about 50% of the mothers who give birth here choose to have a cesarean, often because they see it as a convenient option," she said.

"Many expectant mothers choose a cesarean because they are worried about the pain of natural childbirth and they want to avoid giving birth on a Wednesday or Sunday, as they believe these are not as auspicious as other days," she added.

In the UK, however, by the 1990s the British National Health Service (NHS) was giving



women more choice as to how and where they gave birth. Only about 10% of babies were delivered by cesarean section.

Women could have their baby at home with a team of midwives present and were encouraged to find which position made them most comfortable for delivery, meaning less need for anaesthetics and stitches.

The past 30 years has seen a growing choice in methods of pain relief for mothers in labor, from gas and injections to acupuncture or simply finding a comfortable birthing position.

In the 1970s, women just had to cope the best they could with whatever pain relief was recommended. The most common anaesthetics then were pethidine and entonox (gas and air), which relax and numb the whole body.

In the 1980s, epidurals (anesthetic injected into the spine) became popular, giving the woman more control of her body. However, she could not move around easily and the numbness caused some women to lose the urge to push effectively, sometimes meaning that forceps had to be used on the baby's head.

In the UK, a currently

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Though there are now many options available for childbirth, all mothers still hope for the same result: a happy, healthy bundle of joy. Left: Rungtip Hongjakpet Izman holds her 7-week-old son, Metin. Above: Able Wanamakok and her newborn boy, Colin.

popular pain-relief device, which can be bought in pharmacies or even rented from the NHS, is a TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) machine. This is a small battery-operated device strapped to the lower back that encourages the body to produce endorphins by a hand-held control, allowing the woman to easily move around and control her own pain relief.

Giving birth in a tub of warm water is becoming an increasingly popular method of childbirth, as it is said to lessen the need for any kind of pain killer. Free from the confines of a bed, mother is lighter in the water and she can assume any birthing position she likes.

Water births have been popular in the US and the UK since the early '90s with more than three-quarters of the UK's NHS hospitals and more than 300 US hospitals offering water births to mothers.

None of Phuket's hospitals offer water births, though Samitivej and Bumrungrad hospitals in Bangkok do.

Being present for my daughter's birth was completely unintentional – as was my wife's pregnancy – but I'm very glad it worked out the way it did.

I feel privileged that I was there for my daughter's birth. It was just the three of us: me, my wife and our impatient daughter in our one-room Bangkok apartment on a Monday morning.

My daughter was so impatient that by the time we had realized that my wife was in full-blown labor with her contractions coming hard and fast, there was no way she could get out of our room, down the stairs and into a taxi.

I just had to stand by the bed like an anxious goalkeeper ready to catch my daughter while my wife went on with her contractions. When our daughter arrived, the first thing she received was a cold shower as there were no hot towels or warm water in our apartment. This was after I'd turned the room upside down looking for some string and a pair of scissors to tie and cut the umbilical cord.

We eventually made it to the hospital once we'd both changed our clothes and wrapped our baby in hers.

The hospital staff were very confused when we arrived with baby in arm rather than still in tummy, and it took quite a bit of explaining before the situation became clear.

My wife spent the next few days in hospital under observation but both mother and baby were fine. In fact, my wife seemed to be in better shape than other mums in the ward, who were all bed-ridden because of the scalpel cuts they'd received to speed things along during labor.

We were lucky that there

were no complications with our daughter's birth and I was thankful for the book on childbirth that my mum, a retired midwife, had sent us when we knew a baby was on the way.

Ideally, we should have been in the company of experienced medical professionals, but, back then, I would not have been allowed in the delivery room had we gone to hospital.

My wife was glad that I was with her and that she wasn't surrounded by strangers and scary equipment in a strange room. Free from the confines of a hospital bed and without worrying about looking silly, she was able to try different birthing positions and didn't feel the need for pain killers.

Government hospitals in Thailand still operate with a policy of not allowing friends or relatives to accompany the laboring mother during birth, but in the UK it has been common practice for many years to get the father involved as much as possible, accompanying his wife to pre-natal classes and allowing him to be present and offer support during the birth.

"At Mission Hospital we allow a family member to be present during birth and they are allowed to take photographs and record a video if they like," said Dr Kittipan.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket has a similar policy. "We allow the husband or a relative to be in the operation room and they can take pictures, but we don't recommend taking video as births are usually quite messy," said Dr Rujirek.

My wife's theory regarding the fears that many mothers-to-be have about giving birth is that many women grow up these days without ever seeing an actual birth before they have children themselves.

"If I hadn't seen other women giving birth in the traditional way without ever needing pain killers or an operation, I may have been scared about giving birth and considered a cesarean, but I knew from what I'd seen that it's something most women go through without any problems," she said.

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Luscious lavender

Colors influence feelings and specifically selected shades can evoke relaxation, anxiety or happiness.

Lavender is the color attributed to the goddess Venus, so as one might expect, Venus Spa uses this soft shade of purple to encourage clients to feel calm and romantic emotions.

The Venus spa, located in Patong's new Mercure hotel, fills its treatment rooms with lavender foot and body towels, lavender orchids and sheets.

Wanpen "Pen" Daloonpate, the Spa Manager, said most customers love the Thai traditional

massage and treatment package.

There is a special room for foot massages and five spa treatment rooms consisting of two double and three single rooms.

The foot massage area is in hardwood browns and decadent green fabrics. Four well-pillowed reclining chairs face a large window overlooking the hotel's outdoor pool area; a lavender towel is laid on the foot stool. Customers can watch pool activities or close their eyes in the dark wood room while having their pads kneaded.

Outside of each spa treatment room is a mirrored plaque inscribed with the name of a god such as Adonis, Aeneas and Cupid. Inside, the sparsely furnished treatment quarters are coated in lavender touches and provide an expansive view of the swimming pool outside. Each room has a different large sepia-tone photograph of Thai scenery.

The lavender towels and cream walls create a sweet and beautiful atmosphere in the room, unlike the sterile white of many spa treatment rooms.

"We use the lavender towels to decorate the rooms because it's the color of Venus and the power of lavender creates more romantic emotions than the white that other spas use," K. Pen said.

The double rooms have a Jacuzzi bath, toilet and shower room and large curtains to create an intimate and private atmosphere.

The traditional Thai massage area is located outside,



Lavender towels are used to decorate the rooms to invoke more romantic emotions than the white that other spas use, says Wanpen 'Pen' Daloonpate, Spa Manager at The Venus, in new Mercure hotel in Patong.

where each customer relaxes in a personal Bali-style sala draped in fabric. The massages are performed al fresco with a wall between the massage beds and the pool.

One of the Venus Spa's highlights is its sleek facial treatment room.

Customers who are specifically seeking facial treatment can do so without buying an entire spa package. The spa also provides free cosmetics for post-facial beautifying.

Venus uses Hanako Tokyo products only, the only spa offering this high-class brand in Phuket.

"We get great feedback from customers about the facial products," K. Pen said. "We choose Hanako products because we want to have one consistent

brand. Other spas mix many products together such as natural herbal treatments and cosmetic brands. We want to be different," she added.

K. Pen suggested that ideally both men and women should receive a facial treatment at least two times a month. The procedure uses electrical pulses to remove the grime and make-up that become clogged in the pores.

Venus spa offers nine different facial treatments, which run from 550 to 2,000 baht and last from 30 to 70 minutes.

The most popular treatment at Venus Spa is the "The Birth of Venus" package at a cost of

3,500 baht and lasting 185 minutes. This package includes a steam room session, body scrub and wrap, an aroma bath, aroma massage and facial treatment.

Venus Spa also offers four other packages such as Magic of Love, Cupid Therapy (Before & After Sun), Just for Adonis and Venus de Siam, which cost 3,000 to 4,000 baht, lasting 175 to 190 minutes.

Venus Spa, located in Mercure Hotel, Patong, is open every day from 9 am to 9 pm. For more information call Tel: 076-302100 ext 55 or see www.mercurepatongphuket.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

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

This is the last day of racing in the Puravarna Windsurfing Rally for HM The King, being held in celebration of the auspicious occasion of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday. The rally course 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.

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

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.

Until January 27. French Cuisine Festival at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Mom Tri's Boathouse is hosting the annual "Quinzaine de la Gastronomie Française", an extravaganza of French cuisine each night from 7 pm to 11:30 pm.

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

Each course is 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 festival.

For more information contact: Pinyo Thippimas. Tel: 076-

**2nd Andaman Spa Invitation January 24-27**

This spa exhibition for Thailand's health and beauty industries offers product and treatment demonstrations from Thailand's leading spas.

Discover a wealth of discounts on spa products and packages on the 1st floor of Central Festival Phuket from 11 am until 8 pm.

For more information contact Peerachsak Chunharatchapan. Tel: 081-5357803. Email: peerachsak@mirageorganizer.com Website: www.mirageorganizer.com

330015. Email: fb@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

Until January 30. My Awakening.

Varaporn "Map" Ponrit's latest solo exhibition, titled "My Awakening 'P'", is on show 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 K. Map's trademark.

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

January 20. PC Group Therapy - 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 midday.

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 20, the session will be held 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

February 3. Malaiwana TriBallistic 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 details 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.

February 22-23. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

From 6:30 pm to 12:30 am, at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.

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. We 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 the Saturday night.

Plenty of food and drink as well as games and a prize raffle.

See full details at www.PuketBluesFestival.com and check back for updates. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Email: PhuketMusic@yahoo.com

February 28-March 1. BIS Under-15 Fobissea Games.

The Fobissea Games, which will be held at BIS, offer a wonderful opportunity to take part in a major competition and mix with like-minded students from other international schools in Southeast Asia.

For more information contact Patrick du Preez. Tel: 076-23871120. Email: ppreez@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

March 8-29. Light of Life Art Exhibition.

Light of Life will feature acrylic and oil on canvas by emerging Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina. His previous exhibitions were of oil on aluminum sheets. His landscapes focus on the interplay between shadow and light together with the beauty and simplicity of rural and suburban Thailand.

K. Therdkiat has taken part in several domestic and international exhibitions and was awarded the Jurors' Choice Prize in the Asean Art Awards 2000. He also won second prize at the National Arts Competition in Thailand in 2002.

Opening cocktail reception at 6:30 pm. Open daily 11 am to 7 pm. For details contact Gem. Tel: 076-360867, 087-8875279. Email: gem@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

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Puzzles

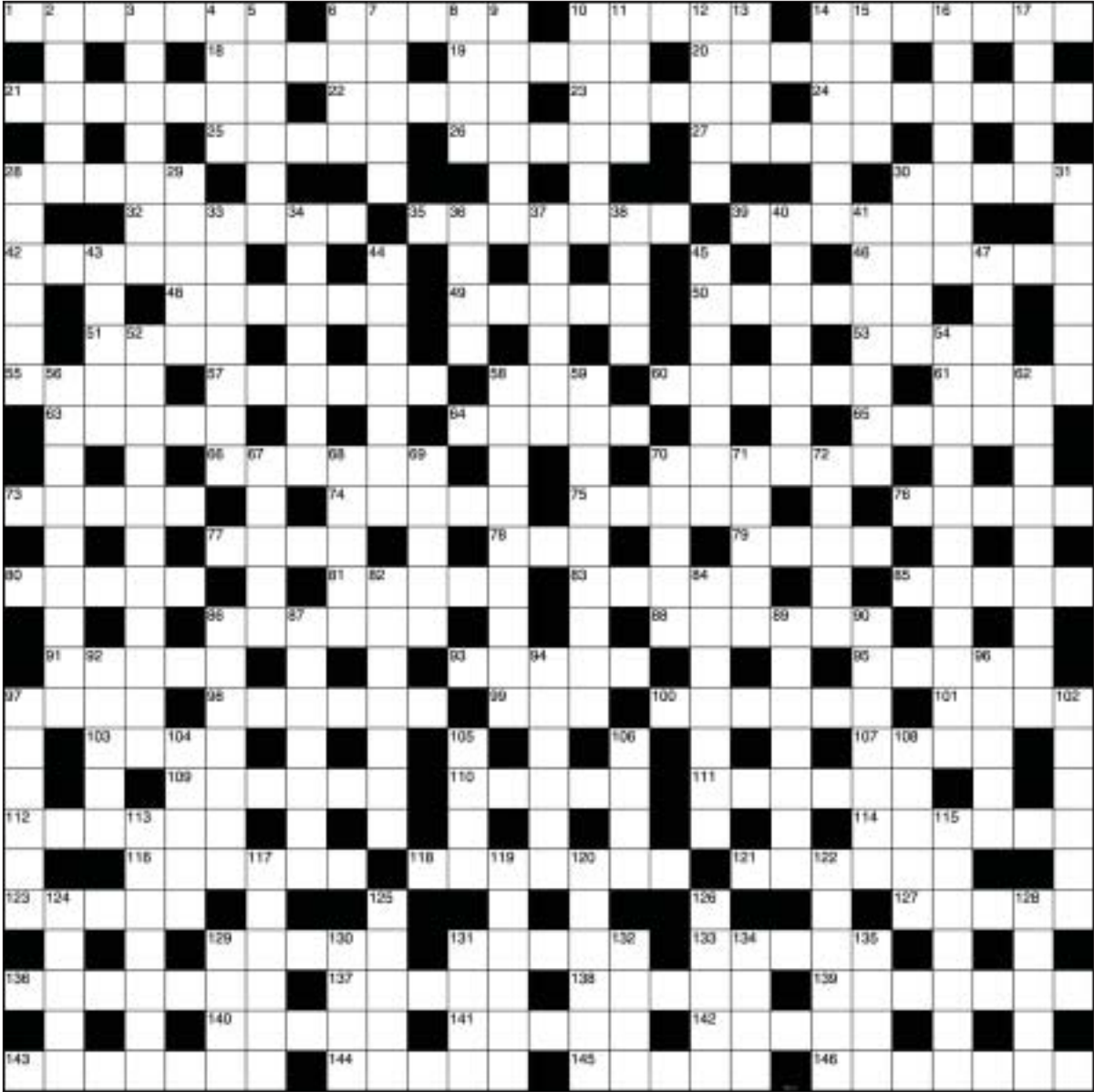
The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?





© 2007 Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

- Across
1. Adolescent

6. Mitten

10. Curved (of roof)

14. Doors

18. In a chilling way

19. Ticked over

20. Actress, ...Hayward

21. Rejuvenate

22. Made slip-up

23. Rental agreement

24. Harbor vessel

25. 1000kg

26. Female spouses

27. Imps

28. Council regulation

30. CV, curriculum...

32. Double bicycle

35. Vulgar

39. Lampoon

42. Hamper

46. Legendary kingdom, El...

48. Painters' tripods

49. Jack & The Beanstalk ogre

50. Recording room

51. Ship's pole

53. Skip

55. Harvest

57. African antelopes

58. Pledge

60. Black ledger entry

61. Catches (thief)

63. Cremation remains

64. ...The Barbarian

65. Elephant poacher's cache

66. Boot reinforcer

70. Decimal system

73. Deign

74. Smell

75. Weepy

76. Raises temperature

77. Fastener, press...

78. Fabrication

79. Series of bell notes

80. Tartan fabric

81. Herbal sachet, bouquet...

83. Astir

85. Tells involved story

86. Mannequins

88. Lucky pet

91. Unworldly

93. Lieu

95. Wine, ...Riesling

97. Taj Mahal city

98. Complained

99. Mention

100. Bee farm

101. Change

103. Wound crust

107. Bat first in innings

109. Pick out

110. Sewage pipe trap (1-4)

111. Asian city, Kuala...

112. French Impressionist, Pierre Auguste...

114. Put in good order (4,2)

116. Most mean-spirited

118. Bridge tactics

121. Pencil rubber

123. Sheets & tablecloths

127. Stupefied

129. Salute

131. Aussie Actor, Paul...

133. Duck beaks

136. Strict moralist

137. Argentina's Eva...

138. Units of weight

139. Beef cut

140. Information services

141. Neck-and-neck

142. Gastric ailment

143. Reel

144. Lumps of soil

145. Firmly cooked (of pasta), al...

146. Toy bears
- Down

2. Lament for the dead

3. Recount

4. Essence of matter

5. Resounded

6. Narrow valley

7. Early harps

8. Scenery

9. Whirlpools

10. Strike out

11. Lyrical verses

12. English county

13. Fight of honour

14. Protect (invention)

15. Obligation

16. Portlier

17. S American animal

28. Steam generator

29. Walks in water

30. Engine's roar

31. Geological time units

33. Most tidy

34. Lift

36. Implores

37. Wax colouring stick

38. Pecans or almonds

40. Ripped apart, torn...

41. Stupid

43. Large US wildcats

44. Second-hand vehicle (4,3)

45. Coup organiser

47. Church table

52. Love potion

54. Not functioning

56. Native of our planet

58. Singers

59. Become weaker (5,4)

62. Spectator

67. Surpass

68. Obtain by begging

69. Decants

70. Brothel manageress

71. Classifies (blood)

72. Potato variety

82. W Canadian province

84. Uganda's capital

86. Club participants

87. Benumbs

89. Beguiling person

90. Athletes' trials (3-4)

92. Criminal fire-setting

94. Lessen in intensity (4,2)

96. Child's nurse

97. Stellar

102. Barked shrilly

104. From Japan or Laos

105. Scald

106. Brainwave

108. Looked inquisitively

113. Complying with

115. Spoke slowly

117. Money-making scheme

119. Hums tunelessly

120. Oozed

122. Prepared (3,3)

124. Nunavut native

125. Thief

126. Regarding

128. Special group

129. Match

130. Lengthy poem

131. Clasp

132. Egyptian river

134. Tiny landmass

135. Horse's father

Solution on next page

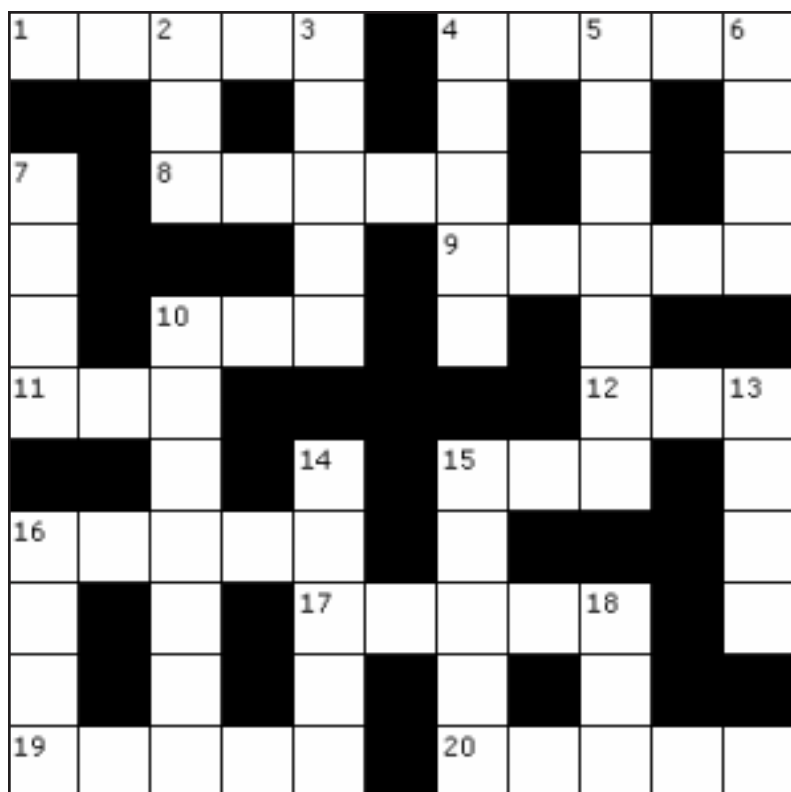
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

The principle of 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. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

Across

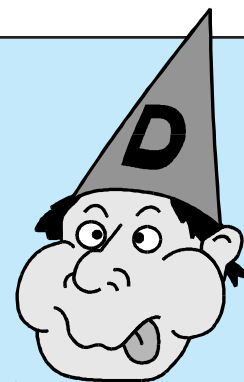
1. Administrative subdivision
4. Kick out
8. Cosmic balance
9. Elephant's tusk
10. Male title
11. Feline
12. Plant
15. ... -tac-toe
16. Man-made fiber
17. Spook
19. Month
20. Diseased individual

Down

2. Used in pens
3. Mistake
4. Electronic letter
5. Stupid
6. Neat
7. Fashionable
10. Actor, Ben...
13. Shout
14. Heavenly creature
15. Small monster
16. US space agency
18. Turn on for water

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. In which year did outspoken comedian Bill Hicks die? | 7. How many children did Bob Marley father? | 14. Who will host this year's Oscars? |
| 2. What did he die of? | 8. Damian Marley recorded which track with Gwen Stefani? | 15. Which show is he best known for? |
| 3. How much did Jerry Seinfeld reportedly earn in 1998 from the show Seinfeld? | 9. Gavin Rossdale, Gwen Stefani's husband, fronted which post-grunge band? | 16. In which year did South Park premier on Comedy Central? |
| 4. Who has been a musical guest on Saturday Night Live (SNL) the most times? | 10. Which rock band has Gwen Stefani fronted since 1986? | 17. Isaac Hayes, the voice of Chef, quit the show in which year? |
| 5. Sinéad O'Connor infamously destroyed a picture of who during an episode of SNL in 1992? | 11. When was their last studio LP released? | 18. Which religion is he an activist for? |
| 6. Which Bob Marley song was she singing at the time? | 12. In which movie did Gwen Stefani make her acting debut? | 19. Who played Shaft in the 1971 movie of the same name? |
| | 13. How many Oscars did that movie win? | 20. What was the name of the first sequel to Shaft? |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. 1994; 2. Pancreatic cancer; 3. US\$267 million; 4. Dave Grohl, nine times; 5. Pope John Paul II; 6. War; 7. 12; 8. Now That You Got It; 9. Bush; 10. No Doubt; 11. 2001; 12. The Aviator; 13. Five; 14. Jon Stewart; 15. The Daily Show; 16. 1997; 17. 2006; 18. Scientology; 19. Richard Roundtree; 20. Shaft's Big Score.

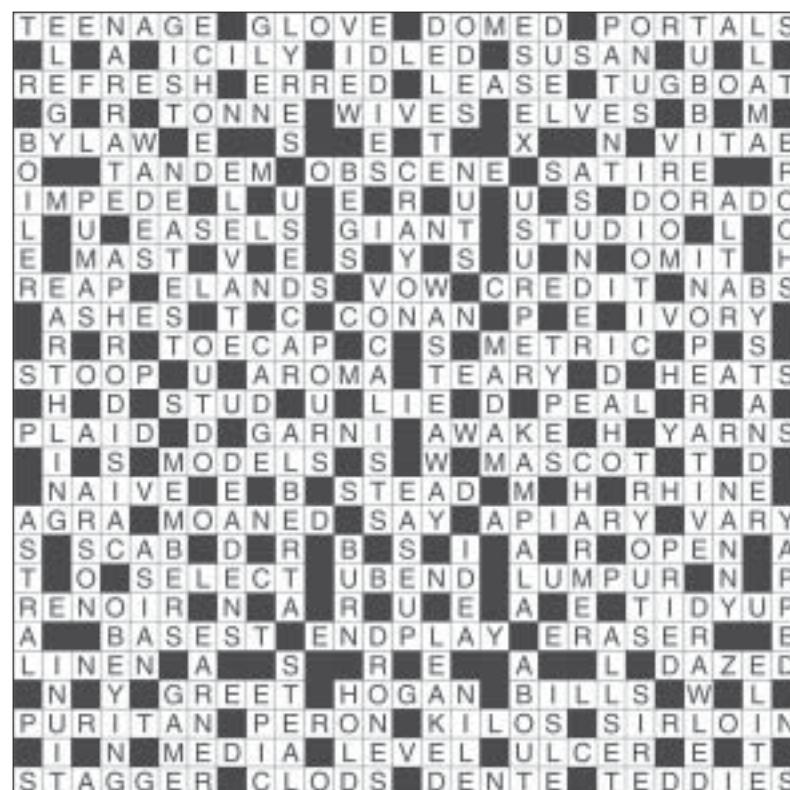
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword





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ANDAMAN By SOAPBOX SID RANT

In his previous column, Soapbox Sid described what the terrifying vehicles people drive on Phuket's chaotic roads tell us about the drivers within.

But this is a broad and complex subject, so in part two, Sid identifies a further set of road warriors to whom a wide berth is the least you can offer.

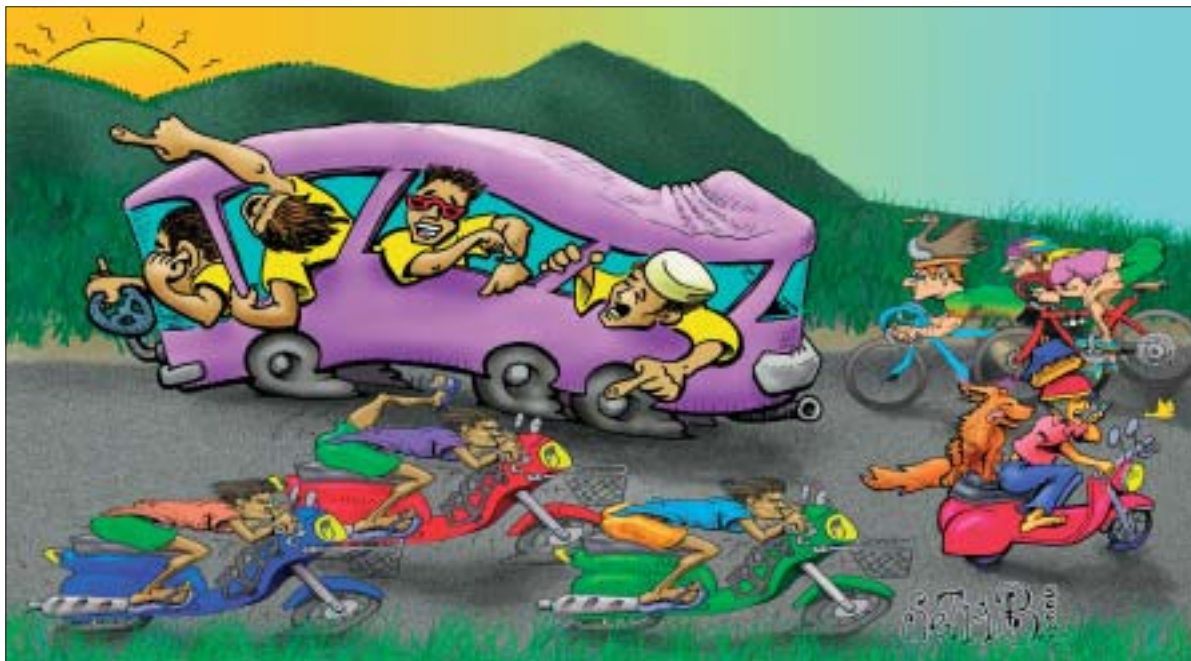
They hunt in packs and they know no fear

The Culprits:

They might ride on machines called "Honda Dreams", but for the rest of Phuket's road users, they're a nightmare. We're talking two-wheeled zombie bike boys from hell.

Like the deadly World War II doodlebugs, you tend to hear them, but never see them, before they strike.

FULL METAL JACKET II: The Warriors Within



Who's in charge?

While they are always piloted by underage speed heads without crash helmets, it would be a great stretch of the truth to accuse these lads of actually being in charge of anything, least of all their hurtling bikes or teeming brains.

Damage Limitation:

Certainly avoid night excursions and visits to Patong and Phuket Town. If you see a pack of these braindead freaks coming in your direction, it's best to lob a few bottles of Red Bull into their path in the hope that they'll become distracted by the freebies and

abort their original mission of parting your hair with their back tires.

The houses on wheels

The Culprits:

A phalanx of 20-ton luxury coaches hurtle their klaxon-pounding way towards Promthep Cape just before sunset.

Looming out of the dusk, like small apartment buildings on scorching wheels, they sit on your rear bumper, just one molecule of chromium away from your ass.

They wait there, daring you to so much as think about slowing down.

Damage Limitation:

Tricky, as to slow down or try to move out of their way will lead to a collision.

It's probably best to hold your nerve and maintain a cool 150kmh all the way to the viewpoint, then plunge over the cliff into the hopeful oblivion of the arms of the sea gods below.

A distinctively high-season hazard

The Culprits:

They wear DayGlo Lycra with strangely-shaped head gear and perspire profusely, appearing largely in the weeks before the Laguna triathlon held in December.

They seem to think that Phuket's roads are a safe place for cyclists to ply their training. Wrong!

They may demonstrate their madness by riding a bicycle in this heat, but the island's road warriors are even madder.

Who's in charge?

God, clearly. Anyone willing to take to Phuket's roads on a bicycle must have an unshakable faith in a supremely-forgiving omniscience.

Sadly, the majority of Phuket's drivers, while clearly convinced of their own omniscience, are far from being forgiving.

Damage limitation:

Apparently, the fine western-European country that gave the world Gauloise, onions, wine and arrogance hosts an excellent cycling event every year. Better try there.

While French drivers may be no less hostile, at least they spend their days enjoying extended, wine-fueled lunches or making love to their neighbors' wives.

This all makes the odds of survival considerably higher for drivers.

Finally, a word of caution about the endless meteoric hurtling of siren-screaming ambulances, police vehicles, fire engines and, yes, those apocryphal body-collecting pickups that all this road mayhem seems to generate.

These boys believe they really are on a mission from God, so it's best to give them a very wide berth, unless you want to end up availing yourself of their dubious medical or funereal services.

In fact, if you hear a siren behind you when on Phuket's roads, immediately head for the hills.

Find any small outdoor bar or restaurant and then watch the flashing-light drama play out far below you as you sip cold beer and tuck into hot curry.

Safe driving!



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Shopping for a feminine perspective

Off the bat, there are two good things to say about *Bangkok Blondes* (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2007, 234pp). One is that the book has a beautiful cover; two is that it is a collection of stories by Western women living in Bangkok. This makes for a refreshing change from the stacks of books penned by expat men who write bargirl novels, detective novels or, occasionally, bargirl-detective novels.

Most of these women represent the upper echelons of expat society. They are ladies who lunch at Central Chidlom, shop at the Emporium and pamper themselves at luxury spas. They live in grand apartments and have maids and drivers who address them as "madame". A few are struggling English teachers married to Thai men. None of them are Bangkok's answer to Alice Munro, the world's greatest short-story writer.

But that is holding them to excessively high standards. The 14 women writers represented in this book are members of the Bangkok Women's Writers Group, founded in 2000. Except for two tales in this book, they are not writing traditional short stories, but rather, first-person anecdotes about life in the Big Mango.

It took me a while to figure this out. Thus, I was vastly annoyed by the first two stories. "Me, Myself and the Thai



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Girl" is a fluffy piece about a Western woman getting a Thai hair extension; "The Last of the Great White Lovers" is a vapid paean to a boyfriend.

By the third and fourth stories, things began to click. "Ghostbusters" is the comical tale of a farang woman having lunch with her Thai girlfriends at the Emporium's Greyhound Cafe. She confesses to having repeated nightmares at her apartment. This is because it is an old apartment and haunted by ghosts, her girlfriends say knowingly before convincing her to perform an exorcism on her balcony.

This is followed by "No Horns, Please, We're Thai", which is a wonderfully-precise and colorful description of driving from an Ekamai soi down Sukhumvit to Rama IX to the expressway, then to

a school in Chang Wattana and back again. The author, Martha Scherzer, tells the tale of her trip in vivid, humorous prose. This is someone who loves Bangkok and revels in its sights, sounds and smells.

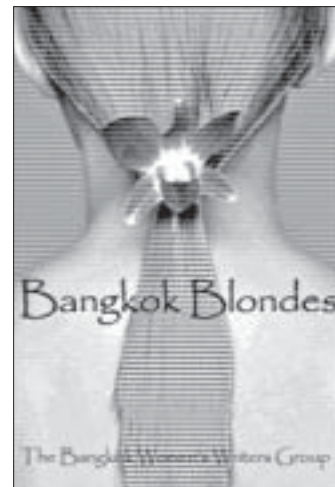
The best of these stories are sharp insights into the everyday life of expatriate women. Three stories by Chloe Trindall on "Love Bangkok Style" tell the story of her romance with a Thai man on Khao San Rd that eventually leads to marriage and emigration to Australia. Two stories by the lone Thai member of the group, Jess Tansutat, address the romantic dilemma faced by her farang women friends in Bangkok.

"The choices for decent men are limited here," she writes. "There are several possible factors. Although Thai and Asian men are generally sweet and gentle, they can also be a bit immature and too feminine. The ones who are good looking, dress well and smart can turn out to be the 'sorry, lady, I'm gay' type. There's also the challenge of finding someone who can cross the linguistic and cultural barriers."

Then of course there's the competition. "For me, the 'city of the angels' seems to have just too many angels. Thai women are getting more and more beautiful, chic and daring – just like the women in other dynamic and trendy cities, such as Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore."

Janet Geddes traverses the cultural divide with a genuine short story about a university student kept by a rich man who cleverly plots her way further up the social ladder, obtaining a new BMW to boot.

Anna Bennetts scores with a funny story about working as a hi-so extra in a Thai cellphone commercial. Ellen Boonstra writes a trio of hilarious stories about language and cultural snafus and the best strategy for riding the



Skytrain.

There are two stories devoted solely to the pleasures of health spas. Of course, there's shopping, especially for shoes – and especially for those that fit. "Gold, green, orange, red, beaded, striped or shiny – they were all there in a one-size-fits-all fashion! Yes!!!!"

Accidental thief ends up in court

Mr A was a first-time visitor to Phuket. He came here with his girlfriend to enjoy the beautiful island and have a relaxing holiday.

A few days before they went back home, the couple went out to party. After returning to their room, they felt hungry. Mr A left the hotel to find food because the hotel he was staying in did not offer 24-hour room service.

The first place he found was a 24-hour convenience store, at which he bought a few snacks to keep him going during his search for a restaurant.

After strolling around and

not finding any restaurants that were open, he decided to buy a few more items from the same

convenience store before going back to his room where his girlfriend was waiting.

The second time at the convenience store, he bought a number of items. He even left a tip for the staff – or so he thought.

Three days later, Mr A

received a visit at the hotel from local police. He was asked to accompany them to the police station because the bill at the local convenience store had not been covered in full and thus charges

of theft were made by the store against Mr A.

Mr A was alleged to have not paid for all of his items. Staff from the convenience store had followed him back to his hotel and explained to the reception staff that the amount he had given them did not cover the total cost of the items he had taken, even though Mr A was not informed of this at the time.

Police filed charges of theft against Mr A under the Thai Penal Code, section 335(1), which states that:

"Whoever commits theft in any of the following situations:

"(1) At night

"That person shall be punished with imprisonment of one to five years and a fine of between 2,000 and 10,000 baht."

Mr A made bail and was free to leave the police station. However, he had to surrender his passport, which meant that he missed his flight and couldn't return home. His girlfriend decided to also delay her return home and wait until the case was resolved.

The case was dealt with relatively quickly thanks to the help of a police officer, along with the embassy and the representative consul on Phuket of Mr A's home country. The case was brought before the court and Mr

A pleaded guilty to the charge, saying that he was drunk and became confused with his Thai banknotes.

He admitted that he may have not paid for his goods in full, but he was not made aware of this in the store and left without knowing he had committed any offense.

As the case was of an unintentional crime, Mr A was originally given a sentence of one-year imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 baht. This was reduced to a 2,500 baht fine and a suspended sentence with two years on probation because Mr A had pleaded guilty.

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma



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Collective effort in conservation deserves credit

Co-ordinated efforts by the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, Rassada Tambon Administration Organization and other government agencies and private-sector groups to save the remaining 500 rai of mangrove forest in that subdistrict are a positive development that should serve as an example to other communities on the island trying to protect coastal resources from encroachment (see Inside Story, pp 4-5).

One of the very few positive results of the December 2004 tsunami disaster was that it put in motion steps to redress the decades of gross injustice perpetrated by corrupt Land Office officials and wealthy investors against poor coastal communities, many of which have occupied land for generations yet still lack even the most basic land use documents, let alone title deeds.

Some communities along the Andaman Coast, especially in Phang Nga, found themselves being evicted from land that should rightfully be theirs even while they faced the overwhelming challenge of recovering from the tsunami disaster.

Fortunately, new legislation finally gives these communities some say in coastal development that will affect their lives – even if it usually falls short of granting them property rights.

The first notable case in the region came last year at Klong Son Beach on Phang Nga's Koh Yao Yai, where a small marina to service a luxury real estate development was being built. Local residents with the help of the Human Rights Commission managed to have the plan scrapped, even after it had been fully approved by all the relevant agencies.

The same commission is now involved in ironing out disputes related the controversial second phase of the Chalong Bay Marina expansion and a private-sector development planned at Cape Yamu.

Of course, the issues involved in such cases are far more complex and far-reaching than the simplistic David and Goliath scenario, which is how many self-styled "environmentalists" like to portray them.

In many cases, corrupt local politicians are quick to take on the mantle of environmentalist when their real goal is nothing more than to line their own pockets by intentionally delaying good projects – or threatening to do so.

In the long run, however, Phuket needs to develop its marine tourism infrastructure. The key is developing these projects with minimal environmental impact and in a way that maximizes benefits to the local communities where they are located.

– The Editor

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

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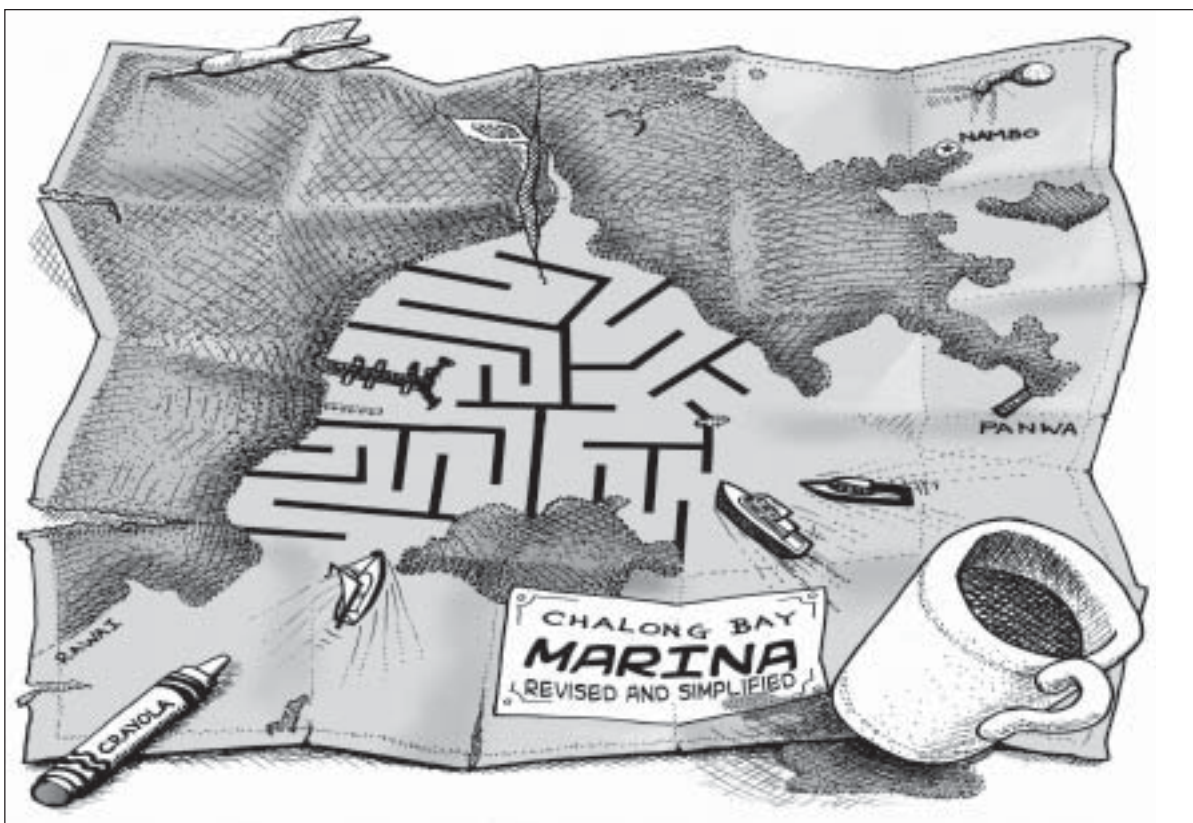
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Letters

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

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

Driving me crazy

I have just read your Editorial (*Gazette*, January 12 issue), and just like anyone else, I feel sorry that you had to witness such a tragic accident. I went on to read your comments with interest, and whilst doing so came up with some thoughts and suggestions of my own.

You and I may like to believe that the populace of this island really do value human life and that they would like to see vast improvements in road safety. Unfortunately, there is currently no effective way of expressing these desires – let alone have them acted upon.

When you state, "The *Gazette* wonders what it would take to stop such needless carnage," I ask myself why you are making such comments, as without them being followed by concerted action they just come across as further meaningless platitudes.

It's a price we all pay for living here, literally taking our life in our hands when we drive on these roads. For some the price is too high and they simply choose not to live here. Frankly, I think that there is no hope in reducing this carnage or stopping it from dramatically increasing.

But, as the English proverb goes, where there's a will there's a way. If you wanted to start some kind of action group or campaign, I would certainly lend you my support and advice. There's a plethora of highly intelligent people on this island who could make all these black spots safe overnight.

As for financing them, I am sure you could find no shortage of commercial sponsors.

I believe the hardest part would be getting the authorities to listen, consider and enact rec-

ommendations. Surely saving face is less important than saving lives.

Finally, do the local authorities have the power to implement local advice themselves? If it all has to be referred back to Bangkok for approval, then perhaps there's your answer in a nutshell.

Safety first
Phuket

The mourning after

Mr Andrew Nice writes in his letter last week (*Gazette* January 12 issue) that tourists "surely don't come all this way only to grill yourselves on a deckchair all day and hunch over a bar all night only to return home with a load of expensive souvenirs, a tan and some sand between your toes?"

He then asks us to consider the period of mourning as a "spiritual investment"!

Well, yes – actually I did come here to lounge on a deckchair all day, and yes I do want to spend my nights having fun. If I wanted "spiritual investment" I would go to church every Sunday. I haven't worked hard all year to be told I can't go out and have some fun in a bright noisy bar if I want. Surely the Thai people don't want us all to go back to Tenerife during the cold European winters.

I appreciate there has been a sad loss for the nation, and a period of mourning is probably a good way to mark the Princess' demise. However, the tourist industry is vital to the economy and this full 15-day period is going to hurt the thousands of Thais who depend on it. I will bet that European visitor numbers are down this time next year.

Wake up Governor, and Mr Nice. Get a dose of reality! Con-

sider your guests' needs. I hear "cannot" far too many times here. I think next year it'll be back to Tenerife for me!

Disgruntled Tourist
By Email

Ain't coming back

My wife and I love Thailand. We have holidayed there three times: our previous visit was in June last year. We had a wonderful holiday in Evason, Phuket.

We are presently deciding on a future holiday and we have decided not to go to Thailand again.

The following are our reasons.

We left left Patong because of the overpowering smell of sewage in the area.

During our holiday we toured the area and visited beaches, but only once, unfortunately. We visited Rawai and Nai Harn, but stayed only minutes because of the dirt there.

Also, the local traders, bars, restaurants and roadside vendors made no attempt to clean the areas right beside where they worked.

On a shopping trip to Patong Beach, we were insulted and harassed on the pavement by shop workers.

As tourists, we felt insulted by the local authorities who are responsible for keeping public areas clean because their attitude must be "these foolish visitors will come anyway so there is no need to keep areas clean".

In tourism, the worst thing to happen is the "silent guest". This person has complaints, tells nobody and never returns. I am not that "silent guest".

David Jones
Bogganstown,
Drumree, Ireland

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

Phuket's traffic woes must end

Six people were killed in accidents during the "Seven Days of Danger" from December 28 to January 3.

Based on the average number of road deaths in previous years and the population of Phuket, the goal of the campaign in Phuket was for no more than three fatalities on the roads, but in the end, there were double that number.

Although these figures may look as if we have failed to reduce the danger on the roads during the holiday season, the reality is that these accidents could have happened at any time.

Some accidents are just impossible to prevent.

Policy handed to me by the central government says that we should not look into these numbers too much, but, rather, we should concentrate on better protection of the people on the roads.

The number of deaths and injuries on the roads has been increasing overall on the island and can be partly attributed to the increasing number of tourists, both Thais and foreigners, coming to Phuket.

The number of flights arriving in Phuket has increased dramatically since 2004.

This high season, we have about 90 flights a day landing in Phuket, excluding charter flights. More than five million tourists visited the island in 2007.

The island is growing quickly because of all the development that is going on.

Phuket International Airport

The Governor's Letter

With six road fatalities recorded in Phuket during the "Seven Days of Danger" over the New Year period, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit is concerned about the growing number of accidents happening around the island.

In the first governor's letter of 2008, Gov Niran addresses traffic issues, the problem of violence at Saphan Hin and new developments underway on the bypass road.



seems too small to cope with this growth, even if more buildings are added.

Many accidents occur after tourists arrive and head to hotels or beaches by car or motorcycle.

Some tourists say that they enjoy the freedom of Phuket, feeling that they can do whatever they want.

They can end up breaking the law when they drive and do things they would not do in their own countries.

We are constantly working to reduce the number of road accidents and we will continue to do so throughout the year.

Part of our on-going campaigning includes educating high-risk groups, such as students.

The Kusoldharm Foundation and other rescue groups also organize regular first-aid training sessions.

Violence at Saphan Hin. I usually receive crime reports directly from the commander of Phuket Provincial Police. The latest incident involving teenagers in a shootout at Saphan Hin left one person dead and four injured in the second week of January.

Saphan Hin is a focal point of the island, where fairs, parades and community events are held. There is, however, a lot of crime by people who have moved from other provinces to work in Phuket. Some of these people are teenagers.

I have asked police to clamp down on teenage crime, arresting the teenagers and punishing the parents according to the Youth Act.

Also, parents should not let their children out on motorcycles late at night.

We have co-ordinated with the courts that such offenders will not be able to post bail.

If cases involve drugs or repeat offenses, the criminals will be blacklisted, which can mean stiffer punishments.

Critical bypass. I have heard about plans for three major developments along the bypass road.

The first is opposite Tesco-Lotus. The Boon Thavorn Group is building a department store and conference facilities.

A mall outlet will supposedly be built next to Hill Hut restaurant, near the motocross racing area, although I haven't seen any details or government documents supporting this yet.

The third project is opposite Central Festival Phuket. This is the construction of a homeWorks

store, which is part of the Central Group.

With three more major outlets, the traffic on the bypass road will be greatly affected. There will also be problems with wastewater and precautions will need to be taken to protect against flooding.

Desalination plant woes. I receive updates about the desalination plant from Phuket Provincial Water Supply. However, I haven't heard anything about the plant for a while.

According to the contract drawn up, the plant is supposed to produce 12,000 cubic meters of water a day, although the plant is currently producing only about 8,000m3 of water.

The reason for this lower than expected production is because strong winds and large waves during the monsoon season caused problems with the underwater piping.

Another persistent problem has been electrical blackouts at the plant.

The contract with REQ Water Services Co Ltd [the company contracted to build and run the plant] will need to be rewritten to address these problems.

It may be that the province will request compensation from REQ Water Services because they have been unable to fulfill the terms of their contract.

About 600 million baht was put into this project. I will lean on Phuket Provincial Water Supply to provide updates of the situation.

Mobile unit breakdown. We are still working on the mobile registration unit. We recently launched the service in community areas.

At the moment, though, there are some problems with the computer connection that needs to be fixed, so the service has been put on hold until further notice.

Niran Kalayanamit
Governor of Phuket

How can I arrange for us to renew our wedding vows?

In February 2008, my wife and I will have the pleasure of visiting Phuket (Patong) to celebrate our wedding anniversary. I would like to surprise her by renewing our vows. Do you know of a reliable agency that can help me organize this event? Thank you.

Hakim
Canada

Cindy Chan, wedding services manager of Laguna Phuket, replies:

Most four- and five-star hotels in Phuket have a resident wedding organizer or provide wedding services for their guests. You may also find a lot of useful information at these websites: www.phuket-weddings.com and www.lagunaphuketweddings.com. This will help you make plans for renewing your marriage vows.

For further information or assistance, you can also email me directly cindyc@lagunaphuket.com or call me at 076-362330 ext 2302.

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done?
Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket?

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Phuket is languishing in the throes of an Internet meltdown on an unprecedented scale. With a few notable exceptions, no matter where you are, which provider you use or how much you pay, by early afternoon every day, the Internet becomes so bogged down you might as well pack it up and head to the beach.

For those who rely on the Internet to eke out a living, the persistent lack of service makes it impossible to get any work done.

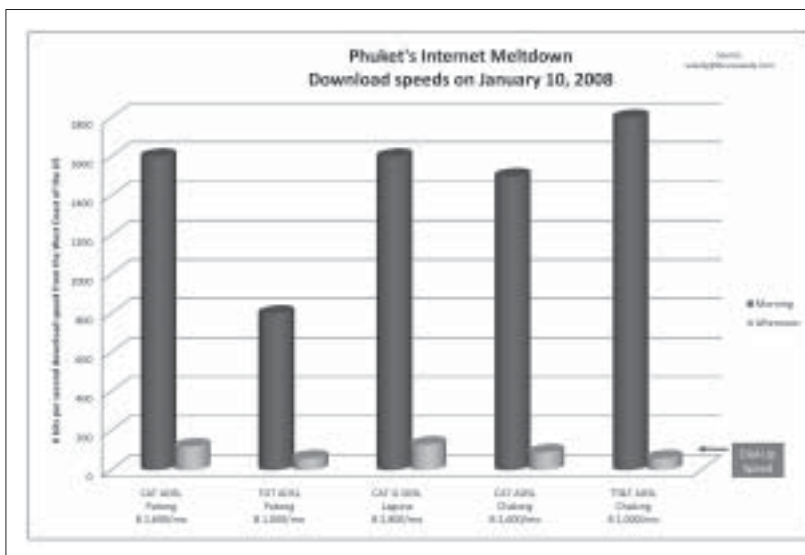
Mid-December, I started hearing grumbles about truly lousy Internet access from people using all sorts of different Internet services all over the island. I attributed the complaints to yet another aberration in specific providers' offerings, much like the "temporary hiccup" described by a senior phone company executive in November.

Then I started monitoring my lines in Patong, Laguna and Chalong. I'm here to tell ya it ain't a hiccup. It's a meltdown – and it's persisted for nearly a month.

People who pay for 2 Mbps lines are getting only 40 to 60 Kbps to international destinations, consistently, every afternoon. They're receiving 2% to 3% of what they're paying for and they're paying through the nose.

Instead of marginal "broadband" speeds of 1,200 to 1,400 Kbps, they're seeing speeds in the dial-up range. I have six different broadband lines, all of which are supposed to deliver 2 Mbps: two CAT ADSL lines in Patong, one TOT and one TT&T line in Patong, a GSDSL line in Laguna and another CAT ADSL line in Chalong. Every one of them suffers the same malaise.

Phuket's massive Internet meltdown



Since the middle of December, Internet speeds all over Phuket – even CAT's vaunted ADSL – have gone to the dogs. If you want to use the Internet, you'd better get up early.

None of them delivers more than 150 Kbps in the afternoons.

A note about the exceptions: a friend of mine in Rawai insists that he's still seeing 600 to 700 Kbps on his TT&T MaxNet line, even in the afternoon – it's possible that he's connecting to a server inside Thailand without realizing it. I checked at the latest PC Group Therapy meeting and couldn't find anyone else who's happy with his or her Internet access.

The part that hurts the most: even my beloved CAT ADSL lines, each of which cost a whopping 2,600 baht per month, are sluggish, slowly deteriorating from around 10 am and not returning to normal until 8 pm or 9 pm.

I've pushed CAT ADSL on these pages for almost a year: that particular service has consistently provided the fastest, most-reliable Internet connection on the island. Not any more. My CAT ADSL line in Chalong goes up and down like a... well, like a Phuket Internet connection.

From a consumer's point of view, the problem's simple: the phone companies have put a lot of effort into selling a service, then it seems they have done very

little to provide the "plumbing" that's necessary to keep the service going. In the industry, that's called "oversubscribing". Some places it's called "fraud".

A few months ago, when TOT and TT&T started offering 2 Mbps ADSL lines at 1,000 baht a month – the same price as the old 1 Mbps lines – consumers believed they were getting a bargain. While TOT and TT&T sold tons of 2 Mbps lines, they obviously didn't bother to put up the infrastructure necessary to support the ensuing traffic – and they didn't stop selling the service when it became apparent that they couldn't keep up. Instead, we were told, "It's a hiccup," accompanied by unfulfilled promises to provide decent service.

CAT, however, has been very careful to avoid oversubscribing their ADSL service. That's why CAT ADSL lines were reliable and fast – and expensive. I presume that CAT is running into problems because of an unexpected surge in demand, apparently associated with the high season. Lots of tourists

checking email can put a big load on the system. But CAT should have anticipated the demand spike and moved quickly to fix the problem.

Some people like to blame "the kids" for Internet slowdowns: all of those school kids playing Ragnarok after school drive up demand and make Internet access slower for everybody else. What malarkey.

Internet speeds start cratering around 10 am, when kids are in school. The Internet cafés are suffering the same slowdowns we're all experiencing.

From a technical point of view, it's hard to tell exactly where the problem lies. My guess is that the phone companies do not have the capacity to handle the increase in demand at all

three choke points: the local switches in Phuket, the lines connecting Phuket and the lines connecting Thailand with the rest of the world.

Consider this: although yet to have a presence in Phuket, True is the largest Internet Service Provider in Bangkok. In February, 2007, True Internet Gateway Co Ltd was granted a license to connect directly from Bangkok to the Internet backbone, bypassing CAT.

True customers in Bangkok who use websites outside of Thailand connect through TIG's lines. Thus, more than half of the consumer international bandwidth in Bangkok goes through TIG.

Last month I read a newspaper report that explains how TIG is expanding its international capacity significantly, from 17.3 Gbps in 2007 to 30Gbps by the end of 2008.

When I read that report, my jaw dropped. More than half the consumer Internet traffic in Bangkok headed to the outside world is getting squeezed through a 17.3Gbps connection.

To put it in perspective, HKBN, the Hong Kong Broadband Network, currently offers a 1Gbps Internet connection for 6,800 baht per month. Hanaro Telecom in South Korea offers a 37Mbps line for 1,000 baht a month (see the website www.telecommagazine.com/article.asp?HH_ID=AR_3506).

One has to wonder if the new Thai government will take computer infrastructure seriously. Demonstrably, the old one did not. As things stand, when it comes to Internet access during the day, Phuket is far behind almost all of the rest of Asia. At the rate we're going, I fear we'll never catch up.

Woody (www.AskWoody.com) writes the "For Dummies" computer books.

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Jaguar roars back in style

The XF, Jaguar's replacement of the S-Type, has been doing the rounds at motor shows before its official launch later this year. Judging by the acclaim it has been receiving, Jaguar is onto a winner with this new car.

Ian Callum, design director of Jaguar, said, "The XF is a stage in a personal journey for me. It has always been my career goal to return Jaguar to its rightful place as leader in automotive design. Cars like the original XJ6 left a lasting legacy and my ambition has been to create something as seminal. The XF is that car."

The XF is a four-door, five-seat sports car with strong coupe overtones. Jaguar's new design language, which debuted with the new XK sports model, is applied to the sedan for the first time in the XF.

Jaguar claims that the XF has a class-leading interior size and is longer and wider than its nearest "dimensional" competitor – the Audi A6 – with even greater advantages over the BMW 5-series, Lexus GS300 and the Mercedes-Benz E-Class.

As well as a magnificent interior, the body styling and design was developed using computational fluid dynamics (CFD) before the car had even been in a wind tunnel.

Every surface area from the outer skin to the lightweight, composite undertray and the cooling airflow was optimized using CFD.

The higher, squarer tail is more aerodynamic than a lower, rounded one. The XF's coupe-like roofline and raised trunk lip

improve airflow over the rear of the car. The drag coefficient is 0.29 and the front-to-rear lift balance is zero.

The XF will be available with a choice of four engines: a 2.7-liter V6 turbo-diesel, 3L V6 gasoline, 4.2L normally-aspirated gas V8 and a supercharged V8 gasoline version, depending on the market.

Mick Mohan, XF chief program engineer, said, "The XF's engines combines effortless performance, unrivaled character and an impeccable pedigree."

The 2.7 diesel is likely to be the most popular model in most markets, offering high efficiency, excellent performance and superb fuel economy. Producing in excess of 200bhp (152kW) and 435Nm of torque, the compact graphite-iron cylinder block and aluminum heads make it the lightest diesel engine of its type and size. This makes a significant contribution to the XF's overall power-to-weight ratio, performance and economy.

Performance is impressive. The 2.7 diesel offers a 0-100kmh time of a little over eight seconds and a top speed of 230kmh. The gasoline models are slightly superior, but not dramatically so. The supercharged model, however, storms to 100kmh from rest in 5.4 seconds. This version is limited electronically to a maximum of 250kmh.

Emissions are controlled in the diesel by twin variable-geometry turbochargers with electronic



SLEEK CAT: The XF combines a coupe design with Jaguar's legendary performance.

A six-speed automatic transmission is standard on all versions of the XF. There is no manual gearbox option, which may upset some purists. However, the transmission is a key element to the XF's sporting character, with adaptive gear-shift strategies that respond to road conditions and the way the car is being driven.

At the time of writing, Jaguar remains on the block, with

India's Tata conglomerate expected to capture the joint Jaguar-Land Rover acquisition.

It is clear that although there is a long way to go toward profitability, the XF will contribute to a rosy future for the company. Founder Sir William Lyons can rest easy in his grave – the company is in good hands.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigat.com

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ON THE MOVE

Andre Brulhart has been promoted to General Manager of Centara Karon Resort Phuket.

A hotel management graduate from Laurence College in Switzerland, Mr Brulhart has more than 21 years' hotel experience.

Before joining Centara Karon Resort, Mr Brulhart was Resident Manager at the Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok.



Veeranat Limprasutr, from Bangkok, has been appointed General Manager of Mercure Patong Phuket.

K. Veeranat is a travel industry management graduate from Chaminade University of Honolulu in Hawaii.

He has a history of working as General Manager, including at Amata Spring Country Club in Chonburi.



British solicitor **Ian Evans**, 31, has been appointed a Legal Consultant, specializing in property transactions, at the Phuket office of Tilleke and Gibbins International.

Mr Evans holds degrees from both the University of Birmingham and the College of Law and worked as a solicitor in England before arriving to Phuket two years ago.



Nok Air quietly grounds Phuket-Haad Yai route

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: Nok Air has quietly suspended its loss-ridden Phuket-Haad Yai service, once again making it impossible to fly between Southern Thailand's two busiest airports, the *Gazette* has learned.

Nok Air Executive Vice-President for Marketing Sehan Chumsai on January 3 told the *Gazette* there were not enough passengers to continue the service, which began June 6 last year using 150-seat Boeing 737-400 aircraft.

The service was terminated on November 15 after it became apparent that the service was no longer profitable even after the start of the tourism high season, he said.

Flights were typically only half full and the service showed no increase in passenger traffic

during its initial six months, convincing the airline to discontinue it, K. Sehan added.

"About 80% of passengers were local Thais.

"Even after the start of high season there was no increase in the number of foreign tourists [using the service]," he said.

Rival carrier One-Two-Go did not book any passengers on the flight despite a code-sharing agreement between the two airlines after they were both granted approval to launch the service about the same time last year, K. Sehan said.

An aircraft of about 70 seats was suitable for the route, but Nok Air has no plans to buy smaller aircraft in order to service the route, he said.

Before Nok Air, Phuket Air serviced the route with a 64-seat Japanese-built NAMC YS-11 turboprop aircraft.

Landmark resort officially under new management

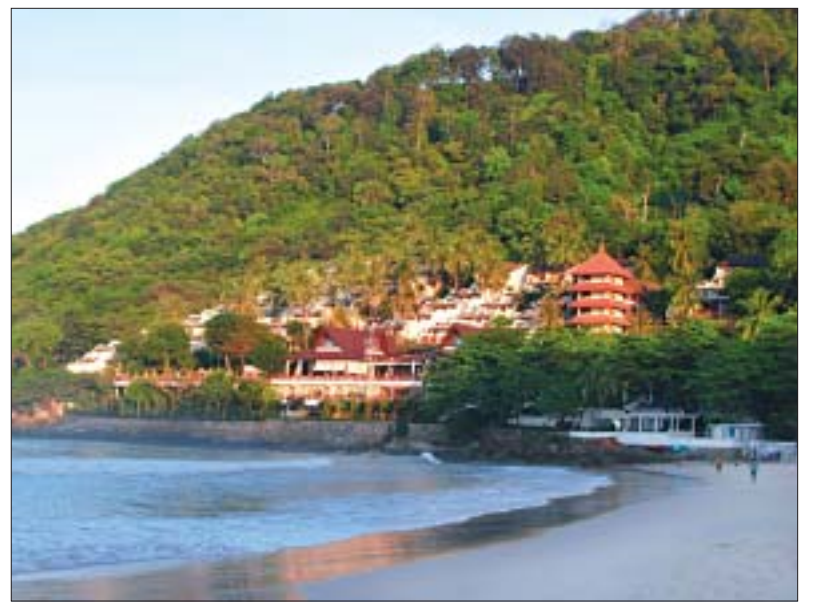
NAI HARN: Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, the best-known resort in Nai Harn dominating the north end of the beach, has officially been rebranded as The Royal Phuket Yacht Club, now owned and operated by Puravarna Hotels & Resorts.

Although news of the takeover has circulated around the island for more than a year, the quiet, official launch was on December 1, with the official release still to come. "We're still setting up our own branch offices and the formal release [of the official rebranding] will be within the next month," a spokesperson at the resort told the *Gazette* on January 15.

For more than a decade the landmark resort was operated under Starwood's Le Meridien brand, which has maintained its Le Meridien Phuket Resort between Patong and Karon.

"There will be no major or dramatic changes to the estate or design, just the regular improvements and enhancements that any good operator would do to any property it takes over," the spokesperson said.

"We will be maintaining the same high standards and marketing to the same high-end clientele, and we hope to continue the fine performance of the resort," the spokesperson added.



Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club in Nai Harn has officially been rebranded as The Royal Phuket Yacht Club.

The resort is known to be the first on the island to be bestowed "five-star" status.


Although declining to provide financial details of the takeover of the resort, the spokesperson was clear that Puravarna Hotels & Resorts owns and manages the resort independent of the umbrella company, Puravarna Holdings plc.

Puravarna Holdings reportedly bought the hotel from US investment bank Lehman Bros for 1.3 billion baht and is developing a "six-star" project adjacent to the resort, currently referred to

simply as Puravarna.

According to the Puravarna website, the project comprises "a total of approximately 100 luxury villas sold with 90-year fully transferable leasehold rights" as well as a "total of 60 Suites sold with leasehold and freehold" and "110 Hotel Ocean Suites".

The suites and villas of the first phase have sold out, with next phase of 25 two-bedroom pool villas to be launched in May. Registrations of interest will open March 15. The two-bedroom pool villas will be priced at US\$1.5 million.



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The latest reports issued on the state of the British residential housing market have all been negative, but national prices have fallen by only small percentages.

When any market starts to move in a negative direction, it is important to recognize the underlying factors. An important point was made in a recent report issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). There is still a housing shortage and the picture is being distorted by the "credit crunch". Banks, building societies, credit card issuers and others involved in financing the consumer have raised their credit standards sharply.

Northern Rock, a UK building society with a small capital base, used the wholesale money markets as a funding vehicle to turn itself into the fifth largest mortgage lender. It was a quick way to become a major player without having to increase the retail side of the business.

Northern Rock borrowed large sums of money in the wholesale money markets, usually for short periods of time such as 90 days, and lent this onwards to finance mortgages. It broke all the fundamental rules of banking, including, "You never borrow

Financial tide turn exposes Northern Rock's nasty bits

short to lend long." In normal times, Northern Rock would have probably "gotten away" with this shaky business model – but times are not normal.

Late July-early August 2007 saw the realization that there was a credit crunch based on dubious lending and a host of other factors.

Northern Rock's business model was exposed to the risk. To quote the legendary Warren Buffet, "It is only when the tide goes out that you learn who's been swimming naked."

Northern Rock's depositors made a "run on the bank", apparently the first time this has happened since the late 19th century.

No well-managed economy allows its banks to collapse. The British Central Bank (Bank of England) had to intervene. It announced that all depositors' funds were covered by a 100% unconditional government guarantee.

Several players in financial markets looked at Northern Rock with interest, but to date have backed off. This situation is subject to European Union (EU) regulations. EU governments are allowed to lend to companies if absolutely necessary, but there are strict time limits. These regulations are in place to stop situations in which member states, to curry favor, may end up subsidizing "national champions".

Unless a suitor can be found for Northern Rock, the British government's only option is nationalization. The UK government does not want to be involved in a building society. It may well be that Northern Rock will soon be sold to some acceptable party. The taxpayer may bear the brunt of the loss.

Banks and other lenders have simply lost that long-held trust that they held in each other. It will return, but it will take some time and substantial central bank involvement.

A prime example is the Euro zone Central Bank (ECB) involvement in a multi-central-bank strategy to weaken the impact of the credit crunch. In De-

cember, the ECB effectively injected the Euro equivalent of US\$501 billion into money markets. This amount shows how seriously central banks view this problem.

This year is going to be a difficult year to assess. There are many counter-currents moving simultaneously. For example, in the US, there is evidence of a slowdown in the employment market. Unemployment rose from 4.7% in November to 5% in December.

Most economists agree that if the US can keep its unemployment rate at reasonably low levels a recession can be avoided. The logic behind this is basic: lower unemployment means a larger number of people earning an income, which they will spend, keeping the economy afloat.

It appears as if the US Federal Reserve (central bank) will have to continue reducing interest rates to stimulate the economy. However, inflationary pressures are rising – oil at record prices is only one example, while food prices and many commodities are contributing to this increased pressure.

The increase in gold prices to record levels is indicative of fears of inflation and US dollar weakness.

The US, EU members and other countries have been highly vocal about the level at which the Chinese government is keeping the yuan. The Chinese are gradually allowing their currency to appreciate in value. The weak yuan had one redeeming factor: it caused deflationary pressures to its trading partners.

Markets are having difficulty in assessing prices. This covers a wide range of investment vehicles including currencies, long-term interest rates, stock markets and commodities, in almost every market. This, in turn, is leading to wide-ranging volatility, as the true picture unfolds. And there is one certainty: markets hate uncertainty.

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



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

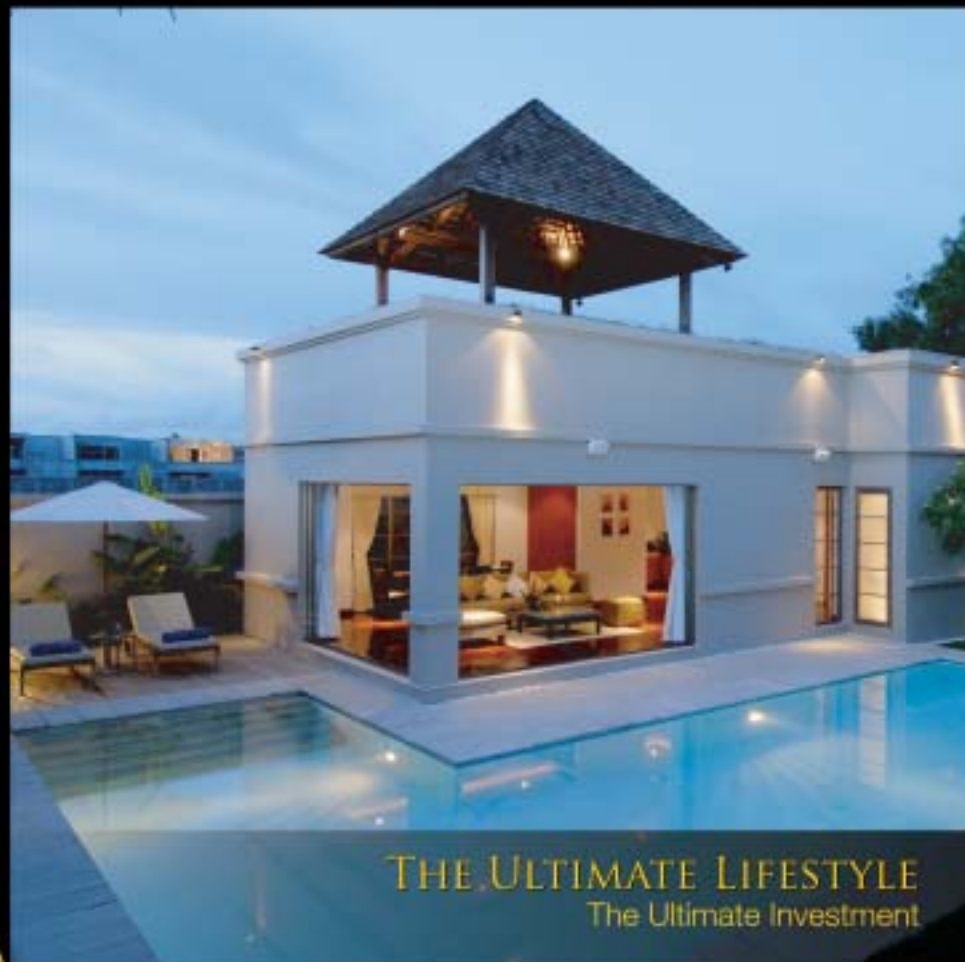
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Foreign fighter takes on the Thais

By James Goyder

Many Westerners come to Thailand for an easy life. For one American, though, life here is anything but easy. For 28-year-old Phuket resident Aaron Fisher (pictured), getting kneed and elbowed is part of his everyday life as a professional Muay Thai fighter.

Aaron has been living and fighting on the island for almost two years. For those who are new to the martial art, Muay Thai is the national sport of Thailand. Sometimes referred to as "the art of the eight limbs", as competitors are allowed to use their hands, elbows, shins and knees to inflict pain during the course of five three-minute rounds.

Spending his days as a Muay Thai fighter is a far cry from Aaron's previous life as a machinist in Toledo, Ohio. Aaron said, "I was training with Sean Douglas in America and he was already living and fighting in Thailand. I came here because I wanted to train with him and to better myself in Muay Thai. It's hard because you have to train for eight hours a day, but it's



ing so young. I think they look at me and they underestimate me because I'm a farang, but once the fight starts, it doesn't matter who you are."

In Thailand, children start training for Muay Thai at a young age. It is common to see seven-year-old children engaging in full-contact bouts. This puts Westerners at an immediate disadvantage. At seven years old, the closest most Western boys get to real combat is pulling girls' hair in a school playground. Aaron said, "For Thai people it's normal, but a lot of tourists are surprised by how young children start fighting here."

worth it."

Being a pro Muay Thai fighter is an unconventional way for a Westerner to make a living. There are numerous foreign Muay Thai fighters in Phuket, but only a handful actually live here permanently. According to Aaron, "The Thais have an advantage because they start fight-

Aaron's first fight in Thailand was against an opponent with over 100 fights' experience. He survived five grueling rounds only to lose by decision – and he has not looked back since. Visitors to the island are understandably shocked when Aaron reveals that he is a professional Muay Thai fighter. "They are amazed. They

don't believe that anyone from America would actually come here and do that."

The Chalong Chi camp, sometimes referred to as the TigerPitt, where Aaron is based, is co-owned by Sean Douglas, Sean's wife Paweena Sripan and Cameron Mackenzie. The Sripan family has been involved in Muay Thai for over 200 years and Paweena's father and uncles have fought at the legendary Lumpini Stadium in Bangkok, as has her husband Sean. Paweena knows a thing or two about Muay Thai.

Paweena said, "When [Aaron] first came here, I could see that he was a good fighter, but what really impresses me about him is that whenever I offer him a fight, he takes it. He fights all the time and has never turned down a fight."

Dee Suk Da, a veteran of more than 200 Muay Thai bouts, shed some light on how seasoned Thai fighters have taken to Aaron. "Opinion is divided. Personally, I have nothing against them," he said.

Confirming Aaron's earlier suspicion, Dee Suk Da added, "I like to fight [farang] because I regard it as an easier fight. However, farangs like to punch, whereas traditional Muay Thai is all about kicks and knees."

As if living and fighting in Thailand were not enough, Aaron has an even greater challenge ahead of him. He is planning to fight on the Burmese border during the Songkran festival in April this year.

Every year in Mae Sot, an event is held to commemorate the history of conflict between Thai-

land and Myanmar. Fighters from both nations compete against each other using a style known as *muay kad cheuk* – a combination of Muay Thai and its Burmese equivalent, *lethwei*.

Bouts have less rules than conventional Muay Thai and fighters wrap their hands with a mix of gauze and hemp rope instead of using boxing gloves. Unlike traditional boxing gloves, which are designed to soften the impact of blows and protect the knuckle, this wrapping serves to increase the severity of a fighter's punches. Head butts and groin strikes are also encouraged and the only way to win is by knockout.

Aaron is planning to fight on the Burmese border during the Songkran festival in April this year.

"I'm really looking forward to it. It's something I've always wanted to do and something most people just wouldn't dream

of doing," said Aaron.

About his daily routine, Aaron said, "I live and train at the Chalong Chi camp in Chalong. On weekdays, I wake up at 6:30 am, then at 7 am I go on a 10.5-kilometer road run. After that, I will skip for 20 minutes and then jump tire [jumping up and down on a large tire] for 20 minutes. Then it's bag and pad work, sparring, sit-ups and push-ups, normally finishing at 10 am.

"I try and get a few hours sleep in the afternoon and then at 4 pm I start all over again with another road run," he added.

Aaron's next fight will be at Bangla Stadium in Patong on January 25. For details about the fight or for more information about training at Chalong Chi call Paweena Sripan at 089-8273479.



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Football comes home to Phuket



Stars of the Youth Football Home's three teams pose with Sport Manager Hannu Tuukkanen on the first day of the Phuket Fair Play Junior League

THALANG: January 13 marked the first day of football play in the Phuket Fair Play Junior League, which is being organized by Youth Football Home (YFH), a registered children's charity in tambon Thepkasattri, Thalang.

Eight teams are taking part in the two-month league, with the final matches to be held some time around the Songkran Festival in April. The first matches were held at the YFH pitch in Thalang.

YFH A beat Wat Thepkasattri School 4-0, while YFH B lost to Baan Prujumpa School 1-0 and YFH C were comfortably beaten by Thalang Pranangsang School 3-0. Chong Talay Wittayakom School lost to British International School, Phuket, (BIS) 3-1.

YFH is a charity that provides a home for orphans and destitute boys. Children at YFH receive an education from local schools, as well as training from qualified football coaches.

Built on eight rai of land in Thalang, the home comprises a dormitory for 32 boys, a staff building, a full-size football pitch and training areas.

The first group of boys to arrive at the home came from Bangkok on May 11, 2006.

YFH has a full roster of staff, including a matron, nannies, a cook and security staff. Funded by a kind contribution by the late Henrik Lorenz, YFH was officially opened on May 23, 2007, in a ceremony presided over by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

Each of the eight teams, which include squads from BIS and Wat Thepkasattri School, will play one home match and one away match against every other team. YFH is represented by three teams (YFH A, B and C).

All students are 12 years old or under and future matches will be held on Fridays and Sundays, starting at 4 pm.

For more information about Youth Football Home visit www.youthfootballhome.com or call 089-0451979.

Du Preez smashes ICC in league opener

By Mark Whetton

The 2008 Island Furniture Cricket League got underway January 13, with the first match pitting the Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) against the Island Cricket Club (ICC).

Both teams featured in last season's final, which saw the LLL take the top honors.

After winning the toss, LLL skipper Roddy Meyer choose to bat. Roddy and newcomer Camdyn Du Preez put on an impressive opening partnership of 142 runs, despite some tight bowling from ICC.

Meyer finally succumbed to the heat on 55 when he was judged LBW, bowled by Sonu. Du Preez soon followed after reaching 82, including eight fours and two sixes.

The LLL batted out their 35 overs to record a total of 208 runs for seven wickets.

Stuart Reading made a quick 29 runs from 22 deliveries.

For the bowling side, the day was not so rosy.

Wickets were shared between two bowlers: Sonu, with two, and Kamblish, with four for 38 runs off nine overs.

After lunch, the ICC padded up and went out to chase down 209 runs.

They reached 40 runs by the fifth over. Manoj was then run out from a direct hit by Du Preez after a superb throw from long on.

Wickets continued to fall until Sameer teamed up with Anand to put on 64 runs in a fine display of batting before Sameer was caught for 29.

After more quick wickets,



Newcomer Camdyn Du Preez put on an impressive opening partnership of 142 runs with Roddy Meyer for the Liquid Lounge Lizards in the first game of the season.

the writing was on the wall for ICC. Anand eventually fell for 39 runs.

A small partnership of 30 runs between Raju and Kamblish gave ICC some hope, but it wasn't enough, and ICC were bowled out in the 26th over for 159 runs. LLL won by 49 runs.

Ravi Narula walked away with four wickets for LLL. Daniels and Russell Loughland picked up two apiece, while Du Preez took one wicket.

LLL took home 19 points, while the ICC lads went away with just six.

The next match will be on January 20 between the Island Cricket Club and the Patong Cricket Club. The first ball will be bowled at 10am at Chong Talay Wittayakom School.

For more information about cricket in Phuket contact Mark Whetton. Tel: 086-1208346. Email: scarfy@loxinfo.co.th

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Now that 2008 has arrived and a blank page sits on my desk, it's a good time to reflect on what's needed for the property industry to prosper in the coming year. Phuket is experiencing population and economic booms. Such growth has positive and negative impacts.

While it's important to view the cup half full, there will not be improvements in Phuket without serious discussion about what isn't working on our island.

The island's infrastructure lags behind the times in key areas such as public transport, roadways, and electricity and water supply. Take a drive along the coast and the multiplying mazes of cables have taken on a life of their own.

The precious commodity of seaside views now looks like an electrician's nightmare. Regionally and internationally, resort destinations look to develop underground cabling and present a pristine natural environment. In Phuket, there is no evidence of such an initiative.

Parking is a growing concern. Trying to park at the airport or finding a space in Patong or Surin is troublesome. There is a lack of public parking or expansion of existing facilities.

While tourist numbers rise, street vendors and taxi drivers stake themselves permanently in areas that were once used for parking. Economic prosperity has seen an increase in the number of vehicles in Phuket. Ample street parking, larger-scale public parking in high-traffic areas and multi-level parking structures are urgently needed.

Coming into this high season, congestion on the island is reaching new levels. Whereas

Cables gone wild

And other challenges in the year ahead



Welcome to 'wired Phuket'. Given that tourism is the key industry on the island, underground cabling would certainly address the aesthetic pollution problem.

before, only Patong suffered because of excess traffic, the whole island now has one big traffic jam.

There have been some steps taken to expand road size on key routes, but there are no long-term plans. Using flyovers to create unabated travel on main thoroughfares looks to be the only solution to improve the backlog.

agenda item, but the stranglehold of local transport operators has meant that a fundamental service such as basic transport has remained elusive.

It was hoped that after the tsunami in 2004, the rebuilding of

the beach areas would bring about many key improvements. This has not happened and the commercial sprawl onto public land is becoming ridiculous.

Out on the water, the drone of jet skis has not only resulted in

fatalities, but noise pollution and environmental damage continue to mount. In Krabi, jet skis have been banned. Swimming off the west coast of Phuket, however, is comparable with a jaunt across a busy motorway.

These items represent a fraction of the issues that must be dealt with to improve the quality of life and business in Phuket. There are problems with water supplies, law and order, deforestation, garbage collection, drainage and the ability of the local educational system to provide skilled graduates to work in Phuket's rocketing economy.

This island is reliant on tourism; offshoots, such as property, transport and the service industries, remain dependent on stability and growth.

It is important to provoke dialog and advocate change. Phuket is a great place to live – it's my home and my future – but it's not perfect. Here's to the new year and working towards a better island, tackling each issue, one day at a time.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

One of the most contentious problems in Phuket is the lack of metered taxis. There are metered taxis in abundance throughout most major tourist areas in Thailand – but not so in Phuket. The past two governors made this a high-

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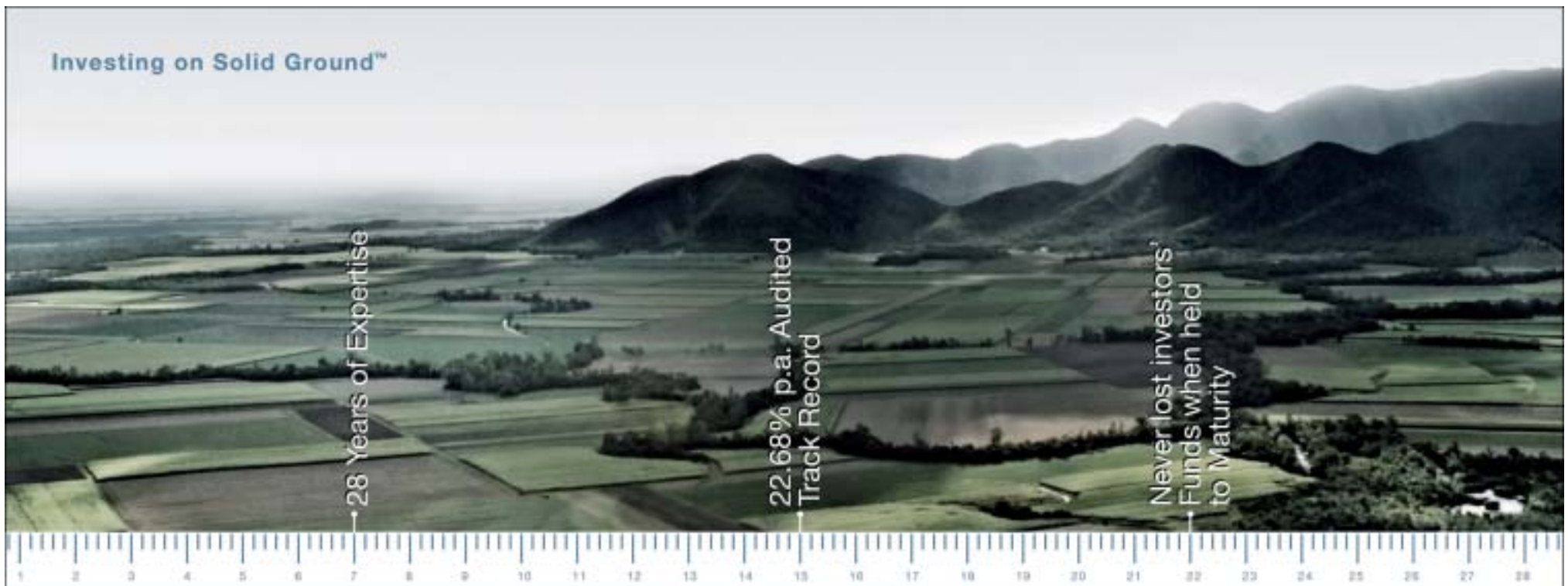
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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Kho En roadwork complete by March



MAI KHAO: Roadwork to make the notorious Kho En "death bend" on Thepkasattri Rd safer is about 40% complete; the section of road should be ready by the end of February, Saroj Suwinchai, director of the provincial office of the Highways Department, has told the *Gazette*.

The Kho En curve is a notorious stretch of Thepkasattri Rd that in July 2006 was blocked by angry protestors, despite being part of the only thoroughfare on and off the island.

"The new curve will be about 440 meters long. We are reducing the sharpness of the curve to make it easier for driv-

ers to navigate," said K. Saroj.

"In the contract between our office and private company Chaiyakorn Co Ltd, it was agreed that construction would start June 28 and be completed by December 24, 2007 - 180 days.

"However, a new contract had to be drawn up, extending the date of completion by 60 days, because there was a delay in acquiring the land," he added.

The roadwork will cost a total of 15.1 million baht, he said.

While the work is underway, northbound motorists will be detoured to the southbound lanes.

The detour will ensure worker safety, he said.

The Haven Lagoon units 70% sold out

PATONG: Construction of The Haven Lagoon condominium project on Sirirat Rd, at the southern end of Patong, is 20% complete.

Work began in October and is expected to be completed by November this year, said developer Surachart Khorana, director of Thakarana Development Group.

The Haven Lagoon will consist of three five-story apartment blocks, built side by side on 1.5 rai of land near the Patong Ice Factory.

There will be 54 apartments comprising 36 one-bedroom, 54-square-meter apartments; 12 two-bedroom, 81sqm apartments; and six 160sqm, three-bedroom penthouses - one on each of the top two floors of the buildings.

About 70% of the units have been sold since being put on the market in August.

There are five two-bedroom units and four penthouses still available, said K. Surachart.

The ground floors of the two outer buildings will be dedicated

to parking for 27 cars per building. The ground floor of the central building will feature a fitness center, restaurant and lobby area.

Two shared swimming pools will be located behind the three buildings.

Security will be provided 24 hours a day and each building will have an elevator.

"We will set up a management company to help homeowners in case they want to rent out their apartments while they are away.

"From our research, we can see that during high season in Patong there is strong demand for apartments such as ours," added K. Surachart.

Units are available freehold or leasehold. Most of the leasehold units have been sold, said K. Surachart.

Prices range from 3.7 million baht for small units, up to 13 million baht for penthouses.

Since the beginning of 2007, the value of the apartments has already increased 20% due to the market value of the land, he said.

"The smaller units have sold so fast because of our competitive prices. We can supply units to meet the demands of people who are looking for holiday homes.

"Most of our customers are foreigners, but there are also some Thais interested in buying units for investment," he added.

"The development is in a good location away from busy entertainment zones, which gives residents privacy while still being near Patong Beach and within easy reach of Kata-Karon," he said.

The architect for The Haven Lagoon is Idealist Limited Co Ltd from Bangkok and the construction contractor is Golden Mind Co Ltd.

For more information contact Thakarana Development Group Co Ltd, Sirirat Road, Patong, Phuket 83150. Tel: 087-8950555, 087-8950999. Fax: 076-294358. Email: info@mermaidboutiqueinn.com Website: www.thehavenlagoon.com

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Design

By Semacote Suganya

Sexing up a small space

Homeowner Arun Arunpark had a problem. He wanted a house that was spacious, but he didn't have much space to work with on his plot of land near Laem Hin. He also wanted a home that was both a private retreat and a place for friends to gather. Together with his architect, Santi Tantangtrong, they came up with a new design that solved these problems: the "sexy home".

K. Santi said, "Arun gave me the idea that he wanted an airy Thai house and that the house should be in modern Thai style. So the design has a large, open terrace on the second floor, and a lot of space in the middle." The home, an L-shape with an area of 350 square meters, has three bedrooms, a dining room, living room and two spare rooms.

Modern Thai style, to K. Santi, is airy, clear and clean. "Modern in my idea is something that looks easy," he said. Locally-made, modern materials including cement and steel were substituted for the wood used in traditional Thai homes to save costs and maintenance headaches. The floor is polished concrete in a natural earth tone.

The "sexy" elements, K. Santi says, are in the small details such as the windows and lighting, as well as the blend of open and private spaces. There are places that are seen clearly, but other parts remain a mystery – just like a new lover, it might be said. "It's not a showy home, yet

it's not secretive either," said K. Santi.

The second-floor master bedroom and en suite bathroom are the homeowner's refuge. A large window spanning the length of the bathtub provides views to the greenery outside, while the high ceilings, white tile and glass shower doors create a more spacious, light ambiance to the room.

"I spend most of the time in bathroom," said K. Arun, "as I feel like I'm living among nature when I look outside – the green field view makes me feel very relaxed."

The upstairs roof terrace, accessible by an outdoor spiral staircase, is the main social area, offering sea views and lots of space to mix and mingle. It was left uncovered to give a more open feel, said K. Santi.

For the living and dining areas on the main floor, K. Santi says that the design is a contrast of modern and "back to nature". He says it's a "normal Thai house" that is easy, not luxurious, designed to suit the owner's lifestyle.

Reflecting the home's dual purpose – private and social – the walls are painted in a bold blend



The sexy house: the right mix of private and open spaces.



of pastels, earth tones and strong colors. K. Santi explains that he selected his favorite simple and natural colors, such as soft purple and pink. K. Arun adds that the earthy orange used in the bath-

room is selectively applied to look "hot" and to give contrast to the room.

Overall, the home looks smart, soft and smooth, K. Arun explained. And just as a mysteri-

ous new woman in the picture might cause some chatter among friends, the home's design has created a buzz.

"They all say my house looks very sexy," he said.



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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Neglected plant puts moaners to shame

Why do people whinge? I always thought the Brits were the worst culprits. Going back there is depressing, with the inevitability of going into the same pub as years ago and having to listen to the same individuals complaining about the same things as always.

Nothing is immune from their ire: politicians, the weather, the cost of living, traffic, beer, the pub landlord, football, TV, work and virtually anything else they can come up with.

The problem is that none of these people are willing to climb down from their bar stools and do something about it. You think you can serve a better pint? Give it a go. You don't like the traffic? Move to the countryside.

In fact, do anything other than whinge. I don't quote very

often, but Charles Dickens once said, "This is a world of action, and not for moping and groaning in."

The British aren't the worst whingers. The workers of Britain and Sweden came joint second in a league table of worldwide workplace whingers.

These findings were the result of a research project involving nearly 14,000 employees in 23 countries, asking about gripes regarding various aspects of employment.

The study found that French workers moan about their work more than anybody else. That's probably why their truck drivers block the roads and French fisherman seal off ports with their boats so often.

Now that the high season is almost behind us, it's getting warmer, which almost always



The bougainvillea, or *fueng faa* in Thai, shamelessly sneers at its less-hardy garden neighbors and is proud of its ability to withstand virtual drought conditions.

worshiper that isn't fussy about soil; even poor, sandy soil will do the job.

I've got one at home that, despite constant pruning, is growing so fast that I'm going to have to put in a cage – literally.

I've seen these cages – the plants are trained to grow straight up. At a certain height, they are allowed to spread out like an umbrella.

They look a little strange in the early stages, but later on, when they start cascading down over the umbrella-frames edges, the results are awesome.

These plants can grow into handsome trees. Bougainvilleas can be truly spectacular – and all this from virtually zero human help. What could be better – a plant that thrives on neglect.

As well as accepting being generally uncared for, they can handle being attacked mercilessly with pruning shears and will come back with even more color. Larger bits that have been pruned off can then be stuck in the ground. With a little patience, they will start the cycle all over again.

The bougainvillea would be the last plant on the planet to moan – French, British and Swedish complainers could learn a lot from it. In fact, Charles Dickens' line should be posted above every bar stool in Britain, but then people would start whinging about Charles Dickens. Come to think of it – stay where you are. I'm going out for a beer I can enjoy.

gives people something to aimlessly whinge about every day.

It normally doesn't rain for a few months after new year, with the result that everything that was once green will look parched.

Most examples of plant life here accept the fact that it's going to be a little warm and quietly sit there and mope. They look a bit depressed and generally turn various shades of brown – anything to get the idea across that they're miserable.

Not so the bougainvillea, or *fueng faa* in Thai. It shamelessly sneers at its less-hardy garden neighbors and is proud of its ability to withstand virtual drought conditions.

It's one of those plants that performs best when it's a little stressed, a bit like the stock trader of the plant world. The drier it gets, the more vivid its colors become.

Right, history time. In 1768, when Admiral Louis de Bougainvillea traveled around the Pa-

cific Ocean and discovered the vine that now bears his name, it was the botanical highlight of the voyage.

Through the ensuing years, this distinctive Brazilian beauty has become a popular tropical plant.

Now that it's been cross-bred to produce hundreds of variations, the mix of colors is amazing.

From pale green and white, to orange, purple and crimson. Some plants have two colors on one stalk.

Surprisingly, the brightest parts of the plant aren't flowers – they're just bracts (leaves of a different color) clustered together. It does have flowers, but the flowers are a bit pathetic and insignificant – tiny white tubular things that get lost among the brightly-colored leaves.

Given the right conditions, a bougainvillea will grow like a bat out of hell.

Most importantly, it's a sun



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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

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in commercial center, use of shared pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

SEAVIEW VILLA, RAWAI

Super-modern, 2-story with pool. Ready to move in. 12 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

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

HOUSE WITH POOL IN CHALONG

Beautiful house on 224sqm of land, with private pool. 2 bedrooms, big living room, bathroom with Jacuzzi and shower, European kitchen. Fully furnished, 3 aircons. 5 million baht ono. Tel: 081-2720668. Email: gazette@glibber.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-property.info

MISSION HILLS LAND

3 rai for sale in the heart of Mission Hills Golf Course. An ideal location for villas or small resort. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-8911826. Email: info@baanboosakorn.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

THALANG LAND FOR SALE

5 rai, 11 rai, 10 rai plots, with Chanote, 11, 12, 20 million baht. Tel: 081-5395454.

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Fully furnished, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom freehold condo. Best views and layout in the development. Pool, yacht harbor, town square and hill views. 24-hour security. 21 million baht. Tel: 083-133-2024. Email: globalvision3@yahoo.com Website: www.royalphuketmarina.com

44-ROOM CLINIC

4 rai of land, 6,500sqm of living space. Near airport. 38 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062. Email: clinicsale@hotmail.com

AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-772-7012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

CONDOS FOR SALE BY OWNER

18 condos, apartments and houses for sale. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk or visit my website at: www.housesforphuket.blogspot.com/

EXCELLENT PRICED HOUSE: B2.9m

Quiet, 2 bedrooms, partly-furnished, telephone, Internet, cable TV, 264sqm. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

CHALONG VILLA SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car port, terrace, garden, aircon, cable TV, land line, Chanote. 2.45 million baht. Tel: 085-7827551.

PATONG CASTLE From 3.5 M

Stylish contemporary tropical apartments of one, two and three bedroom solutions enjoying expansive terraces, beautiful ocean view with tropical sala and jacuzzi. 15% Rental guaranteed for the first three years and finance available to foreigners.

www.patongcastle.com

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.

www.kataoceanview.com

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

HOUSE FOR SALE



Big house with pool, 6 bedrooms, 9 aircons, close to Boat Lagoon and British Int'l School. Only 12.9 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-5301276. Email: rwanitch@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Two stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 7 en-suite aircons, partly furnished. Cable TV, tel, Internet. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6261799.

NEW VILLA, KAMALA

Built to highest standard. Four bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, detached 2-car garage, studio apartment, fully furnished, large pool, aircon. Save 1 million off list price: 17.5 million baht. Owner moving. Many extras. Tel: 084-8500568.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

3-4 bedrooms, Bang Tao, living area 200sqm, garden. Tel: 084-8516121. Website: www.phukethome.ws

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

with garden. 3 years old, quiet soi, near Phuket City, good security. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-9672358.

SEAVIEW VILLA



in Rawai-Nai Harn, Phuket. Price: US\$1 million. Land: 700sqm. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, fitness room, swimming pool (communal). 1-minute drive to Rawai Beach, 5 minutes' drive to Nai Harn Beach. Contact K. Sam. Tel: 085-1106449.

FOR SALE: 2 CONDOS

in Rawai. Freehold, 2 bedrooms, 2 showers, kitchen area. Offer in the region of 1 million baht. Tel: 081-387-3809.

CHEAP LAND

Fantastic value mission mills area 1.7 rai for 2.2 million baht. Email: phkt51@yahoo.com

POOLHOUSE-HACIENDA

Near Laguna 4. Bar, cheap. Price: only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-17839062.

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Magic view, 3 homes with pools, 2 plots of land 972sqm. + 732 sqm. Keen vendor. Tel: 076-383059, 086-281-7605. Email: paradise@phuket-house-land.com For details, please visit our website: www.phuket-house-land.com

RAWAI LAND

1,436sqm. Flat, square plot off Soi Suksan. Chanote title with approved plans if required. 3.2 million baht net. Tel: 081-6910391. Email: info@liveandletdive.com

15 RAI, VERY EXCLUSIVE VIEWS

15 rai with billion-dollar views over the estates of famous international celebrities. Great for development or for private estate. 180 million baht. Tel: 083-1332024. Email: globalvision3@yahoo.com

A BIGGER SPLASH



This new mountain-view Bali-style home has it all, 3 beds en suite, big living room with open-plan Western kitchen, central aircon, separate guest suite, double parking. All surrounding a huge 62sqm sculptured ceramic pool. The 200sqm plot is set within a small gated resort. Lots of extra land available at only 3,250 baht/sqm. Mountainside location near Wat Chalong. A Bangkok company is included in the 6.5 million baht price tag. Call Tel: 089-5930986 for more information.

YOUR OWN APARTMENT



10 minutes from Patong. Newly renovated to Western standards, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, ceiling fans, granite kitchen tops, built-in timber robes. 1.95 million baht. Tel: 084-184-5162 (English), 081-970-0836 (Thai).

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www.phuketproperties.com. If you are a real estate developer or owner, you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

LAND IN KAMALA



1 rai to 24 rai all with very good sea view and Chanote. Good central location with nice road access, electricity and water supply. Price from 6 million baht per rai. Contact Sakorn Chana. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

1 RAI



3 mins to Nai Harn beach. 1-rai plots have sold for 8 million baht. Asking 7.6 million baht only. Mountain view, corner plot with 3-road access, electricity and water. Chanote title divided into 4 plots for negotiable offer. Will accept payment plan. House building services offered to your specification. Tel: 076-383560, 089-7235444. Email: islandmountaintropics@hotmail.com

VILLA, RAWAI-NAI HARN



Urgent sale, lease or rent: 300sqm swimming-pool villa on 800sqm plot with garden. Fully furnished. Great opportunity. Tel: 087-4195576. Email: didier55@hotmail.com

BANGLA RD, PATONG

Selling 4++ year lease. 110 sqm. Ideal for restaurant/bar. High volume area. Tel: 086-2832090.

NOW OR NEVER

Land and house in Chalong, exclusive residence, 2-stories, 780sqm big garden with pool. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen. Includes all appliances, aircon and much more. 11.6 million baht (negotiable). Urgent sale, owner returning to homeland. Tel: 076-282542, 089-7244246. Email: pattrochan007@hotmail.com

THA MAPHRAO 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

Properties For Rent

PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from February 26 Tel: (011) (86) 13816344147. Email: TXXZT@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

BOAT LAGOON LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, True TV. Long- or short-term rent. Pool, sauna included. Call K. So at Tel: 081-3444473, 081-8622962.

NEW CONDO - PATONG

Beautiful 1-bedroom condo. Best/quiet location with sea and mountain view. All amenities. Long term only. Tel: 081-9701479. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

LUXURY HOUSE & POOL

Near Laguna. Three bedrooms, spa, aircon, cable TV, garden, furnished. Lease: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5944067.

CHALONG BEACHFRONT

New 3-level, furnished house with swimming pool, great views. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4706104.

BUILDING AND LAND

Take over lease, 9 years left. Building is about 8m x 24m, almost 1 rai of land. Located on the main road to Cherno Talay, 4.5km from Heroines' Monument. Industrial zoning. Tel: 081-6930766. Email: danielboychuk@gmail.com

LUXURY 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

For long-term rent in Chalong. 5-min walk to beach. Wi-Fi, cable TV, Western kitchen, tastefully furnished. 6,000 baht/month, available March. Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

PATONG APARTMENTS

Modern studios or 1 bedroom with cable TV, DVD, ADSL. Close to beach. Tel: 084-8473304.

VILLAS FOR RENT



in a pretty, peaceful residence, from April until October 2008. 40,000 baht per month, for minimum 1 month up to 6 months, electricity and Internet not included. Located at Rawai, 11/22 Suksan 2. Five minutes to one of the most beautiful beaches, The residence "Christiane's Blue" offers you very beautiful villas of 220sqm with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and toilets, each with individual access. Living room, dining room, TV, DVD, aircon, fully-equipped kitchen. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant, Wi-Fi. French management. Contact Lionel. Tel: 087-2678389. Email: info@christianesblue.com Website: www.christianesblue.com

ROOM IN KAMALA: B4,500/MONTH

34sqm. Quiet area, mountain view. 4,500 baht a month. Tel: 087-2945737, 089-224-3153. Email: ronaldo6328@yahoo.de

BOAT LAGOON HOUSE 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: 086-282-0567. Email: crystaleva1@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Bang Tao, 1-3 bedrooms, for 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8516121.

KAMALA BEACH STUDIO


Kitchen, bathroom, True TV, aircon, pool. Rent weekly: 6,000 baht. Monthly: 18,000 baht. Electricity + maid. Tel: 084-8500568.

LAGUNA ENTRANCE

Guesthouse, swimming pool, restaurant, bar, spa. 2 rai. Sell: 5 million baht; Rent: 15,000 per month. New and ready. Tel: 083-1823751.

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

2-bedroom bungalow for rent in Cherno Talay, short- or long-term, maid service available. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-8911826. Email: info@baanboosakorn.com



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Property Gazette

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins to Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches. 162 sqm. 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.

SEAVIEW APARTMENT

58sqm, fully furnished modern, clean, aircon, Sat TV, kitchen separate, big bedroom, parking, pool. Tel: 081-0825707. Website: www.phuketaccommodation.info

PATONG APARTMENT

Studio apartment 400m from the beach. Modern, clean, TV, aircon, fridge, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Please see: www.phuketaccommodation.info

POOL VILLA RAWAI

to rent. 2 large bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, large gardens, pool, maid and gardener all included. Long term rent only. Tel: 084-8512373.

PRIVATE HOUSE FOR RENT



Soi Ruam Nanachart, Saiyuan, 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.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

RAWAI HOME WITH POOL

1 or 2 bedrooms, furnished, True TV, ADSL. 12,000 baht per month and up. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

EXCLUSIVE RENTAL

Close to BIS school, 24hr security, 5 bedrooms, 2 parking spaces, pool, maid's room. Family and child friendly. Available now. Tel: 081-4077403.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, True TV, ADSL, private pool. Rent: 45,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

BAAN SUAN KAMNAN



If you want the best, take a look at this neighborhood first. Just outside Patong. Overlooking the sea and Patong Bay. One large piece of land and one stunning house with private pool and a lot of privacy. Tel: 086-7866350. For details, visit our website: www.patongbluepoint.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach, 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, with swimming pool. Short term 45,000 baht. Tel: 084-6268105.

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent, 25,000 baht per month and for sale: 4 million baht. Call Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

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

COMFORTABLE HOUSE

in secure environment, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 en suite), living room, study, garage, kitchen/dining room, fenced garden, furnished, True TV, ADSL. 35,000 baht per month. Near Wat Chalong. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

LONG-TERM LAND FOR LEASE

Koh 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

4-BEDROOM BALINESE VILLA

Western-style, furnished, 4-bedroom landscaped villa. Great location, 5 mins to Laguna, 8 mins to Surin Beach, 8 mins to International School! New Western kitchen. 24hr security. Bargain rental. Price based on length of contract and deposit. Tel: 089-2167220. Email: houseforrent@julianburgess.co.uk For further details, and to see a slideshow visit our website: www.julianburgess.co.uk/4bedvilla.html

NAI HARN, 3-BEDROOM VILLA

Modern, quiet. Big discount for long term. Tel: 081-8081804. Email: tpitstop1@hotmail.com

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

HOUSE FOR RENT SRISUCHART 2

Brand-new. 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-6903639.

PALAI GREEN HOUSE

with big garden. Fully furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, ADSL, and cable TV. 12,000 baht per month. Chalong area. Tel: 081-8924311.

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

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. True TV & 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.phuket-island-homes.com

3-BEDROOM POOL HOUSE

25,000 baht/month, short- or long-term. New house. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

KAMALA

Beautiful bungalow, 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, very large living room, all-teak kitchen, furnishings, private pool, True TV, ADSL, excellent security. 35,000 baht per month-long term only. Tel: 081-8111067.

2-BEDROOM VILLA

Weekly or long-term. 3km from Mai Khao Beach, 10 mins to golf course and airport. European standards, new sala, 25sqm and antique furniture. Tel: 081-7197015. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

HOMES FOR HOLIDAY

Near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, pool, spa. Cheap rates and weekly rates. Need car to access house. Tel: 089-5944067.

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.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



3 bedrooms, aircon, telephone, True TV, 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, living room, Western kitchen, parking, 2 large terraces, ADSL and True TV. Located on quiet hillside, 5 mins to Kata beach. Price: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6062827. Email: nij017@hotmail.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.

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

TOP VILLA, TOP VIEW FOR RENT

Thai-style villa with pool, on top of a private hill. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. 4km to BIS. View of golf course, lake and valley. Quiet, security guard, maid, furnished, Wi-Fi and True TV. Yearly lease at 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

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 beachfront. 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 (500m south) to Patong Beach. 30,000 baht per month. 60,000 baht deposit required. Email: madzorba@bigpond.net.au

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10-METER CATAMARAN

Fully-equipped diesel engines, UK built and registered. Needs work. 500,000 baht. Contact for more information at Tel: 076-383059, 086-2817605. Email: paradise@phuket-house-land.com

ROBERTS 57FT MOTOR SAILOR

built of steel in 1998. 180hp 6-cycle diesel. Diesel generator, good condition. US\$135,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2762626.

IMPORT TRI HULL

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24-METER WOODEN



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BENETEAU OCEANIS 393

2003. 130,000 euros. The Oceanis range from Beneteau is known for the extra comforts and touches throughout. This yacht had extra work carried out during her commissioning, one main point is the gloss varnish work which really sets the yachts interior to a high standard. Sale includes: 12,000BTU aircon, tender with outboard, safety gear including life raft and more. Full details on request. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

CARVER 500 COCKPIT POA

Carver USA is well known for their solid design and comfort. this example is probably the best one around and it is here in Phuket. Nothing has been spared on equipment or maintenance. She was extensively refitted in 2007 and is to a very high standard. With only 950 main engine hours, 57,000BTU aircon, 25.5KVA Genset and the water maker onboard makes her very well suited for the conditions here in Phuket. She is awaiting your inspection. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

HORIZON 620 2008 P.O.A

A rare opportunity, this motor yacht has just been delivered to Phuket for the owner, who has highly specked this yacht with all the latest equipment and comforts. Due to a change in plans this motor yacht is now available for sale. It is a two master cabin layout with a guest/crew cabin aft, finished to the same standards as the main interior with a private entry aft. The tropical aircon and the hydraulic stabilizing fins make this motor yacht 5-star to please the most discerning of buyers. Viewings by appointment only, contact Simpson Marine for full details and appointments. Tel: 076-239 768.

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE



18ft Four Winds make speedboat. Seats 6 people. 200hp Yamaha engine (only 50 hours) - very fast. Good for fishing, exploring, day trips, etc. Includes trailer. Thai registered. Price: 450,000 baht. Call Don at either of the numbers. Tel: 076-385912, 089-5926059. Email: peterb@ji-net.com

BENETEAU CYCLADES 39.3



2007. 125,000 euros. This is truly a remarkable example from the world's leading yacht builders Beneteau. This 39ft 3-cabin yacht has two toilets and showers onboard, which makes her perfect for charter or a family cruising yacht. All inclusive sale - tender, motor, full bimini cockpit top for protection from the tropical sun plus more. Full details available on request. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

WELL BELOW VALUE, MUST SELL

63ft power cruiser, 4 double cabins, full aircon, water maker, GPS, radar, radio and much more. Must be seen and will give special price. Leaving country. Tel: 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

NEW 27 FOOT CATAMARAN

Built with wood, fiberglass and epoxy with 9hp Honda 4 stroke. 390,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 087-4618089.

ONAN MARINE GENERATOR

MDK Series, 7kva, 18 months old, good working condition. Asking 285,000 baht. Offers welcome. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-3943291. Email: tom@free domsurfing.com

FREE TRIP TO LANGKAWI

I am looking for 2 or 3 persons to come along on my sailboat to Langkawi. The boat: 17-meter Roberts sailing yacht. Duration of trip: about 4 days. Expenses for food and drinks are shared. Please call me on my mobile number. Tel: 086-2762626.

17-METER WOOD SAIL BOAT

Built in 2003, cutter, rig, diesel 6-cycle engine, 180hp. In good condition for day sailing. US\$17,000. Please call Tel: 086-2762626.

PERFECT FIBERGLASS fishing boat. Tri-hull, nearly new, 55 Yamaha and trailer. Free storage for 3 months if you buy for 195,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-473 4619. Email: piratespizza@gmail.com

YACHT CREWS UNLIMITED (Agency)

We seek male and female crews for our Luxury Motor Yacht clients, Asia / Europe

- Captains
- First Mates
- Engineers
- Chefs
- Stewardesses
- Deck Hands

(some English required)
Training available
Crews unlimited
Yacht Haven Marina
Phuket, Thailand

Send CV to
yachtcrewsthailand@gmail.com
tpimson@hotmail.com
+66897721516

EDEN DIVERS

Reservations staff needed. Must speak good English. Salary depends on experience. Thai female preferred. Contact Andrew for more information at Tel: 085-7654677.

HOTEL STAFF KATA

Thai national receptionist. Good English skills required. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 087-2674091.

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, Chergtalay (Surin beach), Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076 270 577 | Fax: 076 271 182 | Attn: Ms. Nalinthipha Tansuttiwanit

PURCHASING AGENT WANTED

to buy construction stock. 3 years experience and English required. Thai national. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 087-0778454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

HOUSESITTER

needed to look after a 3-bedroom house and dog in Kamala, also do shopping. Must be able to drive. Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Please contact Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

> SALES EXECUTIVE <

G4S Security Services (Thailand) Ltd requires a Thai national with excellent English, computer skills and sales experience preferably from within the manned guarding security industry. Must own a car and know the island.

Please send resumé to chris.benn@th.g4s.com with stating expected salary. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for an interview.

Thai - English Speakers

We are seeking smart happy people. Customer service Sales support. Must be clear fluent English speakers.

Thai Office Manager
Good spoken and written English skills.
Some accounting/legal skills a plus.

Please send CV to danielr.mcdaniel@gmail.com

APMS

Albar Property Management Service
Additional staff required in Phuket

1. Client Service Manager	1 Position	Ref. / No. CSM-001
2. Client Service Secretary	1 Position	Ref. / No. CSS-002
3. M&E Engineer	1 Position	Ref. / No. MEE-003
4. M&E Supervisor	2 Positions	Ref. / No. MES-004
5. Building Inspector	2 Positions	Ref. / No. BI-005
6. Driver	2 Positions	Ref. / No. DV-006

All positions require good English.
Send CV to APMS_2007@hotmail.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 resumé 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. Please contact for further details at Tel: 086-3418781, 081-1371001. Email: solitude001@aol.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for better quality candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart

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

Siam Indigo

Exotic Restaurant, Bar & Boutique

To complete our team, we are now
looking to fill the following positions:

- Restaurant Manager
- Bartender
- Waitress
- Chef de partie (Thai-Chinese)
- Cook helper
- Cleaner

8 Phang Nga Road - Phuket City - www.siamindigo.com
Call us 076 256 697 or Email sales@siamindigo.com



TROPICAL HOMES REAL ESTATE

Leading Phuket real estate company requires
OFFICE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Good command of spoken and written English.
- Computer and office administration knowledge.
- Good team player, flexible, open-minded.
- Holding a driving license will be an advantage.
- Thai national only.

Please send CV, photo and expected salary to
info@tropical-homes.net

Dusit Thani

LAGUNA • PHUKET

JOB VACANCY AT DUSIT THANI
Laguna Phuket

- FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER
- TRAINING MANAGER
- PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
- ASSISTANT FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Interested applicants are invited to
submit their resume with recent photo
and references to:

Human Resources Department,

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

Tel: 076-362999. Fax: 076-362893
Email: dlphrmgr@dusit.com

AYARA HILLTOPS

AN ALL SUITE RESORT & SPA BY AYARA PHUKET

An all suite ocean luxury resort, located on Surin Hill,
overlooking Surin Beach and Andaman Sea, is inviting
applicants for the following positions:

- **A&G EXECUTIVE**
Resident Manager / Operations Manager
(Thai National)
- **FOOD & BEVERAGE**
Food & Beverage Service Attendants
Food & Beverage Service Captain
Cook Helper / Cold Kitchen
- **FRONT OFFICE**
Night Resort Host / Night Auditor
- **HOUSEKEEPING**
Floor Supervisor
- **SAFETY & SECURITY**
Safety & Security Officer

Attractive salary, fringe benefits and career
opportunities are offered to the successful candidates.
Please send your resume with a recent photo or apply
in person by January 31, 2008 to:

Human Resources Department

125 Moo 3, Surin Beach, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay,
Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: (076) 271 271
Fax: (076) 271 270 email: hr@ayarahilltops.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience
in marketing, management and
food creation. Tel: 081-
4326587.

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

English-speaking guides
needed for speedboat charter
company. Good salary, tips
and benefits. Tel: 076-354074
Fax: 076-236487. Email:
info@coralseekers.com

HOTEL MANAGER

Looking to hire an experi-
enced hotel manager for 30-
room resort. Email resumel
with experience, availability
and salary desired. Tel: 076-
383280, 084-7453742. Fax:
076-383280. Please send
to: ltnesneg@aol.com

CAFÉ/BAR STAFF NEEDED

Looking for waitresses and
bar staff to work full- or part-
time. Please contact Scott at
Tel: 081-7887991. Email:
thebritscott@hotmail.com

AUTOCAD DRAFTSMEN

AutoCad draftsmen needed.
Experience in electrical or ar-
chitecture a plus. Good salary
and benefits. Please email or
fax to arrange an interview.
Fax: 076-270662. Email:
info@avcphuket.com

THAI TEACHER

with teaching license required
in Chalong. Contact K. David
at Tel: 084-3088110.

MAID WANTED

Must speak English, have ex-
perience. Full-time. Contact K.
Pen at Tel: 081-5376866.

DRIVER WANTED

Must speak English, be flexible,
have experience with (mini)
vans. Full-time. Contact K.
Pen. at Tel: 081-5376866.

SALES STAFF WANTED

Sales staff needed to visit 4 or
5 hotels. Basic salary and
commission. Car or motorbike
an advantage. Sales area:
Phuket and Kao Lak. Send CV
and expected salary via email
to: 2minternational06@
gmail.com

PART-TIME SECRETARY

Seeking part-time Executive
Secretary for administration
of construction management/
engineering company in
Patong. Flexible hours. English
required; construction/engine-
ering background helpful.
Tel: 02-6367600. Fax: 02-
6367007. Contact at email:
rabco@ix.netcom.com

ENGLISH PROGRAM

Satree Phuket School re-
quires native speakers to
teach science or mathemat-
ics. Salary starts at 30,000
baht plus 8,000 addendum
(under the conditions). Inter-
ested persons please call:
076-211034 ext 144 or
send a resume to email:
a_pupatanun@hotmail.com

PHAETHON CO LTD

needs 2 female staff with
good spoken English and
computer skills for our of-
fice near Tesco-Lotus. Con-
tact for details at Tel: 087-
5278532, 084-8989274.

ACCOUNTANT

Destination Air requires ex-
perienced accountant for im-
mediate employment, full-
time, at our Phuket Interna-
tional 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

SALON STAFF

needed for busy salon/mas-
sage/bar in Patong. Please
contact for additional de-
tails at Tel: 089-2553700.
Email: markhigson497@
msn.com

RESTAURANT, HOTEL & TOURS

Guesthouse in Patong with
restaurant and tour business
is searching for a cook, re-
ceptionists (day and night)
and tour staff. For more
details contact. Tel: 089-
9325175. Email: wojdkow
bengt@hotmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

- * General anager
- * 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

IT SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED

English speaker preferred.
Knowledge of Windows and
Microsoft Office required, as
well as other standard office
applications. TCP/IP net-
working skills preferred, also
need to carry out some PC
repair work. Salary depen-
dant on experience. Call Tel:
087-1241706 or 076-
527574.

SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

CES looking for male or fe-
male, aged 24-30, with good
communication skills. Must
have own transportation.
Good salary and commis-
sions. Contact at Tel: 076-
221288. Fax: 076-221289.
Email: hr@ces-asia.com For
details, see our website at:
www.ces-asia.com

RENTAL SALES

Siam Real Estate urgently re-
quires a Thai national with ex-
cellent English and sales expe-
rience to sell holiday and long-
term rentals. Must drive a car,
know the island and have good
administrative skills. Good sal-
ary and commissions. Please
contact for more details at Tel:
076-288908. Email: patrick@
siamrealestate.com

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

Electrical engineers needed.
English-speaking with experi-
ence and AutoCad skills are a
plus. Good salary plus benefits.
Fax or email to arrange an in-
terview. Fax: 076-270662.
Email: info@avcphuket.com

SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT

Reputable real estate
agency is urgently looking
for a qualified Sales &
Marketing Assistant for
immediate employment.
Experience preferred but
not necessary. Good
growth and career oppor-
tunities. Good command of
English, written and spo-
ken, is a must. Send your
resume by replying to this
ad. Email: luc@phuket-
tropical-realestate.com

Island Job Mart

THE VIJITT RESORT PHUKET

A Boutique 5-star all villa-style resort in Phuket comprising 92 villas, 20 with pools, that will offer the highest standards of facilities and services.

The resort, scheduled to open in September 2008, is looking for qualified candidates to start early in 2008 for the following positions:



HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
PA/SECRETARY TO GENERAL MANAGER

Reporting to the General Manager the ideal candidates will have the following attributes:

Human Resources Manager

- Male or Female Thai National
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar position
- 30-40 years of age
- Bachelor's Degree
- Experience in pre-opening a hotel would be a distinct advantage
- Good spoken and written English and good computer and organizational skills
- Good knowledge and understanding of current Thai Labour laws

PA/Secretary to General Manager

- Thai national
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar position
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Ability to organize meetings, itineraries and scheduling and liaise effectively with department heads
- Be able to take minutes of meetings, prepare reports and arrange travel itineraries for the General Manager
- Skilled in the use of all major computer software including: Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Outlook. Knowledge of Fidelio would be a distinct advantage

Successful candidates will be offered a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with their experience.

Applicants should submit their CVs by January 30th 2008 to the General Manager either by email to gm@vijittresort.com or by mail or in person to:
The Vijitt Resort, 16 Moo 2, Voet Road, T. Rawai, A. Muang, Phuket 83100.

Other positions will be available in the resort and interested candidates may submit their CVs accordingly.

www.vijittresort.com

Unique Exclusive Uniquely Thai Friendly Caring

PC JOB: DATA ENTRY

Work in office, Nai Harn. Basic knowledge of English and PC-Internet required. 12,000 baht per month. Urgent! Tel: 085-4737812. Email: vankets@gmail.com

BUNGALOW NEAR RAWAI

Beach. 11/22 Soi Suksan 2, needs Thai lady or man for cooking and bar work, 4 or 8 hours per day. Must speak English. Good salary. Please contact Laide (located in Phuket). Tel: 086-2773817. Email: villas@hotmail.fr

HOUSESITTER

needed to look after a 3-bedroom house and dog in Kamala, also do shopping. Must be able to drive. Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

DELIVERY MAN OR LADY

Thai company in Kamala wants a man or woman for delivery of products in Phuket. Age not a problem, young or old accepted. Must have motorbike. Job is for Thai national only. 7,000 baht per month, plus gasoline. Tel: 076-385221. Fax: 076-279340. Email: giovannifrova@libero.it

RESERVATION STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operation staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required; experience in tourism is a plus. Tel: 076-209163, 081-8927714. Fax: 076-209174. Email: max.t@th.diethelmtravel.com

WANTED PROMOTION MARKETING

Marketing / sales person. Work with marketing, ticket sales and promotion for Club Lime on Patong Beach. Become a member of our new sales crew, opportunity for farang who want to live and work in paradise. Please contact Nicklas for more info. Tel: 085-7988511. www.clublime.info

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

One cook and two waitresses wanted for new Mexican restaurant in Chalong. Must speak English. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-1638166. Email: vjnong@gmail.com

the village coconut island

The Village Coconut Island is now recruiting for the following positions:

Construction Manager
Qualifications:

- Male, age more than 30 years
- Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or related fields
- Must have experience in Villa Construction
- Excellent leadership and management skills
- Must have strong oral and written communication skills, both Thai & English
- Proficient in Microsoft Office

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for construction reviews
- Managing on-site construction including supervision
- Review weekly and monthly reports as presented by Contractors and present to Project Manager with comments of non-compliance, and/or areas of concern and corrective actions
- Communicate with the Project Manager continuously regarding project progress and areas of concerns and advise Project manager of any foreseen slippage of progress and propose corrective actions
- Establish documented procedures to overview and comment on proposed sub-contractors, vendors, materials, shop drawings and any other transmittal by Contractors
- This position will require constant monitoring of site activities in respect to Quality, Safety and Progress and advise Project Manager of findings, areas of concern and corrective actions

IT Technical Support
Qualifications:

- Male or Female, age 22-28
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or IT-related fields
- Eager to learn about computer hardware and software
- Strong knowledge of Internet
- Good command of English is preferable
- Able to work under pressure

Responsibilities:

- Software Audits
- Electronic Data Acquisition and Analysis
- Computer security check-up
- Email and website investigations and monitoring
- IT support

Construction Administration Assistant
Qualifications:

- Male or Female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor's Degree in Administration or related fields
- Good command of English is preferable
- Able to work under pressure

Responsibilities:

- Weekly Job Meeting Documentation
- Construction Observation and Site Visits
- Progress Reporting
- Change Order Review and Negotiation
- Payment Requisition Auditing
- Budget Tracking
- Schedule Maintenance
- Furniture and Equipment Reuse and Purchase
- Voice and Data Coordination
- Contract Negotiation to Include: Furniture, Security, Telephone, Cabling, Signage and Other Contracts
- Team Building and Project Leadership

51/7 Moo 6, Tambon Koh Kaew, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83200 Tel: 086-9429190
phorn@thevillage-coconutisland.com
www.thevillage-coconutisland.com

FULL-TIME MAID AND GARDNER

Full-time maid and gardner/handyman wanted to take care of house and gardens in Chalong, live-in. Ideally an established married Thai couple with no children, who will live in a fully furnished maid's bungalow alongside the main house. Duties include cooking, cleaning, maintaining a swimming pool and grounds, and looking after cars, motorbikes and a speedboat. Basic English and a clean driving license an advantage. Salary for each: 9,000 to 10,000 baht per month, depending on experience. References required. Tel: 086-2829182 (for English), 081-5545665 (for Thai) Email: eduardo@exchequer.com

HOTEL MANAGER

Looking to hire an experienced hotel manager for 30 room resort. Email resume giving experience, availability and salary desired. Tel: 076-383280, 084-7453742. Fax: 076-383-280. Please send to: Email: ltmesneg@aol.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 information at Tel: 089-9325175. Email: wojid.kowbengt@hotmail.com

TEACHERS AND DRIVER NEEDED

The following positions are open at a nursery school in Chalong:

- 1) Full-time English teacher
- 2) Part-time English teacher
- 3) Thai teacher
- 4) Part-time driver

If interested please contact Tel: 081-8949600, 084-0068736. Email CV to: info@smiley-kidz.com

FULL-TIME NANNY

Foreign family urgently needs a full-time Nanny. Thai national, must speak English. Please contact for more info at Tel: 081-9872821.

Island Job Mart



www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the below positions.

SALES MANAGER – RESALE PROPERTY SALES 1 POSITION

- College diploma or higher required.
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English.
- Must have previous experience working for a real estate agency.
- Self-motivated, enthusiastic, strong sales skills with closing ability.
- Must be a team player with a friendly personality and positive attitude.
- Flexible working hours.

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels Office, or send your detailed English resumé stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: (66-76) 271298-300 Ext. 32 Fax: (66-76) 271718
Email: monrudees@lagunaphuket.com



LIFESTYLE & LEISURE (Thailand) LTD.

Lifestyle and Leisure (Thailand) Ltd is a high end property developer with offices in the Laguna area. Previous projects include Laemsingh Villas on Surin beach. We are expanding and seek to strengthen our sales & customer relations team.

Sales & Customer Relations Director – Real Estate

- Excellent relationship, communication & presentation skills.
- Ability to think strategically with a flair for marketing.
- Strong leadership capabilities - able to mobilize and motivate internal/external resources to achieve set targets.
- Sophisticated, well traveled, persuasive personality.
- Maximum 45 years old in good health.
- Fluency in written & spoken English a must - additional European languages an advantage.

Interested candidates should please submit their CV with salary expectations to Watcharin@lifestyleandleisure.com. Website: www.lifestyleandleisure.com

TLI - OFFICE STAFF PHUKET

Tropical Landscaping International is currently seeking English speaking Thai nationals for positions within our growing Phuket office. The positions available are:

- Office Manager
- Office Assistant/Secretary
- Sales Staff

Tel: 076-325003. Fax: 076-324544. Email: ben@tropical-landscaping.com For further information, please contact us, and/or see our website at: www.tropical-landscaping.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 for further details at 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. Please contact for more details at Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

BARTENDER/ WAITER/WAITRESS

Breakers Bar & Grill seeks:

- Thai, male or female
 - Can speak English
 - Service-minded
 - Accommodation
 - Salary and tips
- Please contact for additional details at Tel: 081-923 5743. Fax 02-7427601. Email: pangja_ja@yahoo.com

THAI FEMALE FLUENT IN ENGLISH

Experienced in restaurant management, English teaching, sales and cooking Thai food. Will consider all jobs, contact Jay. Thank you. Tel: 084-6459736.

SWISS SALES MANAGER

32-year-old Swiss Sales & Purchases Manager seeking new challenging job in Phuket. Over 11 years experience dealing with international customers. Very motivated, dedicated and reliable. Fluent in French and English. Tel: 087-2664583. Please contact for CV and further details. Email: chriscentivres@hotmail.com

INTERPRETER/ SALES

Singaporean Chinese is looking for a permanent job. Language: fluent in English, Chinese, Hakka, Southern & central Thai. PC & Internet savvy. Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-3125018. Email: vans_soros@yahoo.com.sg

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

ELECTRIC / ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Takamine with fFshman pick up, 7,000 baht. Motion with dean marklue, 5,000 baht. Tel: 083-9678350.

MUSIC SYSTEM

Karaoke CD, amp 6 ew, 2 big speakers, microphone. 3,500 baht. Tel: 083-6978350.

DVD, LAMPS

Sony DVD player for sale at 1,500 baht. Also have 2 desk lamps for 300 baht. Tel: 086-9542521. Email: bill_cresswell@yahoo.com

IRON WEIGHTS SALE

132lb total plus extras for 2,500 baht. Graham golf bag, 1,500 baht. Tel: 085-6550796.

CHEERING SOFT ICE

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.

25" JVC TV

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