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HK billionaire to develop Phang Nga mega-resort

By Lana Willocks

PHANG NGA: The Year of the Rat is certain to change the fortunes of a sleepy area of Phang Nga province, as a Hong Kong company owned by billionaire Richard Li has announced plans for a mega-resort project along the beach in Thai Muang district.

Land acquired by Li's company Pacific Century Premium Developments Limited (PCPD) in late 2007 totals 1,081.25 rai, with 2.5 kilometers of beach frontage.

The property includes all of the Thai Muang Golf Course, which will be retained and undergo extensive reconstruction.

The 18-hole, Perry Dye-designed Thai Muang Golf Course first opened in December 1995.

Buildings on the property have been demolished to make way for luxury hotels and villas, as well as yachting, recreational and retail facilities.

Details are being kept under wraps until the master plan is completed.

Award-winning Hong Kong-based architects Original



A bird's-eye view of the project site

Vision, which has a branch office in Phuket, has been appointed to design the project.

Asians, Europeans and Americans will be the primary customers, said Jenny Tam, PCPD's head of corporate communications.

"We have successfully developed a luxury lifestyle through the Bel-Air experience in Hong Kong. Through the Bel-Air exercise, we have found there are quite a lot of affluent customers who are interested in buying sec-

ond homes in luxury developments overseas. We believe the Thai Muang Beach Project would become their second home."

Bel-Air is a large luxury apartment complex that forms the residential part of Cyberport, a high-tech hub in Telegraph Bay developed by PCPD's parent company PCCW Limited, of which Richard Li is also the chairman.

Ms Tam declined to reveal whether Richard Li, son of Li

Ka-shing, reputedly the richest man in Asia, was personally involved in the transaction or if he will have his own private residence on site. It is also not known if the "digital city" concept on which Cyberport is based will be brought to Thai Muang.

She also declined to confirm or deny newspaper and online reports of the land acquisition price tag of 2 billion baht.

Ms Tam said that the project would take "a few years" to finish, but added that it was too early to estimate the completion date.

PCPD is involved in the development and management of premium property and infrastructure projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It is majority-owned by PCCW, Hong Kong's largest communications provider and the world's largest provider of Internet Protocol TV. PCCW employs about 14,000 people in Asia, the US and the Middle East.

Richard Li, 41, is ranked 698th in Forbes magazine's World's Richest People list, with an estimated net worth of US\$1.5 billion.

Danish tourist believed murdered: police

By Gazette Staff

PATONG: Kathu Police are treating as a murder case the death of Danish tourist Henrik Rasmussen, 47, whose body was discovered in a section of Klong Pakbang behind the Royal Paradise Hotel late afternoon February 7, Pol Capt Pratuang Pholmana of Kathu Police Station told the *Gazette*.

Helen Soerenson told the *Gazette* that she last saw her cousin, Mr Rasmussen, who suffered from Down syndrome, at the Royal Paradise Hotel about 4:30 am on January 28.

Police believe Mr Rasmussen died

seven to 10 days before his body was discovered, said Capt Pratuang, citing information gathered from Patong Hospital.

Police also recovered Mr Rasmussen's wallet, which contained money, as well as a patient's card issued by Patong Hospital and some slips indicating that he had been a guest at the Royal Paradise Hotel, Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonark later explained.

Capt Pratuang speculated that Mr Rasmussen died from two wounds caused by a sharp object: a five-centimeter laceration down to the bone on the back of the neck and a wound about 10cm long to the right

arm pit. The body has been sent to Police General Hospital in Bangkok for autopsy.

Mr Rasmussen's nephew Kasper said that his uncle's body was found in what he described as "a well" located just meters behind the hotel.

"We have questioned Mr Rasmussen's cousin and nephew and I am satisfied that neither of them have anything to do with the death," said Capt Pratuang.

"We believe that he died inside the hotel. The police need time to investigate the case now," he added.

The body was found by Thanapong
Continued on page 2

Police shoot out tires to end driving spree

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET CITY: A high-speed chase through Phuket City came to an end about midday on February 4 when police shot out the tires of a pickup being driven by a man suffering from severe stress, with the pickup crashing into a concrete pole on Soi Korpai, off Phuket Rd.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Maj Keerati Triwai explained that Kusoldharm Foundation driver Ekachai Samudrat had responded to a call from staff at the Honda showroom on Phang Nga Rd. They reported that a man was walking down the middle of the road, apparently trying to be run over by a car.

When K. Ekachai arrived at the scene, he invited the man, Wirat Maneesri, 44, to sit in his truck's passenger seat. However, when K. Ekachai got out of the vehicle to ask a police patrol officer where he could take Wirat for treatment, Wirat slid into the driver's seat, put the truck in gear and sped off along Weerapong Hongyok Rd, Maj Keerati said.

He and several other police officers gave chase on motorbikes. During the pursuit, Wirat rammed a Mazda pickup waiting

at traffic lights on Weerapong Hongyok Rd, causing the Mazda to hit another Mazda pickup waiting in front of it, Maj Keerati said.

The drivers of those pickups were not injured, he added.

Wirat continued driving even after police shot out one of his back tires. As the truck neared the Soi Korpai-Phuket Rd T-junction, police opened fire again, this time hitting one of the front tires, Maj Keerati said.

The pickup finally slowed, veered and then crashed into a concrete post supporting a heavy metal fence, he said.

Wirat was apprehended and taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment of minor injuries, Maj Keerati added.

On February 5, Wirat was sent to Phuket Provincial Prison, where he remains after being charged with dangerous driving causing property damage and evading arrest, he said.

Relatives have so far paid 150,000 baht for repairs to the three vehicles, he added.

After questioning the suspect, police learned that Wirat was on medication for stress and had just received some "bad news" from doctors about a medical condition, he said.

US embassy citizen services clinic

PATONG: The American Citizens Services Section of the US embassy in Bangkok will hold a consular service outreach clinic at the Graceland Hotel from 8 am to midday on March 7.

Consular services available include:

- Passport-renewal applications. Under the new fees, passports are now: US\$75 or 2,550 baht for adult renewal passports; and US\$85 or 3,060 baht for a child's passport. For first-time


applicants aged 16 or over, the total fee is US\$100. Applicants must bring exact change.

- Notarial services and certified copies of documents (US\$30 or 1,020 baht).

- Absentee ballot application and voting abroad information.

Consular Reports of Birth cannot be processed during consular outreach trips.

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Tourism leaders voice support for Weerasak

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Leading figures in Phuket's tourism industry have expressed satisfaction with the naming of Chart Thai Party member Weerasak Kowsurat as the new Tourism and Sports Minister in the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej.

K. Weerasak, 43, is Deputy Secretary of the Chart Thai Party. He has a master's degree in law from Harvard University. Originally from Ubon Ratchathani province, K. Weerasak has held several advisory and vice-ministerial positions in previous governments, including the first Thaksin administration.

Phuket Tourist Association President Maitree Narukatpichai told the *Gazette*, "I know of him only from the media, but his background and personality give me more confidence in him than [I've had in] some previous tourism and sports ministers. Also, he is still young and appears to have good ideas."



New Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat.

However, K. Maitree said that he did not expect much help from the new government in funding urgently needed infrastructure projects to deal with Phuket's pressing problems, such as the waste management crisis and increasing traffic congestion.

"Such problems are beyond the ability of local bodies to solve. As for marketing the island, I

think we can handle that on our own," he said.

PTA Vice-President Bhuritt Maswongssa agreed that K. Weerasak's background and experience as a lawyer made him well-suited for the post. "I think lawyers are men of principle," he said.

K. Bhuritt, who until recently went by the first name "Panu", suggested that the new minister establish a special economic and administrative zone for Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi and Trang.

Collectively, these provinces generate two-thirds of Thailand's tourism industry revenue, he claimed.

Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Eam Thavornwongwongse said that he hoped K. Weerasak would meet the island's tourism industry leaders and listen carefully to their input when formulating policy.

"I believe he has the right knowledge and capability for this position," he said.

Frenchman charged with shoplifting in Patong

PATONG: A 68-year-old Frenchman has been charged with stealing leather goods valued at more than 30,000 baht from the Findig store on the Patong beach road.

Capt Naruwat Phutharaviro of Kathu Police Station told the *Gazette* that he received a call from Findig shop manager Nathaya Prasomthong, 34, at 4:20 pm February 11.

K. Nathaya reported that a well-dressed foreign tourist had been caught stealing seven leather-good items valued at more than 30,000 baht from the store, he said.

Police arrived at the store and arrested Jacques Andre Roland Marecaux, charging him with stealing five crocodile leather bags, a wallet and a pair of cro-

dile leather shoes.

"Shop staff have been keeping an eye on customers after they found that leather bags were missing from the store. They kept an eye on Marecaux as he was carrying a big bag while looking around the shop, then they

finally caught him," he added.

Capt Naruwat said that Marecaux confessed to the charges.

"Once his case has been heard in court we will hand it over to Immigration for further action," he said.



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Frogman victim

On the night of January 9, Swiss sailor Pierre-Alain Oberson was in Kata Bay aboard his 39-foot yacht *Merlin* with 24-year-old Thai bar hostess Pornthip Pradit. Then along swam German Peter Schmid, clad in a blue wetsuit, who came aboard for a cup of coffee and a rest from his swim. Then a fight ensued: Oberson was shot and stabbed, but lived; Schmid was later found dead in the water some 70 meters away. The tale sparked rumors and speculation island-wide about what happened that night. Here, Oberson speaks with the *Gazette's* Skyler Swezy to set the record straight.



Pierre-Alain Oberson, 50, has shaved his head since a gun blast singed the hair around his left ear. A pair of gray crutches lean against the table at a café in Chalong. The wiry sailor rubs a healing stab wound on his right calf as he recounts how it got there.

A boat builder by profession, Oberson built his 39-foot sloop *Merlin*, on which he has spent the past eight years sailing with his wife and children. They lived on the boat, docking in Australia, New Zealand and Bali, where he would find temporary boat-work to support them.

Oberson and his wife separated about five months ago. She returned to Switzerland with their young twins and he remained in Bali.

Soon after, his long-term friend Bernard Loude flew from Switzerland to Bali to help him sail the boat back to Europe.

At the beginning of January this year, Oberson's mother and sister brought his son and daughter to Thailand so he could see his children while he prepared for the journey back to Switzerland.

After holidaying in Kata, the Oberson family decided stay at a resort on Koh Racha for a few days, but Oberson and Loude needed to renew their visas. On January 9, they left the family on

Koh Racha, returned to Kata Bay and dropped anchor.

That night, the pair visited a Kata bar where 24-year-old Pornthip Pradit worked. Oberson had known her for a couple weeks and she had previously stayed with him on the boat. He asked Bernard to remain at the bar so he and Pornthip could have some privacy on the yacht.

Back on the boat that night, sometime between 10 and 11 pm, Oberson and Pornthip heard a voice call out from the water.

"I had some music on and I heard somebody yell, 'Hey! Hey!' I went to have a look and it was a guy snorkeling, wearing a wetsuit. He told me, 'I come swimming from Patong, I am a little bit tired. May I get a rest with you?' I invited him on board to have some coffee and chocolate," Oberson said.

The 35-year-old German, Peter Michael Schmid, climbed aboard. He had with him a pair of flippers, a snorkel, mask and a dry bag. Oberson gave him some coffee and chocolate.

"We started talking and he was interested in my boat. I was more interested in what he was doing and asked him how he could swim so far because I know the current can be very strong.

"He asked me about the navigation system. Do I have GPS? One thing that was strange

was something he said about the price. He told me, 'but it's a million-dollar boat?' And I said no, it took me 10 years to build this boat, so for me it has no price."

They drank beer and smoked some cigarettes, then Oberson asked Schmid to leave.

"I say okay, well, maybe you go because I am with my girlfriend. Schmid went back and got the waterproof bag. I was talking with my girlfriend and when I turned to Schmid again, he had a gun, a knife and a roll of adhesive tape in his hands," said Oberson.

"Pointing the gun at me and pointing the knife at Pornthip, he told her to tie me up with the tape. I was really scared to be tied up on the boat. If he had just told me to go away in the dinghy, I would have gone.

"I didn't want to let myself be tied. I moved in front of him and I made a little bit like I was crying. I asked why he do this,

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recounts night of terror



The battle between Pierre-Alain Oberson (right) and Peter Schmid took place on the 39-foot sloop *Merlin* (left). Most of the fighting took place on the boat's stern (left, inset), where Oberson prevented Schmid from reboarding.

have nearly healed. The back of his right calf was cut deep and there are raised scars on his upper left thigh and the underside of both thighs.

"He cannot come on the boat, so he tells me, 'I will kill the girl first.' I was scared something would happen to the girl."

Oberson grabbed the dinghy line and pulled, while Schmid tried to climb onto the autopilot frame mounted to the transom.

"I pulled the rope and she jumped onto the boat. It's not easy, but she did it, just like the swimming. At this stage he stabbed me in the ribs. Before he's always in the water and cannot reach. But when I pulled the dinghy he can climb a little bit," Oberson said, pulling up his shirt to reveal a healed stab wound on his lower left ribs. Luckily for Oberson, the knife didn't pass through his rib cage.

Oberson tried to take Schmid's knife, but Schmid had wrapped around his wrist a rope attached to the handle. Holding onto the autopilot frame, Schmid is still half in the water, so Oberson retains the upper ground.

"We were fighting, I tried to get the knife, but it was attached to his hand with a rope. I smashed him in the face and he fell down again. After, I was in really bad shape, I was bleeding a lot. I was in a panic. I shouted for Porntip to find me something to hit back with, but she doesn't know the boat. If I had time in the beginning I have



a big machete and I could have just stopped him," he said.

Oberson grabbed a fishing rod to hit Schmid, but quickly lost it. "I just didn't want him to come back on the boat because I was sure he would kill me. After I lost the fishing rod, I remembered my fishing hook," he added.

Oberson flipped open the lid of a storage compartment under a bench in the cockpit and grabbed the gaff.

"I got the hook and I smashed him maybe three times."

Oberson thinks he slashed Schmid's forearm one of the times he pulled the hook back. Wounded, Schmid grabbed the side of the small fiberglass dinghy; his weight tipped the dinghy and submerged it.

"I saw the guy and I thought he was swimming away, but in the end I think he was just drifting with the current. At this time I got the flare gun and made the VHF 'mayday' call," he recalled.

Oberson fired a flare while Porntip called the police on her cell phone. He put one more flare cartridge in the gun and handed it to her saying, "If he comes back, just shoot him."

"After that, I fell down next to the table and I think she was shouting, 'Wake up! Wake up!'

and maybe she fired another flare at that point, I can't really remember."

A longtail boat transported Oberson to the beach. Once he was ashore, an ambulance rushed him to hospital.

Schmid's body was found floating in the bay. He had died from blood loss.

"I never want to kill, I just want to save my life and my girlfriend's life. Killing is the last thing you want to do in your life. The story ends there, but it is a story that will haunt me for the rest of my life," Oberson said.

"I am not Rambo; I was just scared. People ask me why I let Schmid on the boat in the first place. Me, I'm Swiss flag and it's my duty to help people in the water. I would do it again, but obviously I would ask to see what's in their bag," he smiled.

Porntip Pradit returned to her hometown in Trang after being questioned and corroborating the series of events that night.

Today, little is known as to why Peter Michael Schmid boarded the *Merlin* with a knife and a homemade gun.

While police have finished their initial investigation and are awaiting some lab results, Oberson's passport has been withheld by the police until a decision is reached as to whether Oberson killed in self-defense.

Kata resident Benno Brandon, who knew Schmid, said, "We knew him as a non-aggressive and gentle person. This does not fit my impression of him, I think most people would agree."

while looking at the gun," Oberson recounted.

When Oberson moved in front of him, Schmid said, "I'm getting nervous. I don't want to hurt you so let the girl tie you."

Oberson decided he couldn't let himself be tied and thinking the pistol wasn't real, he chose to act.

"The gun didn't look like a real gun, and I saw maybe I have a chance. He was in a very bad place on the boat. If I pushed him, he'd fall in the water; that was my idea. I looked at the gun and jumped at him, but he shot me at this moment. It just stopped me. I had long hair before and my hair was burning. I realized I still had power and pushed him off."

Porntip was standing next to

Schmid and was pulled into the water with him as he fell into the water.

"She can't swim so I was really scared she'd go down. She swam like a dog, but pretty fast and reached the dinghy. All this time I had to watch her because if she sank, I'd jump in."

Oberson went on to explain that Schmid didn't pursue Porntip, instead, heading for the boat's stern. Oberson met him there and began kicking Schmid as he tried to climb aboard. Schmid stabbed and slashed Oberson with his knife, he said.

"I start to smash him with my foot and he start to cut me," said Oberson, who then displays five serious stab wounds on his legs and ribs that one month later

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Middle Way meditation training

PHUKET CITY: The next Middle Way meditation session will be held at Wang Kung restaurant, next to Suan Luang Park, on February 17.

The guest speaker will be Richard S Esposito, who was recently invited to address special sessions of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and many multinational corporations on the many benefits meditation can provide for all – regardless of one's religion.

Richard will be accompanied by an experienced teaching monk who will conduct the training.

Registration will take place at 1 pm, with the 90-minute session to start at 1:30 pm.

The Middle Way sessions are free and open to all.

To get to Wang Kung Restaurant from Central Festival, head south on the bypass road and turn left onto Wirat Hongyok Rd at the first set of traffic lights, at the sign to Wat Naka.

Make a U-turn when you see the park on your right about one kilometer past the temple, then take the next left into Soi 7 and turn left again into Soi 7/2.

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TRASHING Phuket



This unsightly garbage dump containing all manner of household waste items can be seen in the soi opposite the Koh Sire Health Station on Srisutsa Rd.

Queer News

Abbot killed in 'chicken shoot'

KAMPHAENG PHET: A temple abbot was shot dead February 5 after one of his students mistook him for a chicken.

Phra Khru Silwachirakan, known to his followers as Luang Por Pheuan, the abbot of Wat Traiphum in Phrankratai district, was tending cattle belonging to the wat with three followers, Phra Pui, 27, Sanong Phobanlang, 37, and Buntham Phairoj, 54, when the incident occurred.

Phra Pui said that he was stood chatting with K. Sanong when he heard a gunshot. Buntham then ran up to them looking shocked and said that Luang Por Pheuan had been wounded.

The men rushed to the abbot, who was leaning against a tree, his robe covered in blood. The sturdy monk, however, insisted that he was ok and just asked for his friends to roll him a cigarette.

Phra Pui said that they set off driving the abbot to hospital, but the abbot died on route.

Maj Gen Thamnun Phetchburikul, commander of Kamphaeng Phet Provincial Police, ordered his officers to question Buntham about the incident.

Police said that at first, Buntham gave contradictory statements about how the shooting happened, but eventually confessed that he had accidentally shot the abbot.

Buntham told police that he had been walking in the woods with a 12-gauge shotgun, one of three shotguns donated to the wat, which the abbot liked to bring along when tending the cattle.

He heard a sound like a chicken scratching in the dirt and looked over to a tree stump and saw some movement in the bushes. Thinking that it must be

a chicken, he opened fire, police said.

When he walked over to see what he had hit, he was shocked to find Luang Por Pheuan covered in blood.

Police said that Buntham would be held until they had collected evidence and decided what to charge him with.

Julaphan Thapthim, president of Kamphaeng Phet Provincial Administration Organization, said that he had been a pupil of Phra Khru Silwachirakan for many years.

Phra Khru Silwachirakan had been abbot of Wat Traiphum since 1990 and had declined the post of Tambon Dean so that he could remain abbot at the wat. He had many pupils in Phrankratai District and everyone was very sorry to hear of his death, K. Julaphan said.

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Youths keen on learning safe sex

Teenagers want sex education and they want it from their parents and teachers, a recent survey has revealed. The survey was conducted by Thai Youth Network on HIV/Aids, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, and the Rajabhat Institute at Ban Somdej Chao Phya between October and November last year.

The survey polled the attitudes towards sex of 2,000 teenagers aged between 15 and 22 years from 11 provinces in different regions throughout Thailand.

It found that 72.5% wanted teachers and parents to give them clear information about sex.

Almost 74% wanted parents to be open-minded when they talked about sex, and relationships.

Over 76% wanted sex education on the school curriculum and 56% wanted teachers to show them how to use condoms and explain sexual intercourse.

A group of 60.5% wanted information about safe sex on television before 10 pm.

Almost 66% said that condoms should be available at schools, while 48.8% thought that teenage sex was acceptable.

Meanwhile, the Public Health Ministry expected new HIV/Aids infections would increase to 14,000 this year – with most cases teenagers not practicing safe sex.

Director of the ministry's Global Fund on Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Dr Anupong Chitwarakorn, said that b parents and teachers should educate children about safe sex to prevent HIV/Aids infections.

The ministry will spend 30 million baht on a campaign encouraging teenagers not to be embarrassed about carrying condoms, he said.

Puffed up. Responding to the Public Health Ministry's regulation to ban smoking in air-conditioned pubs, discos and clubs,



NEW LIZARD

Villagers living on the border of the Khao Ang Ranai Wildlife Conservation Area in Tha Takiab district in Chachoengsao province managed to capture an image of this tree lizard, which they think may be a new species. They estimated its total length at about 30 centimeters.

Metropolitan Police announced that all of Bangkok's 88 police stations were ready to arrest and fine any rule breakers.

City Deputy Police Commissioner Maj Gen Suporn Phansuea said that all officers were ready to reinforce the new rule by fining smokers 2,000 baht and venue operators 20,000 baht.

Police will act on public complaints or the Public Health Ministry's request for inspection of entertainment establishments, rather than pressuring the establishments themselves, he said.

Smoking is already prohibited in air-conditioned restaurants but the ministry's regulation to include air-conditioned pubs, discos, bars and parts of outdoor public venues, including markets, comes into effect on February 17.

Serious business. A member of the Law Society of Thailand has warned new Interior Minister

Chalerm Yoobamrung not to resort to summary executions in his new "war on drugs".

Somchai Homlaor, chairman of the human rights committee of the Law Society of Thailand, said it was good that K. Chalerm had declared to tackle the problems of drug trade within 90 days.

However, he said K. Chalerm should not make the same mistakes as the Thaksin government's war-on-drug campaign, which saw more than 2,500 people killed.

If K. Chalerm repeats the same mistake, people would take to streets to oust him from the office, K. Somchai warned.

Promissory notes. Kamphaeng Phet residents last year had the largest debts in the country, with each family on average being indebted by 49,465 baht, Community Development Department

(CDD) chief Preecha Butrsri said on February 9.

Phuket residents were the least in debt, with each family on average owing just 484 baht, he said.

The CDD report said that last year about 29.9 million rural people, or 7.7 million households, had an average annual income of 135,325.39 baht per household, or about 34,900 baht per person per year.

In general, each household had annual average expenses of 69,764 baht, or 18,025 baht per person per year.

Rural people had debts of 18,786 baht per family and only about 7,353 baht savings per family, K. Preecha said.

Nonthaburi province had the highest income (263,531 per family per year) while Chumphon earned the lowest (75,152 baht per family per year), on average.

Serious charge. Many physically disabled women lost their chance to become mothers after were subjected to sterilization without their knowledge or permission, a government official has alleged.

Nattaya Boonpakdee, who heads the Thai Health Promotion Foundation's sexual-health promotion division, said some of the women didn't even know when their sterilizations took place.

The women found out the harsh reality only after they visited doctors to check why they were not becoming pregnant after being married for a long time, she told a recent seminar on sexuality.

Very often public health officials urge disabled women to undergo sterilization, admitted Dr Penchan Pradubmook-Sherer of the Mahidol University.

A disabled woman once complained that she was sterilized because government officials were afraid that she would become pregnant if raped, Dr Penchan added.

Mystery debt. A former Army officer filed a police complaint after the Student Loan Fund (SLF) sent an invoice for his daughter to repay a student loan of 65,000 baht – although his daughter died of chicken pox 26 years ago, when she was 18 months old.

Lt Col Prajin Chatjoho said that he had received a letter from the SLF claiming that his daughter Nattayane Chatjoho owed 65,000 baht in student loans and must start repaying with 26,000 baht by March 31 or the SLF would revoke the loan and collect the whole amount.

Presenting Nattayane's birth and death certificates to reporters, Lt Col Prajin said he had not been able to reach anyone at the SLF phone number on the letter so had asked for his daughter's "loan application" documents from the Nakhon Ratchasima Educational Area 1 Office.

Told to contact the SLF, he decided to file a police complaint so officials could investigate how such a thing could happen, he said.

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

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Samui scrums down for charity

Following the excitement of the Rugby World Cup last year and the growing interest in rugby in Thailand, a group of enthusiasts on Koh Samui are organizing a charity fund-raising event on the island to aid the Matt Hampson Trust.

Matt Hampson is a young Leicester Tigers prop forward who suffered a serious neck injury during England under-21 training in March 2005.

Matt returned home in August 2006 after spending 17 months recovering from his injuries at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

He is paralyzed from the neck down and is still unable to breathe unaided.

Despite the nature of his injuries, Matt continues to show great courage in the face of adversity.

He is constantly looking to raise the profile of other paralysis victims and is determined to become heavily involved in publicizing research into spinal injuries.

Three events have been organized. On February 19, a golf tournament in the format of a



Rugby player Matt Hampson suffered a serious neck injury in 2005. A charity fund-raising event on Samui is being organized to aid the Matt Hampson Trust.

Texas scramble will be held at The Santiburi Samui Country Club in Maenam, Koh Samui.

On February 22, a "night at the races" will be held at The Pub in Fisherman's Village. On Feb-

ruary 23, three Six Nations games will be shown at Coco Blues, Chaweng Beach: Wales Vs Italy, Ireland Vs Scotland and France Vs England. Prior to the games there will be an auction.

Another brand name claims Samui. Hyatt Hotels & Resorts has signed an agreement to manage a new luxury resort that is being developed by Proud Resorts Koh Samui Co Ltd, a joint venture between real estate and hospitality investment specialists, First Oriental and the Liptapanlop Family.

Scheduled to open in 2009, Park Hyatt Koh Samui will feature 90 luxurious hotel villas with an additional 24 villa residences, all set on a hilltop overlooking Thong Krut Bay on Koh Samui's southern shoreline.

"Koh Samui is one of Thailand's most popular tourist destinations [in Thailand]. Its ideal climate and accessibility make it attractive for tourism-related investment.

This project presents an exceptional opportunity for Hyatt to strengthen its brand portfolio in Asia Pacific," said Willi Martin, Hyatt Area vice-president, Southeast Asia.

Located on a 50-acre site, the majority of the units will be 1500-square-foot one-bedroom villas.

There will also be several two- and three-bedroom villas. Each unit will have an outdoor living area, private pool, sun deck, terrace and private garden.

The modern and minimalist design will be accented by traditional Thai architectural elements. The resort will feature a variety of international dining outlets along with a spa-and-wellness center, dedicated meeting and event services, and family-friendly leisure facilities.

In addition to the resort, the

property will comprise 24 private residences comprising 2,690-square-foot two-bedroom villas and 3,229-square-foot three-bedroom villas. These units will be fully fitted and will be managed by Hyatt Hotels & Resorts.

Further boosting Koh Samui's high-end reputation, The Hyatt will join a growing list of brand-name hotel chains on the island.

Turning Chinese.

Celebrations for Chinese New Year have taken place all over the island with organized festivals held in the main towns and villages.

The Municipality prepared for the big night in the port town of Nathon with a week-long festival that included live music, market stalls and plenty of food vendors. The streets were decorated with traditional red Chinese lanterns,

while colorful parades and fireworks displays were held.

February 6 marked the turning of the lunar calendar and audiences enjoyed live performances throughout the evening with celebrations going on until the next morning.

Traditional firecrackers could be heard all over the island at dawn. The lighting of such firecrackers is an integral aspect of Chinese New Year.

Koh Samui and neighboring islands have a small number of ethnic Chinese residents, some of whose ancestors migrated to the region over a 150 years ago.

For further information concerning the Matt Hampson Trust contact Harry Bonning. Tel: 081-7416443. Email hbonning@kosamuiproperties.com



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Muslim students detained in a military camp in Pattani on January 31 told families and friends they had been tortured. "They said someone had covered their heads with sacks before beating them. Their attackers wanted them to confess," said Hareedi Pohsu, vice secretary-general of Yala Students Federation.

K. Hareedi led the group of families and friends to visit six students of Yala Rajabhai University and the Yala Institute of Physical Education who had been detained at Inkhayuth military camp.

Plainclothes officials from Special Force Unit 11 on January 27 searched the university's dormitories and arrested seven students, accusing them of involvement in the insurgency and took them to the military camp.

Their captors also seized a notebook computer, a motorcycle and seven mobile phones from the students. Two more students were arrested on January 29.

The detainees were forced to remain outside in all weather conditions and were interrogated for periods of up to six hours, they said.

Col Acra Thiproj, spokesman for the Internal Security Operation Command – Fourth Area, said he was unaware of any torture at the camp.

The families of the students should petition the Fourth Army Area commander if they have evidence of such events, he suggested.

Col Acra said he had been informed by the investigation that the students were former classmates from Thammawittaya Islamic Private School and that four had been members of a militant organization called Runda Kumpuluan Kecil (RKK) since 2003.

They confessed that they had been involved in many violent cases, he added.

The others were arrested and detained because they were together at the same place.

Officials found a device giving instructions on how to make a bomb, but no one claimed ownership of the gadget, Col Acra said.

Students allege torture as Southern violence continues



SOUTHERN NEW YEAR

Soldiers provide security at a market in Yala, where violence escalated after the Chinese New Year celebrations.

The Yala Students Federation and human-rights groups are helping families of the students to collect evidence and may file a lawsuit against those who committed human-rights violations, said K. Hareedi.

The violence in the Deep South has seen a resurgence in recent weeks after a period of relative calm. A Muslim woman and two Muslim men were killed in two separate drive-by shootings in Yala February 10.

Two soldiers were also injured when insurgents detonated a bomb to ambush them the same morning.

Snookered. A snooker hustler from Nakhon Sri Thammarat City was murdered in the province's Chang Klang district February 8, apparently after humiliating two local players.

Suphap Pankradam, 25, was shot in the face, back and thigh, and stabbed in the back next to a snooker table at a venue in Tambon Chang Klang, Village 9.

Relatives rushed him to Nabon Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

After questioning witnesses, investigating officer Lt Col Chanyut Thongsoi said the victim was in the area to visit relatives.

A keen snooker player, Suphap had found a snooker table and challenged two local snooker players to a game. He won easily, then allegedly mocked the local men and refused to play a rematch, Col Chanyut said.

Police identified the two men only as "Khiow" and "Chit", both aged between 35 and 40.

"After losing, the pair [Khiow and Chit] left for a while

before coming back with a gun. They then beat K. Suphap and shot him until he was dead before fleeing the scene.

"K. Suphap's relatives took him to hospital, but we believe he died at the scene of the attack. We are now collecting evidence to request an arrest warrant for the suspects," Col Chanyut said.

Migrant massacre. The bodies of four murdered people, all thought to have been Burmese migrant workers, were found in a rubber plantation in Surat Thani's Chaiya district on February 5.

Police said that the bodies, discovered by a local rubber tapper, were of two men and two women, all aged 25 to 30 years old. One of the women was about six months pregnant. All of the victims had their hands tied be-

hind their backs, two with electrical cord and two with rubber bungees.

The bodies were found in a plantation belonging to Jamrat Khongkaphan. All had been shot repeatedly in the body. From the bullet pattern, police suspect that they may have been trying to run away when they were gunned down. Police collected seven 11mm bullet cases at the scene.

A Burmese man named "Ay" managed to escape the mass killing. After being shot several times, he lay in the undergrowth until the attackers left. He then crawled to a workers' house, where he asked to be taken to hospital.

Villagers told police that they had heard gunshots around midnight, long before Ay came looking for help between 3 am and 4 am. They also said that they did not recognize any of the victims.

Police believe there were four or five killers. They are likely to be local men who know the area well, as the road leading to the crime scene was secluded and extremely steep, accessible only to four-wheel-drive vehicles and even then still treacherous to any driver unfamiliar with the route, police said.

Lt Col Surasak Thiprat, Head of the Tambon Mo Thai Police Station, said that he believed that police would be able to learn the motive for the killings by interviewing Ay, but only after he had sufficiently recovered.

Ay, who was last reported to be in critical condition, was transferred to Surat Thani Central Hospital for an operation and further intensive care treatment.

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

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A welcome reception to the past

By Sompratch Saowakhon

Phuket is blessed with a rich history of visiting ambassadors from lands afar, adding their contraptions, traditions and lifestyles to the melting pot of Chinese, European, Malay and other cultures on the island.

The landmarks of Phuket's vibrant life of yesteryear still stand but are now surrounded by modern shopping malls and entertainment venues for trendy teenagers. One of the city's prominent landmarks in the 1960s, the 200-room Thavorn Hotel on Rassada Rd, was Phuket's first five-star hotel and the first establishment on the island to have an elevator.

These days, the hotel seems like just another old building along the road, but a peek inside gives an insight into days gone by on the island. Adjoining the hotel lobby is a series of rooms joined by wooden archways leading through a fascinating collection of antique contraptions, fading photographs and all sorts of tin mining paraphernalia.

The items contained in these musty rooms are much older than



The collection comprises a horde of antiques, including a turn-of-the-century movie projector (right) and even swords claimed to be used by Phuket's famed heroines (inset).

the hotel, which was built in 1961. The collection features more than 1,000 items, most of which are at least 100 years old.

The collection recreates a

world stuck in time. There are so many things depicting daily life so long ago that it invokes goosebumps. Even the people in the photographs hanging on the walls

seem to stare back at you.

First to catch the eye is an oversized "Lotus pan" with a label in Thai and English explaining that it was used to cook rice for some 200 tin mine workers more than 100 years ago. With the artifact within an arm's reach, it is easy to imagine a crowd of workers lining up for their food in the way they would in a large factory today.

Next to the pan stands a wooden trunk that would have held the clothes and possessions of one of the workers, explained Hotel Manager Prateep Chairchai. "This Chinese 'safe deposit box' is more than 200 years old. It would have usually been kept locked and coins would have been dropped into it through a slit in the lid.

The collection of antiques

once belonged to the hotel's founder, Tilok Thavornvongwongse, who also owned several tin mines in Phuket and the neighboring provinces. The collection today belongs to K. Tilok's son, K. Jareon.

The antiques seem to radiate a positive aura – as if they are alive with the love and passion that went into making them. "The artifacts are like a reminder that everyone's life will eventually come to an end, but that something will always remain to mark that time in history," said K. Prateep.

A large metal contraption in the center of the room is puzzling at first sight. Of all things, it is a 100-year-old movie projector. Apparently K. Dilok owned two movie theaters in Phuket, including the once-popular Paradise theater, which stood where the Ocean shopping mall is today.

Two sabers in a glass-fronted case are much older than the projector, and apparently of much greater significance. They are the weapons used by Phuket's famed heroines, Tao "Jan" Thepkrasattri and Tao "Muk" Sri Soonthorn, who led islanders to victory over Burmese invaders in 1785.

The many black-and-white photographs on the walls show wide dirt roads filled with people and carts long before cars were brought to the island. There is also a picture of Phuket Airport dated 1930 and an image of Ranong Rd during the 1940s.

The collection is so large and varied that it is impossible to mention everything in this column.

The museum is open daily, but there are no set opening hours. The entrance fee for foreigners is 30 baht; Thais get in for free. For more information call the Thavorn Hotel at 076-211333.

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Happy campers get pampered at Seahag

Seahag, the name of the well-known Thai restaurant in Patong, confuses many folks. The restaurant used to be called Sawasdee Seahag and a lot of people tried a lot of brain cells trying to figure out just what the name meant – but they needn't have bothered.

Owner K. Kenya eventually simplified the restaurant's moniker, claiming that "there was a Sawasdee guesthouse, a Sawasdee this and that and the other along the same street."

"I mean how could they find my place?" he said. For many, Seahag is simply a byword for excellent, reasonably-priced Thai food in a cultured setting – and yet others claim it's the gay dining spot on the island, whatever name it carries.

Speaking of etymology, you may wonder why the owner of a successful Patong eatery is named after a strife-ravaged East-African republic. The wisest reply I can offer is that stranger things have happened at sea, but K. Kenya explains that he's named after a fashion line he creates.

He's undeniably a character in the rich pageant of Phuket's social life. When I asked a friend where she'd last seen him, she replied, "Dancing on a table – in a sequin dress."

You might expect a bit of mincing over at Seahag, but no – on the evening we went, the service was to-the-point efficient; more brusque than burlesque.

Seahag's staff handle brisk business and do it well "because a good boss trained them", winks K. Kenya as he greets us.

The air-conditioned restau-

rant sports tasteful wall decorations in the shape of framed prayer mats, a series of black-and-white photos of (male) Hollywood stars of days gone by (the girl movie stars are sequestered upstairs) and a rich mix of colors, mirrors and antiques.

Upstairs is a swank affair and there is a small dining terrace adjoining the street. The clientele seem familiar with the place and the staff are familiar with the diners. In short, it's quite the happening location, reminiscent of a busy French bistro.

We order grilled squid, *tom yum gung*, steamed lemon sea bass and lightly-fried vegetables with rice.

To lubricate all this we take a bottle of Chilean Concha y Tora red (slogan: 300 days of sun!). I recall a time some 25 years back when I asked a Santiago native why his country's outstanding wines weren't well known in Europe. "Because we drink them all, gringo; there's nothing left to export," he answered, before leering at my wife.

As we all know, times have changed – and even though Concha y Tora is still standard in the middle-range Chilean domestic



For many, Seahag is simply a byword for excellent, reasonably-priced Thai food in a cultured setting – and yet others claim it's the gay dining spot on the island, whatever name it carries.

wine market, many new central Chilean vineyards have made a sizable dent in the international market.

The sea bass is excellent and the mild coconut-based *tom yum* as a sauce works to great effect. Around us, the dining chatter is cosmopolitan.

A nearby French couple breaks off their conversation to

order in Italian. In Italian? All of a sudden, linguistic logic flies out of the window.

When it comes down to food, Seahag rises effortlessly above its competition with canny cuisine at affordable prices. This is why the place is so popular – and there's always the added attraction of meeting K. Kenya.

Main dishes clock in at 350

baht, salads 70 baht, noodle dishes 120 baht and a mixed seafood salad 180 baht.

Contact for further information about Seahag, 78/5 Soi Wattana Clinic (off the beach road between Holiday Inn and Baan Thai Beach Resort), Patong. Tel: 076-341111. Website: www.kenyaphuket.com



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Teacher by day, belly dancer by night. Alexandra Gonzales finds Thai audiences really take to her shimmying and shaking.

She's having a 'belly' good time

By Nick Davies

Alexandra was smitten with the sensual dance of the Middle East at 26 years old. It was one of those pivotal moments in her life that brought the shy, almost agoraphobic girl out of her shell and onto the stage to shake sensuously for rapt audiences.

It started with a visit to a Moroccan restaurant near her hometown in Los Angeles, where she had gone with some friends. At the restaurant a belly dancer was performing for the diners. Alexandra realized then that belly dancing was the missing piece in her life and she immediately began taking classes and practicing daily until she herself became a professional belly dancer.

After a few years of daily hip swinging practice, Alexandra soon became talented enough to perform to her own

The last thing you'd expect Phuket's only professional belly dancer to claim is that she is a shy woman. Alexandra Gonzales was once a quiet and reserved lab technician who hardly socialized. That was until the day she discovered the thrill of shaking and swirling her hips.

She has come to call this the dance of female empowerment: belly dancing.

audiences. Shortly after joining the pro belly dancing circuit she took part in a competition where she got the chance to meet and talk to the woman who had originally inspired her to take up belly dancing. They soon became good friends, pairing up to teach others and performing for parties and events.

Alexandra is a woman of contrasts. She originally qualified as a science and math teacher in her native US. She came to Phuket on holiday but ended up staying, taking up a teaching position at Prince of Songkhla University.

At first Alexandra was a bit sceptical about how Thais would perceive belly dancing and kept her hobby quiet, but when some of her students heard of Alexandra's extra curricular dancing, they pleaded with her to teach them.

"Knowing that Thais are fairly conservative and seeing the very gentle and controlled style of traditional Thai dancing, I was worried at first that the students who had never seen this kind of dancing before would not take to it, but the reaction was amazing, they loved it!" said Alexandra.

"For the first belly dancing class I dressed down a bit,

covering up a bit more than I usually would for a performance but the girls were so into it that I soon realized there was no need to tone things down for them," she added.

"Each audience reacts differently when confronted with a belly dancer and I have to gauge their reaction as I'm performing.

"Surprisingly though, Thai audiences seem to be much more at ease with the sensuality of belly dancing and really seem to enjoy both watching and joining in. It's much easier to elicit audience participation from a Thai audience than it is from some of the European audiences I've performed for," she said.

"When I'm out there on stage or dancing around tables and interacting with the audience, westerners will sometimes become uncomfortable and show their discomfort by trying their hardest to carry on with their meal as if nothing's going on around them. Some will not even dare to look up from the table at me," she added.

"I danced for an alumni party recently and the feedback was great. The audience really enjoyed it and many of them came up to me afterwards saying how amazing it was and that



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Alexandra leads a troupe of Thai belly dancers. 'When people see belly dancing for the first time, they are often surprised that it is not as "seedy" as they had originally thought it would be,' she says.

they'd never seen anything like it before. I saw one of the hosts a few days later and he told me again how much he'd enjoyed the show and that he couldn't sleep the night after the party because he was so blown away by the belly dancing," she said.

"Belly dancing has its roots in the Middle East, it's part of Arabic and North African culture and Egypt is considered the center of the folk dance. Each region has its own version of belly dancing.

"The costumes don't vary too much but as you cross the continents, you see the adaptations in style and it eventually melds into a Latino style, much like Flamenco,"

"I think the most attractive aspect of belly dancing is that it is all about individual passion and expression.

"Although belly dancing is quite a complex dance, it's not overly structured like ballet or jazz dance.

"Of course, there are many techniques and moves to learn, but I was taught to be improvisational with my dancing, and

that's how I'd like to pass on the dance to others – allowing them to focus on the artistic expression of belly dancing rather than focusing purely on the technical aspects of the moves," she said.

"When people see belly dancing for the first time, they are often surprised that it is not as "seedy" as they had originally thought it would be.

"You don't have to be really sexy to be a belly dancer, I mean, my figure is not perfect but as a woman I have curves and belly dancing is a way of celebrating my femininity.

"To me, belly dancing is more like a personal, artistic expression that empowers females."

Alexandra is currently organizing belly dancing lessons that will be held at El Toro at Boat Lagoon and hopes to be teaching groups regularly soon.

Alexandra and her energetic troupe are available to shake and shimmer at parties and events.

For more information call lexandra at 084-8373858 or email: jorge@latinos-restaurant.com

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This week



ABOVE: *Phuket Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhae "Oy" Leelanapaporn (3rd from left) celebrates her 10th anniversary with the newspaper on February 8 at a luncheon in her honor at Baan Klung Jinda. Pictured with her are (from left) Jirada Deechaiya, Director – Radio Thailand Phuket; *Gazette* founder John Magee, who hosted the event; and National Legislative Assembly representative for Phuket Phummisak Hongsyok.

LEFT: Other guests joining the occasion are Wanida 'Momma Duck' Hongyok (left), and former *Gazette* Managing Editor Alasdair Forbes (back, left), and Warunee Pakpien (in yellow blouse) and Saowanee 'Tai' Adulkaewpaluk (front, right).



STUDENT SCRIBES: *Phuket Gazette* Managing Editor Chris Husted (2nd row, 2nd from right) and General Manager Niladaa Mastanawattanakul (2nd row, left) presented prizes for the regional round of the Dublin Awards literary competition to students (front row, from left) Kongsarut Kladphet, Jatuporn Neamchuchuen and Joy Corthesy on February 1. They are joined by teachers and parents.



ANG PAO! Patong Mayor Pian Keesin (center), Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban (right) and Prawit Janyasittikul, Deputy CEO of Phuket Square Co Ltd, launch Jungceylon's "Chinese Mouse Celebration" and hand out red envelopes to welcome in the Chinese New Year.



GIMME SHELTER: Graeme and Gordon Chuck (back, right) from Shades (Thailand) Co Ltd on February 5 donate shade cloth so that children at Phuket Sunshine Village can play in the shade. Joining them are Village Director Wanasiri Taebanpakoon (in pink blouse), foundation President Dr Suppaluck Karnjanamethakul (right) and board members Vilaiwan Dienel (center) and Franco Ferri (in blue shirt).



NIKI INDEX: Niki Bridges (2nd from left) on January 31 celebrates with friends 15 years of Nikita's Bar in Rawai. Friends and guests joined an all-night, free barbecue and Thai buffet at the Rawai landmark venue.



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An SUV that is rarely seen in Phuket – although they are often seen on the streets of Bangkok – is the Korean-built Ssangyong Kyron. Ssangyong is majority owned by Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC), which acquired 51% of the company in October 2004. Its products, however, owe much to outdated Mercedes-Benz technology. That is not to say the vehicles themselves are outdated – far from it – as they are comprehensively equipped and represent excellent value.

Nanjing Auto, the makers of MG sportscars, recently announced a tie-up with SAIC, as the Chinese government endeavors to unify its major automakers. Under the deal, Nanjing will own around 10% of SAIC.

The Kyron, launched at the Frankfurt motorshow in 2005, sells for just over 2 million baht, but for that you get an eight-way power driver's seat; four-way for the front passenger.

There is electronic cruise control, hill-descent control, automatic headlamps, rain-sensing wipers and more.

Power comes from an excellent, if a little harsh, two-liter common-rail turbodiesel, delivering 140bhp (103kW), with a mas-

Ssangyong keeps it simple

Although built from old Mercedes-Benz technology, the Ssangyong Kyron delivers an impressive value-for-money ride.

sive 310Nm of torque, produced over a low-rev range of 1,800 to 2,750rpm.

Carbon emissions, which appear to be taking on greater importance as global warming becomes more of an issue, are a reasonable 217g/km CO₂.

The motor is mated to a Mercedes-Benz-sourced five-speed automatic transmission with Tiptronic control. Oddly, it possesses two reverse gears but it is unlikely under normal conditions these would be required. Top speed is quoted at around 165kmh, while acceleration from rest to 100kmh takes a leisurely 14.2 seconds.



Opinions vary on the ride of the Kyron. Some experienced road testers claim it is a little on the rough side, others maintain that it soaks up the bumps yet remains able to cope with difficult terrain. Coil springs are fitted all round, which tend to control bumps a little better than some of the pickups and SUVs available in Thailand.

Off-road, the Kyron possesses an uncanny ability to deal with almost all situations, particularly when encountering steep

hills, thanks to its hill-descent control (HDC). In addition, stability control is standard, as is anti-rollover protection.

Ventilated disc brakes are fitted at the front along with ABS and brake assist, which automatically increases braking pressure in emergencies. Somewhat condescendingly, Ssangyong's website says, "Women and elderly male drivers may be unable to exert sufficient braking force in emergencies. The BAS will detect the need for more braking

power." The truth of the matter is that most drivers do not brake sufficiently hard in these situations and brake assist, in conjunction with the ABS, considerably reduces stopping distances.

Other safety features include dual airbags, side airbags for front occupants, a high-mounted stop lamp and fog lamps front and rear. Automatic climate control is fitted, while a single-disc CD player is standard; a five-disc autochanger optional.

The second row of seats folds in a 60:40 split to increase versatility, while the rearmost seats fold almost flat. Luggage capacity is 1,085 liters, including – with seats folded – a length of over one meter, which is useful for conveying bulky items.

The towing ability is also impressive, with a maximum capacity of 2,300 kilograms.

While the Kyron may use obsolete Mercedes-Benz technology, it is a well-built and reliable SUV that owes a lot to its illustrious heritage. The Koreans – and the Chinese, too – are frequently thought of as "third-world" automakers, but they provide solid, no-nonsense vehicles at affordable prices.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com



By Jeff Heselwood

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Eight-limbed yoga trains body

By Janyaporn Morel

Ashtanga yoga is taught by Sri K Pattabhi Jois at the Ashtanga Yoga Research Institute in Mysore, India. This method of yoga involves synchronizing the breath with a progressive series of postures, a process that produces intense internal heat and profuse perspiration, purifying the body as toxins are carried away from the muscles and organs. This results in improved circulation, a light and strong body, and a calm mind.

Swedish yoga-instructor Jonas Radahl teaches Ashtanga-yoga classes at Sukko Spa in Phuket. Jonas first became interested in yoga almost 10 years ago.

In 1999, he traveled to India to train in the ways of Ashtanga, although not under Sri K Pattabhi. Jonas continued to practice his newfound yoga techniques in Canada, where he completed a yoga teacher-training course.

Although Jonas says he is still a long way from attaining the harmony between the body and mind that Ashtanga practitioners aim for, his dedication to perfecting Ashtanga allows him to guide novices in taking their first steps on the Ashtanga path to personal development.

Jonas was the head yoga



Swedish yoga-instructor Jonas Radahl teaches Ashtanga-yoga classes at Sukko Spa in Phuket. Jonas first became interested in yoga almost 10 years ago.

instructor at Mandarin Oriental spa in Hong Kong before he came to Thailand. He believes that food and yoga are the fundamental ingredients to a healthy, happy and productive life.

"To the uninitiated, yoga is often misunderstood as an activity that only focuses on suppleness and the ability to stretch and bend the body to bizarre angles, but Ashtanga yoga not only keeps you physically fit, it also has a host of mental and spiritual benefits," said Jonas.

Jonas explained that "Ashtanga" means "eight-limbed", referring to the eight disciplines of Ashtanga yoga:

1. *Yama*: moral discipline
2. *Niyama*: self-restraint, self-purification
3. *Asana*: posture
4. *Pranayama*: breath control
5. *Pratyahara*: sensory inhibition or sense control
6. *Dharana*: concentration
7. *Dhyana*: meditation
8. *Samadhi*: contemplation

The first four disciplines are

considered physical-cleansing practices, while the remaining four are considered as internal-cleansing disciplines that focus on spiritual development.

"The postures and mindfulness of Ashtanga yoga are performed in a sequence that brings them together in the correct order. It is important that the 'flow' of these postures is done under the guidance of a qualified teacher. Done correctly, the exercises will not only strengthen and purify the body, but they will

also lead to a clear and calm mind," Jonas explained.

"I've been teaching professionally for five years and I feel very fortunate that in that time I have been able to introduce a large number of people to the joys of yoga. Ashtanga yoga is like a form of moving meditation that helps focus the mind," he said.

"Because yoga is such an ancient practice, there are so many branches of it. Ashtanga yoga is like one branch or root of the yoga tree. Ashtanga yoga is a branch of Hattha yoga, which focuses only on physical postures. Wherever you go in the world, though, Ashtanga yoga will always be performed in the same way," he added.

Jonas explained that attaining the peak of spiritual development from practicing Ashtanga yoga is a lifetime commitment. Ashtanga practitioners aim to perfect a series of postures that are developed in six stages.

"When one series of postures is complete, the time is right to go on to the next one. As the practitioner progresses through the steps, the postures become harder. The first series may take up to a year to accomplish, the second can take up to two years and completion of the third series may take as long as 10 years to become fully proficient, so accomplishing all six steps is a pro-

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It is easy to become disenchanted with the way many Thai doctors practice Western medicine. In the West, the standard line of the uninspired practitioner is, "Take two aspirin and call me in the morning."

In Phuket, it would more likely be, "I am not exactly sure what's wrong with you, but take these five bags of pills and syrups and then these pills...and then these. And if that doesn't work, check in to one of our fine international hospitals for a complete series of tests."

Is it any wonder so many people skip the consultation and go straight to the drug store?

For those seeking a more holistic approach to health, a trip to the luxurious Angsana Spa at the Allamanda Resort at Laguna Phuket might be just what the doctor ordered.

At most spas in Phuket, the emphasis is on relaxation. While stress relief has well-known therapeutic effects, it is far from an all-encompassing approach to maintaining sound health.

The Angsana Spa in January introduced several Ayurveda therapies, all part of a holistic healing system that has been passed down from generation to generation in India for 5,000 years.

Treatment starts with a consultation – part of which is known as a dosha analysis – with Dr Arun Sateeth.

A fourth-generation Ayurvedic healer from Kerala, Dr Arun also has a master's degree in *yoga shirmani* and is a qualified Ayurvedic surgeon, though invasive practices such as blood-letting are not part of the current spa menu.

New to Ayurveda, my wife Piya and I filled out our questionnaires to determine where we fall in the *tridosha* system. At the heart of Ayurvedic theory is the

Ancient treatments inspire new relief

concept of three doshas, or fundamental bodily humors: *vatta*, *pitta* and *kapha*. Keeping the three in balance is the key to good health, we were told.

Filling out the questionnaire was both thought-provoking and fun, especially when done with a life partner who knows you better than anyone else.

After reviewing my answers and examining my pulse, Dr Arun announced that I was a straight-up *kapha*, whereas my wife Piya had doshic qualities of both *vatta* and *pitta*.

Saying he would analyze our questionnaires, Dr Arun then introduced us to our therapists, Lijo and Suma.

Wed eight months ago, they met while studying Ayurvedic medicine in Kerala, which is recognized as the center of Ayurvedic learning.

We were led to our spa pavilion, which was clean and comfortable.

Unlike many spa treatments, Ayurvedic therapies are "same sex", meaning that Lijo would be administering my therapy, while his wife treated mine.

Our treatment was the 210-minute Nirvana Package, one of eight *tridosha* packages on offer.

After a small lamp was lit and a prayer said, the treatment started with a shampoo and head massage with a coconut-based *dhrebhala* oil.

Next was a foot massage in a large basin of water medicated with sandalwood, turmeric



Although an important form of Ayurvedic medicine, the shirodhara therapy is also used non-medicinally for stress-relief.

and ramacham powders.

Then my treatment varied slightly from the standard package. I was given a full-body Katee Vasti massage with warm medicated oil. Intended to relieve back pain, this was a great deal more dynamic than any other oil massage I have received.

Next was a *podhi kizhi* massage, which was administered using the Indian equivalent of a Thai *luk krob*: a hot compress filled with herbs. This was pounded firmly over my whole

body, making an interesting, almost hypnotic, plopping sound.

This had an immediate impact on me; I could feel and almost visualize the percussive effect freeing up toxins from tissues and loosening blockages.

Next was a full hour of *shirdohara*, a treatment I had long been waiting to try – and it did not disappoint. My eyes carefully covered, lukewarm herbal oil slowly flowed onto my forehead from a large circular basin suspended above my head.

The effect was that the center of my forehead felt like a melting patty of butter atop a stack of warm pancakes, with a thin, laminar flow of warm maple syrup slowly describing a continuously-changing pattern of loose circles, ovals and figure-eights upon it. I could see why *shirdohara* is used to treat insomnia, it is a relaxing and almost dream-inducing experience.

Next came a 30-minute scrub with sandalwood, herbal turmeric and ramacham, which left my skin tingling and sensitive. This was followed by a facial massage and herbal steam bath to get the pores completely open. The treatment concluded with a short shower and outdoor bath in cooling water medicated with fresh basil leaves.

After this, a red *bindhi* sticker was applied to the center of Piya's forehead and sandalwood powder to mine.

Finally, we enjoyed a drink of cool ginger tea and fresh honey. For a light snack, we nibbled on fresh Concord grapes, the slightly-acidic sweetness of which was perfectly offset by the smooth texture of diminutive *leb meu nang* bananas.

We were then led back to the main pavilion to get our prescriptions from Dr Arun. Mine included dietary tips, such as avoiding preserved foods.

I was also advised to give myself a monthly colonic cleansing using herbal laxatives and to perform the yogic Cobra posture regularly to keep my lower back muscles strong and aligned.

Best of all – and much to my wife's chagrin – I wasn't told I had to break my Heineken habit.

I left the Angsana Spa feeling clean, refreshed and determined to follow the advice of Dr Arun. It's too early to say if his tips will help me, but whenever possible, I prefer take my chances with 5,000-year-old natural remedies, rather than the latest offerings from the global pharmaceutical industry.

Contact the Angsana Spa for more details. Tel: 076-324359. Email: spa-allamandaphuket@angsana.com Website: www.angsanaspa.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

February 16. Sweet, Sexy and Spicy at Sri Panwa.

It's the month of love and Sri Panwa is having a Sweet, Sexy & Spicy party. Come meet some singles or bring your lucky love. While you enjoy the tasty complimentary finger food, Katsue will be provide live music.

Shake your booty to the tunes of DJ Op later in the evening. Baba dining lounge is always a good time.

Come fall in love with it – again.

For further information contact Jared "Jay" O'Brien. Tel: 085-9181969. Email: jared@sripanwa.com Website: www.sripanwa.com

February 17. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

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

If you can't get Windows to work right, 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.

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

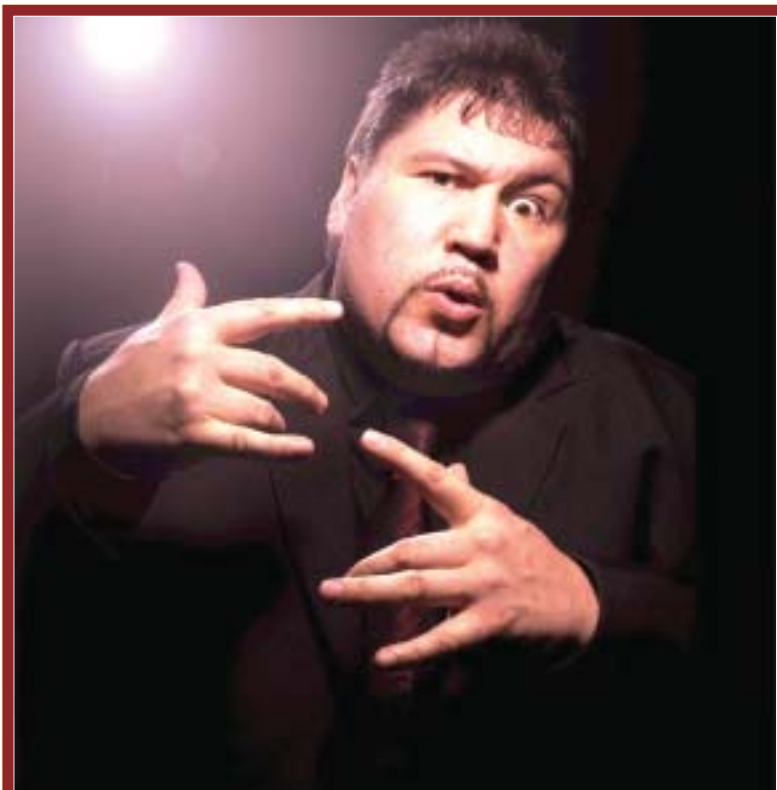
For more information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

February 21. Makha Bucha Day - Public Holiday.

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings.

February 22-23. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

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



Eastender Ricky Grover will be performing at the Punchline Comedy Club stand-up show at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, in Patong.

Live Stand-up Comedy in Patong

February 20

The Punchline Comedy Club brings comedy to the Holiday Inn, Patong. The three brilliant comedians, booked by the London Comedy Store no less, are Eastender Ricky Grover, Brightonian Stephen Grant and Canadian Glenn Wool.

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 Royal Phuket Marina Health Club. Price: 960 baht in advance, 1,200 baht at the door.

For further information contact Phuket Comedy. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Website: www.phuketcomedy.com

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.

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

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

See full details at

www.phuketbluesfestival.com and check back for updates. 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 February 29.

Part two targets school-age writers, 15 to 18 years old. 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

Three prizes in each category include vouchers for a luxurious stay plus wine dinner at the Boathouse.

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

February 27. A Taste of Italy at Puccini Restaurant.

Experience a match made in heaven. The perfect combination of luxurious Italian wines, personally selected and introduced by Steven Roberto in association with EnVision Phuket, all matched with the culinary creations of Executive Chef Alessandro Frau.

This journey through Italy promises to be a sensational evening.

Starts at 7 pm at Puccini at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. 2,800 baht per person.

To make a reservation or for further information contact Adam Beasley. Tel: 076-324101. Email: fbreservation@sheratonphuket.com Website: www.luxurycollection.com/phuket

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

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

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

March 7-9. An Evening of Comedy and Good Food.

Enjoy an evening of light comedy theater plus dinner at the Green Man, featuring the Andaman Players Theatre Group. Opening Night: Friday, March 7. From 7:30 pm: Cocktail reception on the lawn, three-course dinner and an evening of three short comedies. 950 baht.

Core Night: Saturday, March 8. From 7:30 pm: Cocktail reception on the lawn, four-course dinner including wine, and an evening of three short comedies. 1,500 baht.

Matinee: Sunday, March 9. From 4 pm: Matinee performance of the three short comedies. 350 baht. For details contact Nui at The Green Man. Tel: 076-281445, 085-790 3652. Email: info@the-green-man.net Website: <http://theandamanplayers.spaces.live.com/>

March 8-29. Light of Life Art Exhibition.

Light of Life will feature acrylic and oil on canvas by Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina. His previous exhibitions were of oil on aluminum sheets.

His landscapes focus on the interplay between shadow and light, together with the beauty and simplicity of rural and suburban Thailand.

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

March 11-13. Tao Thepkrasattri-Tao Sri Soonthorn Festival.

This annual festival celebrates Phuket's famed heroines: Tao Thepkrasattri-Tao Sri Soonthorn. Details to be released soon.

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Puzzles

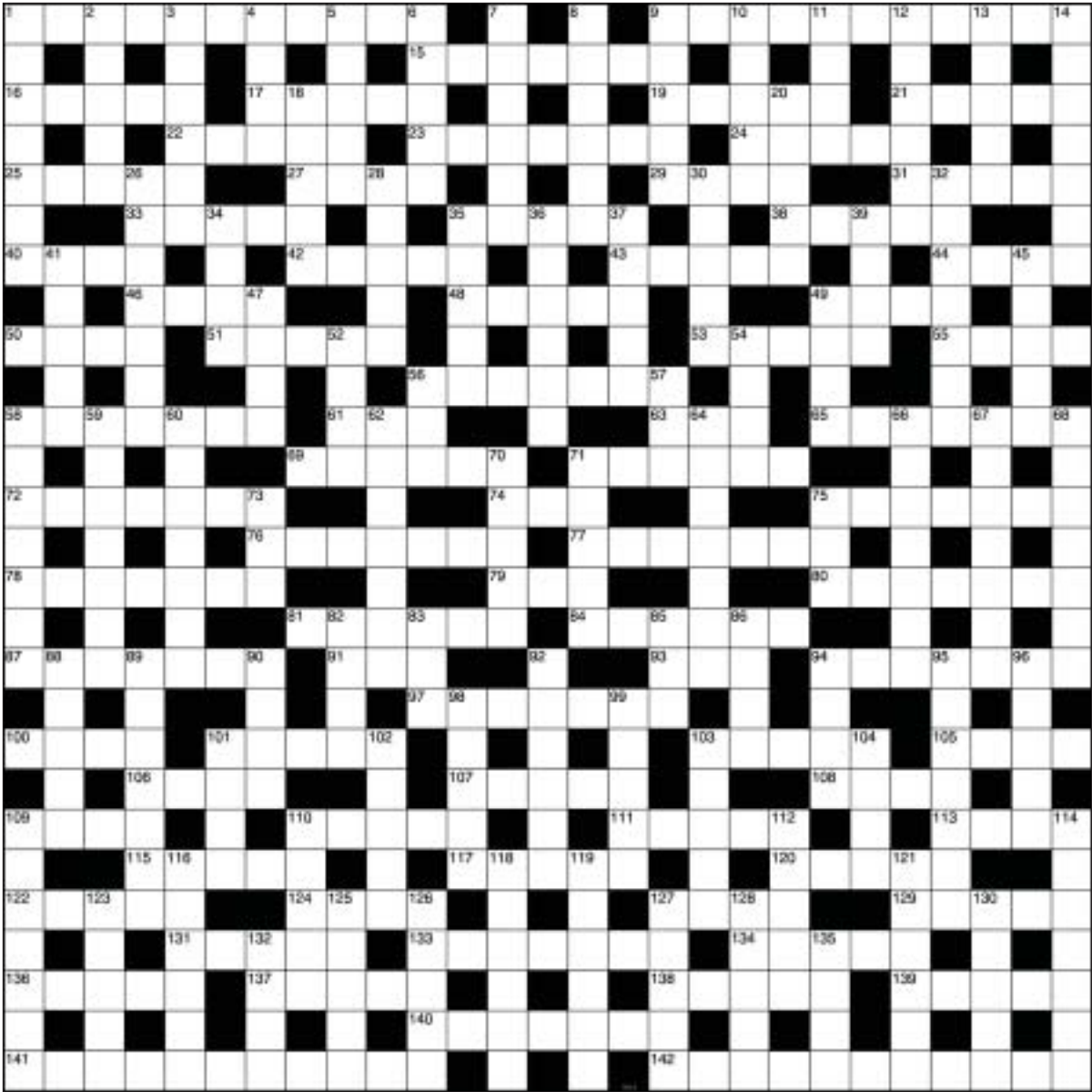
The BIG Crossword

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?





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Across

1. Handling poorly

9. Examined closely

15. Abated (5,2)

16. Bike footrest

17. Great sea

19. Highways

21. Exposes

22. Musical drama

23. Spring (from)

24. Iron or tin

25. Peculiarly

27. Woes

29. More

31. Two under par (golf)

33. Scientist, Sir ...Newton

35. Clumps

38. Anchors

40. Fable

42. Cuddly Australian animal

43. Temporarily supplies

44. Scheme

46. Dreary

48. First-rate

49. Festival

50. Tropical root vegetable

51. Pleasure boat

53. Mideast land

55. Talon

56. Worry

58. Putting on

61. Stomach

63. Sheep's cry

65. Ashamed

69. Scram!

71. Surplus

72. Sheathed

74. ...& nay

75. Massage (3-4)

76. Business books ex-

Down

aminer

77. Comments

78. Stubborn person (3-4)

79. Motel

80. Inaugural

81. Prescribed amount

84. Cricketing great, Sir Garfield...

87. Computer (publishing)

91. Belonging to that

93. Much ...About Nothing

94. Involved (in)

97. Collapsing, ...over

100. Scenery

101. Carefree adventures

103. Garden digger

105. Sleeve part

106. Actor, ...Neeson

107. Register

108. Hostel group (1,1,1,1)

109. Mexican currency

110. Walker

111. Happen

113. Beach hill

115. Reproductive gland

117. Long (for)

120. Throng

122. US New England state

124. Veil

127. Glimpse

129. Court attendant

131. Regretting

133. Romantic US falls

134. Premonitions

136. Eastern religion

137. Record's secondary track (1-4)

138. Sloped (ceiling)

139. 10 percent

140. Spend wildly (4,3)

141. Public feeling (6,5)

142. Misbehave (5,6)

67. Connecting, ...up

68. Suspended

70. Mountain nest

71. Makes (wage)

73. Father

75. Typist's complaint (1,1,1)

82. Pig's grunt

83. Invite

85. Carry-case

86. Frolic

88. Exclusive

89. Hong Kong port

90. Infant's carriage

92. Cuban singer, ...Estefan

94. Small whirlpool

95. Pinball parlours

96. Impish

98. Nailfiling (board)

99. Manmade fiber

101. 50s actress, ...Turner

102. Indian religious group

103. Draws in

104. Kuwaiti ruler

109. Inflating, ...up

110. Church songs

112. Nursery poem

114. Joined (circuit) to ground

116. Pests

118. Slip by

119. Cause

121. Cleaning cloth

123. Eskimo shelter

125. Nimble

126. Bell toll

127. This planet

128. Embers stirrer

130. Follower of Brahma

132. Wading bird

135. Margin

Solution on next page

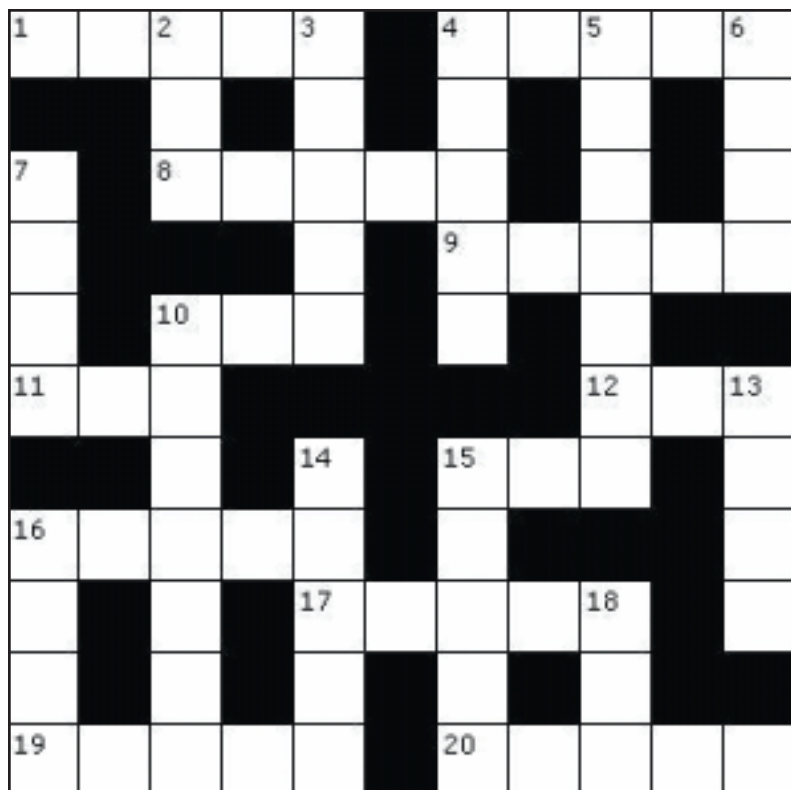
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

The principle of Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Actor, Will...
4. Gossip
8. Babysitter
9. Quality
10. Pastry dish
11. Frozen water
12. Groove
15. Monkey
16. Spiked plants
17. Forged
19. Sweet treats
20. Number

Down

2. Hostel
3. Joint
4. Ruling house
5. Determine length
6. Rampage
7. Indonesian island
10. Colorful bird
13. Guided trip
14. Presents
15. Part of lower leg
16. Trendy
18. Canine

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. In which square did the Chinese People's Liberation Army crush a student protest? | 8. Whose face "launched a thousand ships"? | 15. What did the Romans call Poseidon? |
| 2. In Hamlet, which herb is said to be "for remembrance"? | 9. Which geological fault caused the San Fran' quake of 1906? | 16. A Pan Am flight was blown up over which Scottish town in December 1988? |
| 3. Who was the leader of the Khmer Rouge? | 10. How did Greek forces smuggle soldiers into Troy? | 17. In the film <i>Robin and Marian</i> Audrey Hepburn starred opposite which male film star? |
| 4. Which sport do the Barbarians play? | 11. What drug for morning sickness resulted in the birth of deformed babies in the 60s? | 18. How many Muses were there? |
| 5. Pompeii was buried when which volcano near Naples erupted? | 12. What part of its body did the dinosaur <i>Europlocephalus</i> use to defend itself? | 19. In which city did a fire gut the MGM Grand Hotel in 1980? |
| 6. How many motor-bikes take part in a speedway race? | 13. What is the name given to a baby swan? | 20. How was the sword of Damocles suspended? |
| 7. Which vegetable family do coriander leaves belong to? | 14. Chimp, baboon, gorilla – which has a tail? | |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Tiananamen Square;
2. Rosemary;
3. Pol Pot;
4. Rugby;
5. Vesuvius;
6. Four;
7. Carrot Family;
8. Helen;
9. San Andreas Fault;
10. They hid inside a wooden horse;
11. Thalidomide;
12. Its tail;
13. A signet;
14. Baboon;
15. Neptune;
16. Lockerbie;
17. Sean Connery;
18. Nine;
19. Las Vegas;
20. By a single hair.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

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Phuket Gazette

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By Skyler Swezy

Dutch nationals Chris Jongerious and Rolien Beute are the perfect team aboard the 30-foot Firefly catamaran *The Frog*. Chris and Rolien have been running their sailing-charter business out of Ao Yon Bay for the past two years and their company, the Andaman Sea Club, has a fleet of three vessels.

"We are into the zoo thing," joked Chris, pointing out that the other two boats are named *The Elephant* and *The Horse*.

"Our dinghy is called *The Camel*. We had another one that was stolen called *The Worm*," said Rolien.

On a calm Sunday morning, a group of six joined the Dutch duo on *The Frog* for a day of sailing. Four in the group had never sailed before, and this outing would be on one of the fastest catamaran designs in the region. The Firefly was designed for local conditions by Mark Pescott and built on Phuket by Latitude 8° yachts.

Chris likes to have newcomers to sailing on his boat so that he can infect them with his sailing fever.

With the sun beating down and only a slight breeze, *The Frog* motored past the moored boats and out of Ao Yon Bay. Clearing the last anchored obstacle, Chris and Rolien raised the main sail and cut the motor. Each guest gazed across the water after finding a comfortable seat on pads strewn across the trampoline.

Chris delivered a sizing-up look and asked, "Have you ever sailed before?" After confirming his suspicions, he handed over the tiller and said, "Aim for that group of rocks straight ahead."

Hopping around the bay



Screaming across the bay or just taking in the sights, Chris 'The Frog' Jongerious simply loves sailing.

He then pushed a floppy straw hat over his beach-blond hair and lit up a cigarette. Chris, a wiry man in his fifties, explained that the small streamers on the sail, called tell-tails, determine whether to trim the sail or turn the boat. The group had been on board for only 10 minutes and already Chris was teaching them to sail.

An ex-cargo-plane pilot, Chris has always felt more at home on the water. "I think I was conceived on a boat or something like that," he joked. Chris and Rolien's charter business has provided the couple the chance to do what they love – daily.

Rolien, a long-time dive in-

structor and sailor who smiles continuously, passed around a tub of cookies.

With a light breeze that gradually grew stronger, *The Frog* picked up speed heading towards a green mound on the horizon – Koh Mai Thon. The triangular course from Ao Yon Bay to Koh Mai Thon to Koh Hei (Coral Island) and back is a typical itinerary for a day on *The Frog*, although a slew of other charter options are offered.

"We like it when people have their own ideas about where to go. It's great if they don't just want to go to Phi Phi or they don't want it all planned out for them. If they do want us to organize it, we do that, but it's not really necessary. We love to go exploring," said Rolien.

"*The Frog* doesn't have a draft – well, only 30 centimeters – so we can go to a lot more

places than other boats," Chris added.

When *The Frog* arrived at Koh Mai Thon, the passengers donned snorkels and hopped overboard. This land-lubber reporter shamefully lost his within minutes.

After the swim, Rolien and Chris produced a Thai food lunch from the cabin and the hungry crew dug in. A cry of "Look!" drew the adventurers' attention to dorsal fins slicing in and out of the water where a pod of bottlenose dolphins were tucking into their own lunch.

Chris fired up the small motor and put the boat on course to intercept the porpoises. The sleek, gray bodies torpedoed alongside the catamaran hulls for a short distance before disappear-

ing back into the depths.

"Sailing in nature – that's what we offer," Chris later said.

The motor was cut and sails raised once more as *The Frog* headed to Koh Hei with another day tripper at the helm. After a second snorkeling session, this one in a secluded cove, Rolien let out the bright red spinnaker and the boat swiftly cut through the water back to Ao Yon Bay.

"I'm pretty sure that we offer one of the only boat trips that nearly always sails. When there's little wind, just like today, another boat would have motored – and that's the difference. There's nothing wrong with motoring – we did some motoring – but we switch it off very quick," Chris said.

"Chris being a sailor all his life and wanting very much to pass on his sailing skills is special. He loves to get people interested in sailing, to teach them about the life, about just using wind to get around," Rolien added.

The Andaman Sea Club offers a course for people who can sail but lack skills in skippering a boat. Another option is for clients to put together a novice racing team, which the Dutch "Frogs" are happy to coach and, for a fee, provide their boat for competitions.

Back in the bay, the sails were lowered and covered and the dingy prepared. Chris suddenly held up his hands and exclaimed, "Wait! We can't forget the Finish beer."

"It's tradition," he added. Frosty cans were passed around and everyone sipped a cold one.

For more information contact the Andaman Sea Club. Tel: 085-0690940, 0860-0454634. Email: chris@andaman-sea-club.com or rolien@andaman-sea-club.com Website: www.andaman-sea-club.com

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The story of the King's Cup

Yachting correspondent for the *Bangkok Post* Peter Cummins and Alan Parkhouse, former sports editor for *The Nation*, have provided an object lesson for people involved in the booming marine-leisure industry in Phuket: how a few guys hanging out in a yacht club hatched the regatta that would mushroom into Asia's biggest, best known and most fun.

A Sailing Legacy (Ensign Media, Bangkok, 2006, 99p) is the story of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, which recently celebrated its 20th year during HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday celebration. The first was held in 1987 to celebrate his 60th.

The book is a lavish production with gold-leaf dividers, silk page marker and photos, both historic and recent, by such nautical photographers as Guy Nowell, John Everingham and Rick Tomlinson.

As ML Tridhosyuth Devakul mentions in his foreword, he had a place on Nai Harn Beach called the Phuket Yacht Club Hotel, but with no yachts. "What better way to launch the hotel than to organize a regatta," he writes.

"The inaugural Phuket King's Cup Regatta was founded in 1987 by Royal Varuna sailors including Commodore Chris King, Dr Rachot Kanjanawinit, Al Chan-



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

der, Adolph Knees and others," Cummins writes.

The original fleet was a motley collection of small craft – catamarans, Lasers and windsurfers, the stuff of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club – and a few keelboats. Thus you have an incident like: "Varuna member Reg Chambers, who sailed a Laser, called 'starboard' on a 45-ft keelboat, which had to give way."

Hobie Cat sailors would fly on the 26 mile course to Koh Phi Phi in 30-knot winds. The only priority then was to stay upright.

In 1984, the race was limited to keelboats and the fleet has since mushroomed to over 100 vessels today. You can chart the world's economic development

by the crews that arrive every year in Phuket. With a few Thai pioneers, the original crews were mostly made up of expat British, Aussies, New Zealanders and Americans. They were soon joined by crews from Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines – and now, more recently, from Russia and China.

The origins of the King's Cup began with the King's keen interest in building and sailing boats.

He and his children were intensely involved in the development of the Royal Varuna Yacht club, whose members are prominent in organizing the King's Cup every year.

There is a photo of author Peter Cummins laughing with HM The King on the beach.

The Royal Varuna Yacht Club in turn was the brainchild of Walter Meyer. In April 1957, he placed an advertisement in the *Bangkok Post* that read:

"Boating friends needed to form a boat club." Among those who answered was Prince Bhisadej Rajani, who had taken up sailing at Cambridge University in the mid-1940s.

"Mayer and his friends drove up and down a little fishing village called Pattaya, which comprised about 20 fishermen's families and featured a big tree in the

middle of the road, as they looked for a place to set up their club...

"The journey from Bangkok in those days was a marathon drive of up to six hours, with a car ferry across the Bang Prakong River. Club members took their weekend supplies, plus charcoal burners and other essentials like cold beer, thought necessary for survival."

Alan Parkhouse covered his first Phuket King's Cup Regatta in 1991. Though working for a rival paper, Peter Cummins took Parkhouse under his wing and introduced him to many of the skippers.

"On the third day of the regatta we sat down, wrote our stories and finished at the same time," Parkhouse writes.

"Each story was two or three foolscap pages long and we had the secretary in the media room fax them to our Bangkok offices every night."

The next day, Cummins was reading his story in the *Bangkok Post* and didn't recognize a word. "What have they done to my story?" he cried, slamming the paper down. "I didn't write this."

He didn't. Parkhouse did. The secretary had mixed up their dispatches.

"Neither of us ever mentioned the mishap in our respective offices," Parkhouse concludes.

When a dream house becomes a nightmare

This month we are going to look at a case involving a construction agreement and the problems that can arise when a contractor fails to deliver on his side of a bargain.

Mr A had been living in Phuket for some time. He decided to lease some land and build a house. He found a reputable contractor who supplied all the required documentation and contracts in English, with details of every possible eventuality covered. Mr A was happy to sign the employment agreement.

Going to the site every day, Mr A inspected the progress of the construction. He was still

happy and had only a few minor grievances with the work. He had learned from previous experience that it is best to make regular visits to the construction site to inspect and rectify any mistakes from the beginning.

When the construction was about 60 % complete, the real problems set in. Mr A saw that although the contractor still had his staff at the site, the contractor himself was never there and the quality of

the work was deteriorating, meaning that Mr A had to be at the site almost every day.

He then met with the contractor and discussed the matter with him. The contractor com-

plained that the price of the construction had increased rapidly and he had had to take on work at another site to cover his losses.

Mr A agreed to make another advance payment to the contractor, as the work was still in order and Mr A was eager for the project to be completed. Also, many of the construction staff were living at the site and there were a lot of construction materials and machines stored there.

The contractor went AWOL. At the end of the month, the construction staff approached Mr A asking for their salaries. Mr A told the staff that as he had not employed them, it was not his responsibility to pay their wages, especially as he had recently made a payment to the contractor.

Some time passed and Mr A learned that the contractor had sold his car and left the island after amassing gambling debts. It was unlikely that the contractor would ever return to Phuket. Now Mr A had a real problem and went to seek legal advice before filing a report with the police.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, Mr A had to decide what to do. He could lay the workers off and then file a civil case in court against the contractor. He would then likely win a court order against the contractor, but for as long as the contractor did not have the funds to repay the money, this would be of little use to Mr A.

In the end, Mr A decided to take matters into his own hands

by employing the staff of the contractor himself, paying their salaries out of his own pocket.

The staff used the materials and machinery that their original employer had left behind. Mr A took care of quality control and management at the site.

At the end of the saga, Mr A ended up with his dream house and actually paid less than the contract had stated, although he likely ended up with a few more gray hairs on his head for his troubles.

After completion of the project, Mr A was satisfied and decided not to take the case to court as it could take years for a court decision that would be useless if the contractor still had no assets.

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

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Smoking ban enforcement all hot air?

The latest move to enforce no-smoking zones throughout Thailand made news worldwide, with foreign media praising Thailand for taking the kind of tough measures that many Western governments have shied away from.

Unfortunately, the law so far is vague to say the least. The only information currently available is a notice posted on the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) website (see news, page 2).

Also, at the time of going to press the smoking ban had already come into effect in Bangkok, but top officers from the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) were at a MoPH seminar in Surat Thani to learn more about it.

While being very clear about some areas where smoking is banned, the notice says that air-conditioned venues are allowed to set up smoking zones.

What it does not do, however, is define what constitutes a smoking zone. It is currently possible for an air-conditioned nightclub to declare itself as compliant with the law but have designated smoking areas throughout the entire venue – rendering the new law useless.

The entertainment industry has already shown that it is willing to exploit legal loopholes to keep its customers happy. The Smoking Ban Act 2002 included “air-conditioned places selling food and beverages”.

This was later interpreted to mean only restaurants, thus leading many restaurants on the island to change their licenses from restaurants to entertainment venues – leaving them unaffected by the ban.

After high-profile inspection of a few public venues, the PPHO's enforcement of the smoking ban quickly tapered off, leaving the island to get on with business as usual.

Whether a repeat performance will ensue in 2008 remains to be seen. Just like last time, the MoPH is sounding off strong, but a hard line on smoking is likely to spark a strong reaction by entertainment venues.

People have a right to smoke – and a right not to. Common sense and consideration is the only road to a happy medium. Such common sense is being applied with the investigation into complaints about seaplanes landing in Patong Bay (see news). In handling that issue, government officers led by no less than a vice-governor are seeing the effects first-hand and reacting appropriately.

Let's see if other island authorities can follow suit.

– The Editor

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Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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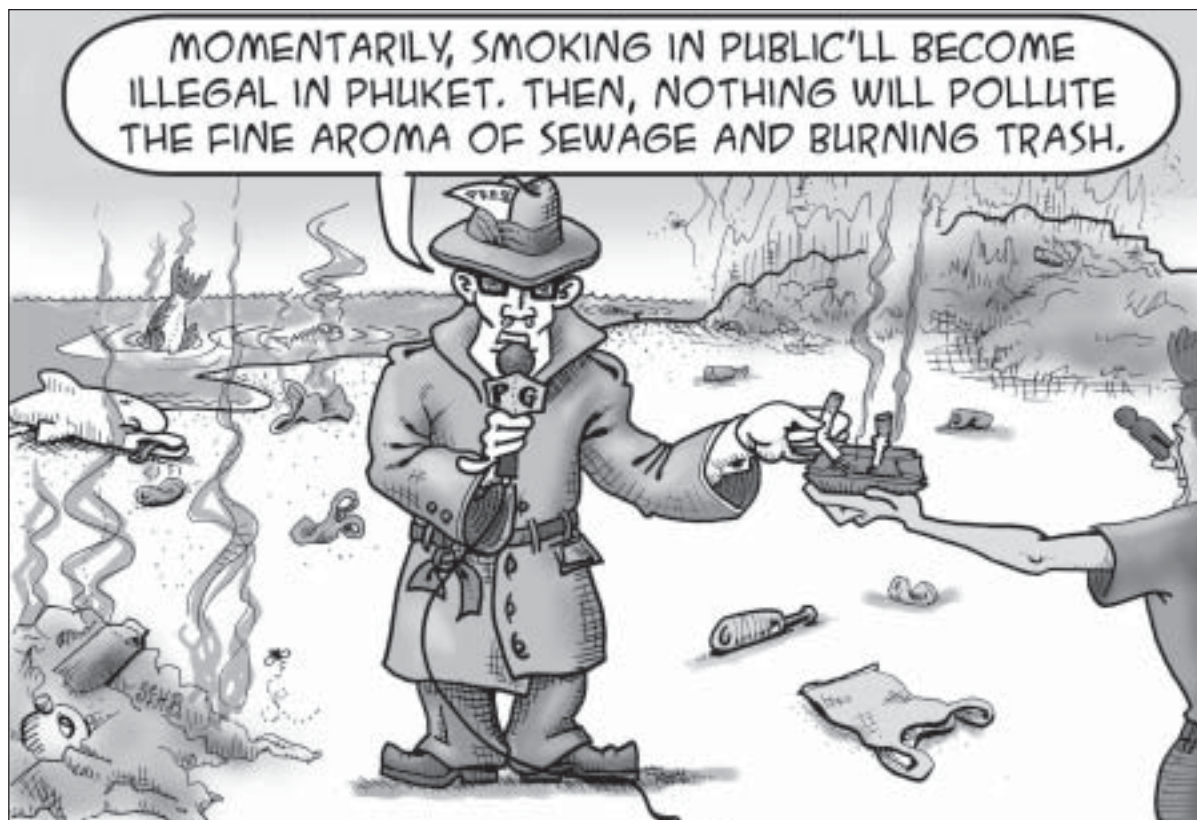
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Letters

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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.

Plane dumb

Here we go again... isn't it wonderful? Destination Air has been one of the privileged few to be granted a work permit, let alone a license to thrill – or is that kill?

Of course, when they made their initial applications they stated that they were going to operate from the biggest tourist beach on the island.

What is it with these people? What gives them that arrogant right to do what they like, adopting that “up-to-me”, couldn't-give-a-damn attitude for the wellbeing and consideration of others?

There's a perfectly good airport and runway on land for them to conduct their business from, from where they gave the initial impression that they were going to conduct tours and flights to Phi Phi.

Obviously this business model failed or they have just become too plain greedy.

Red Baron

Samak not so smart

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's recent interview on CNN shows the urgent need to implement better mathematics into the Thai education system. It seems there's heavy emphasis on subtraction, but little on addition.

Lesson 1 might be a remedial body count exercise. The 1976 massacre at Thammasat University was whittled down from an estimate into the 100s to an official tally of 46.

Then, contrary to the official yet not-often-mentioned figures, PM Samak declares on CNN that only one was killed on campus, despite widely-distrib-

uted gory photographs of the aftermath of the shootings, lynchings and burnings that clearly show otherwise.

In leading Thailand's long-overdue return to democracy, PM Samak has shown that he is a big minus in the equation. In denying the Kingdom's troubled past, he is denying it a future, too. Things just don't add up.

Susan
Chalong

Rolling papers

Now that the smoking ban is in effect, I expect that every bar and restaurant will be 100% smoke-free from now until eternity.

Just as the prostitution laws have delegated paid sex into the history books and bans on pornography have made it impossible to find fleshy movies and mags in Thailand. Jet skis: banned by law. Motorbike helmets: obligatory by law.

I like the laws in Thailand. Laws are great. I think I'll use all that paper they're printed on to roll my ciggies, which I expect to continue to puff on with great enjoyment at my favorite night-spots.

Bacchus
Rawai

Law destined to go up in smoke

Is it April Fool's Day? Did I read correctly that smoking has been banned in all... umm... where is it going to be banned?

From what I can tell, it's been outlawed in all air-conditioned restaurants, bars and night-clubs. And open-air restaurants. And markets. But operators can

section off designated smoking areas in these places. Oh, and the ban hasn't actually been implemented in Phuket because it's too confusing for anyone to understand.

So what's to stop old Somchai from designating his entire nightclub as a smoking zone? When implemented in a way that doesn't flummox people, this might be a good idea, but as it is, it makes as much sense as the Flag Bill. Remember that one, when a law was proposed that would require every single person in Thailand to stop his or her vehicle at 8 am and 6 pm to pay homage to the national anthem?

For some reason, the Flag Bill never made it out of the review stage. I propose that we make the whole of Phuket a designated smoking zone.

Barry Bosworth
Rawai

Police deserve rap for poor investigation

In reading about the death of Danish tourist Henrik Rasmussen [‘Danish tourist believed murdered: police’, *Gazette* online, February 13], it was disheartening to read that police failed to bother checking the Royal Paradise Hotel's CCTV security-camera footage within three days after he went missing.

Now Patong's finest will have to resort to using their fine investigative skills in finding Mr Rasmussen's killer.

Meanwhile, the story serves as a reminder to us all that the streets of Patong do not always carry the usual friendly atmosphere found elsewhere in Thailand.

Dave
Patong

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

Phuket playing catch-up in marine sector

The purpose of my visit to Spain and Portugal in January was to gain in sight into how marinas, deep-sea ports and health spas are operated there.

The Portuguese have a long tradition of marine transportation and development, and they are especially experienced in marine management, both in the government and private sectors.

There is an impressive and orderly system of marine management in Portugal with many privately-built luxury marinas. These marinas attract high-end dining, shopping and entertainment establishments, which in turn attract wealthy customers and consumers.

Compared to this, Phuket's marine development still has a long way to go.

For Phuket to compete at this level we need support from the central government, such as with tax breaks and the establishment of a free-port zone, as well as the development of more facilities and infrastructure.

We have to develop all of these areas before we can promote marinas in Phuket as being on a par with those in Spain and Portugal.

The marinas in Phuket are comparatively small and we still need to overcome problems that prevent large yachts from docking here.

Our marinas currently operate to a schedule dictated by the moon and the tides, whereas the marinas in Spain can support

The Governor's Letter

Returning from a trip to Spain and Portugal in January to visit marine developments and health spas, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit talks of the insights he gained and how his newfound knowledge can be applied to developing Phuket's marine facilities.

This week he also covers the limousine concession issues at Phuket International Airport and expresses his confidence in Phuket's appeal to tourists and property developers continuing for years to come.



mega-yachts all the time. Phuket is also limited in the kind of marine transportation that is able to dock here due to the impact it may have on the environment.

I don't mean to imply that the government has to support marine development by the private sector, but we need to evaluate each of the potential problems we will have to overcome in order to build marinas to international standards.

Comparing Thailand's spa

industry to Portugal's and Spain's, I'm pleased to say that we beat them hands down.

The level of skills and service in their spa industries cannot compete with that of Thailand's spa therapists.

I met the new Director of Phuket International Airport [PIA] Wing Commander Wicha Nernlop on February 5 to discuss current issues, especially the problems surrounding the limousine concession, which have not

yet been resolved.

There are so many issues to consider that I cannot comment on them much at the moment, but I did ask that the opinion of the Phuket Provincial Office be considered before a final decision is reached on new contracts and concessions or any other changes of that nature.

It is unfair that other people or tourists who know nothing of the issues are affected by the airport being blocked by protesters,

so any protests or demands should be made through the appropriate channels, instead of by actions that disrupt others.

If they block the road or the airport entrance again, we will arrest them and they will be recorded on video as evidence.

I ask that PIA please consult further with the Phuket Provincial Office regarding limousine concessions and that everybody thinks of how their actions will affect the general public, instead of only thinking in terms of their own benefits.

Regarding plans to build a new airport in Phang Nga, I think we have to carefully consider the worth of such a project.

We have to scrutinize international aviation standards as to how many kilometers apart two airports should be, as Phuket and Phang Nga provinces are next to each other.

If every province were to have its own airport, it would be a huge investment and I think we would soon see airports shutting down.

We have to consider how we expect the government to support such development as we are not a rich country.

We must consider whether there would be enough aircraft landing at the additional airports and what kind of planes a new airport could handle.

We will be present at the ITB Roadshow to be held in Berlin again in March. This is the largest tourism road show in the world.

Our economy benefited from tourism as a result of the event last year, so we intend to continue attending road shows in many countries.

This year and next year are specified as tourism years by the central government. Despite the economy not being in great shape last year, Phuket benefited greatly from tourism.

Increased international interest in the Phuket property market has seen many wealthy investors buy property in Phuket. The island is a big hit now with resort developers.

I have heard that interest from the Phuket property market will be more beneficial than leaving money in the bank to gain interest.

Compare the trend now to just after the 2004 tsunami when hotel owners wanted to sell but could not find investors.

We need to ensure investors continue to be interested by making sure that they have a stable environment to invest in and that the tsunami-warning system is properly maintained.

Niran Kalayanamit
Governor of Phuket

Are new driving licenses coming?

I have heard that new smart cards will replace driving licenses. Is this true? If so, how are they different to the old ones and when will they be available in Phuket?

Also, if I already have a current driving license, can I change it for the "smart card" type?

Samkong's witchy

Chatchawarn Ngarmtup, chief of Phuket Provincial Transport Office replies:

The new smart card will be made available at provincial transport offices throughout all 14 southern provinces from March 31.

In addition, the new driving licenses will be accepted as valid in Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

The new licenses are designed to last longer than the current ones.

Details on the card will be in both Thai and English and the

card will have a magnetic strip containing the holder's personal details.

If you already have a driving license and want to change for the new smart card, you can apply for one at your local transport office.

When you apply, please also present proof of your address (the same as indicated on your driving license), such as a copy of your house registration certificate (*tabien baan*) or a letter from Immigration confirming your address.

The fee charged will depend on the type of license being re-issued.

For example, a one-year motorbike driver's license costs 55 baht and a one-year car driver's license costs 105 baht, while a five-year motorbike driver's license costs 255 baht and a five-year car driver's license costs 505 baht.

Whatever the fee is, it will cost an extra 100 baht to have the license issued as a smart card.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

Are custom license plates legal?

I see a lot of cars and motorcycles in Phuket with decorative license plate frames. Many of these frames have images of popular cartoons or non-standard designs. I think the vehicle owners must be designing their own styles and having them custom made.

Are custom license-plate frames legal? Is it legal to modify the shape of license plates?

Kitty,
Phuket City

Chatchawarn Ngarmtup, Chief of Phuket Provincial Transport Office, replies:

Car and motorcycle license-plate frames can be of any design or color as long as the frames

do not cover or overshadow any of the numbers and letters on the license plate.

However, it is illegal to change the shape of license plates. No part of a car or motorcycle's license plate should be cut off. The penalty for doing so is a fine of 1,000 baht.

It is also illegal to have license plates custom-made. Genuine license plates issued by the PPTO have two Thai letters – *khon khai* and *sor sua* – in the bottom-right corner of each license plate.

However, the PPTO does issue some non-standard plates, such as those featuring a picture of Laem Phromthep as the background.

Happifying the golden land

Not so long ago, the Bhutanese government made the decision to stop worry-ing about their Gross National Product (GNP) and focus on their people's Gross National Happiness (GNH).

This idea quickly spread to Thailand, and serious movers and shakers in the government are now thinking of establishing a Ministry of Happiness to promote the happiness of the Thai people.

To this end, they have brought over Dr. Joy Bliss, an American psychologist specializing in Happiness Studies, to advise them. I interviewed her in her luxurious suite at the Opulence Epicureana Resort:

"Welcome to Thailand, Dr. Bliss. How do you propose to increase the happiness of the Thai people?" I said.

"Well, if every Thai citizen could enjoy a few days as a guest in a snazzy hotel like this, at government expense, I think the National Happiness Quotient would increase significantly," she replied.

"It would certainly increase the happiness of the average rice farmer from Sisaket. But where would the money come from?"

"We could borrow it from the funds frozen in the former prime minister's many bank accounts. But that raises a salient point. My studies show that the average Thai's Happiness Quotient varies in direct proportion to his income.

"Translation: If you want people to be happy, throw money at them. Most people are happiest on payday.

"Women tend to be happiest when they're shopping, and their husbands are happiest when they're not. Both genders are unhappiest on the days when rent, mortgage or car payments are due."

"But I've heard that the Bhutanese found that money doesn't correlate with happiness."

"That may be true in Bhutan. This is Thailand.

Most Thais still think that money is God."

"Is there a scientific way of measuring happiness?"

"Oh, yes. We have a machine called a euphoriascope which can measure people's Happiness Quotient. It covers a wide range of happiness-related emotions. At the top of the scale is Rapturous/Ecstatic. At the bottom is Miserable/Really Pissed Off. But after years of study, I find I've developed a sort of instinct for guess-

ing when any given person is likely to be happiest."

"Really? Can you guess when I'm happiest?"

"Yes. You're happiest whenever you finish eating a large super-supreme pizza with extra cheese, multiple toppings and heavy lashings of ketchup."

"That's amazing! How did you know?"

"I noticed the pizza stains on your shirt."

"What advice are you planning to give the Thai government?"

"I believe the National Happiness Index would soar if the government sponsored more lotteries with bigger prizes. Also, provide heavy subsidies to the rice farmers, eliminating middlemen. Hold weekly raves at Sanam Luang. And broadcast Academy Fantasia every day, all year long. Finally, have "no-pay" days at shopping malls."

"No-pay" days? You mean days when shoppers don't have to pay for the things they buy?"

"That's right. They just grab anything they want and walk away."

"Who's going to pay for all that?"

"As I suggested before, judicious use of the frozen funds of the former prime minister constitute a powerful source of income that could make a lot of people very happy indeed."

"Now, the current political situation is somewhat tense. How would you turn it into a happy lovefest?"

"Thais have forgotten that sanuk is the bedrock of their culture. They need to stop being serious about politics and sanukify the national mood.

"Just a few name changes would lighten things up considerably. Don't call the coup a coup. Call it a Happification Event. Then there's the Council for National Security. What a stodgy name!

"Call them the Cheerleaders. Have them wave pom-poms to soften their image.

"Tell former prime minister Thaksin he can come back and be Prime Minister Emeritus if he donates half his wealth to the national treasury and appears on Academy Fantasia.

"Make sure he sings 'My Way'. Send free super-supreme pizzas with extra cheese and multiple toppings to hungry columnists on Saturday nights."

And don't forget the lascivious lashings of ketchup.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's trying to clean the pizza stains off his shirt. He thanks Nation cartoonist Stephff for his cartoon on the Gross National Happiness Index on July 31, which inspired this column.



In The Stars

by Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19). If you are due to celebrate a birthday this week, you will be glad of opportunities to spread your wings during the coming year. Romance is well highlighted and a potential new partner is about to catch your eye. The number 4 is lucky on Saturday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20). Recent romantic dilemmas become insignificant as you concentrate on business. You will easily swim ahead of the shoal this week. Some ideas that you have filed away for future reference will be useful. Tuesday is best for an important business meeting as the stars will support your efforts.

ARIES (March 21-April 20). Breaking the ice in awkward so-

cial situations is one of your talents and it should be useful this weekend. If romance isn't immediately ignited by a meeting with Scorpio, Cupid promises to work some magic later this month. At work, the atmosphere should be serene now that certain storm clouds have cleared. The number 7 is lucky on Sunday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21). You are likely to be facing serious choices concerning your future at the moment. Taking a break from your usual paddock this weekend will enable insight to flow. On Wednesday, you could see a red flag when a bureaucratic appointment provides less answers than you need. It will be easier to find out what you need to know near the end of the month.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21). Sensible financial advice is what you need most right now and this week it is freely available. Those of you who still believe you know best are likely to suffer losses if you continue to ignore the truth. The color emerald can encourage a more realistic attitude.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Surprise developments add some spice to your love life this week. If you can overcome your natural shyness, you will be spending much less time alone for the foreseeable future. Creativity is highlighted on Monday and Tuesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): This weekend, your generous nature will be appreciated by Capricorn, who will be grateful for your support until they are able to get back on their feet. A love bubble of happiness could pop when someone starts to make some distance.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23). You will have some uncom-

fortable moments to navigate this week where personal relationships are concerned. A recently-begun romance will be subject to outside influence and your only answer is to be honest. Friends could also indicate that they are tired of your tendency to economize with the truth.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23). If you are looking for a more fulfilling social life, you will be glad to see an old friend reappear on the scene. This person could hold the key to a more exciting lifestyle, but you will need to guard against overspending. At work, some interesting challenges may come your way. The number 3 is lucky on Saturday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22). You will be grateful for the chance to start a new project that will also provide the opportunity to sharpen your communication skills, which have become a little rusty. Your impression that Leo is the cat's whis-

kers is likely to change this week when you discover a secret from their past.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21). Commitment of some sort is highlighted during the remainder of February. If you have been considering whether to tie the knot, you will receive astral encouragement to make a decent proposal. If the issue in question is connected with work, there's no reason to delay any longer before accepting the offer on the table.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): If you can't make up your mind whether to relocate or remain on familiar ground, you should receive news that will enable you to decide. A change of scene could breathe new life into a relationship that is growing stale. Finances are still benefiting from auspicious astral conditions, but Pisces is about to ask for help. Use rose pink to soften your outlook.

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Phuket's Internet meltdown continues

In my previous column I talked about the abysmal state of international Internet access in Phuket. As best I can tell, after looking at historic real-time user logs, Phuket experienced a massive meltdown in Internet access speeds on or about December 14, 2007. Somebody, somewhere changed something, and the result has been devastating for everyone in Phuket who relies on the Internet to get any work done.

As shown by the accompanying graph, Internet services sold to customers as "2 Mbps" connections deliver less than one-tenth the advertised speed, internationally, in the afternoons and evenings.

Both TOT and TT&T ADSL lines frequently dip below old-fashioned dial-up modem speeds.

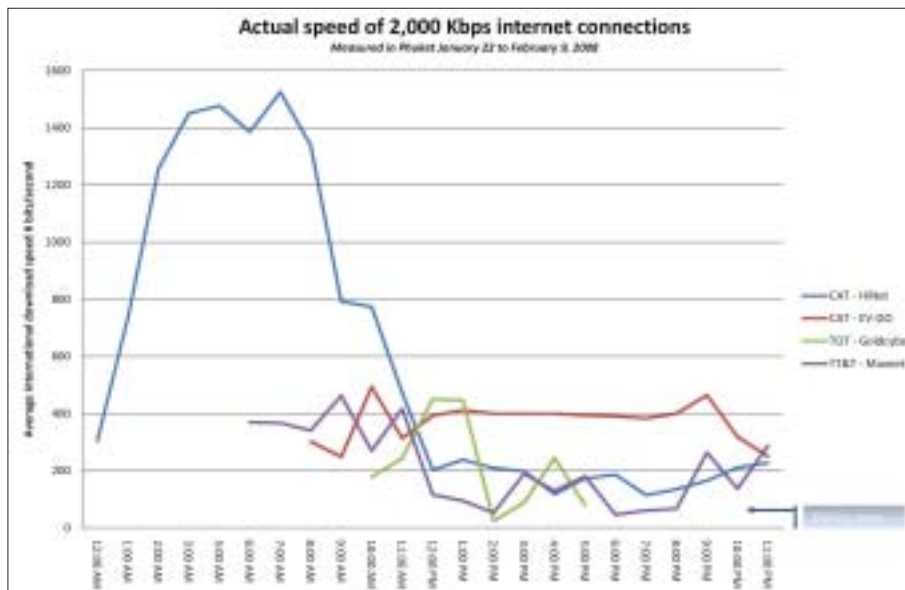
Henry Habermacher, a Microsoft MVP and Access expert, who's affiliated with X-NET Computer Peripherals Supply in Phuket, has come up with a dynamite website that lets people all over Phuket log their international Internet speeds.

Drop by www.live-access.com/PhuketInternet.aspx and see how folks all over the island are doing. You can look at the data, download it, work with it and get a feel for the various products. At this point, as you can see in the chart, it isn't a pretty sight.

For consistency, we all use one specific speed test – the ADSLReports.com Java-based test – to one specific site in the US. The results should give you a very good idea about real-world international Internet access from Phuket.

If you would like to take part and contribute your own readings to the island-wide database, drop me a line (Woody@KhunWoody.com) or come by one of the Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions.

Give me a logon id and password (your choice), tell me which Internet service or services you use and where you're located. You, too, can help keep tabs on our increasingly depressing state of the Internet.



Are you paying for a 2 Mbps ADSL connection? This is what other people on the island are experiencing – and it's not a pretty sight.

About the graph, I was surprised to see that the CAT Hi-Net ADSL service, which used to be quite fast, doesn't recover until well after midnight. As long as you work between 1 am and 9 am, the CAT line can keep up. After 11 am, forget it.

The winner overall is CAT's EV-DO "AirCard" service. If you want reliable, relatively quick Internet service, don't use an ADSL line. Go to the CAT office (on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City) and buy a DO card.

You can buy AirCards many places in Phuket, but the only ones that work with the fast Internet service are the ones sold at CAT. I've talked about the EV-DO service in these pages many times before. For a quick overview, go to www.phuketgazette.com/computers/index.asp and click on the link marked "Fast wireless Internet is back."

The EV-DO speeds are so good – and they stay good throughout the day – that I would be willing to bet EV-DO customers are routed differently to the rest of the world than the rest of us.

Perhaps CAT Hi-Net, TOT and TT&T customers hit the Bangkok-Bangrak roadblock, while EV-DO customers get out of Thailand via a different line.

I'll be following up on that intriguing possibility in future columns.

Some people wonder why I'm so insistent on measuring international speeds instead of Internet speeds to Bangkok.

When the Thai phone companies report their connection speeds to the Thai government, they emphasize their in-country Internet access speeds.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

When TOT issues press releases about installing 1 Gbps lines in Phuket, they're talking about 1 Gbps inside Thailand –

and it remains to be seen if there will be any significant attempt to improve access outside of

Thailand.

Of course, in most cases, international access speeds are far more important than domestic speeds. Unless you spend most of your time online working on websites inside Thailand, the in-

ternational figures are far more important. But there's more to the story.

It may surprise you to learn that many of Thailand's large websites aren't located in Thailand. If you book a flight on THAI Airways, for example, you use the thaiairways.com server in Centennial, Colorado, in the US. The Bumrungrad Hospital website is hosted in Milton, Queensland, Australia.

The Bangkok Post website emanates from Denver, Colorado. Even the Tourism Authority of Thailand, tourismthailand.com, is hosted in Toronto, Canada.

Slow speeds connecting the rest of the world with Thailand-based websites suffer the same problem – but the other way around.

If you're outside Thailand and want to get on a web server inside Thailand, you're subjected to the same kind of degraded – and degrading – service we see in Phuket.

Is there any wonder why THAI Airways, for example, chooses to have its servers in the US?

Woody (www.AskWoody.com) writes computer books For Dummies... and articles.

PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On Feb 17 and 24, from 10:00 to noon, we'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, next to Wine Connection. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at www.KhunWoody.com, or check out www.ozvisual.com/forum/pclubforum.php

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ON THE MOVE

Chris Bailey has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Centara Hotels & Resorts.

Mr Bailey, a British national, has more than 25 years experience in the travel and tourism industry. He has worked as Managing Director for Tours of East Thailand and Hong Kong, Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Sun Cruises and Marketing and Sales Director for the UK company Orient Lines.

Mr Bailey was Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Centara Hotels & Resorts for 4 years before his promotion.



Francois Huet from France has been appointed Area General Manager at Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts in Phuket.

In his new role, Francois is responsible for leading and running the overall operational activities of all Phuket business areas, consisting Banyan Tree Phuket, Allamanda Laguna Phuket and the Max Wexler designed Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

A veteran hotelier, Francois spent 12 years with the InterContinental Hotels and Resorts group. In 2005, he was promoted to Area General Manager of the Bintan Business Area.



Peter Komposch from Austria has been appointed General Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. He has an associate degree in culinary arts and hotel administration, as well as a certificate from Cornell University.

Mr Komposch has 27 years experience in the hotel industry, starting his career in 1980 as FB Manager at Hyatt Regency Maui, Hawaii.

In 1986, he was Vice-President and General Manager of Highland Inn, Carmel, California. Before joining Dusit, he was General Manager of Half Moon, Rosehall, Jamaica.



PHUKET: In a letter to the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) dated February 4, Wotif.com Holdings Limited (Wotif) announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire all of the issued shares in Asia Web Direct (HK) Limited.

Asia Web Direct (AWD) shareholders have agreed to a multi-million dollar sales price payable in a combination of cash and Wotif shares. Completion of the transaction is conditional upon satisfactory due diligence and is expected to occur before the end of next month.

The letter to the ASX stated that the AWD network attracts approximately 3 million visitors a month, and that in 2007 it achieved bookings of about 450,000 room nights. The letter also notes that AWD's business has shown "consistent growth both in revenues and profits over the last 5 years," and that its room inventory now comes from more than 4,000 hotels in Southeast Asia.

Although AWD is a Hong Kong-registered company, its origins are in Phuket through the

Milestone merger adds luster to corporate Phuket

founding of Phuket Computer Services Co Ltd by Neil Cumming, his son, Stuart, and their Thai partner, Jirapa "Sii" Eawsakul, in 1993.

AWD, with Mr Cumming as President and K. Sii as CEO, now has operations in Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK and a staff of more than 150, with more than 90 in Phuket.

Phuket.com was the company's first website, and AWD now has more than 100 travel sites in operation. Phuket.com is still the best performer and Phuket is home to the company's biggest operations office.

Mr Cumming and K. Sii have both agreed to remain in their current roles post-acquisi-

tion. Mr Cumming has also agreed to join Wotif's board of directors.

In addition to increasing substantially the scale of Wotif's Asian operations, the acquisition of AWD is expected to enhance the combined group's attractiveness as a distribution channel for Asian hoteliers, and to provide Wotif's existing suppliers with further distribution via the AWD network sites.

Mr Cumming told the *Gazette*, "Asia Web Direct has reached a stage in its development where it is ideally placed to capture more of the increasing Asian online market."

"I am looking forward to actively participating in this growth, both through my continuing role in the business and as a director and shareholder in Wotif.com Holdings."

The past few years has seen outstanding performance by AWD. "The group has been prof-

itable every year for at least the past five years and, with the exception of the 'tsunami effect' in 2005, has enjoyed revenue growth of around 40% year on year with profit growth to match," Mr Cumming said.

"The deal announced today will offer additional security to the entire Asia Web Direct team, and far greater opportunities to drive growth in this increasingly competitive market," he added.

Looking beyond the merger, Mr Cumming said, "We hope to leverage the additional product and market penetration from the respective operations into improved sales overall."

"Both organizations are heavily biased towards advanced

technology, so we are confident that we will continue to innovate and keep abreast of web developments."

"Phuket will continue to play a leading role due to its importance in tourism and its attractions as a place to live and run high-tech businesses," he said.

"Wotif will use AWD as their Asian operation and all existing staff in Asia will be merged into that structure."

"As the existing AWD companies will stay as they are, staff terms and conditions will not be affected. We all see this market as a growth opportunity and expect to increase staffing in existing and additional locations."

"Last-minute bookings will continue to be a key part of the business whilst our 365-day advance booking sites might play an increasing role," he added.

'Wotif will use AWD as their Asian operation and all existing staff in Asia will be merged into that structure.'

**- Neil Cumming
President,
Asia Web Direct**

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The US struggles to avoid debt recession

This year promises to be difficult in many respects. Growth is slowing in many major economies and recession may already be evident in the US and Japan. Europe is also finding itself slowing down.

One factor these economies share is rising inflation, with the main causes being higher commodity prices.

Food prices are rising. Never in the history of mankind have so many people in such a short period enjoyed such an increase in their standard of living. The booming economies of China, India, Vietnam and many other emerging countries are having a large impact on their average citizens' buying power. One of the first things that people spend their increased income on is food.

Also, many crops are being diverted for use as biofuels, making them unavailable as extra food supply. This is adding to pressure on prices to rise.

America is facing a series of problems. In the newer category is the housing mess and associated sub-prime shambles. Credit rating agency Standard & Poors recently estimated that, in addition to the US\$100 billion in already announced losses, there are at least another US\$265 billion still to be written off.

Many economists believe that this second round of losses will be from a much wider group, including regional US banks, American and foreign municipalities, and other investors, such as pension funds.

Commentators are placing the blame for this on the shoulders of the US central bank, the Federal Reserve. In particular, accusing former chairman Alan Greenspan of keeping interest rates too low for too long earlier this decade.

The "Fed" and Mr Greenspan may have kept interest rates too low and for too long, but this

was no excuse for America's lenders to go on a spree.

The real reason for this financial fiasco was that America's lenders had no intention of retaining these loans on their balance sheets.

The idea was to sell as many loans as possible and to package them en masse and sell them to other investors with different labels, such as a collateralized debt obligation (CDO) or structured-investment vehicle (SIV).

Then, it was a matter of caveat emptor ("Let the buyer beware"). The buyers of this debt were "blind-sided" by high investment-grade credit ratings issued by the major credit rating agencies, normally triple "A" or at least double "A".

This, in turn, made these "investment vehicles" legally allowable for inclusion in the holdings of pension funds and other large investors.

Now, with the spotlight on these "investment vehicles", the credit-rating agencies are rapidly placing them on review for credit-rating downgrades.

This leaves some serious legal problems. For example, most pension funds are allowed to invest in debt investments only if they are at least of investment-grade quality. The credit downgrades are relabeling this "investment-grade debt" as "junk".

The only entities actually paying the fees levied by the credit-rating agencies are the issuers of this "paper" – that is, the banks and other lenders. This is leaving credit-rating agencies open to legal attack by those who stand to lose money.

In addition, in the US, many of these loans are insured by com-

panies that specialize in bond insurance, such as MBIA. These companies in turn are being forced to pay compensation to investors and, due to the vast sums involved, the solvency of the bond insurers is being questioned. Popular opinion is that the total amount of compensation could reach US\$1.25 trillion.

No-one is really sure of this figure; it is something of a worst-case scenario. While the real impact is unknown, it could be so large that the proposed Federal fiscal stimulus package of around US\$157 billion pales in comparison.

Should all this come to pass, there are still solutions. First, the US will have to accept more involvement from Sovereign Wealth Funds. Such help, however, even if foreign governments were prepared to entertain this proposition, would come with many strings attached.

Second, the US government can print money to cover the losses. This is highly inflationary, but it would not be the first time that a government has taken this route to reduce debt.

A third option would take a combination of these two scenarios.

The US has one advantage: its central bank. The US Fed is aware of the problems and its aggressive cutting of interest rates will assist the eventual recovery.

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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Raging Bull lives the dream

By Scott Mallon

In Cebu, Philippines, on February 2, a bout dubbed "Now or Never" saw the IBF super-flyweight eliminator between Filipino Z "The Dream" Gorres (27-2-2, 15 KOs) and Armenian Vic "The Raging Bull" Darchinyan (29-1-1, 23 KOs) to determine the challenger to IBF world champion Dimitri Kirilov. The bout ended in a draw, which caused turmoil and confusion.

Gorres, a southpaw, came out quickly, firing out jabs and preventing Darchinyan from gaining momentum. Later in the round, referee Lance Revill erroneously called a Gorres slip a knockdown, prompting a near-instantaneous salvo of plastic bottles and coins from the crowd. It was at this point that Revill, flustered by the rowdy Filipino crowd, seemed to lose control of the bout.

By round 10 it was clear that Darchinyan was the stronger of the two fighters. Gorres went to the canvas three times in the final four rounds, two of which may have been legitimate knockdowns missed by the referee. A fatigued Gorres managed to hang on to finish the bout, but then came the anti-climax: the decision.

Judge Jonathan Davis (PI) had it 114-112 for Darchinyan, judge Montol Suriyachand (TH) scored it for Gorres 113-112, while judge Cec Perkins (AU) cast a 113-113 score, rendering the bout a draw.

Darchinyan's promoter, Gary Shaw, stated that he will file a protest with the IBF. "The referee [Lance Revill] has never



Z "The Dream" Gorres (right) and Vic Darchinyan (left) go at it. The back-and-forth battle was declared a draw.

done a world-title fight outside of New Zealand and I think the pressure of the hostile environment got to him. I think it also affected the Thai judge and the Australian judge. The Thai judge scored the 10th and 11th rounds for Gorres, which were very clearly Vic's rounds," he said.

Kirilov's mandatory title defense is due within 90 days. Due to the severity of his cut, Gorres will be unable to train for the bout, leaving Darchinyan to challenge for the title with the winner then facing Gorres.

In Jakarta, Indonesia, the World Boxing Concert mixed prizefights with dinner, dancing girls and Indonesia's top rock bands in an effort to bring something different to the boxing norm.

Despite the hoopla, there was no doubt as to what was the real draw: the WBA featherweight-title fight between Indonesia's iconic champion Chris John and mandatory challenger Roinet Caballero of Panama.

Both fighters started the bout tentatively, with John feinting and Caballero in motion, occasionally lunging in and attempting to surprise John with a big shot.

By the end of the round, John was landing his jab and peppering Caballero with body shots, further fanning the flames of the

Indonesian crowd.

Caballero picked up the pace in the next two rounds, but John was the sharper of the pair, bludgeoning the Panamanian with stiff jabs and counter rights. Caballero was game and came to fight, coming forward whenever John would allow it, landing sporadically, but, for the most part, ineffectively.

By the seventh round, John was in charge and Caballero had no defense against John's pinpoint punches. Like a wrecking ball bent on demolishing a resilient building, left hook after left hook crashed into the liver of Caballero and by the end of the round, it was clear the end was near.

Between rounds, referee Raul Caiz Jr looked in on Caballero to appraise his condition. Seconds later, just before the start of round eight, Caballero's corner admitted defeat and the bout was stopped.

John earned \$215,000 for defending his title, while Caballero received \$70,000. The victory moves the champion's record to 41-0-1, with 22 Kos, while the loser drops to 22-8-1, with 16 Kos.

Southeast Asia's boxing year has started with a bang with a couple of world-title fights and more to come throughout the region in the next two months.

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Young swimmers take on the Flying Fish

PHUKET: The Flying Fish Swim Club from British International School, Phuket, held their first Yanang Cup on February 9 with more than 100 swimmers from four clubs taking part.

Thirty BIS students were joined by 18 swimmers from Saphan Hin 1, who train at the Phuket City Municipality pool; 28 from Saphan Hin 2, who train at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) pool; and 27 from the Phuket Andaman Swim Club.

Sixty-four races were held over 50 meters, 100m and 200m across five age groups: up to eight years old, nine to 10 years old, 11 to 12, 13 to 14, and 15 years and older.

BIS were the fastest team on the day, scoring 756 points, averaging 25.2 points per race. Saphan Hin 2 were second, with an average race score of 23, while Phuket Andaman Swim Club came third, scoring an average of 22.81 points per race.

Winners of each race were awarded 15 points for their respective teams, while second place picked up 13 points on a sliding scale down to one point for last place.

BIS swim coach Torwai "Oat" Sethasothorn said, "We wanted to get a group of swimmers in Phuket together to show their abilities. It was a good chance to have Thai swimmers competing with foreign children. This will help make them want to race better swimmers."

The best local swimming talent was on hand, including BIS swim team captains Gavin Lewis and Karnnika Porter, who used the competition as a warm-up for the Thailand junior nationals in Ubon Rachathani in March.

Also in March, 20 Flying Fish will travel to Perth, Australia, to compete in the Indian Ocean Challenge, where swimmers from Australia, Asia and Africa will compete for the coveted team title won by the Asian team last year.



The 11th Phang Nga Bay Regatta was held from February 7 to 10.

Photo by John Everingham

Ruby Tuesday shines like a diamond

By Chris Husted

PHUKET: John Vause returned to Phuket racing in style last week on *Ruby Tuesday*, winning the Racing class of the 11th Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta, held from February 7 to 10, with three first-place finishes and one second place out of four races.

Mike Downard on *Switchblade* finished in second place in the class, followed by Hans Rahmann and crew on *Yasooda*.

Khao Ping Gan win petanque tourney

MAI KHAO: Khao Ping Gan Team from Phang Nga beat Phuket 1 Team to win the top division and 10,000 baht in prize money in the Southern Meteorological Center West Coast (SMC) annual petanque tournament on February 9 at its grounds opposite Phuket International Airport.

The Phuket Meteorological Department won the second division and 1,500 baht. The third-division champs were the players from Kanaab Nam Team, from Krabi, who won 1,000 baht.

Of the 19 under-15 teams, Saphan Hin Youths 3 walked away with first place, a trophy and 1,500 baht.

In Cruising A class, veteran helmsman Niels Dgenkolf finished first overall on *Phoenix*, followed by *Wings* and Reinhard Haiber on *Pytheas Aura*.

Closing racing around the bay saw Jim Ellis on *Remington* win Cruising B class on a countback, relegating Chris Kingsley-Smith on *Amandla Star* to second place. Keith MacKay on *Delfina* placed third overall in the class in which 17 yachts contested.

Roger Kingdon collected another piece of silverware to add to his already impressive collection by dominating the one-design Firefly 850 class on *Moto Inzi* with four wins.

Phuket veteran sailor Henry Kaye, who has raced in every single King's Cup so far, finished second in the class on *Mamba*, followed by Bill Phelps on *Twin Sharks*. Chris Jongerius finished fourth in the class on *The Frog*.

Mark Pescott on *Summer-salt* also added to his long tally of

regatta victories, winning the Multihull class. After finishing fourth in the first race from Ao Por to Koh Yao Yai, Pescott stepped up the pace and posted three consecutive wins. Bob Brindley on *Xcatriot* finished third in the class, followed by Bill Web on *Out of the Bag*.

Lindsey Lane won the Sunsail one-design class on *Princess Sharda*, followed by Brendon Atkins on *Princess Isabella* and John Mills on *Princess Anna*.

Originally intended as little more than a "fun jaunt around the bay", the Phang Nga Bay Regatta has since gained a reputation as the "party regatta" on Phuket's yachting calendar – an event of fun surprises.

Keeping in that theme, at the elaborate closing party hosted on the beach in front of the Royal Phuket Yacht Club at Nai Harn, it was announced that at next year's Phang Nga Bay Regatta US\$20,000 in prize money will be up for grabs.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: It was another week with a few surprises, as Valhalla got their second win on the road by beating Dogs Bollocks 5-4, Offshore learned that a Sick Buffalo likes beer, and Market Bar got their first point by beating Beach House.

In the match between Queen Mary and Simply Red, Queen Mary had to play five against six. Despite the disadvantage, Queen Mary won the beer leg when Steen closed out on 55 (15, x20). At Soi Kebsup, Piccadilly scored a 7-2 win over Shakers.

Swedish Chris, playing with Ulf, hit a 140 in the doubles then threw the match-winning dart by checking out on 86 (T18, x32).

Ulf, one of four Piccadilly players to toss in a 140, checked out the beer leg by closing out double-tops the hard way (x5, x15).

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

February 5 results: Queen Mary* 6 Simply Red 3; Dogs Bollocks* 4 Valhalla 5; Piccadilly* 7 Shakers 2; Offshore 6 Sick Buffalo* 3; Beach House 4 Market Bar* 5 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1.= Queen Mary, Piccadilly (12 pts); 3. Offshore (10); 4.= Dogs Bollocks, Sick Buffalo (5); 6.= Valhalla, Beach House, Shakers (4); 9. Market Bar (3); 10. Simply Red (1).

February 19 matchups: Queen Mary v Shakers; Dogs Bollocks v Market Bar; Piccadilly v Beach House; Valhalla v Offshore; Simply Red v Sick Buffalo (= home team first).

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Ask and ye shall receive... maybe

Should we ask questions? Is it really worth the effort? I'm sure we could save ourselves a lot of time by not bothering to ask them in the first place. In many cases, we know before opening our mouths that our inquiry will produce no logical response.

We certainly shouldn't ask the owners of certain vehicles why they feel the urge to attach little blue lights to their washer jets or blue fluorescent bulbs to the undersides of their cars.

I tend to ask too many questions. Why, under Thai law, is it illegal to buy a bottle of beer between 2 pm and 5 pm, yet if you want to buy 30 bottles, that's perfectly all right? Basically, if you fancy a quick beer, you can't, but if you intend to get exceptionally drunk, you can purchase as much beer as you want.

Thailand isn't the only place where there is no point in asking questions. People in my home town in Yorkshire some years ago decided that they wanted to improve the market place; the same market place that hadn't required any improvements for several hundred years.

The local town council decided that the democratic way ahead would be to come up with four different designs and allow residents of the town to vote for the best one. We did exactly that and the results were announced several weeks later. One design received about 70% of the vote. A clear winner; simple, you would have thought.

The council then decided that they didn't like the results and went ahead with a redevelopment



Tomatoes are referred to as vegetables to distinguish them from sweeter fruits. Let's face it, greengrocers don't really care as long it sells. Tomatoes and peppers are actually flowering plants.

Nuts are no different – they're tree seeds. Peanuts aren't nuts though – they're a variety of bean. Peas and beans are vegetables. Don't you just hate the exceptions to the rules? Peas in a pod are fruits, along with string beans; the green-bean pod and the beans inside are fruits. Tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons and squash are fruits, too. Even the chili falls into this category.

The fruit side gets a bit complicated at times, as some fruits don't contain real seeds. For example, most varieties of banana don't contain seeds as we'd normally think of them and strawberries have their pathetic at-

tempt at seeds on the outside.

So why are most fruits sweet? Just to encourage young boys to jump over walls and help themselves to the contents of orchards? Well, nearly. Most fruits are sweet because they contain a simple sugar called fructose, while most vegetables are less sweet because they have much less fructose. In nature, the sweetness of fruit encourages animals to eat it and then later distribute the seeds in the most natural way possible.

One of the problems with all these definitions is that the word "vegetable" is a greengrocer's term. Let's face it, greengrocers don't really care as long it sells. In horticulture, people talk about growing "flowers and vegetables". That doesn't really make sense either, as tomatoes and peppers are actually flowering plants.

I'm confusing myself now. Does it really matter what we call them at the end of the day? This is what comes from asking questions – we shouldn't bother as there really aren't any answers. I would like to know what those little blue lights are for, though.

based on a totally new design that none of the town wanted.

The question was asked, "Why did you bother?" but we all realized that there would never be an answer.

Gardening raises questions too. Someone once asked me what the difference is between a fruit and a vegetable. For once, I thought I had an answer. Unfortunately, that answer isn't as obvious as it might first appear.

Things are fairly easy in the fruit department – most of them are sweet and can be eaten uncooked, straight off the tree. Apples, bananas, oranges and all those usual suspects are obviously fruity.

Apologies for getting all biological, but scientifically, a fruit is a plant ovary, or womb. The fruit of a plant contains the seeds of the next generation of that plant. Vegetables, on the other hand, are

essentially everything else: the seeds themselves (peas and beans, for example), stems (asparagus), leaves (lettuce and spinach), stems and leaves (morning glory), flowers (broccoli and cauliflower), and roots (carrots and potatoes). To be really nitpicky, a fruit could be a vegetable, but a vegetable could not be a fruit.

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Home of the Week

Rawai

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This two-story house in Rawai is fully equipped with everything one needs for entertaining. There is plenty of storage space, a pool bar and large BBQ imported from Australia. Every room has air conditioning.

The 850-square-meter plot is located on a quiet street with no through traffic. The front exterior wall of the home is in natural stonework and there is a sandwash driveway leading to a large, two-car garage.

The dining room, living room, study and kitchen are on the main floor. The living room has sliding glass doors that open to the poolside veranda. The dining room and kitchen are separated from the living room by swinging wooden doors. Plenty of windows in the dining room allow for natural light and garden views.

The office/study on the main floor has a wood desk and sliding glass doors leading to the patio allowing for light, natural breezes and easy access to the pool.

The patio has wood ceilings, a fan and lights. There is wooden furniture and a table that can seat 10 people. The pool is 77sqm,



FUN, FUN FUN: This home is fully furnished and laid out for maximum entertainment value.

but has hardly been lived in. There is ample storage space and a water-filtration system, making the tap water potable. The house has three-phase electricity and is properly earthed.

Landscaping includes palm trees and there are security lights outside and around the house. Maximum privacy is afforded by a wall around the garden and backyard pool area.

The house comes fully furnished, including lamps, tables, televisions, mirrors, garden furniture and all tools. Available for sale at 12.9 million baht.

with a surrounding sitting area with lounge chairs and a pool bar with stools.

The kitchen is spacious and fitted to European standards. Natural wood cupboards provide plenty of space and granite counters are clean and modern. There is a dishwasher, refrigerator, gas range oven and a fridge.

There is a large laundry area and the house comes with a washing machine and tumble dryer.

A wide staircase with ornate iron railings leads to the second level, which has a gorgeous wooden ceiling.

Upstairs are four bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. The

master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe and large private balcony. The master bathroom is spacious and luxurious and has a built-in seat.

The three other bedrooms share a large balcony and each feature a built-in wardrobe that is cleverly recessed into the wall.

The house is four years old,

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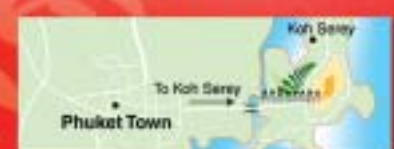
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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel



Phase 1 of The Beverly Hills project will occupy about six rai, including the frontage along Chao Fa West Rd.

Clearing starts for B1bn Chalong project

CHALONG: Work has begun on clearing 69 rai of rubber plantation opposite the Phuket Provincial Electricity Office substation on Chao Fa West Rd for the one-billion-baht The Beverly Hills project, which is being developed by AV Real Estate.

AV Real Estate Managing Director Vutiphan Wangprakob-suk told the *Gazette* that the project will be in five phases. Construction, to be carried out by Gold Future Co Ltd, is expected to start by the end of March.

The first phase will occupy about six rai, including the frontage along Chao Fa West Rd. It will comprise 38 units that K. Vutiphan described as "modern home-office units", which will be housed in three, three-story blocks. Prices for these units will start at 4.3 million baht.

"We have designed our home offices so that they do not look too much like other 'general commercial buildings'. We have designed them to match the modern Balinese resort style we have used throughout the entire project," K. Vutiphan said.

The remaining four phases will be developed in sequence, one behind the other, away from the main road and heading up Khao Noi hill.

Current plans for Phase 2 comprise 41 three-bedroom bungalows on plots averaging 240 square meters at prices starting at 4.2 million baht. This phase will be built on nine rai, although the number of houses in this phase

may vary, depending on whether buyers want bigger plots, said K. Vutiphan.

Phase 3 will comprise 25 bungalows on 300sqm plots at prices starting at 5.7 million baht and 30 two-story detached houses on 400sqm plots at prices starting at 7.5 million baht.

Phase 4 is set for 44 to 50 two-story detached houses with private pools and on plots averaging 600sqm. Prices for these units start at 12.7 million baht.

The final phase is set to be built on 11 rai atop Khao Noi. K.

Vutiphan explained that it will comprise a total of 15 one- and two-story detached houses, each with a private pool. Prices for Phase 5 units are expected to start at 15 million baht, he said.

"Work on the first and second phase is expected to be finished around April 2009. I think we will have about 85% of Phases I and II complete by the end of this year. We now have about 200 construction workers on hand and need only about 85 workers for Phase I, the rest will work on Phase II," he said.

"We have cleared about 30% of the rubber trees, but we are not cutting down other big trees to make sure that the project has green areas."

Work on Phases 3, 4 and 5 are expected to start March next year after Phases I and II are complete, he said. The first four phases are expected to be complete by mid-2010. Work on the clubhouse will start after the third

phase is about 50% complete, he added.

"Work on Phase 5 will start after all the other phases are finished," K. Vutiphan said.

"We have set aside about one rai on the hilltop for a clubhouse that will have a fitness center, swimming pool, game room, kids' corner and a restaurant. From this elevation, we can see the old tin mine at [the] Chaofa City [site]," he added.

K. Vutiphan said that the development was well suited to the Phuket property market, where buyers have the capacity to buy high-quality homes. "Foreigners and Thais are coming to live and work here, so homes are very important. No-one wants to rent a house for the rest of their lives," he said.

"The project will offer good living to residents. Strips of land 20 meters wide have been set aside for the main roads within the development and areas 16 meters wide for the smaller roads.

"All power cables will be installed underground and free digital cable TV will be installed in every home," he said.

K. Vutiphan explained that the project was not related to the Beverly Hills development in Patong, which was caught up in a landslide last September.

"We decided to use the name Beverly Hills for the project, not only because there is a hill in our area, but also because we wanted to present a good image to potential residents who want to live in a high-quality project."

For more information contact AV Real Estate. 156/28 Phang Nga Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-355859, 081-373 6969. Fax: 076-355862.

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Decor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit



The right choice of lighting can enhance an environment. The cool tones used here smooth the corners and create a feeling of openness.

Light up your life to transform your home

Choosing the right lighting throughout your home can make or break each room's ambiance and appeal.

Lighting specialist and owner of Phuket Lamp Jakrapon "Duke" Wichan offers consultancy, design and installation of lighting for homes and offices – and he had a few ideas to share with the *Gazette* about how to get your shine on at home.

When considering lighting concepts, you ought to think of the tone of a room, taking into consideration where the lighting will go, because the tone of light will dictate a room's ambiance, said K. Duke.

Warm tones, such as ivory,

oranges and reds, are arousing and refreshing. They make a room cozy and can put you in a good mood, he said.

In contrast, cool tones, such as blues and greens, will give a room a light, plain look, but these colors can soften corners and hard edges. Use these tones to create a feeling of openness that conveys a sense of freedom, he added.

Mixing warm and cool colors in the same room is a bad idea, according to K. Duke. It makes a room look plain and lacking in personality.

When choosing decorative lighting for bedrooms, consider the function of the lighting you're going to use. For example, controls for reading lamps should be easy to reach from your bed. Soft, warm tones can instill feelings of relaxation in a bedroom, explained K. Duke.

In any living area, an unobstructed soft light source next to a television set will prevent eyes from straining while watching television in the dark, he added.

Lighting in a kitchen is not just for cooking, but to light up other surfaces.

If you only have downlights in a kitchen, they will cast shadows over counter tops.

Lighting should be installed

to light up a kitchen's counter, sink and cooking areas, he suggested.

When installing lights in a bathroom, ensure that there is some kind of ventilation so that circuitry will not be affected by dampness.

Suitable lights for a bathroom include halogen downlights, which create a soft atmosphere.

Too many lamps in a bathroom will raise the temperature and give a room a harsh look, he warned.

LED lamps are the latest trend in lighting. They are versatile and energy efficient, with a lifespan of between 10 and 15

years.

LED lighting works well in a home to decorate a bar counter or light up a home theater, he said.

Deciding what type of lighting to use in any given room is ultimately a personal choice based on taste and the function of the rooms being lit up, said K. Duke.

Phuket Lamp supplies lighting for indoor and outdoor use, including lights for installation in the ground or underwater. The showroom is on Soi Bangcheelao 2, Rassada, Phuket City. Contact for further details. Tel: 076-218061, 089-1211642. Email: dayuke@hotmail.com



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Property Gazette

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One-bedroom suite of 82 sqm on ground floor with pool and golf course view. The unit is part of the hotel's rental pool. For sale at 6.2 million baht, golf membership included. For more info email or contact the owner at Tel: 061-424724843. Email: nnongchanok@hotmail.com

LAND MISSION HEIGHTS

225sq wah or 900sqm for 1.8 million baht or best cash offer. Concrete road, 3-phase electric, 10 mins from airport. Blue Canyon golf club. Call Khun So. Tel: 081-3444473.

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG BEACH

Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, by the beach road. 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE



Rawai Saiyuan, 3 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, living area with Thai-European kitchen. Private swimming pool and 2 carparks. Price 6.9 million baht. Email: j-jinn@hotmail.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

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

LARGE MAI KHAO FAMILY HOUSE

645sqm, Chanote, 2-stories, seaview, 3 aircons, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living area, Western kitchen. Located in a quiet community. Price: 11.9 million baht. Tel: 076-206595, 081-4775510. Email: phuket.house@yahoo.com

SURIN/BANG TAO APARTMENT

Club Lersuang, 2 bedrooms, ground floor, lots of facilities. 5.95 million baht. Tel: 076-271870, 087-0790650. Email: mlcberg@netvigator.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.

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

NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 300m from the new pier. 3.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: thanque4@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT

Beautiful 2-bedroom ground floor apartment, overlooking gardens and pool. 2 min walk to Bang Tao Beach. Fully furnished. 10 million baht. Please contact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259.

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

TROPICAL POOL-VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

NAI HARN HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, cable TV, furnished. 3.9 million baht. Please contact me for further details. Tel: 083-1720876. Email: villawillis@gmail.com

KAMALA 3-BEDROOM

1.25 rai, quiet hillside location, 2km to the beach and shops. Tel: 081-8935626. Email: richard@amwso.com

KATA BEACHFRONT REDUCED!

bargain price. Luxury 2-bedroom apartment. 210sqm, pools, spa, 5-star. Quick sale, price: 16.9 million baht. Tel: 089-9726017. For further details, please visit our website at http://www.koumbele.com/kata2

SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

BACKPACKER GUEST HOUSE

for sale. 150 meters from Yanui Beach. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, 1-bedroom apartments with sea views. Room for expansion. 12-year lease, 2.8 million baht, rent is 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-0904378. Email: elliot09@excite.com

LAND FOR SALE

99sq wah with Chanote near Rajabhat intersection. Access to road on 3 sides (Thepkasattri and KuKu road). Very good location. 15 million baht. Tel: 084-3091083.

LAND FOR MEGA-PROJECT

Description: land in Chiang Rai for sale. 917 rai total. Centrally located 2km from River Kok. Ideal for all sorts of development. Price: 230,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-4312188. Email: blinks_88@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

LOCH PALM LAND

for sale, 2.5 rai, good location, can split. Call for more details. Tel: 086-2790837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

RAWAI LAND

First to view will buy. 2 level plots with hill views in exclusive gated community. Road, electricity and water. 1,009sqm for 4.4 million baht. 1,185sqm for 5.1 million baht. Tel: 089-9702745.

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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.
- Chanote title, electricity
- 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price: 50 million baht.

Call 081-8687676, 087-2709093

Property Gazette

LUXURY VILLA NAI HARN/RAWAI



720sqm land plot. Guesthouse, ADSL, True TV, sala, swimming pool. Quality building and finishings. 11.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7310283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

10 min drive across Sarasin Bridge, Chanote title, 38 rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotels or residential projects. Nice location, just 300 meters from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.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.

MODERN OFFICE BUILDING

Two-story office building centrally located in Chalong with the following facilities:

- 10 rooms on 408sqm of office space
- 3 toilets with showers
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- Conference room
- Private parking
- Internet, phone lines and fax installed
- Sea view on second floor
- Chanote land title

The building is suitable for any company that wishes to make a professional impression and operate in a central and safe location close to Chalong Circle. Asking price is 15 million baht ono. Great investment opportunity for the right company. Tel: 076-282211, 081-8926251. Email: michael@origopub.com

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 10x4m. Thai-style sala. Fish pond. Thai-style parking for 2 cars. Storage room. Contact Manuel Pinto. Tel: 081-8923172.

NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western kitchen. 95 million baht. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

FLAT LAND IN KAMALA

1 to 5.5 rai. Chanote, road and electric supply. Exclusive location a few mins from beach. From 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalataills.com

LAND FOR SALE

22 rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor) near Mission Hills Golf Club, hotels and residential areas. 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

HOUSE RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 8x4m swimming pool. 6.2 million baht. Photos available. Tel: 089-6666726. Email: lasonth@ksc.th.com

BIG HOUSE, HONEST PRICE

New open-plan, 2-story house. 4 bedrooms, great kitchen, 3 bathrooms. Agents welcome. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

DESIRABLE



unique and elegant home/office. This ideally-located property (Samkong Rd, Phuket town) represents the ultimate comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of over 4 million baht, this magnificent property is now available for discerning home buyers. The home consists of: master bedroom with balcony, elegant en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and en-suite toilet/shower and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property also offers a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle car port. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Situated in desirable Choa Fa 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 True TV installed. Price: 7 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: bimvool@aol.com

CHALONG HOUSE



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport, living room, fitted kitchen, dining room, Internet, TV, chanote. 2.45 million baht. Tel: 085-7827551.

SEAVIEW KAMALA



Small plots from 1-2 rai, all have good sea views. Chanote, road and electric. Exclusive location, 2 mins from beach and city center. 7 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalataills.com

LAND FOR SALE OR RENT

- 1) 360sqm corner plot with title deed in Soi Cok Yang for sale at 2.5 million baht.
- 2) 2,344sqm plot and 2 furnished houses, electricity, water and private road, also in Soi Cok Yang: 15 million baht. Can also lease long term at 250,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8921057. Fax: 076-288771. Email: info@phuket-consult.com

LAND FOR SALE

13.3 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna, Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

KARON BEACH

shophouse and guesthouse for sale. Fully furnished. Email: wadsachon@hotmail.com

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

1st floor, unit C-8, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 195 sqm. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 22 million baht. Tel: 081-6144799.

PATONG SEA-VIEW CONDOMINIUMS



Contemporary, exclusive apartments with the best views over Patong from 76 to 275sqm. Starting at 4.8 million baht, up to 20 million baht for the penthouse. Tel: 083-1736521 or visit www.patong-view-talay.com

LAND FOR SALE

Manik-Bangjo land, chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Reduced 1 million baht. 6 rooms, busy bar, restaurant and tour desk. Nanai road. Good profit. Ideal for a couple. Only 2.8 million baht. Contact Andrew. Tel: 087-2825086.

POOL VILLAS FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 3-4 bedrooms, living room, parking, sat TV, Internet, automatic gate, 5 aircons. From 6 million baht. Tel: 087-8933183.

THALANG LAND FOR SALE

4884sqm (3 rai +). Chanote, filled land. Water and electric on site. 2.7km from Airport Rd, in Ton sai area, Thai company. 2 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-2734212. Email: coasters@earthlink.net

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

GATED COMMUNITY IN KAMALA



Small land plots from 500 to 6,500sqm. Exclusive location a few mins from beach and city center. Price 14,000 baht per sqm. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalataill.com

SEAVIEW VILLA



in Rawai-Nai Harn, Phuket. Price: US\$1 million. Land: 700sqm. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, fitness room, swimming pool (communal). 1-minute drive to Rawai Beach, 5 minutes' drive to Nai Harn Beach. Contact K. Sam. Tel: 085-1106449.

NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

House with big land plot 73.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Ready with kitchen, cable TV, telephone, aircon, 3 carparks. Only 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-527023, 089-8737865. Email: nuchpn@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE MAI KHAO

Built in 2005. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with shower, European-style kitchen, sitting room, study, entrance hall and large garden with carport. Total area 1,264sqm. All amenities included and close to main road, local shops, schools, etc. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 076-348435, 081-5380781. Email: blackbag01@yahoo.com

Baan Suai Pana
CHALONG PHUKET

Phase 1 houses for sale or long-term rent. Very private and mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC, swimming pool.

Contact : 089-7243669

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in Sai Yuan for Sale
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Property Gazette

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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.

LUXURY 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Available for long-term rent in Chalong. 5-mins walk to beach. Wi-Fi, True TV, Western kitchen, furnished. 60,000 baht/month, available in March. Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT NAI YANG/AIRPORT

New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL, furnished and fenced perimeter. For long-term rent, 25,000 per month. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

THALANG HOUSE

for long-term rent, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 200sqm, near waterfall. 136/37 Pernjunvilla. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6831147.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

LUXURY VILLA LAGUNA



For details please visit
www.saitaan18.com

KATHU VILLA FOR RENT

3-bedroom, 3-bathroom villa with pool, aircon, maid. 4km to BIS school. Lake, golf course and valley views. Quiet on top of a private hill. Lease: 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

APARTMENT KATA BEACH

For rent, cable TV, furnished and Internet. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-5958512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

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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

KARON ROOM FOR RENT

Aircon, cable TV, hot water, 700 baht per night. 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5375844.

3-BEDROOM RAWAI HOME

for rent. Luxury, fully-furnished, 2-story house with pool and garden for long- or short-term rent. All modern conveniences and services included. Tel: 076-281084.

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

3-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

5 mins from Boat Lagoon and BIS. Includes gardener, pool service and Wi-Fi. 75,000 baht. Tel: 085-4737847.

BOAT LAGOON LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, UBC, TV. Long or short term. Pool, sauna included. Call So. Tel: 081-3444473.

EXOTIC KATA OCEANFRONT

One-bedroom apartment. Pool, spa, ADSL. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.koumbele.com/kata1

SURIN APARTMENT

New 50sqm apartment, 700m from the beach, pool area. From 12,500 baht per week. Tel: +46-707327-657, +46-704178531. Email: matsivarbergstrom@spray.se

NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western kitchen. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

NICE HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



Rawai hill view, 2 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, large living room, telephone, sat TV and tropical garden. For sale at 5.2 million baht or rent at 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-0912905.

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.

CONDOS FOR RENT

Rawai, renovated, aircon, TV, DVD, kitchenette, hot water. Tel: 086-9456650. Email: phuketcomfortcondos@hotmail.com

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW

Bang Tao. Aircon, hot water, furnished, ADSL, cable TV. 700 baht per night; 9,500 baht per month long-term. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

ROOM FOR RENT

15,700 baht per month. Includes laundry, aircon, hot shower, pool. Located on Nanai Rd. Tel: 081-7100007. Fax: 076-512296. Website at www.atnina.com

FULLY-FURNISHED

town home on the bypass road. Western kitchen, 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, ADSL access, cable TV and covered parking lot. For long-term rental. Tel: 081-3700660.

LONG-TERM LAND FOR RENT

1.1 rai on Sokdide Rd. 256m x 886m. Ideal for apartment or resort. In natural location. Tel: 081-8923340.

PEACEFUL HOUSE FOR RENT

New house situated in quiet, peaceful village. Two bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. For long-term rent, 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-187-9049, 089-4746404. Email: onveena@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

for rent. Bang Tao, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. Tel: 087-8933183.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon, True TV, ADSL, furnished. 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from 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.

FOR RENT KATHU

3-bedroom house in private cul-de-sac, 3 bathrooms, refurbished, new Western kitchen. Delightful. Close to Loch Palm golf course and British International School. Rental 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-296072, 089-6498703.

NANAI RD, PATONG

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. 35,000 baht per month including water, electricity, True TV and maid service. Email: kittypatong@hotmail.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

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Specializing in woodwork for boats and houses we are now opening our new office and workshop at Boat Lagoon. Our services include: boat storage and maintenance service, full hull repairs, internal works, teak woodwork, teak wood accessories, fiberglass repairs, spray painting, boat building. Home furniture, kitchens, built-in or moveable bars, counters, work desks and more. Tel: 076-243089, 081-9683118. Fax: 076-242742. Email: info@procarpentering.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.procarpentering.com

EXCEPTIONAL SPEEDBOAT: DONZI 38ZSF USA



Donzi, the famous US boat from *Miami Vice*. Full options. New boat with guarantee. 3 verados, 275 cv mercury, 45 knots, Tuna Tower. One of the most beautiful boats around. Belgian registration, UK company. Available at Royal Phuket Marina. US\$ 395,000. Ready to navigate. Price negotiable for empty boat. High performance motors. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-8935270, 085-2599590. Fax: 076-260152. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr Website: www.tropical-house.net



Find more classified ads
"Boats & Marine"
 at www.phuketgazette.net

Island Job Mart

QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

of Phuket, an American-style school, is recruiting qualified and certified teachers for the 2008/09 school year. We are looking for teachers who love children and believe that all children can succeed. We have the following anticipated vacancies for teachers who want to work in a small and safe school environment: preschool, middle and high school English (not ESL). Please respond by email to: alansiporin@qsi.org Please be prepared to present documented qualifications.

LIVE-IN MAID, SURIN

To clean, sometimes cook. English skills and resum  needed. Tel: 076-325755.

IT-GIGS NEEDS A PHP CODER

Tel: 086-9421969. Please send your CV to info@it-gigs.com

URGENT! VACANT POSITIONS



for real estate office at Bang Tao Place:

- 2 Sales executives
- 2 Administration staff
- 2 Data entry
- 1 Maid/waitress

Pleasant personality, good command of English and well-organized. Interested? Contact us at Tel: 086-5932722. Email: director@12property.com For details visit our website at: www.12property.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER WANTED

Calypso Divers at Kata Beach is looking for a secretary to work at our dive center (Thai nationals only). Your work will include dealing with customers, computer, administration and basic accounting. After 3 months of training you will be promoted to operations manager. Salary depends on performance, 12,000 - 25,000 baht per month. Contact Mr Steffen. Tel: 076-330869, 086-6827818. Fax: 076-330869. Email: steffen@calypsophuket.com

SALES POSITIONS

Wine Connection is looking for Sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wineconnection.co.th

White Box restaurant invites candidates to apply for the following positions:

1) Administration Department

Personal Assistant
Accountant
Sales & Marketing
2) F&B Department
Dining Department
Supervisor/Captain
Waiter/Waitress
Bartender
Food Runner
Cashier

Kitchen Department

Chef de Partie
Commis Hot/Cold
Steward/Cleaner

- > Excellent Salary and Service Charge <
- > All positions are vacant immediately <

Please send your res m :

Email : info@whiteboxrestaurant.com

Or call to: 076-346271

www.whiteboxrestaurant.com

White Box Restaurant

247/5 Prabarami Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket



Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is the market leader in the supply and installation of high-quality, powder-coated aluminium door & window systems for the residential market in Thailand and S.E. Asia.

Due to our success and continued growth, we are seeking individuals who possess the following attributes to join our marketing team in Phuket.

Marketing/Sales Executive (3 positions)

- Smart and pleasant personality
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player
- Self-motivated and goal-minded
- Can work on his/her own initiative
- Good command of English
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office
- Own car

This is an excellent career opportunity and earning potential for the right candidate who is looking for a challenge and to join a growing and dynamic company. Please apply in person or send your C.V. with recent photo to Marketing Manager at:

Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
149/5 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, Thalang, Phuket 83110.

Tel: (076) 527548-9 Fax: Ext. 12
Email: marketing_phuket@sunparadise.com



SALES PERSON WANTED

- Thai national, 25+
- A minimum of 1 year experience
- Good spoken and written English
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel
- Salary 15,000 + commission + petrol

14/4 Moo 5, Chaofa (west), T. Chalong,
A. muang, Phuket 83130

Tel: 076-367395 Fax: 076-280023
email: pascal@taillard-electricity.com

OUTSIDE SALES

Professional, experienced staff needed for sales and marketing of Destination Air seaplane services. Require own transportation, knowledge of Phuket and tourism market, and organization skills. Tel: 076-328505, 081-5362069. Email: pat@destinationair.com For further details, please see our website at www.destinationair.com

NEW FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN

Restaurant at Boat Lagoon Marina is looking for English-speaking staff:

- * Waiter
- * Waitress
- * Barman
- * Cook
- * Steward

Experience needed. For interview, please contact K. Vincent. Tel: 084-8428228.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Chedi Phuket is a well-established resort with 108 cottages and 3 F&B outlets. The resort is currently looking for dedicated professionals to fill the following positions:

Sous Chef

- Male, age 30-38, Thai national
- Hotel School Degree
- A minimum 2 years experience in the same or similar position required
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Enthusiastic, energetic and strong team leader
- Good communication and people skills
- Experience with French and/or Italian cuisine is an asset

Sales Manager

Based in Phuket

- Male or female, Thai national
- Age between 30-35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in sales & marketing, hospitality or related field
- Minimum 3 years sales experience in resort hotels or travel agency
- A dynamic, creative team player with strong interpersonal skills
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Capable of working independently
- Good level of computer literacy
- Have an outgoing and friendly personality

Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a res m  with a recent photo to:

The Chedi Phuket

118 Moo 3, Cheng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110

Tel: 076-324017-20 Fax: 076-324083

Email: personnel@chedi-phuket.com

www.ghmhotels.com

Customer Service Agents

Clear, fluent English speakers
Must be positive and friendly.

Fun & exciting positions with good career prospects for the right person.

Thai national / foreigner.

please send CV to: daniel@topbananamarketing.biz

BREAKERS BAR AND GRILL

We are taking applications for the following positions:

- General manager (foreigner)
- Thai bartender and server (must speak English)

Good salary, great tips. Free room/meals.

Tel: 081-9235743. Email: pangja_ja@yahoo.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI LADY

Afternoon home help. Must have own car or motorbike. Please contact for details. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

OFFICE POSITIONS

Yachtpro requires one senior, for sales and marketing, and one junior for receptionist and administration. Applicants must have good English communication and comprehension skills. Good Salary and conditions. Please apply with CV. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8919653. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dental clinic in Patong is looking for an assistant. Some English required. Payment depends on qualifications and experience. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-296682. Email: info@dentalsea.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Professional and well-organized person to directly control and coordinate dispatch of vehicles, planes, staff and customers. Position also ensures the smooth flow of flight operations on remote island locations between pilots, resorts and customers. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076-328505, 081-5362069. Email: pat@destinationair.com For further details, please see our website at www.destinationair.com

TAPAS & WINE, KATA BEACH

Waiter/waitress with experience in Western-style restaurant needed! Good English skills and flexible working times are required. Recommendation letter from previous employer has to be shown. Please call after 3 pm. Tel: 084-8382685. Email: mona@oceanicdivecenter.com

SWEDISH FEMALE SALESPERSON

We are an expanding travel agent located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish female, age 25+, for an Internet sales position. Computer knowledge is essential, and experience in the travel industry and a good knowledge of Thailand desired. Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Fax: 076-246180.

Apply by sending email to: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

RENTAL SALES

Siam Real Estate urgently requires a Thai national with excellent English and sales experience to sell holiday and long-term rentals. Must drive a car, know the island and have good administrative skills. Good salary and commissions. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

Island Job Mart

British International School, Phuket are now seeking:

Publications and Web Designer

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
- 2-3 years experience web /graphic design
- Excellent knowledge of Computer Graphics Applications
- Experience in using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, HTML, CSS, Macromedia Flash and Dream Weaver
- Experience in developing systems
- Ability to communicate in English
- Good Communication and Presentation skills
- Able to work both in a team and independently

Service Support Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Computer proficient, good typing skills in both Thai and English
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects connected with... Housing Service, Shopping Matters, Ticketing and Accommodation Arrangements, Trip Arrangements and Transportation Coordination

Or Bor Jor Programme Secretary / Secretary Assistant

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor Degree in English or related fields
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments

Maintenance Staff

- Thai National
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in electrical or related fields
- 2 years experience in related field is preferable

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakorn@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th



Due to a recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:

Tape Editor: Reporting to the Production Manager, the Tape Editor will be responsible for editing, in coordination with the TV News Editor and camera operators, each day's raw footage, as well as final edits of our daily program packages.

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:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

JOB VACANCIES

- * General manager
- * Assistant to general manager
- * Sales manager
- * Sales officer

Thais or foreigners invited to apply. English skills required.

Contact the Sinthavee Hotel Phuket.

Tel: 076-211186.

Fax: 076-211400.

Email:

sinthavee@hotmail.com

www.sinthaveehotel.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-4326587.

KARIBI TEAK SHOP

is looking for 2 people. Must have experience in sales and speak English. Good salary. Also, looking for one deliveryman. Contact Alan for more information. Tel: 081-3826326.

STAFF FOR INTERNET

business in Rawai. Thai female staff wanted full-time and part-time (weekend), with computer skills and basic English knowledge. Good salary. Tel: 076-288808, 081-0909640.

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht charter co looking for technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

JOB FOR BOOK LOVERS



BOOKAZINE is Thailand's foreign-language book, newspaper and magazine importer, retailer and distributor with over 60 branches in department stores, airports and tourist attractions. We are planning to open 10 more branches and would like you to join us in the following positions:

PRODUCT ADVISOR

SHOP LOCATIONS: Phuket Airport, Jungceylon, Karon, Samui, Lamai, Chaweng, Phangan and Krabi

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Thai nationals only, under 30 years old
- Bachelor's degree in any field
- Good communication in English
- Good personality, loves delivering good service and loves to read

APPLY AT:

email: hrm@asiabooks.com

www.asiabooks.com/cs/service_opportunities.asp

HR. Division, Recruitment Section, BKK

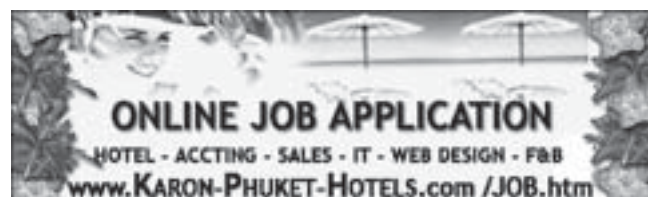
Tel: 02-7159000 ext 7106-8

Jungceylon, Karon, Samui, Lamai, Chaweng and Phangan

Tel: 081-8929475

Phuket Airport, Krabi Airport, Ao Nang

Tel: 085-9805526



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Contact: Maytinee 081-8952990

Fax: 076-220219

SIMPSON MARINE

Asia's leading yacht brokers and new yacht sales company require the services of a professional receptionist. Candidate must be young, dynamic and outgoing with a service-oriented mind. Highly proficient in English and computer skills is a must. Interested candidates, please send CV and photo to phuket@simpsonmarine.com

BAR/RESTAURANT ACCOUNTANT

The selected person must have accounting experience and ability to track income, expenses, invoices, cash flow, taxes, VAT, manage all stock. Must be reliable, honest, fair and hard working. Salary ranges from 10,000-15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6305977. Please email CV to natanri@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

GENERAL MANAGER

Resort, hotel general manager, who is highly experienced seeks position in Thailand. Has experience in southeast Asia. Available for immediate start. References available. Contact Graeme for more information. Tel: 084-8476816. Email: duncangn@yahoo.co.nz

NEW CHALLENGE

Articulate, presentable, well-educated, well-travelled & experienced Englishman seeks lucrative employment. Hotel, media, marketing or property. Email: britonabroad@googlemail.com

CONSTRUCTION

German foreman with 2 years of Thai working experience. I can speak English and Thai. Please contact for details. Tel: 085-7988669. Email: johann.phuket@gmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

2-DOOR SHOP FRIDGE

12,000 baht. Chest freezer sliding glass/lock-top: 12,000 baht. Ice-cream freezer with sliding glass top: 4,000 baht. Tel: 084-8515275.

POOL TABLE FOR SALE



Secondhand coin-operated pool table for sale. Size: 3"x6". 40,000 baht. Free transport cost and installation. For more information please contact Phuket Pool Tables. Tel: 076-263687, 081-2901645. Email: tuang@phuketpooltable.com

NIGHTCLUB

Contents of a nightclub for sale. Including sound system, mixer, power amps, cross-overs, equalizer, guitar amps, microphones, effect lights, par lights, light controllers, refrigerators, aircon units, bar stools and tables, etc. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

RELOCATING - ALL

furniture from Index for sale, only 2 months old:
- Red L-shaped sofa
- White computer work station w/ matching bookshelf plus 2 matching book units
- 2 red adjustable office chairs
- Samsung Thai washing machine
- Noble king-sized mattress
Email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

BEANBAG

New, white, stretch fabric, 160x80cm. 1,500 baht. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hunde.wasserhaus@gmx.at

WINDSURF BOARD WITH PADDLE

Used, old, for sit-on-top paddling. 6,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hundewasserhaus@gmx.at

WINE COOLER, BLACK with digital display, 10,000 baht. Pool table, classic, like new, 35,000 baht. Tel: 089-6503160.

RESTAURANT FURNITURE

- Coffee machine, Saeco SE200, 2 piston electronic
- Dosing grinder, model MS85 automatic
- Meat slicer
- Under counter bar fridge All 18 months old, perfect condition. Best offer will take all. Tel: 076-279297, 087-4619099. Email: orlandux72@yahoo.fr

Articles Wanted

POOL/BILLIARD TABLE

7X8 feet. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4424143.

SNOOKER TABLE WANTED

I wish to purchase a half-table snooker table in good condition with all accessories, including snooker and pool balls. Willing to pay handsome price for a good one. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-205282, 083-2806799. Email: barlowmaurice@yahoo.co.uk

SHOP TOOLS WANTED

Metal working tools wanted: arc and gas welders, wirefeed, plasma cutter, high-speed hand-held grinder, drill press, vise. Woodworking tools wanted: table or radial arm saw, miter saw, jointer, brad nailer, etc. Tel: 081-7972110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAPTOP

wanted secondhand laptop computer wanted. Must run windows XP and have wireless card. Cheap price please. If you have upgraded and have an old one lying about, why not give me a call? Tel: 081-2716250. Email: mattysiam@gmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

LIGHTHOUSE CLUB

Phuket lighthouse holds a networking meeting for the construction industry every 4th Wednesday of the month at The Yorkshire Inn, Patong. We start at 7pm. All members and guests are welcome. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: info@naturalrockpools.com

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the good will of our donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Contact K. Carol
(Tel: 087-4178860 or
carol.fryer@piwc.info)
or K. Sue
(Tel: 087-2776948 or
sue.arnulphy@piwc.info)

LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY

Wednesday February 20, 2008. Don't miss it! Email: info@phuketcomedy.com
www.phuketcomedy.com

SEAPLANE CHARTER

Destination Air offers you the sights of Phuket and surrounding islands. Enjoy the islands and remote beaches that few have ever seen. Sightseeing, island transfers, photography flights, property viewing and champagne flights. Tel: 076-328638, 085-7851889. Email: booking@destinationair.com or visit www.destinationair.com

Business Opportunities

RESTAURANT AND ROOMS

for lease. Ready to start. Fully furnished with all equipment. 70 covers. Owner leaving to attend to other businesses. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: mailjji@gmail.com

FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

Partnership offers, starting from 250,000 baht. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

CAR-RENTAL BUSINESS

for sale. Prime location in Rawai/Phuket, well established, fully licensed. Includes Internet café, Playstations, motorbike rental with excellent turnover, company with work-permit and 2-bedroom apartment. 6.4 million baht ono. Tel: 081-0909640. Email: info@phuketcarrentals.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

wanted. I will be relocating from Bangkok to Phuket in August and am currently looking for a hands-on investment opportunity based in Phuket. Email: stephancookca@yahoo.ca

CAFE AND GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Fully furnished, long-term contract in Rawai. 6 big rooms. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6475422.

RENT PRIME PP LOCATION

Two-story, 23m shop front. Upstairs guesthouse income of 100,000 baht per month. Rent at 200,000 baht per month + deposit. Email: pdr123@gmail.com

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

Due to relocation all reasonable offers will be considered on this successful niche enterprise in Patong. Designer lingerie outlet. Must sell. Contact for details. Tel: 087-9087605. Email: info@alternativephuket.com

BUSY BAR IN KARON

for sale. Open to offers. True TV, pool table, fully-stocked bar. Low rent. Tel: 084-4243562.

BAR FOR SALE

Prime location on Soi Bangla. 1.8 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9433056.

BAR/MASSAGE BIZ FOR LEASE

Bar (inside and terrace), 3 chairs, 4 massage rooms, Jacuzzi room and apartment (3 rooms). Located in Patong at the Paradise Complex. Tel: 085-0483810. Email: edbe.belaar@tiscali.nl

TAILOR SHOP, KRABI

Includes furniture and material. Located in Ao Nang. Tel: 089-6459759. Email: dkadell@yahoo.de

GREAT DEAL!

BUSINESS SALES & RENTAL UNIT

- Hotel for sale: 3 rai, newly renovated, boutique resort, great deal, best location in Patong.
- Hotel for sale: 55 rooms in 5 rai area, small luxury resort located in the quiet end of Patong. New construction, clean and great atmosphere.
- Hotel for rent: best location in Phuket town.
Email for an appointment. allservices29@gmail.com

CAR RENTAL BUSINESS: B375,000

Start-up with smart structure, meaning less capital and less administration. Includes office in attractive location on airport road and a home page in Swedish and English that tops Google! Valuable partnerships and more. Tel: 085-6916875. Email: fredrik.phuket@gmail.com For further info, contact me and/or see website: www.hyrbilphuket.se

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Please contact for info. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery

Chaofa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Tel: 076-282254

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

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Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
Taurus Travel

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

BAR FOR SALE

Nice bar in Karon. Cheap rent, no key money, good location. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

PATONG HOTEL FOR SALE

Perched on a hill in the Nanai area of Patong, overlooking the Andaman Sea and the lights of Patong, you will find a spectacular guesthouse built to very high specifications 4 years ago in Phuket. 14 luxury 1-bedroom units, 35sqm, fully fitted out with tiled floors. Large, over-sized rooms, each with private balconies overlooking the large swimming pool. The best location and view, 80 meters, overlooking the Andaman Sea. 1 owner, penthouse, manager and staff quarters. Fully-booked, on-going business offers. 35 million baht. Email for brochure. Tel: 080-1462965. Email: davidamilner@hotmail.com

PANWA RESTAURANT

for sale. 2-story with seaview, 2nd floor has 20 tables, bar on 1st floor with 10 tables. Price: 2.9 million baht for 6-year lease. Tel: 084-4429088, 081-7881699.

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Wonderful running restaurant in central Kata Beach for rent. 25 tables, big terrace, large counter bar. 60,000 baht. Pay extra for full kitchen with professional equipment. Tel: 085-7895701. Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.com

PARTNER FOR RESTAURANT

Great location - 50m from beach, central Patong! Want to build a steak house or 1950s diner? 1.5 million baht buy in. 50% ownership, 12 year lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

KARON BAR FOR SALE

Fully-equipped bar for sale. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-9087183.

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

500sqm of prime retail space. All licenses! Make the business of your dreams. 10-year lease with owner. All offers considered. Must sell. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

on Nanai Rd. Large kitchen and pool table, fully equipped and ready to run. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht. Price: 590,000 baht. Please contact Mark. Tel: 087-382 2302. Email: m_saundersuk@hotmail.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with shelf. For quick sale: 350,000 baht. Contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

LOCATION NEEDED

Well-established restaurant in Patong is looking for new space or an existing restaurant for sale in order to move. Tel: 076-344542, 081-891 4381. Fax: 076-344542. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

NEW MINIMART

for sale opposite Loch Palm Golf Club in Kathu. Contact K. Lynn. Tel: 087-2799500, 084-3081853.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Italian restaurant for sale in Kamala. Eight dining tables and full kitchenware. Near Krungsri Ayudhya bank. Contact Khun Na. Tel: 083-1802143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL RESTAURANT

Beautiful restaurant for rent or sale, on first floor of 4-story building, apartment on 3rd floor, staff room on 4th. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG BEACH

Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, the beach road, 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Super bargain, 4-story shop-house with chanote. Fully-equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor. Fully-furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floor. Valued at 6.7 million, now priced at only 5.5 million. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

KATA-KARON RESTAURANT

for sale 120,000 baht, fully equipped. For more details contact. Tel: 081-5375844.

KATA GUESTHOUSE

with bar/restaurant, Internet café, laundry. 5 mins' walk from beach, inside Kata night bazaar. Close to the fastest developing area at Kata Beach. Freehold title with company, easy transfer. Tel: 081-8948446. www.southernfriedrice.com

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