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IN THIS ISSUE

News: Snatchers nabbed; Senate race heats up; Hospital deal struck; Internet given boost. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: What price to pay for a thriving tourism industry? **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE NATION: Kidnapping cops collared in Bangkok. **Page 7**

AROUND THE SOUTH: Soldier gunned down in Deep South. **Page 9**

AROUND THE ISLAND: Sugar and spice and all things rice. **Page 10**

GOOD LIVING: All hail the home of divine cocktails. **Page 12**

PEOPLE: Jack of all trades offers lessons in love. **Pages 14 & 15**

AFTER DARK: Shake your maracas at La Salsa. **Pages 20**

TRAWLIN': Alas Swan ventures to lands afar. **Page 33**

SPORTS: Patong Cup; TriBallistic; Cricket. **Pages 38 & 39**

PROPERTY: Gardening; Design; Construction; Property Watch. **Pages 41-46**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS, TRASHING PHUKET 6; AROUND THE REGION 8; HAPPENINGS 16; LIFESTYLE 18 & 19; FIT FOR LIFE 21; SPA MAGIC 22; WHAT'S ON 23; TAKE A BREAK 25 & 26; BOOKS, TOWNINGS 29; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 30; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES & ANSWERS 31; YOUTH 'N ASIA, HOROSCOPES 32; COMPUTERS 34; BUSINESS AND MONEY 36 & 37; CLASSIFIEDS 47-59.

New limos spark strike at airport

By Janyaporn Morel

MAI KHAO: While Phuket Mai Khao Company launched its airport limousine and minibus service at Phuket International Airport (PIA) on the morning of January 24, some 100 drivers and other staff of the Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC), which already operates limos and minibuses at the airport, staged a five-hour strike in protest of the new concession.

However, few passengers were inconvenienced as there were few incoming flights during the strike, which lasted from 7 am until noon.

The PBC members demanded that Airports of Thailand (AOT) allow the PBC to operate more vehicles under a new concession.

On January 29, PBC President Nippon Piromrit told the *Gazette* that an agreement between AOT and the PBC had not been reached.

However, AOT had yet to enforce a previous ruling that the PBC could only operate 90 vehicles, all taxis, because the PBC's new contract had yet to be signed and it was still operating under a verbal agreement.

As the *Gazette* went to press, PBC was still operating 150 vehicles, 110 cars and 40 vans, out of PIA.

The new service operated by Phuket Mai Khao Co was able to handle most of the passenger load during the strike, with the remainder gladly served by the 42 metered taxis that maintain a booth outside the main terminal.

However, the arrival of the new limo operator at the airport offers passengers no relief from



Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC) drivers rest easy in the shade during their five-hour strike at Phuket International Airport on January 24.

high fares because the company is charging the same rates as those offered by the PBC.

Until January 24, the PBC was the only transport operator allowed to have a booth in the arrivals terminal. Now, both concessionaires are operating almost side-by-side, separated only by a small kiosk.

Somboon Jumpathong, managing director of Phuket Airport Group, which runs the new service under the name Phuket Mai Khao Co, told the *Gazette* that his company had won the right to operate 20 cars and 60 vans in a public bidding on December 30.

The company launched January 24 with 16 cars and 30 vans and is awaiting delivery of more new vehicles to fill its quota, he said.

"About 30% of our drivers are employees. The remainder are drivers who have joined us using their own cars," he said.

"We have to pay 830,000

baht a month for the concession. The contract, signed on January 17, allowed us to start today [January 24]," K. Somboon said.

Phuket Mai Khao Company would not oppose any move by the AOT to allow the PBC to operate more than 90 vehicles, he added.

"If the PBC is allowed the same number of vehicles [150] they were formerly allowed to operate, it would not be a problem for us. Business means competition, so we will just do our best and play by the rules," he said.

The PBC's former quota was to be slashed to just 90 vehicles, all cars, when the new service went into operation - January 24.

AOT decided to reduce the number of vehicles the PBC was allowed to operate following numerous complaints that PBC limousine drivers were speeding and that its minivan operators had

Continued on page 2

Glass waste adding to trash crisis - experts

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET CITY: With the volume of trash generated in Phuket increasing almost 20% annually, Phuket is facing a waste-disposal crisis that needs immediate attention, experts told a seminar at the Phuket Provincial Office on January 28.

Monthip Srirattana Tabuganon, deputy director-general of Natural Resources and Environment Ministry's Department of Environmental Quality Promotion led the meeting, much of which, focused on the large amount of glass that needs to be disposed of in Phuket.

Pirayut Wannapruek, of Development of Environment and Energy Foundation (DEE), said that glass comprises at least 15% of the total waste stream by weight.

However, unlike many other provinces, prices for most grades of used glass are low in Phuket, about 20 satang per kilo, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit said.

Glass cannot be incinerated and any glass entering the incineration stream at the Saphan Hin plant can damage the furnace, he added.

One positive development is that the Bangkok Glass Industry Co Ltd and its southern region subsidiary plan to set up 90 glass-collection points around the island and are looking for a four-rai site to build a huge concrete collection basin, from which the glass will be sent to Bangkok for recycling.

The effort should increase the value of used glass to 90 satang per kilo, enough to ensure that most of it will no longer need to be landfilled.

TOT broadband: 1Gbps by July

PHUKET (Nation/Gazette): TOT kicked off its project to build a new fiber-optic broadband-Internet service for Phuket with the awarding on January 22 of a 136.8-million-baht network-construction contract.

"We picked Phuket as the first location to launch the service because the island has affluent consumers who can afford the premium-priced service," said Sayan Tinsamran, TOT senior executive vice president for marketing and product development.

Under the contract, a consortium led by Italian-Thai Development and Siam Fibre Optic will install a 200-kilometer fiber network with 3,200 broadband-Internet ports.

The service will deliver voice, data and video on demand at speeds of up to 1Gbps over FTTx, or "Fiber To The x", where "x" could be a home, buildings or any other location hooking up to the network.

Fujikura, a Japanese vendor, will supply its FTTx technology, while NTT-West Co, a Japanese telecom company, will act as project consultant.

K. Sayan said that the state enterprise had spent two years on

the project's feasibility study.

FTTx technology costs about 50,000 baht per port, more than conventional asynchronous digital-subscriber line technology (ADSL). The service fee is expected to be high, but TOT will not finalize the rate until the launch date.

"We expect to break even in four years," said K. Sayan.

The first phase will offer only voice and data; video on demand will come later. "If the service in Phuket proves successful, FTTx will be expanded to other provinces, including Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai," he added.

Pairoj Somsri, who heads the TOT office in Phuket, said he expects the system to be operational around the beginning of July.

Fiber-optic cables up to 20 kilometers long will originate from the main Phuket TOT office in Phuket City as well as its two offices in Thalang and Patong.

The network should cover most of the island, he said.

"I think it is great that Phuket was chosen to be the pilot province for this project, because this is new technology with a high investment cost," he added.

Banphaeo Hospital inks deal with OrBorJor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) and Banphaeo Hospital in Samut Sakhon signed a deal on January 26 at Phuket Merlin Hotel that will see the long-abandoned buildings of Phya Thai Hospital renovated and jointly run as a public organization under provincial administration.

Public Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkhla and Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima witnessed the signing that will see the hospital buildings refitted and managed by Banphaeo Hospital.

Last month, OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra said that the hospital will offer low-cost treatment with the same quality as private healthcare.

Banphaeo Hospital, which has operated Prommitr Hospital, Bangkok, independently for years, will help Phuket OrBorJor run the hospital for the first three years of operation.

K. Anchalee said that Banphaeo Hospital will be a welcome addition to healthcare on the is-



OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra (left) with Banphaeo Hospital Director Dr Surapong Boonprasert at Phuket Merlin hotel on January 26.

land as Phuket's provincial healthcare facilities cannot currently support the medical needs of Phuket's growing population.

She added that although Phuket's private hospitals provide a high standard of medical care, the escalating costs of private treatment mean many islanders cannot afford such treatment.

With financial assistance from the Thai Assets Management Corporation (TAMC), the two hospital buildings on 14 rai of land were bought for 327 million baht; 180 million baht has been set aside for improvements to the 11-story main building that has space for 280 beds.

Plans for the five-story building, with 110 rooms, include

a hydro spa, shops and residences for hospital staff.

"Unfortunately, thieves have stolen many of the valuable items already put in the buildings for renovation, such as electrical wiring," said K. Anchalee.

"We have asked Silpakorn University to oversee the architecture. The predominant color in the hospital will be green to help patients relax. We hope to open the first phase with 100 beds by the end of the year," she added.

K. Mongkol said, "The public will benefit from the low-cost healthcare offered by the new hospital as living expenses in Phuket are high. There are not enough government hospitals and private hospitals are expensive."

Three die in Kalim head-on smash

KATHU: Two Italian tourists and a Thai teenager were killed in a head-on collision in Kalim on the night of January 24, a local Thai-language newspaper has reported.

The two Italians were named as Luiz Fransescopilato, 37, and his female companion Anna Montone, 30.

The Thai victim was identified as 15-year-old Patong resident Theerawat Samarnmitr.

Ms Montone was riding pillion on a blue Honda Click motorbike being driven toward Kamala by Mr Fransescopilato at the time of the accident, which happened on a hilly section of the road known locally as the Hin Tang curve, the report read.

According to the report, Ms Montone was killed instantly when the motorbike she was on collided head on with a modified off-road pickup truck

being driven towards Patong by 75-year-old Jumnong Doomruk.

The pickup apparently crossed the center line following a previous collision with a green Honda Click motorbike being driven by the Thai youth.

Rescue volunteers pulled the comatose Mr Fransescopilato from a roadside concrete drain and rushed him to Patong Hospital, where he died soon after arrival.

K. Theerawat was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he died about 11:30 pm that night.

Police called in K. Jumnong for questioning, but he is yet to be charged with any moving violations.

Pol Capt Prathung Pholmana of Kathu Police Station told the Gazette that further evidence would be gathered before police made a decision about whether to charge K. Jumnong.

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It is an issue worthy of consideration whether Phuket can continue occupying its privileged place in the sun and still cater to mass tourism. Cheap package tours are not dying with the passing of neighborhood travel agents; they are growing with the Internet – and growing cheaper, too.

Packages are so cheap that some local vendors speculate that their competitors “must be losing money” selling at discount rates. Of course, such cries – a regular lament of those in competing businesses – needn’t be taken at face value. Cheap packages mean tourists have more to spend on things other than air fare and accommodation, right? Wrong.

Surveys show package tourists typically bring along an amount of money only sometimes reaching 30% of the package price. If a seven-day holiday costs, for example, 100,000 baht and a foreign tourist brings 30,000 baht to spend on souvenirs and Singha beer, his spending will be in line with the Tourism Authority of Thailand’s (TAT) projections last year – averaging about 4,200 baht per day.

If the package costs less than 40,000 baht and the tourist brings just 13,000 baht, spending falls to fewer than 2,000 baht a day – emphatically contradicting TAT’s projections.

Government planning openly calls for ever-richer, “high-quality” tourists. Minister of Tourism and Sports Dr Suwit Yodmanee spelled out official

Down the road of

Officially, Phuket is an oasis of stability and unlimited wealth potential. But does the reality of daily life here match the government figures?

An increase in the number of cheap package holidays has meant that while Phuket has more visitors, money generated by the tourism sector is decreasing.

Marque A Rome takes a look at what the future might hold for tourism in Phuket as Tourism Authority of Thailand continues its push for “high-quality” tourists.



‘Thailand’s main focus [is] on attracting high-yield ‘quality’ tourists while promoting sustainable tourism in line with economic self-sufficiency principles.’

– Minister of Tourism and Sports
Dr Suwit Yodmanee

policy at a ministerial briefing in January 2007, saying, “Thailand’s main focus [is] on attracting high-yield ‘quality’ tourists while promoting sustainable tourism in line with economic self-sufficiency principles.”

“The TAT will try to create more awareness of travel and tourism as a necessary part of life [so that] local people better understand the long-term value and benefits,” the aim being that they “better preserve the region’s tourism assets”.

It is unclear whether Dr Suwit has any plan for sustaining annual tourism growth in the 15%-20% range while preserving “tourism assets”. Thailand welcomed 10.79 million tourists in 2002; the figure for 2007 will exceed 14.8 million. In Phuket, numbers jumped from 3.49 mil-

lion in 2002 to an expected 4.7 million visitors last year.

A survey of the literature turns up no working model for sustaining any region’s natural assets against such rapid growth and numbers.

Phuket’s provincial plan, created by the governor’s office, envisions development of the island as a “beach resort for high-quality foreign tourists”, the latter a polite euphemism for big spenders.

According to the plan, to reach this target market and distinguish the island from other tourist destinations, Phuket must be turned into a center for shopping, handicrafts, health services, spas and conventions.

Another means of improving Phuket’s chief “competitive edge” – defined as “beautiful white sandy beaches” – involves persuading the population to exude more “warmth and friendliness”.

It is hoped that local culture remains identifiably local to serve as a tourist attraction and that “the environment be preserved” for the same reason.

But how can that be done when the economy groans under the imperatives of mass tourism?

The provincial plan is static, stiff and forgotten in a corner of the official provincial website. But the island is bubbling, with more, larger building projects bruited.

Never is there enough infrastructure. For a brief spell it

rained heavily in Phuket City one recent Sunday. In the center of the City, flooding up to 50 centimeters was reported along Phun Pol Rd, Krabi Rd and Yaowarat Rd. Traffic snarled and halted. The reason? Trash clogging the drains.

Phuket produces 520 tonnes of trash daily, but can dispose of only 250 tonnes at Phuket Incinerator.

The other 270 tonnes must go somewhere – and one place is into the drains. Tambon governments complain mightily about the costs of collection, the frequency of which has declined precipitously.

Where does this over-abundant trash come from? Not from the tourism industry, we are told, which prides itself on environmentally-sustainable trash management.

It comes from people, hundreds of thousands of them, seeking their fortunes in Phuket. Millions of tourists require correspondingly-large numbers of support, most of whom are employed at minimum wage and have little left for implementing environmentally-friendly trash-management planning.

“Big-spender” tourists constitute the Holy Grail for Thailand’s tourism industry. But the industry itself, especially as it operates in Phuket, seems intent on attracting a different class:

minimal spenders, or tourists who have blown their wads elsewhere – package tourists.

Infrastructural costs are roughly the same per tourist, not only for trash pick-up, but for medical services, road expansion, electrical generation and more officers to staff the airport Customs-and-Immigration desks. Costs increase with numbers while the environment suffers from expanded development.

How can the island’s cash cows – its beaches – remain sustainable when their carrying capacity is regularly exceeded, when waters are polluted and when sands are blighted by trash and pollution-spawned seaweed?

Water and electricity are rationed to supply the tourism business. What will Phuket’s natural attractions comprise when, as Ministry of the Interior Permanent Secretary Pongpayome Wasaputi predicted during his tenure as Phuket governor, marketing to the masses results in their being covered shore-to-shore with concrete?

No-one has found the answer; thus the perennial emphasis on attracting big spenders. Officialdom seems bent on implementing opposite policies. On the one hand, lip-service is paid to the notion of “quality” tourists; on the other, budget travelers are pulled in.

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unsustainable tourism



'Korean honeymooners,' said a Rawai F-and-B manager, 'spend money nowhere but in Korean shops.' As a group, Koreans are an odd target for organizations such as the TAT, promoting the trickle-down theory of sustainable tourism development.

manager of a Rawai-area resort observed that, "Guest spending in our restaurants is only about 60% that of last year. I think most visitors to the island have less money than before."

He also noted that the spread between guests' spending power is sometimes embarrassing. "They all used to be about the same level. But this year, one table may have a couple drinking three bottles of fine wine and spending 20,000 baht on dinner. Seated next to them will be diners obviously watching expenditures. I get people paying 8,000 baht for a room who complain that soup with dinner is 190 baht."

He agreed that "if you want to fill more rooms, you have to work with a bigger market". He was, however, worried that Phuket might suffer the same fate as Spain, where mass tourism has

ruined many of Europe's most picturesque cities and landscapes. "I almost think Phuket was better off with the backpackers — they spent more outside the hotel," he added.

The TAT could stem Phuket's tide of "cheap Charlies" by encouraging regional tourism. Suwalai Pinpradab, TAT Southern Region 4 Office director, is worried that rising fuel prices may depress long-haul markets.

She announced on January 9 that her office was promoting the Korean-honeymooner and other markets from which tourists can reach Phuket easily and often.

"Korean honeymooners," said the Rawai F-and-B manager, "spend money nowhere but in Korean shops." As a group, Koreans are an odd target for organizations such as the TAT, pro-

moting the trickle-down theory of sustainable tourism development.

K. Suwalai has noted that, while tourist numbers are already up, Thailand wants more tourists, so TAT is putting on road shows in Osaka, Spain and Italy.

One sign that cheap packages are taking a toll is found in TAT's revenue and tourism figures for 2004 and 2006.

In the former year, Phuket's revenue from 4.7 million visitors was 85.6 billion baht. In 2006, revenue from 4.5 million visitors was just 77.6 billion baht.

In the intervening period, the dollar plummeted against the euro, the baht strengthened and inflation was heavy owing to rising costs of fuel and other commodities.

Spending should have been up, but it declined in real and absolute terms. The trend was al-

ready evident in 2004's shrinking rate of revenue increase — a disparity of 1.45% — relative to increasing tourist numbers.

Whether the downward trend in revenue-verses-tourism numbers is accelerating won't become clear until final figures from 2007 are published, but a bellweather is Phuket's scuba-diving industry. Suracheat Kochaputi, 55, has serviced oxygen tanks and compressors for local dive companies in his Chalong Plaza shop for eight years.

"I fill tanks for 40 baht each and rent them for 80. Not many people want to compete at those prices," he said. K. Suracheat gets the lion's share of dive-shop business. "This year, many new dive shops have opened," he said.

Nonetheless, his revenue is "down 50% from 2005". In 2005, K. Suracheat was taking in about 10,000 baht per day.

Last year, it was about 7,000 baht and now, about 5,000 baht per day — and sometimes not even that much. Companies doing day-trips are not bringing in as many tanks to refill.

"There are a lot of tourists about, but they don't seem to have much money. Liveaboards, on the other hand, are still strong," he said.

Linguist and author of educational texts Marcia Fisk Ong, originally from Michigan, brokers liveaboard dive tours from Phuket for a clientele culled mainly from the Internet.

She confirmed that business remained strong, although with the Similans and Phi Phi Islands so crowded with sightseers on mass excursions, it's anyone's guess when the bubble will burst.

A young Patong restaurateur said he was eyeing a change. "Sihanoukville in Cambodia. The

waters off the islands there are really clear, pristine. The Similans have little to offer once you've seen that."

Land prices, he noted, are skyrocketing, but still cheap when compared to Phuket.

If big spenders recoil at wading through floods, creeping in traffic jams and dodging cars in Patong's speed-racer road circuit, can anything be done to stop their exodus?

So-called "dynamic packaging", allowing tourism operators to profitably bundle their own contracted inventory in packages with attractive, but "zero-commission", third-party products such as no-frills flights, is the wave of the future.

Everything conspires towards more building and ever-cheaper packages. "From a sales perspective," wrote Tim Forsyth of the London School of Economics and Political Science in an analysis of sustainable tourism models, "package holidays have 'time value', meaning that tour operators and travel agencies have the urgent task of selling holidays before the starting date — or else they cease to exist." That leads to price-cutting.

With 638 hotels and 37,546 rooms in Phuket (and counting), competition to avoid bankruptcy is necessarily keen.

Dive instructor and agent Ross James, 39, of Portland Oregon, thinks package tourism based on guerrilla marketing via the Internet is not only inevitable, but, in the end, preferable.

"People want to know the cost before they sign up," he said.

Providing all-inclusive tours, he said, "is the only way to avoid guests feeling chiseled."

Then, too, it may be the only way of keeping Phuket's hotel rooms filled.

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Queer News

Spineless heroes aid police

LOPBURI: Dogs and horses are known for their faithful service in law-enforcement activities.

In Lopburi Province, however, police recently found a new animal ally – the humble leech.

On the evening of January 13, Pol Lt Col Theerayuth Yungthong, investigation inspector at Lopburi Muang District Police Station, received a call from the headman of Village 6 in Tambon Khao Sam Yod.

The headman reported that a group of ne'er-do-wells in a pickup truck were carrying out the lowliest of crimes: stealing drain covers from public roadways to sell as scrap metal.

Quickly assembling a crack squad of officers, Col Theerayuth set off in pursuit.

They caught up with the thieves near Ba Wai Railway Station, but the grate-rustlers abandoned their truck and ran off into a low-lying, woody area by the station.

Police surrounded the patch of woods and hunted for the suspects – but to no avail.

Then, after about an hour of fruitless searching, a young man with blood pouring down his neck emerged. He wanted to give himself up.

The youth identified himself as Songyot "Joe" Thiangtae, 19, from Saraburi.

He had been hiding in a pond in the woods while the police hunted for him and was prepared to stay there as long as needed until officers gave up the search, he told police after his arrest.

However, his determination to elude the long arm of the law lessened considerably when he was set upon by the tiny, blood-sucking predators that are always on patrol in swampy parts of Thailand.

"I could cope with lying still in the cold water, but when the leeches started biting my neck it was more than I could bear.

"I feared death; that all the blood would be drained from my body. I felt that if I stayed in the pond any longer, even more leeches would appear, so in the end I admitted defeat. If it hadn't been for those pesky leeches sucking my blood, I would have escaped for sure," Joe said, in a feeble tone.

In the back of the truck abandoned by the robbers, police found nine drain covers that Joe admitted having helped steal to sell for scrap.

Police are now hunting for

the remaining three members of the gang.

They did not say whether the leeches would be given any kind of recognition for the pivotal role they played in Joe's arrest.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Rasta roadie nearly roasted

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: A sound technician for the popular Thai reggae band "Marijuana" almost went up in smoke January 17, after the fuel system he had just installed in his sedan malfunctioned and exploded.

The technician, identified only as Charin, was driving from Surat Thani to Nakhon Sri Thammarat when he was almost lit up.

He was on his way to check the sound system in Country Home Bar, where Marijuana were due to play on January 18.

As he was driving along the Surat Thani-Nakhon Sri Thammarat road through Tambon Thung Prang in Sichon District at about 8:15 pm, K. Charin was alarmed to notice flames leaping up from the trunk of the car.

With the flames spreading quickly, K. Charin screeched to a halt and leapt out of the vehicle just seconds before it exploded as if in a Hollywood stunt scene.

Sichon District Police said the cause of the explosion was likely to have been a leak in the new gas tank that Charin had just had fitted into the boot of the car.

It was not reported if he had been puffing on his band's name-sake narcotic that day.

Source: Kom Chad Luek.



Early in 2007, the *Gazette* ran a photo of an unsightly trash dump

TRASHING Phuket



near the entrance to the otherwise scenic viewpoint near the access road to Khao Khad Tower, some 50 meters outside tambon Wichit's Village 7.

The garbage, comprising food scraps, construction materials and other debris, is still there marring the view overlooking Chalong Bay and the Big Buddha image in the distance.

The only visitors to the viewpoint who seem to enjoy the trash mound are the numerous stray dogs who frequent the area in search of a quick bite to eat.

February blood-donation clinics

PHUKET: The blood bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital will hold blood-donation sessions at the following locations and times:

February 12: Phuket Rajabhat University on Thepkasattri Rd, from 10 am to 3 pm.

February 15: Jungceylon on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong, from 11 am to 3 pm.

February 19: Dusit Laguna Hall at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, from 10 am to 3 pm.

February 22: Centara Karon Resort Phuket, in Karon, from 10 am to 3 pm.

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A gang of eight Border Patrol Police and four civilians were arrested in Bangkok on January 24 and taken to Thon Buri Special Prison for allegedly kidnapping a businesswoman and her family.

The gang was arrested at an apartment after police learned they had abducted Piengjit Peungon, 42, her family and others earlier in the week, extorting more than 8 million baht from them for their release.

The gang leader was identified as Border Police officer Capt Nat Chonnitiwanich and other officers based in Chumphon.

Although all the suspects denied the charges, they were denied bail on the grounds that they could tamper with evidence or intimidate witnesses.

Five members of the gang, all Border Patrol police, are still on the run and a manhunt is underway. Their commanding officers have been asked to assist in securing their surrender.

After news of the gang's arrest, many other people, including a couple in Trang and a Chinese man, came forward to say that they had also been abducted and robbed by the gang.

The gang allegedly abducted wealthy people, charged them with drug-related offenses and demanded large amounts of cash for their release. The couple in Trang claimed they were also tortured by electroshock.

All of the cases the suspects were investigating as police officers are now under review by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board.

Police are also investigating why the gang was allowed to operate in Bangkok when they were stationed in the south.

Flu the coop. Bird flu outbreaks have occurred in two northeastern provinces and authorities suspect it has spread to Kalasin after mass chicken deaths were discovered there on January 27. The first cases of the virus were discovered three days earlier in Nakhon Sawan.

Health officials said the virus was also responsible for mass

Rogue cops charged with abduction, extortion



Something fishy

With the road temporarily blocked, motorcycle taxi drivers and a policeman collect thousands of fish that fell off a pickup truck in Pathum Thani on January 23. Photo by Anant Chantarasut

bird deaths in Phichit after laboratory tests confirmed the virus to be H5N1.

In Phichit, 19 people became ill in Sak Lek district, where 600 chickens were culled.

All had direct contact with chickens and would be monitored daily for at least 21 days.

Kalasin Governor Pracha Jitsuthiphol said the province culled thousands of birds in 2004 and had implemented strict prevention and monitoring measures.

The outbreak in the province was the first in years, he said.

Star teachers. Thailand is to have its first "e-learning" courses in astronomy to train teachers so that they will be able to teach the subject more effectively.

As astronomy has only recently been added to the basic education curriculum, there is a shortage of local teachers with knowledge about the subject.

To make up for the shortfall, the Learning Center for Earth Science & Astronomy and Chulalongkorn University have jointly launched two courses, one each for primary and secondary school teachers.

Teachers enrolling for those courses, which take about four months to complete, receive astronomy books, CDs and software used to survey the universe.

Chulalongkorn hopes the courses will be accepted by the Education Ministry.

A matter of priority. The rising cost of living tops the list of problems people want the new government to fix, according to a poll released by the Abac Poll Research Center on January 26.

People were asked to name the 10 top problems the government should make "national agenda issues".

Solving rising prices was on

75.4% of respondents' lists. Illegal drugs worried 68.3%. The poll found that 65.2% of respondents wanted the troubles in the Deep South resolved, while 64.3% and 53.6% wanted state corruption and youth problems, respectively, on the national agenda.

As for leadership, more than 44% of respondents supported Samak Sundaravej as prime minister, while 38.4% were opposed and 17.3% responded "no comment".

Abac Poll surveyed 3,506 respondents in 27 provinces between January 20 and January 26.

10 die in bus plunge. Eight women and two men were killed and 26 injured on January 26

when their chartered coach drove off a sharp downhill curve in Kanchanaburi's Sangkhla Buri district on its way to a monk's funeral.

At 7 am, bus driver Prapasrat Saengthon lost control while negotiating the "1,000-Corpse Curve" on the Thong Phaphume-Sangkhla Buri Rd.

Prapasrat, 57, fled the scene but was caught in the afternoon on a Bangkok-bound bus at a checkpoint in Kanchanaburi provincial capital district.

Prapasrat said that a 10-wheel truck had slowed down at the curve, so he had tried to brake, but the brakes failed. The bus hit the truck's rear and overturned.

Alignment assignment. The Public Health Ministry has recognized chiropractic treatment by giving the go-ahead for examinations for chiropractors' licenses, paving the way for this alternative medicine to gain broad public acceptance within 10 years.

In chiropractic treatment, practitioners use their hands to manipulate patients' body structures to reduce back pain or repair mechanical disorders of the spine. No drugs or surgery are involved. Thailand is the second country in Asia to issue chiropractic licenses after Hong Kong.

Chiropractic was introduced to Thailand more than a decade ago, but the first examination for chiropractic licenses was held last July, with 17 of 21 applicants passing.

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

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THAI inks Samui deal

Thai Airways has announced that it will begin serving Samui International Airport this month.

The national airline will operate 28 flights a week using a 737-400, two each way, daily, between Bangkok and Samui.

The airport is owned and operated by Bangkok Airways. Executives from both airlines met and a decision was made to allow Thai Airways to use the airport for an undisclosed fee said to include landing and ground-handling charges.

Bangkok Airways has been criticized by Samui residents for its monopoly over the airport, leading to claims of overpriced flights.

A petition from residents in favor of building a second airport was given to the Ministry of Transport.

Other airlines are said to be negotiating with Bangkok Airways to strike a deal that would

allow them to use the airport.

Flights by Thai Airways are scheduled to leave Bangkok at 7:45am and 4 pm daily, with return flights at 9:40 am and 5:50 pm.

Samui's rubbish crisis. Koh Samui Municipality's waste-disposal system is facing an imminent crisis in the coming year, said Dr Phol Sakedthong, who is in charge of managing the Municipality's incinerator.

Local officials working in the waste-management department are urging the government to step in to prevent an overflow of rubbish.

Dr Phol claims that the rubbish incinerator on Samui can handle up to 140 tons of waste per day, while the island produces up to 130 tons per day, leaving little room for any increase.

Years of hotel and resort development has spawned a huge rise in the amount of waste produced. Dr Phol warned that mea-



FLYING IN: Koh Samui will soon see more tourists arriving by air, once Thai Airways begins direct flights from Bangkok to the island later this month.

sures must be taken to avoid problems in the future.

"Our incinerator was designed to deal with garbage not over the 140-ton limit. At the time it was built, waste was estimated to be increasing at a rate of 9% per year. Due to unforeseen fac-

tors, that rate has changed to 20%," said Dr Phol.

Dr Phol added that he expects that the amount of rubbish will reach 140 tons per day by the middle of next year. Once this limit is reached, the implications for the environment and the public could be disastrous, he said.

Bad check leads to arrest. A long-term Samui resident and prominent businessman was arrested January 15 on charges of writing a check for 750,000 baht that subsequently bounced.

Briton Alan Sadd, an established real-estate investor and owner of the Coco Blues pub, was arrested at a Thai immigration office while making arrangements for a visa to travel to Taiwan.

Police said that Sadd, 60, admitted to writing a check for

750,000 baht to a construction firm.

Representatives from the construction firm claim that the transaction took place early last year and that the check went un-

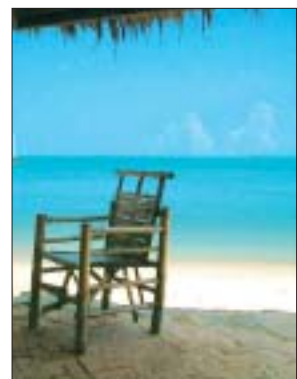
honored. Sadd will be taken to court by the construction firm if he fails to pay the allegedly-owed sum.

More drug arrests. A Liberian man suspected of dealing drugs at a resort on Samui has been arrested.

Ferdinand Dokatus, 28, was arrested at his hotel room in the Bangrak area with 48 grams of cocaine and 100,000 baht in his

possession.

Police caught Dokatus in a sting operation after posing as tourists. Several other drug arrests were made at police checkpoints around the island.



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Soldier shot in central Surat

In what police suspect was a revenge attack, a soldier was shot dead in his car opposite Surat Thani Municipality offices on January 26.

Sgt Manas Kaowphut-phong, 33, was found dead in the driver's seat of his Toyota Fortuna SUV outside Pha Muang Restaurant. He had been shot three times in the head with a .38-caliber weapon.

Police believe his killers waited for him to come out of the restaurant, then shot at close range through the driver's side window as he was preparing to drive away.

Police said that Sgt Manas, who was based at Viphavadee Rangsit Army Camp in Surat Thani, was the right-hand man of a well-known colonel at the camp.

Police also reported that he had previously been close to the son of a national politician and a number of well-known businessmen in the Surat Thani nightlife entertainment industry.

From their investigations, police learned that Sgt Manas managed security for a number of venues in which soldiers held shares, including the Pha Muang Restaurant where he was killed.

At the time of his death, Sgt Manas was on trial for murder. He was also a suspect in a number of other murder cases.

Police believe that he may have been shot in retaliation of one of these killings. Because Sgt Manas' enemies were so numerous, police are having trouble narrowing down the list of potential suspects, the report read.

Lure of the sea. A man is feared to have drowned after being swept away while playing in the sea with friends in Chumphon's Pathiu District January 20.

A search through the night by divers and patrol boats involving more than 30 Marine Police and rescue volunteers failed to find any trace of the missing man, Athit Thuaythong, 26.

Friends said that K. Athit, a



A soldier examines one of more than 100 holes from bullets and pieces of shrapnel on a bus attacked by militants in Pattani's Thung Yang Daeng district on January 23. The bus was transporting 30 soldiers back to their barracks when attacked.

— Photo by Charoon Thongnual

native of neighboring Tha Sae district, had gone to the beach for a picnic on his day off with about 20 fellow workers to have a belated New Year's celebration.

After eating and drinking whiskey, many of the revelers started to play in the sea. K. Athit disappeared under a large wave and has not been seen since.

Chumphon Governor Manit Wattanasen, who went to survey the scene, said that normally there would be three or four signs warning people not to swim in the sea due to dangerous conditions. However, all of the signs had been knocked down.

Gov Manit said he would order the relevant authorities to put up more warning signs to avoid a repeat of the tragedy.

Icy bust. Following a raid on a party, a drug dealer was arrested in a sting operation at a well-known hotel in Trang Town on January 25.

Thana Laothetkiat, 44, also

known as Ko Jai, was arrested after selling just over one gram of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) to an undercover police officer for 3,000 baht.

Thana was charged with possession of a Class 1 drug with intent to supply. At the time of his arrest, Thana was out on bail for another drugs charge being heard in court.

Two girls accompanying Thana, aged 16 and 17, were arrested and charged with using drugs after their urine tested positive.

The lead for the arrests came following a police bust on a drug party in Trang Plaza hotel earlier the same day.

Maj Nataphop Phongsapan, a Crime Suppression Division Inspector at Trang Muang District Police Station, led a team of six officers to room 501 of the hotel after receiving a tip-off that guests in the room were using drugs.

In the room, officers found

three men and three women, all intoxicated. They seized 1.7 grams of ice. The revelers were named by police as Phatanakit Suksurin, 39, Warawan Jaenakson, 39, Sutthi Mekmok, 23, Chutima Kaeowchit, 28, Kannita Naksamphan, 22, and Netranapha Saengrat, 20.

All six were arrested and taken to Trang Muang District Police Station, where they confessed to having bought the drugs from Thana and told police how to contact him. They were charged with possession of a Class 1 drug.

Bloody legacy. A man was shot dead in a rubber plantation in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Thung Song district early on January 25. Police believe the killing may have been motivated by an inheritance dispute.

The body of Suphap Juniow, 40, was found lying in a rubber plantation is the district's Tambon Khao Khaow.

He had been shot in the chest with a shotgun.

Lt Col Bunmee Siripalaka, Deputy Superintendent of Thung Song District Police Station, quoted K. Suphap's wife K. Nucharee as telling police that K. Suphap was originally from Tha Sala district and had moved to live with her and her mother.

K. Suphap worked tapping rubber on the 30-rai plantation owned by his mother-in-law. When he finished working in the plantation, he would go to Tha Sala to buy fish to sell in the village.

K. Nucharee told officers

that she could not think of any reason why anybody would want to kill her husband as he was a good, hard-working man.

However, Col Bunmee said that information gleaned during their investigation led police to suspect that the future of K. Nucharee's mother's plantation could have provided a motive for the killing.

K. Suphap and K. Nucharee were set to inherit a larger share of the land than K. Nucharee's two siblings as K. Nucharee's mother thought very highly of K. Suphap, Col Bunmee said.

Rohingyas arrested. Police in Ranong arrested 73 Rohingya men on Koh Mor, an island off the Ranong coast, on January 26.

They were arrested by Marine Police at 5:30 am.

One of the men told police that they left Arakan state in Burma on January 12 hoping to find jobs in Thailand because they could not stand the famine and poverty at home.

Rohingyas are a predominantly Islamic ethnic group from Burma's Rakhine State. Subject to decades of persecution by the military government, many live in refugee camps across the border in neighboring Bangladesh.

Many Rohingya refugees use Ranong as a jump-off point on the way to Malaysia, where there is a substantial Rohingya refugee population.

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

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By Janyaporn Morel

Rice has evolved in tandem with Thai culture over many centuries. The hearty grain remains an inseparable part of Thai cuisine.

Foreigners who come to Thailand are often surprised to see Thai people eating rice with every meal.

Acknowledging the importance of rice in the country, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 2000 donated money through his Chai-pattana Foundation to form the Thai Rice Foundation, which initiated many rice-development projects.

The foundation has teamed up with Classic Class Co Ltd, maker of TOMEX electrical rice cookers, and DMG Books to organize the National Rice Cooking Competition. Regional events are now being held throughout the country.

The Phuket heat on January 19 saw 20 teams of three steam away in battle for the 10,000-baht prize and the chance to compete on May 18 for the 50,000-baht grand prize in Bangkok.

To enter the contest, more than 30 teams submitted an essay on the theme "King's rice, the country's rice", explaining how rice affects and inspires their daily lives.

The 20 teams chosen to compete had an hour to prepare two sets of rice: one in a traditional rice cooking pot over charcoal and another using a modern electric rice cooker.

The rice used was Thai Hom Mali Rice 105, a strain of jasmine rice from the royal rice mill.

Judges awarded points based on appearance, creativity of presentation, cleanliness, cooking technique, and, most importantly, the rice's taste, look and aroma.

Team Med Khao (rice seed) from Phuket Vocational School



Twenty teams of three steamed away in a rice-cooking battle for the 10,000-baht prize and the chance to compete on May 18 for the 50,000-baht grand prize in Bangkok.

THE RICE IS RIGHT

took top honors.

Chanuwat Thongtem, 16, Pornpan Khongthongkam, 17, and Prapaporn Kluaklin, 17, prepared a recipe that infused 30 grams of diced taro, black beans and lotus seeds into a mix of rice and water.

K. Chanuwat told the *Gazette* that he had never tried cook-

ing rice using a traditional method before and that his team practiced for a week in advance.

In addition to the seeds, pandanus leaves were placed in the water while the rice cooked to enhance the rice's aroma.

K. Chanuwat attributed his team's win to the use of natural, nutrient-rich local ingredients

that are inexpensive and easy to find.

The team named Plai Khao Su Su (broken-milled rice) from Phuket Rajabhat University emerged as runners-up in the contest with their colorful concoction.

Students Karnjana Nuanchan, 20, Chanakan Kohkaew, 25, and Wipawan Choonon, 20,

created a dish using 80% jasmine rice, 20% unpolished rice for a red tinge, tumeric yellow rice and diced carrot.

K. Karnjana explained that the water was boiled with butterfly pea flowers for blue coloring and pandanus leaves to bring out a delightful scent.

Drops of lemon juice were added to the water and pre-soaked lotus seeds were also added for a dash of added nutrition and to make the rice cook faster.

"Although we had never cooked rice by the traditional method before, we have learned that older generations of people used to cook like this and we want to conserve it," said K. Karnjana.

"We spent only two days practicing, but when we go to compete in the national round, we will try to do our best," she added.

In addition to the 10,000-baht cash purse, the two top teams were each awarded a plaque of honor from the Thai Rice Foundation, a TOMEX rice cooker and gifts from the program's supporters.

In the national competition to be held in May, the winning team will be presented with a trophy from HRH Princess Soamsawali, as well as 50,000 baht.

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Rain forecast for Phuket

Here I am in a new restaurant, remembering a time years ago when a mullet was the haircut of choice, a laptop was something naughty girls did for money and a mouse was a rodent. People would spend cocktail hour at a trendy west-coast hotel.

A duo would bash out calypso on guitar and maracas, and we would splash out 40 baht for mai Thais and Tequila sunrises. Ah, the memories.

As I reflect upon our naiveté, I recall that we never imagined things in Phuket could become more refined. Then again, I used to hang out with yachties.

Well, *tempus* sure does *fugit* – and here we are in a Phuket that is groaning under the weight of mega-rich property owners and the forward-thinking entertainment investors catering to them (if you know of a 40-baht cocktail, call me immediately).

One such forward-thinking person is Jinou Park, the man behind the Rain-Hail restaurant and lounge at Bang Tao.

K. Jinou's vision for Rain-Hail is that of a chic entertainment-and-lifestyle complex – he's



Rain-Hail at Bang Tao brings ultra-modern design, innovative planning and meticulous food preparation to Phuket.
– Photo by Stephan Audiger

not looking to make a quick buck. The complex is on the quiet Soi Cherng Talay 14.

Tucked away from the satellite hotel businesses of Tinlay Place, K. Jinou is confident that word of mouth will ensure solid and lasting success for his creation.

Rain-Hail is designed along clean and well-defined lines with hints of traditional Lanna-style thrown in.

Cocktails are served in the Hail lounge and, believe me, there's not a single mullet in there.

As well as standard cock-

tails, Hail offers an amazing array of sochu-based "muddles".

Sochu is a Japanese spirit, not unlike grappa in its aroma, but with a milder buzz.

It mixes perfectly with lemon grass, melon, mint, ginger and even banana to make striking concoctions.

The lounge sports plenty of sofa space, buffed concrete floors and a shocking-pink bar that morphs into an informal DJ party zone later in the evening.

There's nothing quite like listening to great sounds with an eclectic cocktail in your mitt.

"Behind every great evening is a glamorous start," states the drinks menu. I couldn't agree more. "One more melon and mint sochutini, s'il vous plait," I call out.

Across the elegant courtyard stands the brightly-lit Rain restaurant.

The concept of Rain is to present premium Pacific Rim wine and cuisine, which Oz chef Derek Brown delivers in grand style, offering a deliberately-lim-

ited menu.

There's homemade butter and beetroot-spread already on the table as we sit down.

Soon, I'm enjoying coconut-and-pumpkin soup followed by a seafood selection that includes swordfish carpaccio, oysters, rolled Japanese egg crepe with lump crab, shaved squid and scallops with smoked duck breast.

Next comes tuna tartar and a plate of king-prawn-and-scallop ravioli.

A smooth Hayes Ranch California Merlot regally accompanies these clever arrangements.

Speaking of wine, for all this ultra-modern design, innovative planning and meticulous food preparation, you'd expect to pay big for the labels at Rain, but the ample wine list is reasonably priced.

Rain has braised oxtail meat in a Penang sauce that must be tasted to be believed.

Last time I ordered oxtail was in Costa Rica and I got just that – a burnt, fatty slab of bovine vertebrae hanging over the edges of a chipped plate in a bleak, fly-ridden hotel canteen.

Not so at Rain, where a patent should be taken out on the oxtail dish, it's that good.

Rain-Hail's team is charismatic, youthful and talented. Young, bright and forward-thinking culinary aces are just what Phuket needs more of.

Sochu muddles are 150 baht before 8 pm and 300 baht after. Appetizers cost 400 baht to 690 baht. Main courses are 700 baht to 980 baht. Desserts are

priced at 300 baht.

The official opening party at Rain-Hail Restaurant and Lounge will be on February 2. Rain-Hail is located at Soi Cherng Talay 14. Tel: 081-7971967. Website: www.rain-hail.com



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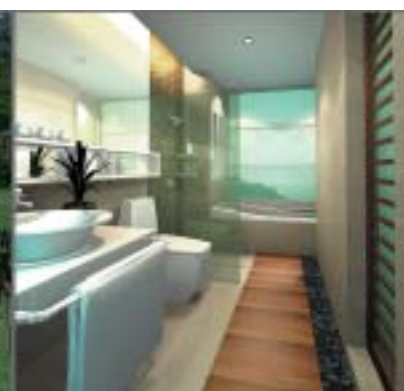
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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Niramon Miang-arom and Chainat Kittithornkul were married at the Metropole Hotel on December 16.



Susan and Kevin Radway celebrated their wedding at Indigo Pearl Resort, Nai Yang, on December 28.

Learning from Love letters

By Skyler Swezy

Foreigners with fluency in English and Thai enjoy an obvious advantage in Phuket, whether it concerns business or romance. For Dennis Hage a command of German, Thai and English has led to an eclectic collection of career choices and unique insights into relationships between Thais and Europeans.

Living in Patong for 13 years, German national Dennis Hage, is savvy about cross-continental relationships. He has taught German, translated love letters, worked in a law office, managed an Adidas branch, managed a diving resort, written a book and now runs a German restaurant and bar.

Dennis in his mid-30's, in gold running shoes, a white dress shirt and a gold neck chain, rattles off instructions to one of his staff in perfect Thai, at Deutsche



Kneipe Restaurant in Jungceylon.

"I couldn't have lived here for all these years without speaking Thai. This is one of the basic things that has helped me survive in Thailand, learning the language. My Thai is much better than my English, I speak Thai every day, at work and at home," he said in clear English.

Dennis's life in Thailand has a classic beginning: a 20-year-old finishes school, goes on holiday in Siam, returns home and decides Thailand might be the better place to live.

"When I got back to Germany I thought, 'I should learn Thai. If I can speak the language maybe I can live in Thailand. It'll be great and I can work there.'"

After a year of Thai language lessons, Dennis landed back in Thailand with enough money for six months. He ended up sticking around for 13 years.

In 1999, he published a book titled *Wer nicht hören will, muss fühlen! Partnerschaft mit einer Thailänderin* (If you don't want to listen, you have to learn it the hard way! Relationships with Thai girls), which is now in its third

edition and on sale in four European countries.

Book stores across Thailand are filled with manuals written in English on Thai-Foreigner relationships, but German speakers need advice on romance too. Dennis saw an opportunity to use his dual fluency and compiled his advice on and knowledge of German-Thai relationships into 240 pages.

"It's about romantic relationships between foreign men and Thai girls. There are interviews and stories about their problems, funny things, good things, bad things; it's a mix up."

But speaking Thai and having Thai girlfriends doesn't qualify just anyone as an expert on Euro-Asian relationships. Dennis gained much of his insight into such relationships when he worked at a translation office and then at a German law office.

One of Dennis' first jobs in Patong was translating letters from Thai to German and from German to Thai. Thai women would often bring love letters to their German boyfriends for him to translate into German. Dennis soon learned about ladies' vari-



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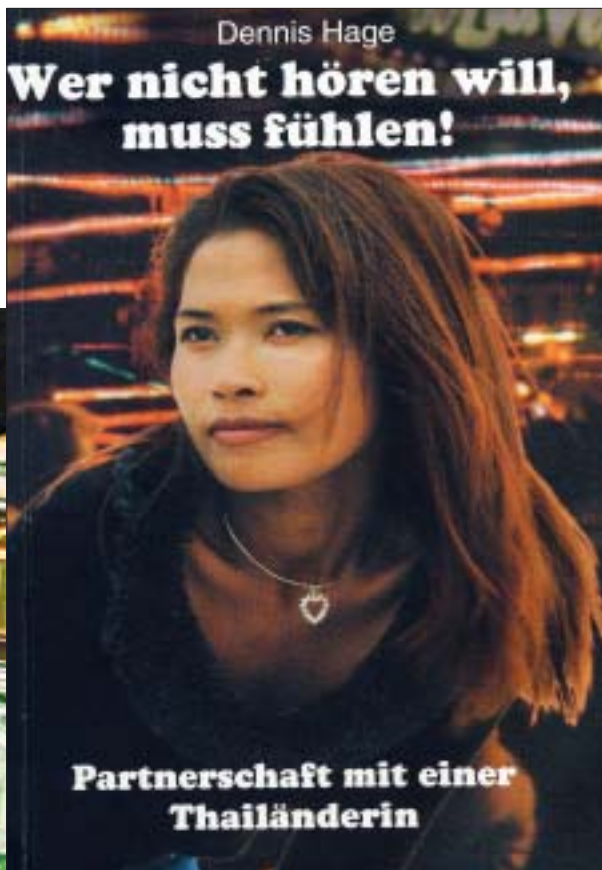
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Translating letters penned by Thai women for their European boyfriends opened Dennis Hage's eyes to the intricacies of Thai-foreign romance, and provided inspiration for his book.

ous methods of money extraction.

"They would bring in the letters they had written in Thai, for Hilbert in Germany, Pierre in France or Sven in Sweden. I saw that many letters were bullshit, because sometimes I made them twice, one for guy A and then the same one for guy B. And it was exactly the same story, asking for money basically," he said.

Dennis includes some of these letters in his book. Seeing how the German boyfriends responded and how the relationships came to an end was always interesting, he said.

His next occupation, as a consultant for the German Thai Group, a now defunct law office that catered to Germans, brought Dennis in contact with the uglier side of Thai-Farang relationships.

"People would come in almost every day and tell me what happened with girls. Like the guy who bought a house for his girlfriend who later sent him out of the house. He thought it was his house because he'd paid for it, but actually everything was in the girl's name. Also, the car, the motorbike and other things."

Dennis worked at the law

office for five years, sometimes flying to Bangkok in the morning to translate for a drug dealer in court and returning to Phuket the same day.

Though it was exciting, it soon became a life full of problems. "Because my job was to handle other people's problems. I started to have headaches almost every day and I started to hate Thailand because I only saw the corruption and lying," he said.

Dennis left the law office to manage an Adidas branch on Bangla Rd, then became GM at a dive resort.

He now enjoys his post as Business Development Manager of Deutsche Kneipe. However, he does credit the law office job for providing some of the experiences that would enable him to write a book.

So is the German-Thai relationship expert married? "No, I'm not married and I don't have any children. I was in a relationship for four-and-a-half years. And now I have a great girlfriend who is an architect."

And most importantly:

"Yes, I follow the advice in my book," he added.

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This week



FOR THE KIDS: The Rotary Club of Patong Beach on January 15 donated 968,553 baht to buy a van for transporting children of the Life Home Project to and from school. The ceremony was held at the Aloha Villa Hotel, Patong.

From left are Life Home Project Foundation project co-ordinators Nattaya Nulong and Rattkhet Pongpud, Rotary Club of Patong Beach President OB Wetzell and former President David Arell.



CZECH IT OUT: Phuket Tourist Association President and owner representative of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa Maitree Narukatpichai hosts a dinner for the 12 Miss Czech 2008 finalists at the Hilton resort on January 17.



MERCURE RISING: Mercure Patong General Manager Veeranat Limprasutr (right) and Director of Sales Sorawish Bunrathirun (left) welcomes Vietnamese investor Tran Cong Tuau and his team from 21st Century Co Ltd, who are planning a new resort in Vietnam under Accor Asia Pacific management.



BRAND NEW: Methaya Huayhongthong (with bouquet) introduces her new fashion-wear brand Cocolopez to Phuket with a fashion show and party at Surin Beach. The sexy and chic line of clothing will be on sale at her Jungceylon store.



COCKTAILS AT THE VILLA: Laguna Phuket Holiday Residences celebrate the launch of their holiday villas with a cocktail party on January 18. From left are Busaba Chanpichaikosol, Managing Director of Albatross Leisure; Leslie Chiyoma, Director of Sales and Marketing – Hospitality for Laguna Phuket Holiday Residences, and his wife, Audrey Jacqueline Fernandez; and Patcharee Chanantho, PA to Assistant Vice-President – Hospitality Services.



FAR OUT ART: Artist Somsak Kongnaphakdee (2nd from left) launched a joint exhibition (with Pairoj Wangbon, not pictured) of abstract oils and sculptures 'SIMPLY far away but so close' at Vichen Gallery on January 18.

Attending the launch are *Phuket Bulletin* Managing Director Chaiyos Pinradub (3rd from left); Phuket Sea Shell Museum owner Somchai Patthamakhantthin (3rd from right), Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office Director Suwalai Pinradub and Somkid Huangtanapan (right).



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Just say 'Eye do'

By Semacote Suganya

Swedish make-up artist and TV personality Ole Johansson visited Phuket last month with brush in hand to offer tips and tricks for brides seeking picture-perfect faces for their wedding days.

Ole joined a team from the Swedish cosmetics company Make Up Store at the opening of its new outlet at Central Festival Phuket last month.

In his salon and on his TV program *Wedding Hassle*, Ole has honed his artistic skills not only in make-up, but also fashion, hair and beauty, bringing all the elements together to create a dazzling look for any bride's big day.

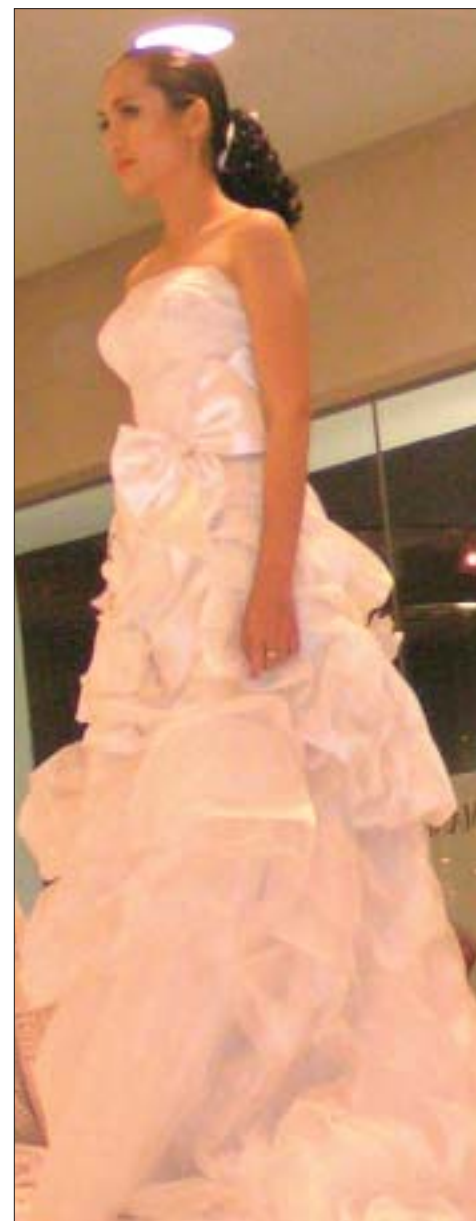
Traveling the world, Ole has found that tastes vary. He has provided his services at more than 1,000 weddings in places such as Morocco, Syria, Indonesia and

Greece. Swedish brides prefer a more natural, lightly made-up face, he said, while in Jakarta, brides prefer a heavier application of make-up.

The color palette, however, is the same worldwide. You need to blend shades to match a woman's unique complexion, he explained.

For the wedding day, Ole recommends staying with a classic look "because when you have a photo, you will have to look at it for the next 40 years".

No matter how many people are taking care of a bride's beauty details, all the elements must work together, Ole said. "The dress, the hairdo, jewelry, flowers - all these things must be taken into consideration so that everything is together. If one thing is here, one thing is there, another thing's over there, it doesn't work."



Ole created four classic looks for the Make Up Store's grand opening at Central Festival:



Eyelash enhancer: This style best suits a woman who has short, thin eyelashes. A light shadow tone just under the eyebrow brings out the eyes. A touch of rouge and two blended shades of lip liner complete the look.



All about eyes: Eyeliner along the top that gets progressively thicker as it extends outwards gives the eyes the fullness that many Asian women seek. Eyebrows are natural looking, not too dark.



Smoky eyes: This classic, fail-safe look focuses on highlighting the eyes for dramatic effect. Eyeshadow is expertly extended beyond the outer edges of the eyes to make them stand out.

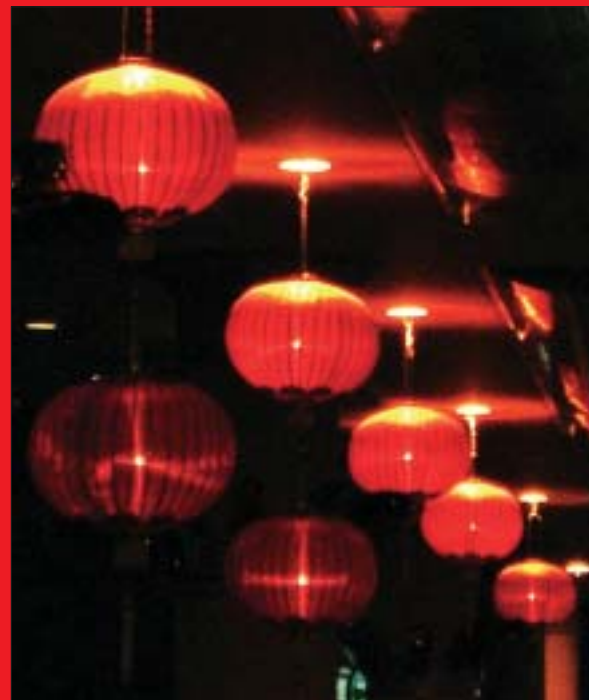


Earth tones: A light foundation ensures that the heat of the day will not cause make-up to rub off or become discolored. Bronze with cream highlights keeps the look soft and natural.



BLUSHING BRIDES: Swedish make-up artist Ole Johansson (left) says that all the elements – hair, make-up, dress – should work together. Just a few of his stunning complete creations (above).

Year of the mighty rat



Red lanterns are hung during the New Year as a symbol of good fortune. – Photo by Formulax

For the Chinese, a new moon on February 7 marks the beginning of the year of the rat, which lasts until January 25, 2009. Although small and often seen as a pest, the rat is considered a power sign like the dragon and tiger. The rat is a clever creature that makes up for its small stature with wit and swiftness.

Rats are winners. They are hardworking, practical and passionate creatures who lead others with their charm and charisma. According to folklore, the 12 creatures of the Chinese zodiac gathered to compete against each other to see which one would be the first sign of the 12-year cycle. The task was to be the first animal to cross a river. The rat won by riding on the back of the ox, jumping off its back just as the ox reached the shore.

People born in the year of the rat might become future leaders as the Chinese rat is said to have high ambitions. It is often successful because it is a perfectionist and works hard to achieve its goals.

Rats can be frugal with money but like to hoard possessions.

If you're a rat, other Chinese zodiac ani-

mals to seek out as compatible partners are the dragon, monkey and ox. Celebrity rats include Ben Affleck, Gwyneth Paltrow, Mozart, Samuel L Jackson and William Shakespeare. If you were born after February in any of the following years, you are also a rat: 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948, 1936.

Chinese New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the lunar month and continue until the 15th, when the moon is brightest. In China, some people take weeks of time off from work to prepare for and celebrate the new year. Opening windows and doors is considered to bring in the good luck of the New Year.

Other customs to ensure a prosperous New Year include switching on the lights for the night to scare away spirits of misfortune and eating sweets to ensure a “sweet” year. Wearing a new pair of slippers that were bought before the New Year is supposed to stop people gossiping about you.

Buying shoes or pants, though, or washing your hair or sweeping the floor during the first few days of the Chinese New Year are considered bad luck and will spell misfortune for the coming year.



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AFTER DARK

By Nick Davies

Live Latino music has salsa shakers on their feet and breaking in the new dance floor (right).

Impiana Phuket Cabana Executives Sean Choo (below, left) and Gabriele Roscini (3rd from left) welcome Mexican cigar importers to the revamped nightspot.



The Latin-themed nightspot La Salsa re-opened its doors on January 18 with a fresh, contemporary Cuban look, a new live Latino band and a spacious dance floor.

La Salsa, at the Impiana Phuket Cabana on Patong's beach road, features more than 150 tropical cocktails, whiskeys and traditional Latino teasers, plus traditional long drinks and margaritas, as well as traditional concoctions. Genuine Peruvian pisco sour is also on offer.

Cigar aficionados will appreciate the selection of quality, hand-rolled brands, such as Montecristo, Cohiba, Dona Flor, Perdomo and Bolivar, to be enjoyed with a cocktail, whiskey, brandy or coffee.

Early evenings at La Salsa are ideal for after-business conversation. Watch the world go by while smoking cigars and sipping cocktails in a live Latino ambience.

Couples choose La Salsa

as a place to sip on champagne cocktails and dance sexy salsas with their partners.

After 8 pm, La Salsa is a romantically-charged, late-night honeymoon haunt where couples can go on a dancing date as the

resident Latino band picks up the tempo with sexy sambas and salsas until the early hours. Evenings at La Salsa are packed with variety. There's always something going on," said Gabriele Roscini, food and beverage operations

manager, Impiana Phuket Cabana. "We have nightly bartender shows, sangria nights, ladies nights and cigar-promotion nights planned," Gabriele added.

If your not looking to puff stogies, rather just in the mood for Latin American food, La Salsa also serves tasty tapas, burritos and other filling snacks, including, of course, salsa.

La Salsa is located on the beach road in Patong, Impiana Phuket Cabana Resort & Spa. Open from 5 pm until 2 am. Live music begins at 8:30 pm. For more information contact the Food and Beverage Department, Impiana Phuket Cabana. Tel: 076-340138 or 076-342100; Fax: 076-340178. Email: fbmicp@impiana.com

La Salsa!



FIT FOR LIFE

By Nick Dobyn

Since the marathon boom in the early 1980s, fitness trends around the world have evolved and developed at a remarkable rate. Aerobics and its various forms and brands, such as Step Reebok, Dancercise, BodyPump and Powerbar, have become a popular and effective means of group fitness training.

Of late, new trends have included group Hot Yoga, Aerobic Pole Dancing and Dirty Dancercise. Hot Yoga is already established in Phuket, while the other activities have long been available at drinking establishments around the island.

The 1990s saw a rapid rise in multi-sport challenges such as triathlons and adventure racing. The Laguna Phuket Triathlon is now a firmly-established annual event that attracts competitors from all over the world.

Likewise, the phenomenon of the Ironman Triathlon has now spread around the world to more than 20 events. This event began in the late 1970s when a group of US-Navy commanders based in Honolulu, Hawaii, were debating who was the fittest. Was it the swimmer, the cyclist or the marathon runner?

Navy Commander John Collins proposed a one-day race that would settle the argument once and for all. A combination of the Waikiki Roughwater Swim (3.8 kilometers), the Around Oahu Bike Ride (180.2km) and the Honolulu Marathon (42.2km) was to be raced by anybody willing to take the challenge, with the first over the line declared the Ironman.

The Hawaiian Ironman is now the world championship of ironman racing and is aspired to by triathletes all over the world.

Challenges like this are not for everyone, but smaller races like the Triballistic Triathlon series in Phuket are more realistic for a general fitness enthusiast.

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The triathlons are open to juniors, seniors and relay teams with one person completing each discipline.

You don't need to be a seasoned triathlete to challenge yourself in these events. All you need is a bit of determination, a base level of fitness, a pair of running shoes, a bike and a good training program to prepare you.

The fitness you gain from multi-sport challenges covers your whole body and the feeling of completing one of these races is one of great satisfaction. It's not about being first over the line. If you have a go, then you are a winner.

Like many people who are attracted to extreme physical challenges, I am heading down to Langkawi later this month to com-

pete in Ironman Malaysia. This will be my eighth ironman race. I am often asked why I compete in these events. The answer is easy: The training and feeling of crossing the finishing line make me feel great.

There are many things that we should do at least once in our lives and one of these is to get as fit as we possibly can.

Fitness should be part of our regular lives. Just once, however, why not commit yourself to getting as fit as you can? I guarantee that you'll feel great.

Nick Doby is the manager of Phuket Personal Trainers Co Ltd, a Rawai-based personal fitness consultancy. Call 086-2514801 or email Nick at: nick@phuketfitness.net.

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Spa consortium stages second expo

For many people living in or just visiting Phuket, a Thai spa session has become a "must" thing to do while on the island. As a result, spa treatments are now often included in tour packages to Phuket.

In the three years since the *Gazette* started its Spa Magic column, more than 70 spas have been reviewed – just a sampling of all the spa treatments available on the island.

Although the concept of spa treatments was not born in Thailand, Thais have been using massage and herbal remedies, revised and refined over thousands of years, to alleviate a variety of ailments. Traditional Thai massages and treatments have evolved into an extensive array of healing and relaxation therapies – and now serve as part of Thailand's world-renowned hospitality.

Recognizing the importance of Thai spas' contribution to the economy, the Phuket Spa Association in collaboration with the Phuket Provincial Health Office, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office and other government and private organizations held the first Andaman Spa Invitation in November 2006, at Central Festival Phuket, with the theme "Andaman Spa Retreat".

The aim of the show was to promote and support all kinds of spa and health services in the Andaman region.

That exhibition saw the launch of a Phuket-branded scrub cream that used coconut oil and Phuket pineapple as essential ingredients. The product is aimed squarely at the foreign-tourist market, especially Europeans, who favor using coconut oil in getting that perfect suntan.

This year, the spa consortium held its second Andaman Spa



On display at the spa expo were new lines of spa products as well as demonstrations of different styles of massage.

Invitation, again at Central Festival Phuket, from January 24 to 27, with the theme "Botanical Spa".

Phuket Spa Association President Chernporn Karnchana-saya explained that the theme focused on highlighting the benefits of all-natural treatments for beauty and health.

K. Chernporn said that many spas in Phuket have been working hard on improving their quality of service, including creating many new treatments and products. "Some spas have produced and researched herbal products of their own. Others, such as Sukko Spa, send their therapists to learn which herbs to use to treat particular ailments so that they come back and pass on

their knowledge to their co-workers," she said.

"Many of us in the spa industry have the same aim: to increase awareness of our spas being known as 'relaxation spas' because we are strong in hospitality but we are not experts in traditional medical treatments," she said. "In comparison, Indian spas have therapists who are experts in Ayurvedic treatments. In China, many [spa therapists] are practitioners of Chinese medicine."

There are now 26 day spas, 80 resort spas and three medical spas in Phuket, K. Chernporn said. The revenue generated by the spa industry in Phuket is difficult to determine, she explained, as the revenue generated by the

resort spas is unknown.

However, Phuket day spas collectively earned about 2 billion baht last year, she said.

"We don't want to increase the number of day spas because we can see that the current number is enough to meet demand, but the number of resort spas will continue to rise due to the increasing number of new hotels," K. Chernporn said.

"Instead, we will aim for improved quality of services as we can see some spas have already downsized, focusing more on developing quality," she added.

During the four-day exhibi-

tion, 31 booths comprising leading spa experts and consultants from spas, fitness centers, spa product suppliers and hospitals presented the latest products, techniques and services from around the region.

Demonstrations at the show included how to make a herbal compresses, or *look prakop* in Thai; how to create herbal welcome drinks; how to make spa salt and even an Ash-tanga yoga demonstration.

The lineup of exhibitors included medical centers, beauty-and-resort spas, fitness and wellness centers, aesthetic clinics and spa-tourism organizations. Physicians, wellness instructors, nutritionists and massage therapists were also on hand to demonstrate products and give expert advice. There was also a range of spa accessories, including furniture, pools and baths.

TAT Southern Region 4 Office Director Suwalai Pinpradab said that a similar event will be incorporated into future international roadshows to promote Phuket as a spa destination.

Spa MAGIC

By Janyaporn Morel

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

February 3. PC Group Therapy – Patong.

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 noon.

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 February 3, head to the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

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

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

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

- Senior Sprint: 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run.
- Junior Race: 200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run
- Splash & Dash: 50m swim, 3km bike, 750m run.

Registration available at www.triballisticclub.com, BIS library.

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 (Tel: 089-5902014, Email: info@triballisticclub.com) or visit www.triballisticclub.com

February 6-10. The Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta.

The Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta is held annually over Chinese New Year.

The regatta is open to all sailing vessels, although entries will be capped at 50 yachts so it is best to register now.

Regatta Schedule:

Feb 6: Registration Chandra Resort

Feb 7: Race 1: Ao Po-Chong Lat

Feb 8: Race 2: Chong Lat-Krabi

Feb 9: Race 3: Krabi-Phi Phi

Feb 10: Race 4: Phi Phi-Nai

Harn Bay

Registration and details are available at www.bayregatta.com Contact Vicki Gregory. Email: vicki@loxinfo.co.th

February 7. Chinese New Year Dinner at Royal Phawadee Village, Patong.

Come join us in celebrating the biggest Chinese occasion of the year – Chinese New Year! As well as enjoying a delicious Chinese-style dinner, there will be an exciting Chinese dragon show. From 6 pm - 11:30 pm. Only 2,500 baht per person.

For more information and bookings, Contact K. Pond. Tel: 076-345576. Email: pond@phawadee.com Website: www.royal-phawadee-village.com

February 7-9. Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year.

February 10. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

On February 10, the session will be at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

February 14. Valentine's Day @ Watermark

Wondering where to go? How to make it special? Valentine's at Watermark offers a sparkling reception with a glass of sparkling wine followed by a sumptuous seven-course elegant dinner with choices at each course – because we know you have different tastes, so why choose the same meal?

Join us marina-side from 6:30 pm to 11 pm in the cool airy romantic ambiance and let her be romanced in style. Book now to avoid disappointment and make this a Valentine's she'll never forget.

Price is 1,990 baht+ per person, including dinner and welcome glass of bubbly. Where else but Watermark? Contact Stuart now for menu details. Tel: 081-7376184, 076-239730. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket.com

February 14. Valentine's Day at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

Long Live Stand-up Comedy in Patong

February 20

The Punchline Comedy Club brings comedy to the Holiday Inn, Patong. The three comedians, booked by the London Comedy Store, are Eastender Ricky Grover, Brightonian Stephen Grant (pictured) and Canadian Glenn Wool. All very different but very funny.

There will also be a Silly Joke competition to enter for those who think they're funny.

Drinks are at normal bar prices.

Tickets available at all Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, Bliss Hot Yoga (3rd floor, Central) and the RPM Health Club. Price: 960 baht in advance, 1,200 baht on the door.

For details call 081-9565650, email info@phuketcomedy.com or visit www.phuketcomedy.com

Celebrate this special night with the one you love at one of Phuket's finest Italian restaurants, Puccini.

Enjoy a five-course set dinner in a poolside setting under a canopy of stars. 3,900 baht per couple including two complimentary glasses of Moët & Chandon. 6:30 pm until 10:30 pm.

For reservations and more information, contact Adam Beasley Tel: 076-324101. Email: fbreservation@sheratonphuket.com Website: www.luxurycollection.com/phuket

February 14. Valentine Day Dinner.

Come and join us for an unforgettably romantic dinner with your loved one in a beautiful pool setting at Royal Phawadee Village, Patong, from 6 pm to 11:30 pm. Only 2,500 baht per person.

For more information and bookings, Contact K. Pond. Tel: 076-345576. Email: pond@phawadee.com

Website: www.royal-phawadee-village.com

February 17. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

At the new Sandwich Shoppe at Fisherman Way Business Center in Chalong.

February 22-23. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

Presented by Hotel Travel.com, the third year of Phuket's biggest international blues rock festival will be huge – expanded to 12 bands – show-

casing 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.

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

Shari Puerto and other top acts from the festival will perform at the Tai Pan club in Patong on February 21, from 10 pm, and at Saxophone on Thaweewong Rd on February 24, also from 10 pm.

Full details are posted at www.PhuketBluesFestival.com.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Email: PhuketMusic@yahoo.com

February 23-29. Mom Tri's Boathouse Short Fiction Contest.

Part one of the second Boathouse Short Fiction Contest, open to all, requires stories of 1,000 to 1,500 words containing key words: "the Boathouse", "Phuket" and "mango". Deadline is 29 February.

Part two targets school-age writers, aged from 15 to 18.

Well-known author Jake Needham will conduct workshops at QSI and BIS March 11 and 12.

Students are to finish a Needham story posted at www.boathousephuket.com/short_fiction_contest.htm

Winning stories will be published by *Phuket Magazine*.

For further information contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com

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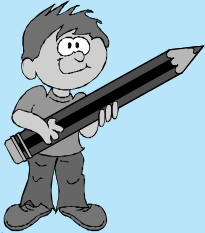
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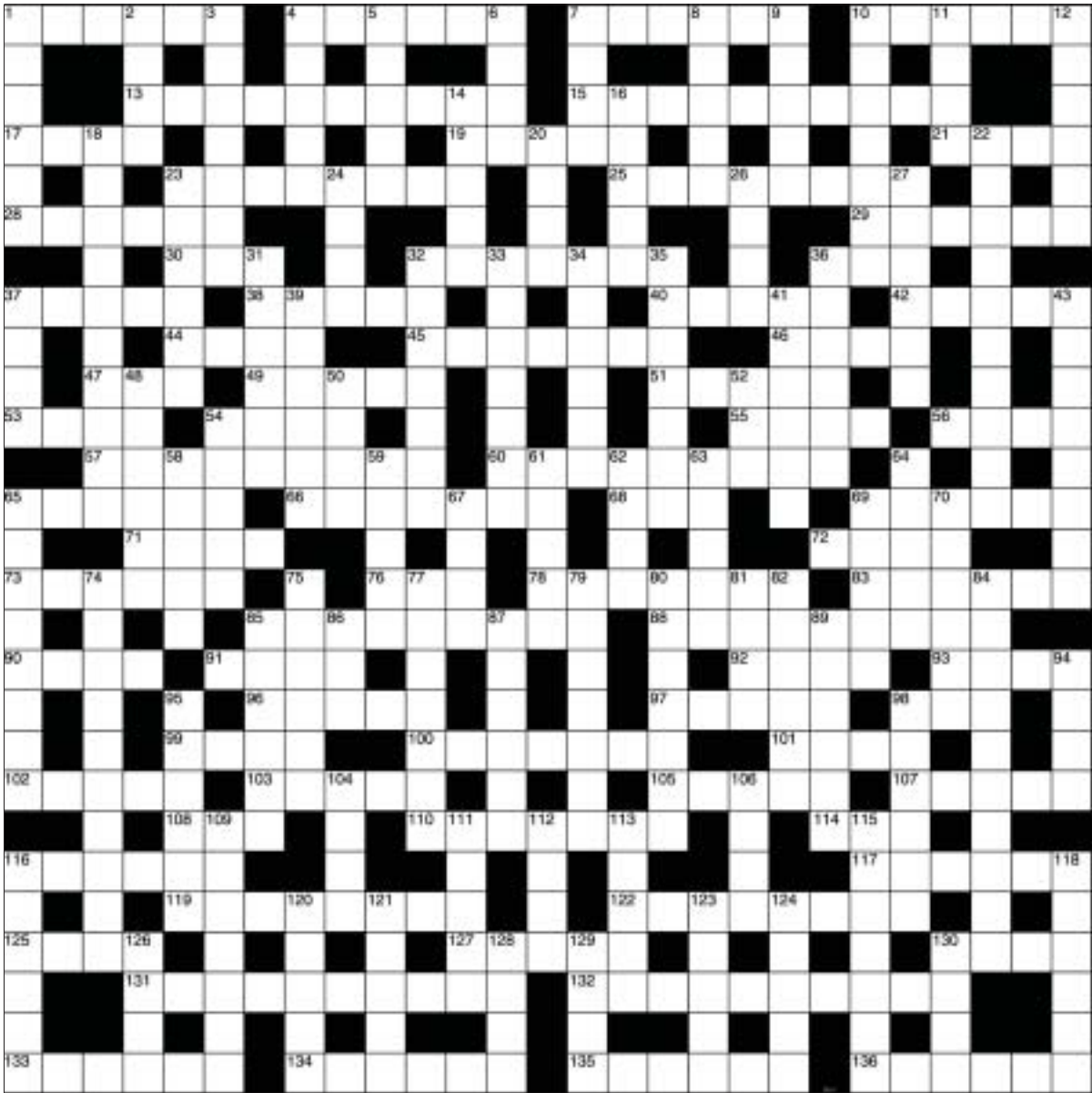
Puzzles

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?
Solution on the next page.



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Across

- 1. Traipse
- 4. Decorative pin
- 7. Rinse throat
- 10. Settle (deal)
- 13. Safari
- 15. Romantic
- 17. Incline
- 19. Brawny
- 21. Cain &...
- 23. Codswallop
- 25. Seepages
- 28. Crowded in upon
- 29. Fight in war, see...
- 30. Green vegetable
- 32. Charting
- 36. Lyrical poem
- 37. Stringent
- 38. Type of chutney
- 40. Racing driver, ...Mansell
- 42. Gentle prod
- 44. Children's Writer, ...Blyton
- 45. Great performer
- 46. Too used to shaping wood
- 47. Pull by rope
- 49. Roof end
- 51. Desist
- 53. Mope (around)
- 54. Wish
- 55. Speech defect
- 56. Became mature
- 57. Defiant
- 60. Water collection
- 65. Farther than
- 66. Shattered
- 68. US/Mexican border river, ...Grande
- 69. Smile coyly
- 71. Petrol

- 72. Amiss
- 73. Feigns
- 76. Moray...
- 78. Tearing
- 83. Tel Aviv is there
- 85. Contaminant
- 88. Down-to-earth
- 90. Fireside shelves
- 91. Footwear item
- 92. Skillets
- 93. Delivered unreturnable serve
- 96. French farewell
- 97. Nourishes
- 98. Bustle
- 99. Travel bag
- 100. Communion goblet
- 101. Arm or leg
- 102. Serious play
- 103. Famous singer, ...Piaf
- 105. Chokes with sweetness
- 107. Shrub fence
- 108. Guided
- 110. Most morose
- 114. As well
- 116. Resolve
- 117. Trial prints from negatives
- 119. Ceylon (3,5)
- 122. Driver's charts (4,4)
- 125. Fabricated
- 127. Exaggeratedly masculine
- 130. Knuckle of veal stew, ...bucco
- 131. Deviation from truth
- 132. Typified
- 133. Iron-attracting bar
- 134. Nakedness
- 135. Tracked down
- 136. Bun seed

Down

- 1. Tribal drum (3-3)
- 2. Song for two voices
- 3. Blow up
- 4. Waits, ...one's time
- 5. Regularly
- 6. Whet
- 7. Mode of walking
- 8. Tropical jelly-making fruit
- 9. My Fair Lady heroine, ...Doolittle
- 10. Socially rebuffed (3,4)
- 11. Early Peruvian
- 12. LA Law actor, Harry...
- 14. Last Greek letter
- 16. Poet, ...Thomas
- 18. Research room
- 20. At summit of
- 22. Renewing strength (8,2)
- 23. Brother's son
- 24. Actor, ...McGregor
- 26. Martin Luther...
- 27. Locations
- 31. Spanish friends
- 32. Specific instants
- 33. Prologue
- 34. Determined
- 35. Pasta-dumpling dish
- 36. Most senior
- 37. Tiller
- 39. Changes
- 41. Relieving
- 43. Childbirth anaesthetic
- 48. Unique model (3-3)
- 50. Ray
- 52. Beer without hops
- 54. Secretes

- 58. Sniffing tobacco
- 59. Bellybutton
- 61. Beautify
- 62. Season's produce
- 63. Feature film
- 64. Initial
- 65. Infancy
- 67. Stand still
- 69. Sponge cake, ...roll
- 70. Countless number
- 74. Unstable
- 75. Tree-covered
- 77. Castrated men
- 79. Arrange in list
- 80. School monitor
- 81. Scruff (of neck)
- 82. Willingly
- 84. Squeeze boxes
- 85. Withdrew, ...out
- 86. Hawaiian garland
- 87. On train
- 89. Demand
- 94. Drug
- 95. Burns with steam
- 98. Finds repugnant
- 104. US Midwest state
- 106. Was in debt to
- 109. Weirdest
- 111. Crockett's fort
- 112. Record
- 113. Razor sharpener
- 115. Is in conflict with
- 116. Chinese appetizer
- 118. Make calm
- 120. Actress, Sophia...
- 121. Well-known
- 123. Pre-Columbian tribe
- 124. Acted wordlessly
- 126. Gain
- 128. Actor, ...Garcia
- 129. Qualifying race
- 130. ...or evens

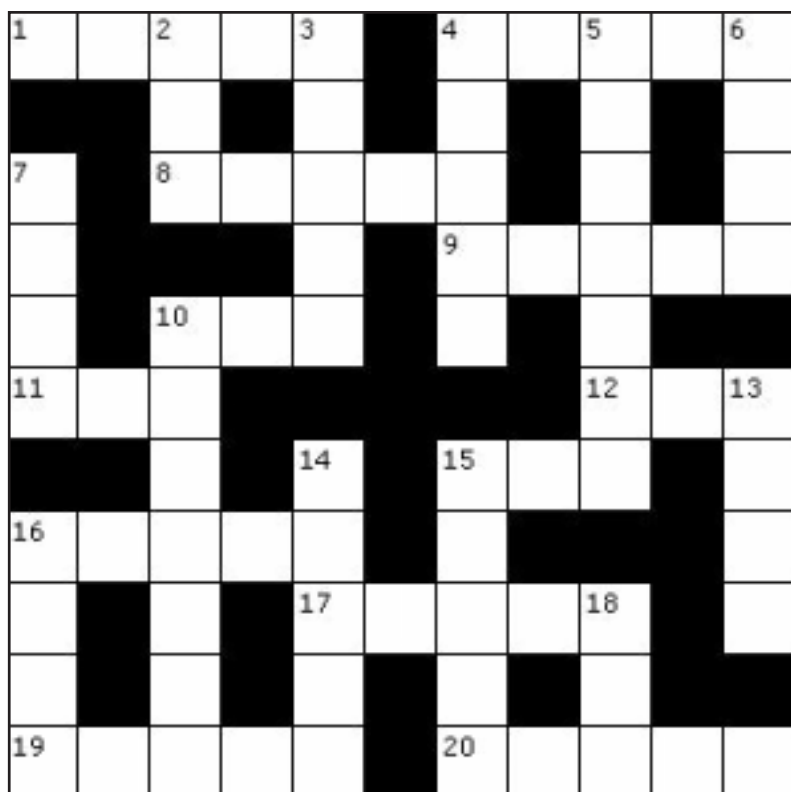
Answers on next page

sudoku

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

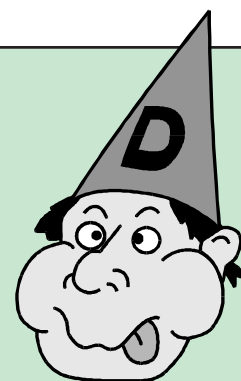
1. Internal organ
4. Spicy dip
8. Big cat
9. Japanese hero,... Man
10. Makes honey
11. Martial-arts star, Bruce...
12. City in Brazil
15. Pastry dish
16. Pace of a beat
17. Wiggly creatures
19. Little
20. Glide along on foot

Down

2. Tax
3. Rebel
4. Sweet liquid
5. Academic speech
6. Continent
7. Small tablet
10. ...Triangle
13. For cooking in
14. To dry yourself with
15. French capital
16. Playthings
18. Place for pampering

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Which disease causes salivary glands to swell?
2. "God Himself couldn't sink this ship" was said about which ill-fated vessel?
3. Oxygen is a waste product of what process in plants?
4. Which strait separates the 4th-largest nation from the largest?
5. Eight kings of England have had this name.
6. Which republic contains the Yasawa group?
7. Which Robin Williams robot film spans 200 years?
8. Which lake borders Peru and Bolivia?
9. What scale assesses the health of newborn babies?
10. What infectious agent can be 100-times smaller than a bacterium?
11. After being rejected by Narcissus, who faded away until all that was left was a voice?
12. Which type of spider comes in red, brown and black and can be extremely poisonous?
13. What is a Yiddish word for noodle pudding?
14. In which film does Charlton Heston famously say, "Doctor, I'd like to kiss you goodbye"?
15. Which warriors followed the bushido code?
16. Which two great English poets died while in their 20s in 1821 and 1822?
17. What is the term for someone who fishes with a hook and a line?
18. In which movie a town is invaded by aliens who look like clowns?
19. Which warrior-king of the Franks was crowned emperor in 800 CE?
20. The prophet Haggai is among those believed to be buried at which Jerusalem mount?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Mumps; 2. The Titanic; 3. Photosynthesis;
4. The Bering Strait; 5. Edward; 6. Fiji; 7. Bicentennial Man; 8. Lake Titicaca; 9. Apgar scale;
10. A virus; 11. Echo; 12. Widow; 13. Kugel;
14. Planet Of The Apes; 15. Samurai; 16. John Keats and Percy Shelley; 17. Angler; 18. Killer Klowns from Outer Space; 19. Charlemagne; 20. Mount of Olives.

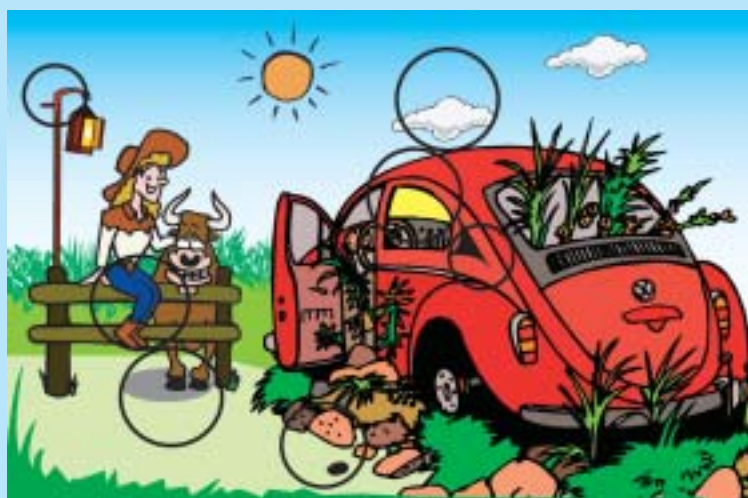
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle






KING'S CUP REGATTA 2007

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Wallee Pchantaubutr, Jennifer Kim, May Pachantaubutr



Jennifer Kim

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11th Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta

7th – 10th February 2008

Registration and opening party at Chandara Resort, Ao Po, Wednesday 6th February
Four days racing: 7th - 10th Feb

The 2008 course:

DAY 1: Phuket (Ao Po) to Chong Lat (top NE corner Phang Nga Bay)
DAY 2: Chong Lat to Krabi
DAY 3: Krabi to Phi Phi
DAY 4: Phi Phi to Nai Harn, Phuket

Grand awards ceremony and closing party at the Puravarna Phuket Yacht Club Hotel, Nai Harn, 10th February




















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Tales of a floating commune

In 1970, six hardy young men sailed out of Seattle and around the world. Fit, intelligent and good with their hands, they bought a wooden 50-foot gaff schooner designed by John Arden and built in 1927. *The Chronicles of the Schooner Lusty I* (Chiang Mai Sabai Publishing, Chiang Mai, 2007, 437pp) is the tale of their journey. The 30,000-mile trip would take six years.

It all began with a cup of coffee between author Mike Williams and his friend Terry Anderson in the University of Washington Commons shortly before their graduation. They had just returned from a spring break in Guaymas, Mexico: "warm nights, cold beer and a couple of wild señoritas". They decided, like so many college students, to sail around the world. The difference is they did it.

One of the modifications they made on the schooner was to lay a teak grid over the bowsprit and surround it with stainless steel pulpit railing: "the best seat in the house".

The shakedown cruise down to Long Beach, California, was a horror of big seas and howling wind. The crew was properly scared, especially when Terry nearly

fell overboard and was only saved by the bowsprit pulpit. Safely in Long Beach, they partied hard, split up to find work and re-joined the boat later for the next leg.

This would be a pattern over the next six years, crew leaving, crew coming back, but the beautiful old schooner continually beating westward.

The next leg was a three week, 3,000 mile stretch to the Marquesas islands in the South Pacific. A new addition to the crew was Jill Watson. Remarkably, the crew functioned as a pure democracy, with no captain.

"There is a radical transition from everyday routine on land to life aboard a cruising boat that everyone who sails has to recognize. Besides coping with the discomfort and crowded conditions, there are sleeping and eating routines that everyone must conform to. Then there's the watch schedule; for 8 hours out of 24 two of us would be on deck either steering, trimming sails, doing chores or just keeping the helmsman company ... Comfort, privacy and personal space were going to be a little hard to come by for the next few weeks.

"But let's not forget what was really happening here ... We were sailing for the



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

South Pacific on a beautiful schooner. We were young, we were free and we were as happy as any six people on the planet."

There were the ritual "sundowners" at dusk, too, lubricated with plenty of beer, wine and marijuana. *Lusty I* was a floating commune of kindred souls.

The crew was also lucky to be arriving in the Asia Pacific region before the advent of mass tourism.

They were disappointed by over-development in Tahiti but every other island was an untouched tropical paradise with mountains to climb, coral reefs to scuba

dive, and waterfront thatched-roofed bars in which to sing, dance and drink all night.

Their first landfall was Nuka Hiva:

"Like an apparition the mountains of Nuka Hiva gradually began to take form out of the haze and clouds on the horizon and everyone got more and more excited. Within an hour we could see the island clearly ... steep jungle clad mountains, jagged rocky peaks, bare stone cliff faces and a wild, primitive look about the place that had us all thinking about the Lost Island or the Land that Time Forgot."

They pulled into Taiohae Bay and marched ashore to a world of wonders.

"Once we were all ashore, we dragged the dinghy up the white sand beach above the high water mark. Our senses were on overload. Everything we saw around us seemed extraordinarily bright and vivid."

Accompanied by a happy pack of kids they were led into a village and a store with a back veranda for fresh food and cold beer.

"Do you remember the best beer you ever tasted? I do ... that large cold Hinano there at Maurice's store in Taiohae Bay."

This is a great, joyous romp of a book.

Throughout the ages, philosophers have struggled to unravel the existential mysteries that confront us all. What is the meaning of life? Does God exist? Is there an afterlife? Is there intelligent life on Earth? Why can't you ever get a taxi on Saturday nights?

The comic strip Calvin and Hobbes once presented a conundrum expressing the quintessence of our quandary.

In a philosophical Great Leap Forward that opens new vistas in metaphysical speculation, Calvin posed the following question:

"If you plugged up your nose and mouth right before you sneezed, would the sneeze go out your ears or would your head explode?"

This is profundity at its deepest – and expressed with exquisite simplicity through a humble comic strip. An issue, indeed, for great thinkers to wrestle with and subsequently pontificate about in long and learned tomes bound in old leather.

In one artless question,

The sacred sneeze of life

Calvin has pinpointed a puzzle that might easily be enshrined in the catalog of Zen koans. "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" is easy. "What was your original face before you were born?" is kids' stuff. "What is it that moves

– the wind or the flag?" is a no-brainer.

But there is danger here. I can easily imagine humankind being riven by schisms on this issue. Those who say the "sneeze" (I am trying not to be gross here) will go out your

ears will be called earists. Those who say it will make your head explode will be called headists.

When these two sects clash, there will be inquisitions, heresy trials, persecutions, pogroms, holocausts and religious wars that will go on for centuries, spilling oceans of blood and depopulating entire continents.

So, let us examine the ques-

tion dispassionately, to see if we can reach a conclusion that will spare the world a dreadful nightmare it can ill afford. What would the great religions say about this issue?

They might say something like this:

Judaism: "It doesn't matter, so long as you observe Torah."

Christianity: "It doesn't matter, so long as you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior."

Islam: "It doesn't matter, so long as you observe the Five Pillars of Islam."

Buddhism: "All compound things are transient. The ears are transient, the head is transient, the sneeze is transient. Why worry about things that are transient?"

Hinduism: "Brahman is real and the world is unreal. The ears, the head and the sneeze are unreal. Just what is the problem here?"

Taoism: "The sneeze that can be sneezed is not the eternal Sneeze. Attune yourself to the Tao, and the sneeze will take care of itself."

Confucianism: "Please don't sneeze when observing the Rites. It would sully the majesty of the ritual."

You can see that the great faiths are not very helpful here.

For the answer, we must turn to America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, which spurns ideology-based cant and advocates a pragmatic solution to every problem.

American pragmatism says, "Let's find out. Block up your mouth and nose, and sneeze. Then you will know the answer."

In the ground-breaking episode cited above, Calvin thinks of this solution, but is afraid to try it. Alas, he is just a six-year-old boy

who thinks his stuffed tiger is alive.

Poor, pathetic little wretch! Precocious though he may be, he is too immature to persist for long in the philosophical quest.

The next time I had to sneeze, I closed my mouth and pinched my nose.

My head didn't explode, but it felt like it was going to. The sneeze went right into my brain, causing me to write this column, which I suspect is not one of my best.

Next time, I'll leave my orifices unblocked and let nature take its course. The great religions had it right all along.

S Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, when he's not performing ridiculous experiments suggested by old comics.



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New airport limo operator is hardly a concession

The new concession to operate limousines and minivans at Phuket International Airport (PIA) comes as good news for shareholders in Airports of Thailand Plc (AOT), which from January 24 has seen a surge in its income from public transport concessions (see page 1).

The new concessionaire, Phuket Mai Khao Company Ltd, is now paying 830,000 baht a month for the right to operate 20 cars and 60 vans at the airport, while long-time concessionaire Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC) continues to pay the AOT 877,000 baht monthly.

The airport also receives a concession payment of 100 baht each time one of the 42 metered taxis operating out of the airport parking lot leaves with a fare, as well as concession payments from the Airport Bus service.

Although technically allowed to operate just 90 "limousines" as of January 24, the PBC's full fleet of 110 cars and 40 vans continues to conduct "business as usual" under a temporary agreement worked out with the airport's deputy director and local police.

The AOT is well aware that the PBC is operating in breach of contract, but has taken no steps to intervene or clarify the situation. Perhaps it just doesn't care as long as its concession revenues from PIA remain at an all-time high.

Perhaps AOT is waiting for a price war to ensue between the rival operators that will give long-suffering passengers some relief from the artificially inflated rates that have prevailed there for years.

While this would be ideal, don't expect it any time soon. Phuket Mai Khao charging the same rates as the PBC from the outset is not an encouraging sign. Also unlikely is that the rivals will compete to see which can provide safer, more courteous service. Rather, expect even faster driving and more touting all round.

Several repercussions are likely under the new arrangement, however. In the short term, expect the dire public parking situation at the airport to become even worse.

Phuket Mai Khao launched its new service with just 16 cars and 30 vans – just over half of the number of vehicles it is allowed under the contract. Once its full allotment is added to the number of vehicles already competing for limited space, the situation will deteriorate further.

In the longer term, once the high season is over and the number of arrivals drops sharply there will be far too many taxis and vans for far too few passengers. Only time will tell what the result of that will be.

– The Editor

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

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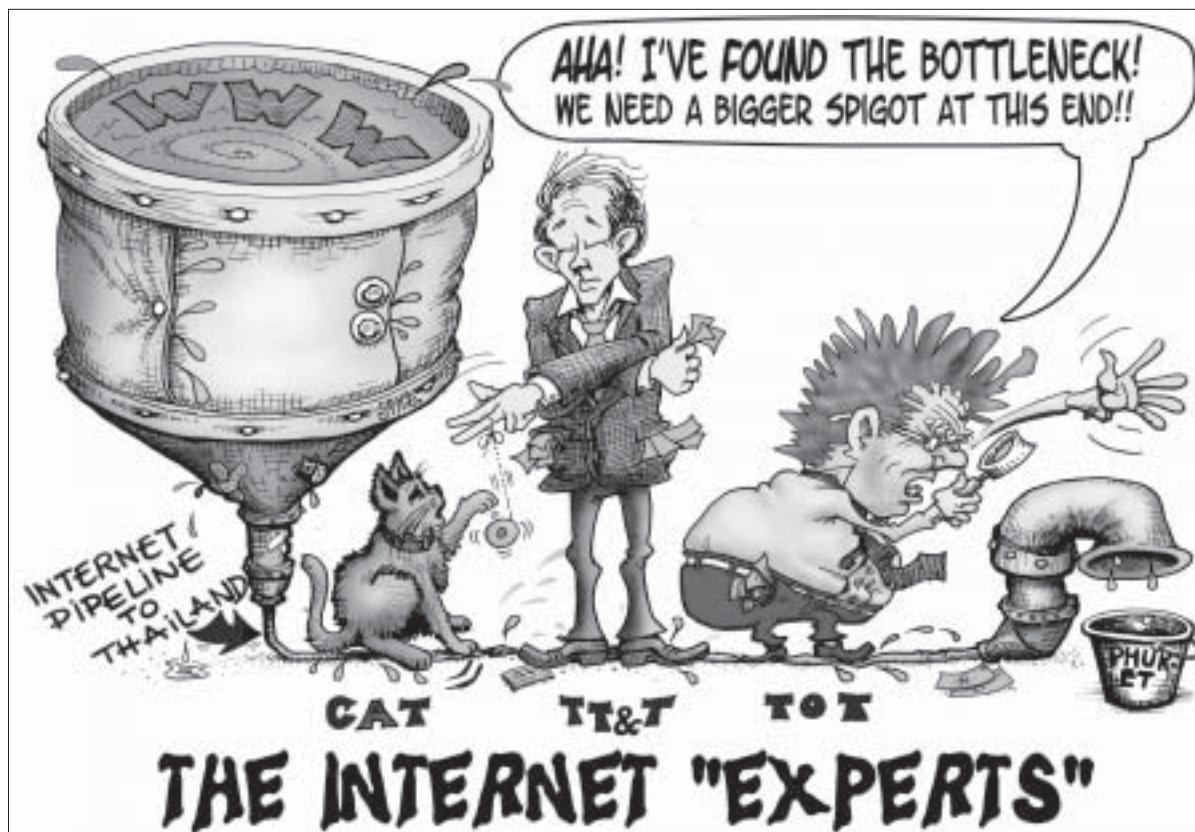
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Letters

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.

Where will the B65m hotel tax go?

I'm just wondering if the 60 million baht collected as the *OrBor-Jor* (Phuket Provincial Administration Organization) hotel tax is not a bit much for a pier at Chalong Bay, which is good for only some tour operators, and some beach guards and cheap towers at the tourist beaches (see *Gazette*, January 26 issue).

Will they also build walkways at Kata-Karon for the tourists with children?

Moskito
Phuket

Chalong traffic will only go full circle

It was interesting to read in the *Gazette* (January 26 issue) that Chalong Circle is to be removed and that local administrators are making this decision without professional knowledge.

All over Europe, they are now removing traffic lights and putting roundabouts in their place.

Traffic lights at Chalong Circle will just make the situation worse. Simply making the circle wider will help to reduce the traffic. Traffic lights also mean increased maintenance costs.

John
Phuket

So long and thanks for all the fish

My daughter and I took a walk down Patong way the other day. Thankfully, we weren't accosted by anyone offering to take us to special shows or for a massage and even the tuk-tuk drivers were unusually quiet.

One girl at a bar briefly

grabbed my arm as we walked by, which my daughter found funny, and we gave a tip to a katoey when I had my picture taken with her – all harmless fun.

But when we went past the open-air seafood restaurants, already doing a roaring trade with virtually every table packed with people, you'd have thought they were desperate for customers.

Touts on the pavement blocked our way and shoved menus in our faces, presuming that we were looking for a table for two. Guys, if we're hungry, don't worry, we'll let you know.

Andrew Nice
Phuket

Wrong way to stop traffic congestion

I have just read about the plan to remove Chalong Circle and install traffic lights at the junction (*Gazette*, January 26 issue).

Here in Toronto, the largest city in Canada, they are considering installing roundabouts to relieve traffic congestion.

I suppose things tend to go full-circle here before it is realized that the only way to relieve traffic jams is to keep cars out of the city proper.

James Carter
Toronto

TOT advertises only pipe dreams

After reading the story about the new fiber-optic high-speed broadband for Phuket (see page 3), it makes me wonder why TOT has been charging its ADSL customers the premium 1,000 baht a month for the highest-speed broadband they offer when the speed really only reaches what

they advertise as the low or medium speed available at a lower price.

This is not to mention that on weekends the service slows to a crawl and most websites outside Thailand cannot even be viewed.

Maybe TOT should also focus on its existing Phuket ADSL customers and improve that service to deliver what they have promised.

Mark Simon,
San Diego, California

Jumbo savings

Reading in the *Gazette* that the NDWC is to install more tsunami-warning buoys at a cost of 165 million baht [Published January 23], I would like to suggest a cheaper, natural alternative: elephants.

They are the best tsunami-warning system that nature can provide.

A few elephant camps near the beach would not only be a tourist attraction but also help to warn of future tsunamis. It is a proven fact that elephants have a sixth sense and start running away hours before the waves hit.

Wouldn't that money be better invested in the education system, for example?

Christoph
Via email

Round the bend

Chalong Circle to be removed? This is ridiculous. What happens when lorries and buses are doing a U-turn? This will create even more traffic jams for vehicles waiting for these larger ones to turn around.

Anonymous
Via email

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* at www.phuketgazette.net.

New fiber-optic cable is not the solution to Phuket's IT quandary

What I have learned in more than 10 years of living in Thailand is to never presume anything that comes without a written notice and proof.

To be honest, if the TOT doesn't put it in writing that they will raise the international bandwidth drastically, don't expect them to do it.

If they would provide a share of 1-to-100 (to guarantee throughput of 10Mbps for each FTTx line), they would have to raise the international bandwidth by 32Gbps just for these 3,200 lines on Phuket.

This would be more than Thailand has altogether nowadays. The current numbers can be posted at www.internet.nectec.or.th/webstats/home.php?Sec=home.

In my opinion 1Gbps FTTx is required for future development, but you must not look at it as being a solution to any of the problems we see with the Internet, as it will not solve any speed or bandwidth problems on the international Internet for end users.

If they want to setup an ICT hub in Phuket, they need these

FIRST PERSON

Long-time Phuket resident **Henry Habermacher**, from Switzerland, is a computer consultant with X-Net Computer & Peripherals Supply Ltd in Phuket City.

A recipient of the Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) awards, he now spends part of his time working with the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) Phuket Office and Microsoft Thailand to develop software development skills on Phuket.

Here he explains why end users would be wrong to expect an immediate leap in Internet connection speeds as a result of the TOT's recently announced project to wire the island with advanced fiber-optic FTTx cable technology.



lines to allow companies and institutions fast and reliable connections within Phuket and in Thailand, especially between Bangkok and Phuket. FTTx lines are not intended to allow end users to surf the web or view Britney Spears videos on YouTube.

Such fast lines are needed by telephone operators to connect their hubs, by Internet service providers to connect the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexers (DSLAMs) with their servers, by television stations to broadcast nationwide, or by

airports, hospitals, universities and other institutions to communicate digitally among each other.

It's just a digital highway that they are starting to build here in Phuket; Internet surfing on this highway is just one of the side possibilities, surfing the interna-

tional Internet requires fast and reliable international connections with much higher bandwidth than what Thailand can offer today.

So please don't make a big deal out of this local 1Gbps fiber line network.

These FTTx lines are basic infrastructure, not end-user infrastructure. Move this infrastructure into the right light and it makes more than enough sense to install it now. It's the thing we need to get faster connections through ADSL lines or even through cellular mobile phone connections in the future – not now.

It's like building a new 16-kilovolt power line from a central power plant to Phuket to ensure Phuket gets enough power; or laying a very large diameter water pipe from Phang Nga to Phuket City to ensure adequate water supply to meet future growth.

If they were providing those sorts of basic infrastructure, nobody would reasonably expect to run such a power supply into his or her home in order to power the air-conditioning units, or hook up to the main line water supply in order to flush the toilet faster. I hope you understand my points.

Where can I get dishwasher soap powder?

Can somebody please tell me where I can buy soap powder or tablets for a dish-washing machine? I have only found glossy liquid but this does not clean all residue off the dishes.

Victoria
Phuket

Potjana Saeng-ngern, sales representative at Phuket Teinthong Co Ltd, replies:

We stock Ecolab dish-washing machine powder in solid capsule form as an alternative to the liquid soap.

Our shop is in Koh Kaew and is open 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Saturday. Tel: 076-239902-6 or visit www.phuketteinthong.com

To contact the Ecolab directly call 076-234675.

Can I get a visa for my nanny to stay in Thailand?

I am here on a retirement visa with a one-year permit-to-stay.

I have a three-year-old daughter to whom I am sole parent.

My daughter was born in the Philippines and has a Norwegian passport, like me.

I own a condominium in Phuket. My daughter has a Filipina nanny who has only a tourist visa.

Is there any way the nanny can acquire a one-year temporary visa, for example by investing a minimum of three million baht here or on the grounds that my daughter needs a nanny with same background as her birth?

Stein Egil Oserod
Boat Lagoon

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of

Issues & ANSWERS

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

the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

There is no "dependent" visa for a maid or nanny.

As you live in Thailand with a non-immigrant "O-A" retirement visa, you can apply for a dependent visa and permit-to-

stay-for your daughter – but not for your daughter's nanny.

If you formed your own company, you could possibly hire her as an employee – provided you complied with all the relevant investment laws.

However, you cannot set up a company solely for the purpose obtaining a visa for your daughter's nanny. I suggest that she do visa runs to comply with immigration law.

Please note, however, that she would only be limited to a maximum stay of 90 days over a 180-day period if she is granted a visa exemption (often called a "visa-on-arrival" — Editor).

If your nanny wants to stay longer, she must apply for a visa from a Thai embassy or consulate outside Thailand.

DVD killed the video star

I have a collection of old VHS video tapes that I want to transfer onto VCDs or DVDs. Is there a place in Phuket that offers such a service?

Orita Ozone
Phuket

Boonrat Apinantanakarn replies:

This is a service I provide as do most photo shops or photo laboratories. I would recommend that you transfer your video tapes onto DVD to ensure preservation of good quality recordings.

I charge 300 baht per hour of VHS video copied onto VCD and 500 baht per hour copied onto DVD.

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Friendship is a very important part of my life. I cannot imagine living without friends; especially as a teenager. Often, we have a tendency to call everyone "friends", all the people we regularly see, talk to or go with somewhere with for a good time. However, a real friend is something else.

A simple acquaintance has never seen you cry, a true friend has – many times. An acquaintance doesn't know your parents' names, a true friend has their telephone numbers. A casual friend brings a bottle of champagne to your party, a true friend comes before to help you cook and stays until everyone has gone to help clean. A true friend doesn't mind if you call late – she will pick up the phone anytime. A true friend calls you after a quarrel. A true friend is always there for you.

These are a few minor ex-

Diamonds in the rough

The value of true friendship

amples of the difference between an acquaintance and a true friend, but the importance of friendship is immense.

With a true friend we can always be ourselves, easily sharing our thoughts and deepest secrets without fear of being judged. They know all of our merits and our defects, yet do not ask us to change. They are the ones we can trust without fear of betrayal.

Maybe we need friends because we feel so different from others. Maybe loneliness makes us search for a living mirror of ourselves, but true friends aren't mirror images. It doesn't matter if a close friend has all the same interests as you, they care about

who you are not what you've got.

In my opinion, the most important things in a friendship are sincerity, respect, understanding and mutual complicity. Thanks to my extroverted character, I succeed in having good friendships and true friends. I have known most of them since my childhood in Italy. We have shared laughter and tears, embarrassment and fun, the happiest and saddest of moments.

We have always been very united, these friends help me grow and they grow with me. We

see each other regularly, almost daily, reciprocally influencing our musical tastes, style of dress, reading choices, etc. Regarding the formation of my personality, I must admit that I accept my friends' advice, but I prefer to do as I like, always maintaining a certain autonomy of thought and action.

I think everyone in the world needs friends, people to trust and share their life with. I wish all my friends in Italy could read this article because I want to thank them for everything they've done, es-

pecially and most importantly just for being my friend.

I can't end this article without thanking my new Thai friends who I'm starting to know better. I'm beginning to understand their culture and what they consider true friendship. I hope one day they'll treat and think of me as one of them.

For now, I guess I don't need to worry because they are all really friendly and I'm really lucky to have met them.

I will end with a collection of ways to say friend, enjoy: Albanian, *mik*; Afrikaans, *vriend*; Chinese, *pengyou*; Dutch, *vriend*; Danish, *ven*; French, *ami*; German, *freund*; Hungarian, *barat*; Indian, *dost*; Italian, *amico*; Irish, *cara*; Japanese, *tomodachi*; Korean, *jingu*; Latin, *amicus*; Persian, *dust*; Russian, *prijatel*; Spanish, *amigo*; Thai, *phuan*; Turkish, *arkadas*.

Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giulietta Consentino

In The Stars

by Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Those of you due to celebrate a birthday this week can look forward to a year with more opportunities to travel than in 2007. This week, you are likely to learn that an acquaintance has been conspiring behind your back and a lesson should be taken on board. Concentrate on appreciating the good friends you have. Trust is also put to the test where an intimate relationship is concerned. The color champagne pink enhances your ability to have fun.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Love is in the air this week, even for those who have resigned themselves to being single. Girls: take advantage of the leap year by inviting someone you've had your eye on for a light-hearted date. Thursday is the best day for taking care of money matters; the stars will support your efforts to get the best deal possible. Number 6 can be lucky this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Those of you who are ready to allow others to take more responsibility will immediately see the

benefits of this. Your tendency to assume that you're the only one capable of doing the job has stood in the way of relaxation. Make this weekend a time to spend some quality hours with family and friends. Those who are still single can expect interest from an enticing Aquarius.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): As February gets underway, you can look forward to imminent improvements on the financial front. Your dreams of being able to enjoy freedom to travel stand a good chance of becoming reality. Where romance is concerned, taking the bull by the horns is the only way of letting Leo know that you are keen. Wednesday is the best day for tackling a tricky bureaucratic issue. Wear pastel shades to calm your energy.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those of you going on a trip later this month may learn that travel arrangements need to be altered. Remaining flexible is the best answer to most situations this week. Romance is also subject to sudden twists and turns; you may start to think that the person

concerned is starting a game of cat and mouse, but this is not the case. Where business is concerned, Libra is ready to meet your demands.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You are advised to ensure that you have your facts straight before confronting someone at work. It's likely that wires have become crossed and a stormy atmosphere can be avoided by a simple discussion. Affairs of the heart are well-starred after Monday, so resist making advances on someone you've recently noticed until then. A dream will shed some light on a mystery concerning a close friend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Time is on your side if you're still deliberating whether to make a career move. However, the pace is set to pick up towards the middle of this month when a determined Aries is ready to pounce on the opportunity. Love also moves at a snail's pace and you may begin to tire of feeling insecure in a relationship. A modest financial windfall can be expected on Wednesday or Thursday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You may be feeling less than perky this week. Your tendency to overdose on socializing has taken its toll and the only answer is to get back on track. Neglected work matters require serious attention and others won't accept excuses. After Wednesday, increased motivation helps you achieve more. Gemini is becoming interested in getting to know you better, but romance with Taurus is not going to come to fruition.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those of you who are lonely will be cheered up when an on-off romance suddenly shows the green light. Be aware that friends may be less than excited when you cancel social arrangements in favor of spending time with this person. There is further chance of work promotion in the pipeline and your multitasking abilities are being noticed. Monday is the most auspicious day for tackling personal administration; you could find that a financial error has been made in your favor.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): A Pisces friend asks for your support this weekend, but you have tired of supplying a shoulder for this person to cry on. Try offering practical advice,

while making it clear that you have your own issues to deal with. These will probably include difficulties involving family members. The stars are ready to back your efforts in offloading some responsibility. Wear the color sunflower yellow to encourage optimism.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Those of you who have been worrying about possible financial problems resulting from a change of employment are advised to cross that bridge when you come to it. The astral atmosphere will remain supportive of your attempts to achieve a more fulfilling working life for several weeks to come. A surprise meeting with an old flame makes you wonder whether that fire can be rekindled.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Keeping your nose to the grindstone remains a challenge as social invitations continue to flood in. Those of you who can't resist a good time should plan well ahead so you have enough energy for business matters. A meeting early next week is particularly important to your progress up the career ladder. Wear the color emerald green to make a sparkling impression. The number 9 can be lucky on Thursday.

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High season in Patong is now in full swing and the place is filled to the rafters with the usual eclectic mix of families, backpackers and Scandinavians. The shift from single men on a hedonistic two-week soiree to couples and families is there for all to see.

When I first visited Patong six years ago, you couldn't move for testosterone-filled males on heat bouncing between Soi Eric and Soi Seapearl. Patong is at a crossroads and this could spell the end for a large percentage of the girlie bars.

Tourist numbers are rising and hotels and restaurants are doing a good trade, but the people aren't interested in ping pongs and razor blades anymore. This change is welcomed by many and interpreted as a chance to develop the entertainment scene, in contrast to the usual trappings of scantily-clad beauties surgically removing your dignity and wallet with one swift movement.

I am disenchanted with the attitude in Patong. I feel the overzealous nature of a small percentage of the touts and traders is giving Phuket a bad name and spoiling it for the good people who offer honest services. The majority of the island's visitors stay in Patong and never get to see the delights Phuket has to offer.

For the past few weeks, I have been out trawlin' to different locations on the island and have met some interesting char-

Off the eaten track



NARY A TOUT IN SIGHT: El Toro's Jorge De la Torre (left) and Salvador Vega have added authentic Latin food and culture to the island's evolving dining and entertainment scene.

acters, none more so than the South Americans who created a new project at Boat Lagoon called El Toro, a Spanish restaurant located in a colonial-style building complete with a swimming pool.

El Toro's regularly hosts Latin-theme nights for which a South American country is chosen. On these evenings, choice cuisine, beverages and music from the selected destination are offered. Even high-ranking mem-

bers from the embassies of the respective countries make an appearance.

The owners and acquaintances of El Toro always have good stories to tell and are genuine and friendly people.

Karon, my real stomping ground, is experiencing the same clientele change as Patong. The Oasis bar and restaurant is situated on Soi Islandia, two doors down from the Big One. The Oasis is owned and run by three easygoing Welsh people who have created a warm and relaxed atmosphere in a prime people-watching spot.

The excellent international and Thai cuisine ensures many repeat customers. I recommend the Sunday-afternoon calvary that offers choice meat cuts. This is a new business that also boasts a guesthouse with sparkling new rooms in the thick of the action.

Another new enterprise in Karon is the Bar-Celona coffee bar and restaurant located next to the Access Pool Resort on

Patak Rd. Long-term resident Dave Rodgers's impeccable eye for style is the focal point of the bar.

The chic and trendy interior and decorations complement the funky music and great food.

For those looking for beach-side retreats, look no further than the Friendship Beach Resort situated on Wiset Rd between Chal-long and Rawai. I always enjoy relaxing on a Sunday afternoon listening to live jazz with a swimming pool on one side and the sea on the other.

The food and wine are excellent and the music starts at 4pm until 11 pm.

One of my current favorites is the Secret Cliff restaurant perched on the hill between Karon and Patong. This restaurant comes with cascading levels with a scenic view high above Karon and a delightful ambiance provided by strategic lighting.

Right, I'm off to Patong to argue for three hours about the price of counterfeit software.

Keep trawlin'.



TRAWLIN'

By Alas Swan



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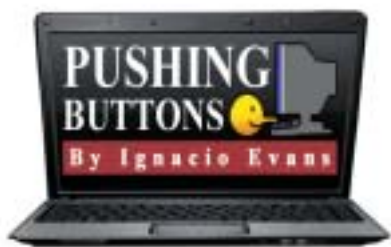
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The year of the FOSS

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One of the great things about living in Thailand is being able to celebrate three New Year's Days. The time between December 31 and Chinese New Year can be spent recharging the batteries, evaluating the previous year and setting out goals for the coming 12 months, with Thai New Year, *Songkran*, providing yet another chance for re-evaluation.

In my columns last year, I didn't write about any of the social networks on the Internet. Recently, my best friend invited me to join Facebook, but to no avail.

I have successfully declined all Facebook, MySpace and LinkedIn offers. To me, it's like chat: yet another time-wasting and productivity-losing Internet activity.

I didn't write about Windows Vista as I predicted the hype is already starting for the next version of Windows.

If Vista wasn't rammed down our throats with new PC pre-installations then it would quietly die on the vine. I'll give it a spin around 2010.

I'm hoping that the new government can counter the ICT slide that has found Thailand trailing Vietnam and being caught from behind by Cambodia and Burma.'

junta's hand-picked ICT minister. His prolonged ban of

In the meantime, better hurry if you want to buy a computer pre-installed with reliable Windows XP.

I kept politics out of my articles unless it directly affected ICT in Phuket (I prefer the acronym ICT for information and communications technology rather than IT).

Unfortunately, I couldn't escape the outlandish incompetence of the

His prolonged ban of

Social-networking websites such as LinkedIn (pictured) are fine for time-wasters, but Ignacio Evans is having none of it, having rejected all requests to join such websites.



Last year, I also discovered multimedia on the Internet. I couldn't resist writing about that and how to overcome erratic Internet speeds to be able to use these multimedia applications. So, what's in store for 2008, then?

The local ICT scene

I will continue to write about issues and subjects that affect us as Phuketians. Being in the midst of the Great Internet Meltdown of 2008 has given me a wakeup call.

From here on out, I will be saving and tracking any announcements of grand schemes purporting to improve the ICT situation on the island. TOT's announcement last week of a new fiber-optic line and more Internet bandwidth for Phuket is the first entry in my database.

More free open-source software (FOSS) and productivity enhancers

I am amazed by the amount of free software available that makes my life easier.

Recent examples are Kword, part of the KDE Office suite on Linux that lets me import, edit and export PDF files; Google Desktop, which helps me to find a document or tidbit from the data on my storage devices; and numerous multimedia tools, such as GIMP, Audacity and DivX, which allow me to extract

video and photos, manipulate sound and package it all back together.

Pick a search engine, get to know it intimately and get into the habit of using it. If you have a problem related to IT, there's a 99% chance that somebody else in the world has had the same problem and written about it.

More personal information security

Infosec is my profession and my passion. In previous articles, I have tried to lay out the basics of information security and pound home the importance of keeping software up to date, doing regular backups and protecting yourself on the Internet. This year will not be any different.

On the other hand, the supposed good guys – the so-called security researchers and the snake-oil salesmen – are working hand in hand to spread FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) to keep their industry alive.

I am weaning myself off big-security-vendor anti-malware and going open source. I'll let you know how that turns out.

Finally, so that after you finish this article you don't walk away saying, "I didn't learn one damned thing," there's a great Google-search cheat sheet at www.googleguide.com

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

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ON THE MOVE



Phuket native **Natthira "Anna" Susangrat**, 33, has been appointed General Manager of the *Phuket Gazette*. She joined the company in 2002 as Manager - Web Services and was promoted to Marketing Manager in 2005. Prior to joining the *Gazette*, she had worked in television marketing in Bangkok.



Hirun "Run" Klansurin has been appointed Restaurant Supervisor of Watermark bar and restaurant. He has more than 15 years' experience in the food and beverage industry, starting his career as a waiter at the Phuket Cabana. He has also worked at the Dusit Laguna and Silk Restaurant and Bar.



Prapas Kabsuk, originally from Khon Kaen, has been appointed Executive Chef at Watermark bar and restaurant.

He was trained at The Grand Hyatt Erawan and has gained experience in four- and five-star hotels, becoming one of the youngest executive chefs in Thailand at age 27.

Safe havens in a falling market

There is an old adage in stock markets: The best time to buy is when there is blood on the streets. In reality, this is exactly the time when people are most reluctant to invest. This adage can be used in combination with an old Japanese proverb: "Never try and catch a falling knife."

Obviously, this means that timing is everything. There is always, for most people, a tendency to wait for everything to reach bottom. However, it is usually pure luck that allows investors to know when markets have bottomed. There is another technique called currency cost averaging.

The economies of the US and the UK are likely to suffer more than the consensus expects. US Federal Reserve (Central Bank) Chairman Ben Bernanke has probably been more open (recently) than his predecessors.

He is watching a rapidly-declining situation and has stated that the US Federal Reserve will come to the rescue, or in other words, cut interest rates for as much as is necessary to return to economic growth.

Unfortunately, it is not

simple enough in the short term to merely cut interest rates and watch an economic rebound arise. It takes about nine months for lower interest rates to cause a change in the "real" world.

There are also different factors in play which are not going to disappear overnight. Consumer indebtedness is a serious problem and this is going to take time to solve. What are the options for investors?

Here are a few:

AMT Futures. As mentioned in a recent article in this column on AMT Futures, this is an area where gloom, doom and panic are favorable. The worst situation for futures is static markets – they simply cannot make money. Movements either up or down, on a sustained basis, produce profits.

Brandeaux mixed funds. Areas such as Brandeaux ground rent, student accommodation and their mixed asset funds are attractive places to hide when boom turns to bust.

Hedge funds. The universe of hedge funds is so vast that investors are likely to become totally lost. However, there is a solution: a "fund of hedge funds"

where the managers are well connected to the industry and can arrange a pool of hedge funds where the end result is known as "market neutral".

The net result may only be a return of 8% to 10% every year, net of charges, but that will certainly be better than the bank deposit rate. Allocation to a "Fund of Hedge Funds" should not exceed 10% to 20% of most portfolios.

This economic situation is having the most effect on the US and the UK, but warning signals exist in other European countries. Spain and Ireland are frequently mentioned as having potential problems and the investment outlook on surveys in Germany is at its worst for 15 years.

While the European Central Bank is still talking tough (focusing on fighting inflation), many analysts believe that before the end of 2008, the Central Bank will be forced to cut interest rates to revive stalling economic growth.

Probably one of the most attractive countries in the world at present is Russia. A number of portfolio managers are incorporating Russian shares in their portfolios. Russia is the beneficiary of geography with vast reserves of almost every mineral known to man, plus oil and more.

The slowdown we are seeing in much of the developed world is unlikely to spread far into

emerging markets. Even if it does shave 1% to 3% from China's growth rates, this is to be welcomed as it will reduce inflationary pressures, which are already a growing cause of concern for the Chinese government and its central bank, the People's Bank of China.

India is another country that is unlikely to be affected by a slowdown in the "developed world". Again, any small reduction in domestic growth will lessen inflationary pressures.

The growth that is going to continue in many emerging markets will help the overall global economy. This, in turn, will keep commodity prices high, hence the attractiveness of Russia as place to invest.

Though I am not convinced that investment into a fund that solely targets the Russian market is the best route, it may be the most profitable. For the brave, there are a number of funds that specialize in Russia; the largest and longest established is the Heritage Fund.

A viable alternative is a BRIC fund (Brazil, Russia, India and China) or a fund with which the investor knows that a part of

his assets will be invested in Russia, but sold if the situation should unexpectedly deteriorate.

Where does Thailand stand as an investment destination in 2008? On the positive side, the stock market is not expensive and the economy is likely to grow by more than 4% in 2008. Considering that growth is going to be valued at a premium this year, there are positive factors such as low inflation and interest rates.

This early in 2008, the political situation is still opaque and the small size of the Thai stock market – market capitalization – leads to higher-than-normal volatility. Thailand's stock market often mirrors bad news in

foreign markets through no fault of its own. Barring any serious political or other negative events, the Thai baht looks to be a strong currency in 2008.

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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By Nick Davies

PHUKET: Shades, a local provider of fitted shade cloths for the marine industry, has expanded its product range to now include awnings and other custom-made shades to capture sales from Phuket's burgeoning property industry.

Company founder Graeme Chuck explained to the *Gazette* that Shades recently forged alliances with Australian fabric manufacturers Polyfab, Ferrari and Sunbella to provide a range of colorful, durable tensioned fabric sails and fixed awnings for land-based use.

"We recently made a conscious decision to adapt our experience, skills and knowledge of marine weather protection products to offer stylish and durable sun shades for resorts, homes and outdoor recreation areas," said Mr Chuck.

"The high-tension, polyester-mesh fabrics are water resistant and block UV light. They are also very strong, withstanding several tons of tension, so they are ideal for adaptation as protective awnings and sun shades.

"The fabrics are manufactured from solution dyed acrylic, making them colorfast so they never fade," he added.

Mr Chuck pointed out that Australian shade fabric manufacturers are considered the best in the world because of the high

Phuket marine shade provider takes sails in a new direction



Shades Director Graeme Chuck is steering his company into Phuket's property market with awnings for residential properties, leisure and entertainment venues. Shades have adapted marine weather protection materials into awning designs for homes, resorts and outdoor recreation areas.

standards of UV protection they have had to attain due to the increased awareness of the dangers of exposure to the sun by locals down under.

Part of the company's ex-

pansion into shade manufacturing has been to invest in design software and experienced designers to create awnings that range in size from three to 300 square meters and are built to

withstand winds between 130 and 180 kilometers per hour.

With a team of expert sail makers already proficient in cutting and stitching by hand, Mr Chuck did not feel the need for an additional investment in high-tech hardware, although buying additional design software was part of Shade's evolution onto dry land.

"We already had an expert designer on our team and we invested about 250,000 baht in design software that enables us to quickly draw up plans for customers based on the area that needs covering," he said.

"The design software enables us to calculate the tension and strength of the awnings at each point.

"It also allows us to calculate how much weight is needed to secure the awnings and whether surrounding surfaces will support the awnings or if steel support poles need to be included in the design," said Mr Chuck.

"The first step we take with our clients is to survey the site to ensure that the area they wish to have covered offers sufficient

support for the high tension awnings. Points where the awning will be secured or the steel supports are fitted have to be strong enough and thick enough to hold the awning securely in place in the severest of weather conditions," he added.

Properties around Phuket that have awnings designed and installed by Shades include Twin palms, Phuket Pavilions, Holiday Inn and Phuket Zoo, where a 300-square-meter awning provides shade for the elephants.

Shades has also made umbrellas and awnings that automatically retract when the wind becomes too strong for Skippers' at Royal Phuket Marina.

Looking forward to a dynamic 2008, Mr Chuck's expects Shades' fourth year in operation to reach targeted sales of four times that of the first year.

Aiding to achieve this will be a concerted rebranding drive to create greater awareness among property owners, developers, and managers of residential properties, resorts and other commercial properties, such as restaurants and outdoor entertainment venues, he said.



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Bright outcome predicted for pétanque tournament

MAI KHAO: The Southern Meteorological Center-West Coast (SMC) will hold its annual pétanque tournament for members of the government and private sectors on February 9.

Chumrong Chitpukdee, director of SMC, said that the 7th Meteorology Club pétanque tournament, which will take place in the grounds of SMC in Mai Khao, is being held to promote healthy and productive lifestyles in Phuket, while also showcasing the sport of pétanque.

The competition is open to anyone and matches will be played in two categories: one for players 15 years old and under and one for all other age groups.

The general category will be split into three divisions based on ability, to be decided before the tournament begins.

First prize in the top division will be 10,000 baht, with 5,000 baht for the runner-up. In division two, the winner will walk away with 1,500 baht, with 1,000 baht for the runner-up.

The winner in division three will net 1,000 baht and second place will take away 500 baht.

For the junior players, a 1,500-baht top prize will be up for grabs.

Breakfast, lunch and light refreshments will be provided throughout the day, along with free accommodation for any competitors arriving from outside provinces.

Players are requested to wear casual dress. Entrance is 500 baht for adults, 200 baht for junior players.

For further information call Tel: 075-328147, 081-4563442 or 076-328147.

Phuket Life Guards do it on the pitch

PATONG: The Phuket Life Guard team won the open division in the 24th Annual Patong Cup football tournament, walking away with 209,999 baht of the tourney's total prize money of 1.28 million baht.

The tournament, which kicked off on December 5, 2007, ended on January 21 with championship matches held at the Phuket Municipality Football Field on the beach road.

The MVP and top scorer in each category also awarded trophies and 2,000 baht.

Open Category (24 teams)

1. Phuket Life Guards (209,999 baht); 2. Roma Restaurant (110,000 baht); 3. Dowroong One Sor Weerapon (50,000 baht); 4. Chalong Concrete (30,000 baht). MVP: Annap Chaipan; Top scorer: Sutri Longraroeng.

Patong Community Category (six teams)

1. Sainamyen (150,000 baht); 2. Kokmakham (100,000 baht); 3. Nanai (50,000 baht); 4. Kalim (30,000 baht). MVP: Rachen Gaweeet; Top scorer: Rewat Tiangnoi.



Patong Deputy Mayors Chairat Sukkaban (left) and Woranat Thongyon present a trophy and prize money to players from the Baan Mon Village team, who won the seniors (35+) division.

16-and-under Patong Municipal School students (four teams)

Sainamyen A (80,000 baht); 2. Baan Mon (60,000 baht); 3. Kokmakham (30,000 baht); 4. Sainamyen B (10,000 baht). MVP: Prasert Hinnoi (Sainamyen A); Top scorer: Chayakorn Wandee (Baan Mon).

12-and-under Patong Municipal School students (four teams)

Sainamyen School (80,000 baht); 2. Sainamyen Village team

(60,000 baht); 3. Kalim Village team (30,000 baht); 4. Kokmakham Village (10,000 baht). MVP: Thurakij Rodnuang (Sainamyen School); Rittirong Thuanthin (Sainamyen Village).

35-and up Patong Community (eight teams)

1. Baan Mon (80,000 baht); 2. Chaiwat (60,000 baht); 3. Kokmakham (30,000 baht); 4. Kathu Police (10,000 baht). MVP: Weerapong Thonghom; Top scorer: Thawatchai Sawangha.

Athletes ready for first TriBallistic race

NAI YANG: Race one of four in the Malaiwana TriBallistic Triathlon Series will take place Sunday February 3 at Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang Beach.

Competition will be broken down into three categories:

Senior sprint: 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike ride, 5km run

Junior race: 200m swim, 6km

bike ride, 1.5km run

Splash and dash: 50m swim, 3km bike ride, 750m run

All race finishers will receive medals. Refreshments and a commemorative race bag will be given to all competitors on the day of the event.

Registration on race day will be held at 7 am at Indigo

Pearl, with the races set to start at 8 am, 8:30 am and 9 am.

On January 12, TriBallistic held their relaunch party in Skipers Bar at Royal Phuket Marina. About 150 tickets were sold for the event and all funds were donated to the Thai Children's Social Program charity.

TriBallistic was founded in 2006 to offer a variety of cross-training events in and around Phuket, with a focus on children and families.

Organizers Shaun and Sue Boulter have a wealth of experience in event organization and personal training.

For more information about TriBallistic, contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: info@triballisticclub.com

YFH A slip out of title contention

PHUKET: An eventful weekend of football in the Phuket Fair Play Junior League saw Youth Football Home (YFH) C stun league-leaders YFH A with a 7-0 thrashing on January 25.

YFH C then cruised to victory 2-0 over Cherg Thalay Wittayakom School on January 27 to move to the top of the table.

On January 27, YFH A suffered yet another defeat, this time in a thrilling 4-3 loss to YFH B.

YFH B are now in second place in the league, while YFH A are in sixth place.

The Phuket Fair Play Junior League is organized by YFH, which provides homes for orphans and destitute boys.

Full results:

Friday January 25

YFH C 7-0 YFH A
Wat Thepkasattri School 1-3 YFH B
Baan Prujumpa School 3-0 Cherg Thalay Wittayakom School
Thalang Pranangsrang School 1-1 BIS

Sunday January 27

YFH B 4-3 YFH A
Cherg Thalay Wittayakom School 0-2 YFH C
Wat Thepkasattri School 1-3 YFH B
Baan Prujumpa School 0-1 Thalang Pranangsrang School

Forthcoming fixtures:

Friday February 1

Cherg Thalay Wittayakom School-YFH A (4 pm)
Wat Thepkasattri School-Thalang Pranangsrang School (4 pm)
Baan Prujumpa School-BIS (played at YFH) (4 pm)
YFH C-YFH B (5 pm)

Sunday, February 3

Thalang Pranangsrang School-Cherg Thalay Wittayakom School (4 pm)
BIS-YFH B (4 pm)
YFH C-Wat Thepkasattri School (4 pm)
YFH A-Baan Prujumpa School (5 pm)
(home team first)

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The victorious Patong Cricket Club relax after defeating the Island Cricket Club on January 20.



ICC fall victim to bowling frenzy

By Mark Whetton

PHUKET: Match two of the 2008 Island Furniture Cricket League was played January 20. It was the first match of the season for the Patong Cricket Club (PCC). Despite finishing bottom of the league in the 2007 season, the team had some new faces in the squad who were hoping for a better showing in 2008.

The first match of the new season for PCC was against last season's runners-up, the Island Cricket Club (ICC).

PCC skipper Martin Foster got his side off to a good start by winning the toss and putting his men into bat. PCC soon found both their opening batsmen back in the pavilion without troubling the scorers too much. Some tight bowling from ICC limited the PCC score to 33 runs for four wickets after the first 10 overs.

Wickets tumbled at regular intervals on a pitch that kept the batsmen on their toes. Foster kept the PCC innings together by high-scoring for the side with 33 runs.

A few partnerships had the

potential for damage, but just as they appeared to gain some traction, they were broken.

Only five PCC batsmen made it to double figures, but along with more than 30 extras, PCC managed to clock up 136 runs before being bowled out with 10 overs to spare.

For the ICC side, Sameer was the pick of the bowlers, snatching four wickets for just nine runs off four overs. Kamblesh, who last week took four wickets off nine overs, could only manage one wicket from five overs while giving away 33 runs.

After the lunch break, a confident ICC squad took on the task of chasing down 137 for a win. Opening batsmen Anand and Tannu got their side off to a flying start. After just four overs, they had notched up 34 runs.

PCC-bowler Seemant Raju soon found his line and a yorker cleaned up Tannu's stumps when he was on 11. Dimple also found his woodwork shattered by Raju shortly after. Sameer, who made 29 runs last week against the Liquid Lounge Lizards, was adjudged LBW while on zero as ICC found

themselves 45 for three.

Some superb fielding from Jafar Ali saw him make a direct hit on the stumps at the bowler's end from the backward-short-leg position. ICC batsmen Vicky found himself a yard or two short after notching up just five runs. Then a great diving catch by PCC newcomer Leon Coburn at cover point saw Anand on his way for 16 off the bowling of Joshi Kumar leaving ICC 49 for five.

PCC could smell victory and Raju struck again to take his fourth wicket. A couple of bowling changes saw Ali and Andrew Beeley come on and, despite a stand from Kamblesh (12), ICC found themselves all out for 101 runs in the 19th over. PCC bowlers shared the wickets, but Raju, with his four for 20 off seven overs, was the hero of the day.

PCC racked up 17 points for the win while ICC will add seven points to their tally of six they grabbed the week before.

For the ICC team, two losses from two matches will have captain Anand concerned.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: There were several surprises in the second week of play in the Patong Dart League as newcomers Sick Buffalo chalked up their first victory with a road win at Dogs Bollocks.

Steve from Sick Buffalo had the most impressive close of the match, checking out on 104 with just two arrows (T18, xBull).

Valhalla also got their first win of the season on the road at Shakers.

That match featured one of the longest double-one marathons in recent history, with a game between Takis and Jorgen going on for 35 minutes with no winner, but two sore elbows.

Takis wanted to settle the game with a three-dart highest score, but Jorgen insisted that one dart closest the bull was the way to go. In the end, Jorgen won.

Shaun salvaged a point for Shakers by closing the beer leg with a x2.

In Queen Mary's meeting with Beach House, Danish visitor Kurt took the high score with a pair of 140s and Tom closed a double on 118 (triple 20, 18, x20).

Simply Red made the long trek to Piccadilly Bar and got off to a great start when Aussie Mick came from behind to beat Ulf with a 99 finish (19, x20, x20).

Simply Red were up 2-0 until Tony of Piccadilly won the third singles. Piccadilly took every game after that – including the beer leg.

Tony and Ulf shared the high score honors, each hitting a 140.

One to look out for: a soon-to-be published edition of the *Gazette* will feature an in-depth interview with darting legend John Lowe, who recently left Phuket after a stay of several months.

Send match notes to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this column.

January 22 results: Queen Mary* 8 - Beach House 1; Dogs Bollocks* 4 - Sick Buffalo 5; Piccadilly* 7 - Simply Red 2; Offshore* 5 - Market Bar 4; Shakers* 4 - Valhalla 5 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1.= Queen Mary, Piccadilly (6 pts.); 3. Offshore (5); 4. Shakers (4); 5. Beach House (3); 6.= Valhalla, Sick Buffalo (2); 8.= Dogs Bollocks, Simply Red (1); 10. Market Bar (0).

February 5 match ups: Queen Mary vs Simply Red; Dogs Bollocks vs Valhalla; Piccadilly vs Shakers; Offshore vs Sick Buffalo; Beach House vs Market Bar (home team first).

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

What is it with the Irish? Are they really like that or is it all a bit of a show to keep the rest of us unsure whether they're the full punt? Do they deliberately act as if they haven't a clue what's going on? When they say "tirty tree and a tird", is it genuine? All this "top of the mornin' to you sorr" stuff – I'm not convinced, to be honest.

Shamrocks? Happy little dancing leprechauns? This from a country whose most famous landmark is a big lump of rock. Having said that, I will admit that one of their principal exports, Guinness, isn't a bad drop at all.

Indeed, once a year on St Patrick's Day, March 16, people around the world even turn beer green in celebration of all things Irish. Not even the Irish are daft enough to perform such a crass act on a perfectly innocent pint of beer (yes, I know it's actually "stout"), but such is the power of these shamrocks and leprechauns to persuade one particular nation to go potty once a year. No guesses as to which nation that might be.

The world abounds with stories of the Irish, of course. Ever try asking for directions in Ireland? The first advice you're likely to hear is, "Well, I wouldn't start here if I were you", or, "if you go down the road, then past the bank on the left and the post office on your right, you've gone too far."

Some of the stories are true, though. A friend of mine, a police officer in the UK, once recounted a story about the Irish Inspector who was in charge a day he was on duty at a football match. There weren't enough radios to go around, so they had to make do with one between two, as they were paired up anyway.

This inspector was apparently well known for his gaffes. He explained to the assembled police officers that it was going to be a busy day: "T'ose of you wit' radios, keep communications down to a minimum. T'ose of you wit'out radios, maintain radio si-

The pluck of the Irish



The philodendron is partial to the shade and can't do without a drink. Maybe that's why it likes Phuket so much.

lence."

It has to be one of his countrymen who was behind the naming of one of the more common plants on the island; he obviously had his tongue firmly in cheek when he named the philodendron. Mrs O'Dendron must have been so proud.

The philodendron isn't exactly the most aggressive of plants. In fact, it can't even be bothered to grow any kind of stalk or supporting structure for itself. If it were human, it would be rather partial to several gallons of Guinness daily; outwardly in control, but likely to collapse as soon as it's nudged.

It tends to rely solely on stronger and more self-reliant plants to do this. It attaches itself to the host and wraps around it. It doesn't do any harm in the process – it may be bone idle, but it doesn't have an ounce of malice. Why would it want to harm the plant that's doing all the hard work for it?

Philodendrons come in a huge number of varieties, with all sorts of leaf shapes and colors. Most of the larger ones – and some of them are huge – can be trained to grow on a pole to create a slender upright, shaped plant. It doesn't have to be anything natural to act as a host for this selfish clamberer – man-made or otherwise, it will seize the chance.

If you have one of those ugly poles supporting a car port or balcony roof, then this is an absolutely perfect way to attempt to hide it, as the philodendron will quickly become the pole's best friend.

These pole plants must be continuously pruned to keep the vines on the pole, as sometimes they can go astray. You'll probably prefer something that's fairly leafy looking, so you'll need to trim back new growth on the vine tips. This keeps the plant full and helps to stop it from looking stringy.

Philodendrons are surprisingly diverse, ranging from vines with 10-centimeter, heart-shaped green leaves to vines with leaves a meter long. Some types have glossy, solid-green leaves, others have velvet-textured, patterned leaves, while some have deep-red leaves and stems. The clamberers' leaves are often variations of heart shapes.

Most of the philodendrons in Phuket are the bigger varieties, although there are a few that are relatively tiny. These are the ones you see clambering up a metal chain from a pot, wrapping themselves around the links which would appear to be the perfect way to encourage them. These little things grow like crazy,

even indoors. Their progress will only be brought to a halt if the pot they're appearing from runs out of water.

Water is just about all the philodendron needs, really. Water it often enough to keep the soil evenly moist, but don't let it become claggy or let the plants stand in water. Phuket's high humidity is ideal for enthusiastic growth, but they'll tolerate a low level of humidity if you want to grow them inside your air-conditioned mansion.

Most philodendrons are native to the jungles of tropical America and so they're much more content with the medium-light intensity they would have on the jungle floor. They do get a bit unhappy if they're given a sunny spot in the garden, as their leaves start to develop sunburn. Most philodendrons prefer indirect or curtain-filtered sunlight.

The philodendron may be the Guinness-drunk of the plant world, but that would be in attitude alone.

Take it out for a day in the Phuket sun and the plant will soon show you where it thinks it should be, and where we all should be – quietly enjoying a well-deserved pint in the shade. And this pint certainly wouldn't be green.

Want advice on your garden?

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Hidden on eight rai behind Khao Phra Thaew National Park in Pa Khlok is The Gardens, a small development of five pool villas that feature a blend of Asian and Western design styles to create a modern look tinged with a classic Asian touch.

Developer Bill Phelps, a former commercial-property developer from the UK, took an active role in creating the designs. "I am very much a person to tell the architect what I want done, rather than allow the architect to do his own thing," he said.

Bill went around the island and looked at other designs that would later influence his ideas and the final plans.

"The design phase took about six months before we started development. The architecture would follow my ideas of what I wanted. I even went around the island and took photographs of things that I liked and discussed with the architect and all the other people involved in the design to get it right," he explained.

Each pool villa comprises several interconnected pavilions, all finished in white, set around an infinity-edge pool.

"The architectural style is predominantly Balinese and is enhanced with other classical elements. For example, antique-

Hiding in The Gardens



The infinity-edge pool accentuates the long lines of the pavilions, especially when highlighted by the lighting at night.

style Chinese doors imported from China were used on the front entrance simply because they look good.

"This blend of styles is probably best described as 'classic' with a mix of Asian and Western influences," Bill explained.

Key areas in the villas are the master bedroom and the 17-by-4-meter swimming pool, which is the centerpiece of each villa. "The swimming pool is directly accessed from the living area and the master bedroom. The living room has two glass slid-

ing doors tinted to reflect natural light during the day, but transparent enough to enjoy the view of the illuminated pool at night," he said.

Much thought went into the angles of the views from the living room, Bill said. "You get a

'double aspect' from the living room: on one side is the swimming pool and on the other side you look out over the pond," he said.

Inside the villa, wood and a carefully chosen color scheme have been used to give the finishing touch.

"The bedroom is cream-colored and features porcelain tiles and *maka* wood floors. The windows and sliding glass doors all feature aluminum frames. All the materials we used are top quality," he added.

The villas look impressive at night with conceptual lighting that Bill was also deeply involved in. "I designed the exterior lighting myself as I wanted to ensure that it would enhance the architecture and ensure the villas still look good at night," he said.

Around the villa, perimeter uplights are used, adding to the impression of security and privacy. Inside the property boundary, carefully placed downlights tucked under the eaves of the pavilions illuminate the pavilion walls reflected ripples from the pool surface giving an animated classy effect.

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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

B300m Chalong project underway

CHALONG: A site is being cleared on Chao Fa West Rd, near the entrance to the road to Wat Seen Suparam, better known locally as Wat Luang Phu Supa, to make way for a 300-million-baht housing estate.

Work began at the beginning of January and construction of Ake Anda Buri Phuket estate is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

Surasak Chanasit, managing director of Ake Anda Property and Construction Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that the project will comprise 30 semi-detached houses, 16 two-story detached houses and two three-and-a-half story structures, each housing 9 commercial shophouse units. Each shophouse unit will have a total floor area of 290 square meters.

There will be 10 single-story twin units (20 houses) and five two-story twin units (10 houses).



This site on Chao Fa West Rd is being cleared to make way for a 300-million-baht housing estate that will consist of 46 houses and 18 commercial shophouses.

Each single-story unit will be built on 200 square meters of land, while the two-story units will be built on 300sqm plots.

Since they went on sale in November last year, about 60%

of the units have been sold off plan.

"We have had a good response to the two-story twin units, which have already sold out. There are seven one-story semi-

detached houses still available," said K. Surasak.

The commercial buildings will be constructed first, followed by the two-story semi-detached houses and then the one-story semi-detached houses. The 16 detached units will be the last built, completing the project.

"We expect the construction work to be 90% complete by the end of the year," added K. Surasak.

K. Surasak cited the project's location on Chao Fa West Rd as a major selling point because it is close to Chao Fa City. The area also enjoys easy road access to Phuket Town, Tung Tong and Kathu, he said.

"I think that the area around Chao Fa West Rd has potential for major growth. A new road near Wat Luangpoo Supha will link to Patong," he added.

About half of the project's customers are business owners, while much of the remainder are people working in the hospitality and tourism industries, said K.

Surasak.

The target clientele are Thai people who are enticed by a favorable location and affordable prices. Another plus point of the development is that it is relatively small, with just 46 housing units, he added.

Pricing of the units has changed over time, in line with construction material costs. Currently, commercial buildings start at 5 million baht. Single-story semi-detached houses start at 2.7 million baht, while the two-story semi-detached houses start at 3.3 million baht. Two-story detached units are the most expensive at 6 million baht.

"From our experience in Phuket as developers and customers, we have seen that people are often given a choice between low prices and low quality or high prices and high quality.

"We wanted to offer good quality at reasonable prices, as this is what we believe our customers demand," said K. Surasak.

The design and construction work is being done in house.

Ake Anda Property and Construction achieved success in its previous project, Ake Tharin Square, which comprises 12 units of commercial buildings on Chao Fa West Rd near Phuket Provincial Electricity Substation.

"Those units sold out very fast and gave us a reputation that people can see in this new project," said K. Surasak.

For more information visit the Ake Anda Property and Construction project showroom at 60/4-5 Chao Fa West Rd, tambon Wichit or call 076-211852, 081-5361791, 084-1878636. Fax: 076-211495.

Six new projects approved

PHUKET: At its most recent meeting at the Phuket Land Office, the Provincial Natural Resources and Environment (PNRE) committee, chaired by Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, approved six new building permits for projects in Phuket.

The PNRE is the standing committee for approving construction projects on the island, including reviewing and approving architectural plans and environmental impact assessment reports on projects.

Among the six permits approved was one for 79 residential units to be built as part of the Jumeirah Private Island Phuket development on Koh Raet, in Pa Khlok, Thalang.

Phuket Inter Villa III, marketed as Chalong Interville, was also approved. The development comprises 39 plots, each with a detached two-story home, on three rai in Rawai.

The project is 120 meters from Wiset Rd and

about 350 meters south of Chalong Circle.

Permits were also issued for 79 condo units at Butterfly Condominium on Patak Rd in Karon; for 26 units to be built as part of Oxygen Condominium Bangtao in Cherg Talay; for a three-story residential block with 18 rooms on two rai on Soi Takdad in Kathu; and for an office building comprising 39 units on Srisoonthorn Rd, in Cherg Talay.

However, the decision whether to issue a permit for Phu Lae Condominium, a seven-story building of 45 rooms behind Suksan Place on Patak Rd in Karon, was deferred.

The reason for the deferral, said a committee spokesperson, was the committee agreed that further investigation was needed to verify the project's proximity to the beach and the installation of its water storage tanks.

— Semacote Suganya



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PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

As I sit in my hotel room in chilly Hong Kong, the TV is blaring news of a market meltdown. Major indexes are capitulating in the US, Europe and across Asia like the EKG of a heart-attack patient.

Grabbing headlines in the US are two leading Democratic presidential frontrunners sparring in something akin to an Ali-Fraser rematch.

In Thailand, the lights are on, but nobody is home in a vacated leadership role.

Far too many questions remain unanswered, while the word "recession" keeps popping up with unsettling regularity.

I'm reminded of the phrase of the late, great Hunter S Thompson, uttered during the bleak Nixon era: "When will it end, oh Lord, when will it end?"

Living the sub-prime life



If you want fast money, then head to the casinos of Macau, but remember that the house always wins. The past few years have seen something of a casino-like atmosphere in Phuket, but the property market is not a place to get rich quick.

Being neither an economist nor a polished political commentator, I have no idea when it will end.

My lack of insightful analysis into the current state of affairs puts me in the same boat as the majority of property investors

and market watchers.

The trigger that appears to have started the chaotic events of the past few months is the US sub-prime mortgage crisis.

Viewed from a distance, tales of people losing their homes and being evicted are akin to a

replay of Hurricane Katrina, leaving others to wonder just how this could happen in a developed, first-world economy.

Go deeper and what's often overlooked is that many of the foreclosures are on second- and third-home purchases.

The home-loan industry has evolved into something similar, with junk bonds and scandals in savings and loans.

During the feeding frenzy over the past few years, property has been bought with zero cash down.

In many cases, there has been negative equity, often with more than 100% of a property's value offered along with perks to buy furniture, automobiles or vacations.

It was as if someone at the bank left the vault open and nipped out for a cappuccino. Banks, institutions and private-equity firms fed a frenzy that was

geared towards top-line growth, increasing stock options and million-dollar bonuses for their executives.

It's difficult to assess how these global economic problems are affecting the Phuket property market.

In analyzing the fundamentals of Phuket's real-estate boom of six years ago, the compelling features were an accessible, international resort destination; a reasonable cost of living; access to health care, schools, golf and marinas; and the hospitality of one of the most exotic cultures on earth.

Development shifted into high gear and construction on the island went into overdrive.

I am a part-time developer, sometimes an investor and most often a consultant. I'm not throwing in the towel just yet. Real estate, for the most part, is about long-term, stable investment.

If you bought on fundamentals, chances are that over time, the yields will rival those of any other investment.

The past few years have seen something of a casino-like atmosphere in Phuket.

If you want fast money, try heading to Macau or Hong Kong, but remember that the house always wins.

For those already on board the property boat, it's going to be a choppy ride. Time to kick back with a good book, sip on something alcoholic and wait it out.

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.

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sales@andavana.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

RAWAI-NAI HARN



Spacious new pool villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, high-specs, good road, private. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 081-4751404. Email: chris_carlier@yahoo.co.uk

LUXURY VILLA SALE OR RENT

New villa with sea view in gated estate at Cape Yamu. Four en-suite bedrooms, open-plan living areas, etc. Basement gym. Fully air conditioned and furnished. Swimming pool, sala, garage and maid's room. For sale or lease. Email: gwrev@nl41l.fsnet.co.uk

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG BEACH

Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, by the beach road. 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story, 4-bedroom house in Chalong. Western kitchen, aircon, quiet area. 3.4 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROJECT

(Kamala 1). Thai-style pool villa with sea view. Price: 28.5 million baht. Project Kamala 1 is 1 km from the beach and 5 minutes from Patong. Details: Land area 1,400sqm. Living area 450sqm. Fully furnished, aircon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 1 studio with kitchen, bathroom (staff room). 1 European kitchen, 1 Thai kitchen outside. Swimming pool 10 x 4m. Thai-style sala. Fish pond. Thai-style parking for 2 cars. Storage room. Contact Manuel Pinto. Tel: 081-8923172.

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Land & Houses Park, Chalong. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 7 en-suite aircons, partly furnished. Cable TV, tel, Internet. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6261799.

PRIVATE SALE OF 1 RAI

next to Phuket Country Club golf course. The land has a new road and is in a very nice neighborhood. 7 million baht. Tel: 081-8915932.

LAND FOR SALE

Near Laguna Phuket - good for residential projects. 22 rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Close to main road, water and electricity access. 7 million baht per rai - can buy half-plot. No need for fill-soil! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

22 rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor) near Mission Hills Golf Club, hotels and residential area. Road and utilities access. Owner has done project layout, easy to start. 2.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

INEXPENSIVE LAND

1 rai house lots near airport and Mission Hills golf course. Chanote, underground electricity. 1.06 million baht, full price! Only 2 left! Contact Chris Fisher at Tel: 086-9421930.

NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 300m from the new pier. 3.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: than_que4@gmail.com

AFFORDABLE LUXURY



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandi-kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale - one on half a rai of land and another on 1 rai. Both located in a good residential area 5 mins from the Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more information. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, partially furnished, gardens (front and side). Telephone, cable TV and Internet. For sale at 2.2 million baht, or long-term rent at 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-6686603, 084-9729434. Email: chris@jonesalpine.fsnet.co.uk

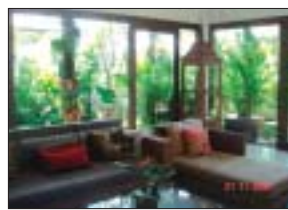
URGENT LAND FOR SALE

Bang Jo-Manik area. Nice square plot, 2.3 rai, has road on 2 sides of the land. No need for fill-soil, utilities access. Asking price: 3.3 million baht per rai. Chanote title. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

KAMALA 3-BEDROOM

1.25 rai, quiet hillside location, 2km to beach and shops. Tel: 081-8935626. Email: richard@amwso.com

NEW HOUSE 5.5 MILLION BAHT



5 minutes to Bang Tao Beach, Laguna and Tesco. Tel: 089-8131447, 081-9274027.

LAND FOR SALE



Sea view, 1 rai, Chanote, in Chalong. Tel: 085-7932718.

3-STORY SHOPHOUSE KATHU

Brand-new, 5-meter-wide shophouse, excellent location on Wichit Songkram Rd near Anuphas Golf Ville. Tel: 081-6065772. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

SEAVIEW, 2-BEDROOM

apartment on top floor, north Patong. 20 steps to beach. Freehold. 9.7 million baht. Contact for photos. Tel: 086-2765117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

APARTMENTS IN KARON

One unit with 3 fully-furnished apartments for sale. Included in every apartment: TV, aircon, toilet with hot water, bedroom, kitchen, living room and balcony. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-396693, 089-6493950. Email: gym_world@oxinfo.co.th Fax: 076-396694. Or visit our website at: www.karonplazaapart hotel.com

LAND FOR QUICK SALE

next to Mission Hills. Will take best offer. 1.7 rai. Tel: 087-2699206. Email: phkt51@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE



4 en-suite bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, private pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen and maid's room. Solar-heated hot water, sala, BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate, nice tropical garden. 1,606sqm land plot with over 400sqm of living area. Partially furnished. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nissie19@gmail.com

KATHU POOL HOUSE

3 bedrooms, all en suite. 280sqm. 5 min to Patong. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 081-5379684. Email for photo: kathuhouseforsale@yahoo.com

MUST SALE LAND

in Thalang, near Ton Sai, just under 1 rai. No offers under 900,000 baht. Tel: 084-8485704.

CHEAP LAND 161SQ WAH

Corner block, very quiet, Maneekram estate. Tel: 085-0691327 Thai/Eng.

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

ALLAMANDA-LAGUNA-PHUKET

1-bedroom suite, approximately 84sqm. 1st floor, lagoon view, for sale by owner. The suite is presently in a hotel rental pool, which gives the owner 60 days of free use per year. Suite may be taken out of pool on 6 months notice. Membership to Laguna Golf Club included in sale! Please contact the owner. Tel: 080-0413019.

LERSUANG APARTMENT FOR SALE

6.5 million baht. Two bedrooms of good size, nicely furnished, on 2nd floor, facing pool. Kitchen, True TV, Internet. Ready to move in. 10 min walk to the beach. Contact Jan. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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Sai-Yuan Sai-Sai-Mak-Ree 1

Luxury Tropical Asian Style House
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BUILDING FOR SALE
in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach

- 4 stories, first floor has large area convenient for restaurant or bar.
- 8 apartments on floor 2, 3, 4.
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- 2 minutes to the beach

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Property Gazette

MODERN TROPICAL VILLA



Living area: 600sqm + garden area 6,400sqm (4 rai). 250sqm terrace. 3 bedrooms and 1 master bedroom (en suite). Open-plan kitchen, 200sqm living room, Jacuzzi, swimming pool and snooker table. 100m artificial stream and charming island. 3-car garage and exterior parking. Located at Pa khlok, 5 min from Ao Po. Always high-tide marina, golf, aeroclub and private airfield. Company formed in 2002. Chanote title. Well-equipped for 8 people, ready to live. Project by international architects. Fully furnished. Price 1.1 million euros. Price negotiable without furniture. No sea view. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-8935270, 085-259-9590. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr or visit our website at www.tropical-house.net

CHALONG HOT DEAL

Enjoy the morning sun in this cozy 3-bedroom house with big Western kitchen and private garden. 24hr security, clubhouse with pool. Reduced to 6.3 million baht. Tel: 081-8941804. Email: sanaralang@yahoo.de Website: www.bayoli.de

NAI HARN PLOT

Lake and hillside views. Situated in middle of village suite, 3-bedroom villa. 3.75 million baht. Tel: 081-2710015.

HOUSE FOR SALE

near Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. cable TV, Internet, telephone, fully furnished. 24hr security, swimming pool. Asking price: 2.7 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad View Point. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

PATONG HOTEL SALE

Paradise complex, 9 rooms and massage parlor for men only. Excellent turnover. No brokers please. Chanote. 2 units for 26 million baht. Contact William via email: info@bluedolphinphuket.com

SURIN LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

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.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

Rawai, condo, 27sqm. Close to bank, 300m from the pier. 580,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-9408914.

INTEREST-FREE INSTALLMENTS

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom (1 en suite) house in Kathu. 10 mins to Patong. 72sq wah with Chanote. Fitted curtains and 3 aircon units. Phone line and water well. Will sell for 3.5 million baht (1 payment), or for down payment of 1 million followed by 4 annual 70,000-baht payments. Tel: 085-7895092. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

A BIGGER SPLASH



This new hill-view Bali-style home has it all, 3 en-suite bedrooms, big living room, 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 per sqm. Hillside location near Wat Chalong. A Bangkok company is included in the 9.5 million baht price. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5930986.

BIJOU APARTMENT IN KATA NOI

2 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, full sea view, 3 min walk to beach. Fully furnished, includes Honda Civic sedan and ultra-modern kitchen. Tel: 076-285307, 087-2658801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com or visit our website at: www.katanoi-condo.com

LAND FOR SALE

Kathu, next to Loch Palm golf course. Chanote, 3 plots: 1,260; 1,335; 1,557sqm. Each plot sold with company if required. Tel: 080-1435178. Email: kathuland@gmail.com

KARON BEACH

200sqm of land for sale one block from the beach. Also, a guesthouse with sea view. Both for 5.9 million baht. Tel: 089-8671955.

LUXURY PROPERTIES

for sale or rent in Phuket and Phang Nga. Please visit our website: www.jane-propertyphuket.com

★★★★★ **Platinum Residence Park** ★★★★★

5 Star Development 5 Star Services

Government Approved Highest European-Standard Materials
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Landscaped Park 700 sqm. Land Plots
Wide Roads 24 Hr Security
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Serene Location Big Swimming Pool
Jacuzzi with TV & DVD player

076 388 593 or 087 893 8747

Custom Floorplans **9.5 million**

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote. Hillside panoramic sea view, quiet area. For details call 089-7727012 or Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

1st floor, unit C-8, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 195sqm. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 22 million baht. Tel: 081-6144799.

LANDPLOTS IN KAMALA

in gated community (24hr security), in a most exclusive area. On flat and from 500-1,200sqm. Prices from 8 million baht. Please contact K. Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell Tel: 089-6521473.

House for Sale or Long-Term Rent



3 mins from Heroines' Monument. Very private. Land: 134sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, dressing room, 2-car carport, 4x12 m. pool, teak pool deck, landscaped, automatic gate. Fully-furnished, 4 aircons, 4 TVs, gym equip, Tel, ADSL, UBC.

Tel: (081) 895-7310

LUXURIOUS 2-BEDROOM CONDO

for sale at Andaman beach condo building. 126.43sqm on 15th floor, freehold. Panoramic sea view, fully-equipped, covered parking. For details call Songpan at Tel: 081-7378662 Email: songpanpirom@hotmail.com No brokers please.

PATONG CONDOS FOR SALE

Fully furnished. From 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk For more info and many photos please visit: <http://housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com>

CHEAP LAND

Fantastic value, mission hills area. 1.7 rai for 2.2 million baht. Email: phkt51@yahoo.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 details please visit our website at: www.phuket-property.info

440SQM IN RAWAI

22m x 20m plot. Chanote. Close to Rawai Beach, quiet area. 1.55 million baht. Tel: 081-7284821.



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.



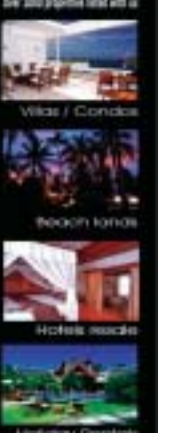
From 4.7 M

Mediterranean style ocean view apartments located in a natural beauty spot of Kata hills. One, two, three bedrooms apartments ranging from 72 to 162 sqm. Foreigners eligible. Now on phase 2. Rental program available.



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.



076/282394
www.ayudhya.net

Property Gazette

HOUSE FOR SALE



Nanai villa, Patong. Exclusive villa, Thai style, high standard, fully furnished, swimming pool, 200sqm living area, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Address: 154/13 Nanai Rd. 16 million baht. Tel: 083-1767676. Email: e-gjerl@online.no

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG: B3.6, M

New 2-room deluxe Condos. Fully furnished, in best location in Patong, with pool and parking. 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-besthomes.com

LAND FOR SALE

99sq wah with Chanote near Rajabhat intersection. Access to road on 3 sides (Thepkasattri and Ku Ku road). Very good location. 15 million baht. Tel: 084-3091083.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

Nai Yang. Clinic for men on 4 rai of land, 44 rooms, renovated. Only 38 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

SINGLE-STORY HOUSE

Pa Khlok. Built 2 years ago, 588sqm land, space for swimming pool. 168sqm inside, 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large European kitchen, dining room etc. Completely furnished, top quality. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-9785804.

LAGUNA RESIDENCE

with golf course view, 3 bedrooms, large, pool. Only 24 million baht. Please Tel: 085-7839062.

LAND IN KAMALA



1 rai to 24 rai, all with very good sea view and Chanote. Good central location with nice road access, electrical and water supply. Price from 6 million baht per rai. Contact Sakorn Chana. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

GUEST HOUSES

Two guesthouse-restaurants for sale at Karon Plaza. Price: 4 and 6 million baht. Contact Sture at 084-898-5923 or Ingar at 087-282-0835. Fax: 076-396235. Email: sturemoen@hotmail.com For details, visit our websites at www.niceresidencehouse.com, and www.2vikings.net

LAND ON KOH LANTA

1,100sqm land at Klong Nin Beach. 600m to the beach. Company included. 2 million baht. Tel: 085-6917668, 085-6917665. Email: malleangledal@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE VILLA 5

behind Kajornkiat International School. 36sq. wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, storeroom, all furniture. 2.1 million baht.

LANDS & HOUSES PARK, PARICHAT

58sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 pantry & dining room, storeroom, all with furniture. 2.4 million baht.

PIAMSUK

Rattatibet Rd in Bangkok. 29sq wah, 2-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 dining, 1 kitchen with office space & landscape. New & very nice house.

2.6 million baht.

Tel: 084-3091083.

KATA SEAVIEW HOME



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, huge pool. Teak kitchen, ceilings and doors, marble and wood floors. 200sqm on 600sqm land. Self-contained guest suite. Quiet location, parking, overlooks Kata beach. 13 million baht. Serious offers only. Contact us at Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

VILLA IN NAI HARN FOR SALE



Tropical villa in private project, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large terraces. 1 km from the beach, fully furnished, big common swimming pool. 13 million baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-283377, 087-8965189. Email: life4life@yandex.ru For further details, please see our website at http://lifeinphuket.com

HACIENDA HOUSE

with pool, garden, 4 bedrooms. Chong Talay. Only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

3-BEDROOM VILLA FOR SALE

at Wichit Thanthong Villa 5. 3 brand-new Mitsubishi aircons, 2 kitchens, laundry, 3 bedrooms, ADSL Internet and cable TV. Fully tiled, excellent condition, Chanote title. 1.35 million baht. To arrange a viewing please call K. Kob at Tel: 081-5357767. Email: phuketjon@csloxinfo.com

VILLA WITH POOL

3 bathrooms, 4 bedrooms, European kitchen. From 5 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

FOR SALE AT BANG TAO BEACH GARDEN



A tastefully furnished spacious 2-bedroom apartment. Finished to a high standard. Airon throughout home, cinema system with True TV in both living room and master bedroom (separate digi boxes in each room for satellite channel choices). Both bedrooms en suite, wireless ADSL and home telephone. All modern appliances installed in kitchen area, center breakfast bar, large balcony. Many additional features which ensure a very comfortable and practical lifestyle. Communal swimming pool, training pool, multi-gym, sauna, etc. Superbly landscaped area. Viewing is recommended, will accept first good and genuine offer. Tel: 076-326446, 086-7402741.

LAND & HOUSES PARK



at Parichat Village 35/20. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. In Chalong area. Urgent sale! 4.2 million baht, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679, 087-268-1341. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Situated in desirable Choafa Thani, this 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom (2 en suite) house with living room, kitchen/dining, study, garage and laundry room is in a secure compound. Backs onto water and has mature garden. ADSL and UBC installed. Price: 7 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: bimvool@aol.com

LUXURIOUS 2-BEDROOM CONDO

for sale at Andaman beach condo building. 126.43sqm on 15th floor, freehold. Panoramic sea view, fully-equipped, covered parking. For details call Songpan at Tel: 081-7378662. Email: songpanpirom@hotmail.com No brokers please.

KAMALA CONDO

Located in center of Kamala, 1 bedroom, 65sqm, common pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

Properties For Rent

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

PATONG APARTMENT

Studio apartment 400m from the beach. Modern, clean, TV, aircon, fridge, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Please visit www.phuketaccommodation.info

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

KAMALA BEACH STUDIO

Kitchen, bathroom, True TV, aircon, pool. Rent weekly: 6,000 baht; monthly: 18,000 baht. Electricity and maid included. Tel: 084-8500568.

BANG TAO BUNGALOW

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, furnished, cable TV, ADSL. Long-term rent for 12,000 baht + utilities per month. Will install 1 aircon for 1,000 baht month. Tel: 086-2786465.

RAWAI POOL STUDIO

Furnished, aircon, fridge, True TV, ADSL. 6,000 baht per month. 300m from the new pier. Tel: 086-9408914.

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

You want to rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com Also visit www.houseinphuket.com

LAND AND HOUSE PARK

Chalong, new house for rent, fully furnished, nice decoration, 3 bedrooms. 3 months to 8 months. Tel: 085-7863213. Email: fabebemo@yahoo.fr

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.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



In Soi Ban Krang, Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished and aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8746270.

LUXURY VILLA LAGUNA



For details please visit www.saitaan18.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, pool (terrace 70 sqm), sala, 2 parking spaces, garden, ADSL and True TV. 7 mins to Laguna, 12 mins to beaches. Pool maintenance, garden and house cleaning offered. Price: 75,000 baht per month; 40,000 baht for 2 weeks. Tel: 081-6062827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

SURIN APARTMENT

New 50sqm apartment, 700m from the beach, pool area. From 12,500 baht per week. Tel: +46-707327657, +46-704178531. Email: matsivarbergstrom@spray.se

PRIVATE VILLA

Ocean view, 3 bedrooms with a private swimming pool near Baan Yin Dee, Coral Beach, Patong. Available for rent now call Max at Tel: 086-940-5187.

LUXURY 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Available for long-term rent in Chalong. 5-min walk to beach. Wi-fi, True TV, Western kitchen, tastefully furnished. 60,000 baht/month, available in March. Tel: 086-5097510.

CHALONG NEW HOME


2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

PATONG APARTMENTS

Modern studios or 1-bedroom apartments with cable TV, DVD, ADSL. Close to beach. Tel: 084-8473304.



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Property Gazette

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Brand-new. 5 mins from Laguna, 7 mins to Surin Beach. 24hr security, furnished, landscaped. Email: julian@julianburgess.co.uk View villa slideshow at: <http://www.julianburgess.co.uk/4bedvilla.html>

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Spacious Thai-style house for rent with 2 large lounges, 2 large bedrooms/possible offices, bedroom, American kitchen, nicely furnished, large balcony, garden, parking, gated. Available Feb 14 for 6 months/option. 35,000 baht per month including water, electricity, UBC and maid service. Email: kittypatong@hotmail.com

PATONG HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, through lounge, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, on private road with security gate. Very close to beach and Carrefour. Cable TV, aircon, gardens. Tel: 008 306937050409. Email: info@rentacareuro.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent, 25,000 baht per month and for sale: 4 million baht. Call: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

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3 bedrooms, aircon, telephone, True TV, 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

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POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon, 25,000 baht per month, long term. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

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For high-standard living, directly on beach, 260sqm, pool, sala, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, ADSL, cable TV. Long-term: 95,000 baht per month; short-term: 5,500-6,800 baht per day. Tel: 081-2596052. Email: surapong@gmx.de

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Bungalow with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons and fan. 5km from bilingual school. 22,000 baht/month, long-term rent. Tel: 081-6770663.

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.

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, 300m. 1.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-261375, 089-4730990. Fax: 076-261375. Please email: kasina888@gmail.com

STUDIO APARTMENT WITH INTERNET

off Nanai Rd, 30sqm, fully-furnished. Includes TV, DVD, large fridge, hot water, fan, aircon and kitchenette. From 7,500 baht a month, long-term. ADSL Internet optional. Tel: 087-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

at Surin. A few minutes from Surin & Bang Tao Beaches. Common pool, aircon, bedroom fans, timber floors, fully furnished, phone. 30,000 baht per month. Contact Harry. Tel: 081-2731740.

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

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near Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

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LUXURY HOUSE & POOL

Near Laguna. Three bedrooms, spa, aircon, cable TV, garden, furnished. Lease: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5944067.

HOMES FOR HOLIDAY

near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, pool, spa. Cheap rates and weekly rates. Need car to access house. Tel: 089-594-4067.

HOUSE FOR RENT LONG-TERM

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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.

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

2-bedroom bungalow for rent in Chong Talay, short- or long-term, maid service available. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-8911826. Email: info@baanboosakorn.com

2-BEDROOM VILLA

Weekly or long-term rent. 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

KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses for rent. Close to beach, furnished, nice area, private. 15,000 to 30,000 baht per month, short- or long-term. Contact Larry. Tel: 083-9680662.

KATA APARTMENTS

in new pool-villa close to the beach. Long-term rent: 19,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-2738230 (Thai), 084-8387801 (Eng). Email: kjartan1965@hotmail.com

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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

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English speaking. For mornings. Must have own motorbike or car and be punctual and smart. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

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English and bookkeeping skills required. Thai national. Tel: 087-0778454, 081-1371001. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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Must have experience and be a Thai female between 25 and 40. Send resum  or contact for additional details at Tel: 087-0804258.

Email: brian@kokawaii.com

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Sales staff needed to visit 4 or 5 hotels. Basic salary and commission. Car or motorbike an advantage. Sales area: Phuket and Khao Lak. Send CV and expected salary to: 2minternational06@gmail.com



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Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Architecture
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Please submit your resume' application letter including expected salary, details, of references and a recent photograph to:

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OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED

Skills required: 1. Able to speak English. 2. Basic computer skills (MS Office, Internet). 3. Basic accounting knowledge. The person we want: female, single, age 22-32. Reliable, healthy and hard-working. Tel: 076-273379, 089-474 1246. Fax: 076-273379. Email: mick@octopusasia.com Please visit our website at: www.octopusasia.com

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The selected person must have accounting experience. Ability to track income, expenses, invoices, cash flow, taxes, VAT, manage all stock. Must be reliable, honest, fair and hard working at all times. Salary ranges from 10,000-15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-6305977. Please email CV to natanri@hotmail.com

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GM requires executive secretary. Thai female, 24-35, who can speak English. Please fill out application at Wine Connection, Chalong. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmpuket@wineconnection.co.th

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is looking for fun, outgoing promotion/sales staff for temporary and permanent positions. Open to Thais and foreigners. Must speak some English. Good option for foreigners on holiday to make extra cash. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6136438, 085-4768625.

> 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 resum  to chris.benn@th.g4s.com stating expected salary. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for an interview.

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Email your application letter with the position you are applying for, resum  in Microsoft Word, passport-sized photo, and your current and expected salary to: The General Manager - Maileasylink@aol.com

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needed for busy salon/massage parlor/bar in Patong. Contact for additional details. Tel: 089-2553700. Email: markhigson497@msn.com

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- Assisting the film editors in their final edit of each production

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Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows and tailor images to fit their tempo, cadence and purpose. Basic English is required. Knowledge of Adobe Premier would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter and photo to Jib@PhuketGazette.Net, or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

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Phuket Ocean Villas requires experienced Sales executive. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai, and have good computer skills. Excellent salary plus commission. Tel: 076-527565. Apply by email to: cv@phuketocceanvillas.com

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Young male/female Thai, with basic English, to work at Laguna. Please contact for more info at Tel: 085-7839062.

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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. Email: rabco2@verizon.net

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Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-4326587.

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- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
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- 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

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Tel: 076 270 577 | Fax: 076 271 182 | Attn: Ms. Nalinthipa Tansuttiwanit



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- Thai national, 25+
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