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Disgraced police sentenced over Ko Noi murder

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Two former police officers on February 28 were sentenced at Phuket Provincial Court for their part in the assassination of well-known businessman Preecha "Ko Noi" Kraitas, who was shot dead on March 14, 2006.

According to a report released by Phuket Provincial Court, Wanchana Polpalangkul, who pleaded not guilty to all charges, was sentenced to death for conspiracy to murder for organizing the hit.

Pongsak Kosiratanapibal, who pleaded guilty to all charges, was sentenced to life imprisonment for accessory to murder for identifying K. Preecha to gunman Samrerng Klaising.

Petchaburi native Samrerng was arrested at a wedding in Petchaburi's Baan Laem District March 9, 2007, only to disappear and remain at large after being granted bail.

K. Preecha, who owned Fisherman's Way housing estate and Phuket Shooting Range in Rawai, was driving his Jeep Cherokee along Wiset Rd with his wife and nine-year-old son at about 11 pm when Samrerng and a driver pulled up alongside them in a red sedan.

Samrerng opened fire and hit K. Preecha twice in the head with two 9mm bullets.

K. Preecha's vehicle collided with a minivan, then careened off the road, scraped along a wall and crashed into a tree.

K. Preecha died the following day at Phuket Interna-



The car Preecha 'Ko Noi' Kraitas (pictured, inset) was driving on Wiset Rd, with his wife and nine-year-old son as passengers, smashed into a tree after he was shot twice in the head on March 14, 2006.

tional Hospital. His wife and son escaped without serious injury.

The driver of the sedan has never been identified.

In March 2006, police said they believe Samrerng and the driver were hiding in Central Thailand.

Wanchana and Pongsak, who were formerly attached to the Phuket Elite Special Operations Unit, were arrested March 18, 2006, by a team of police led by the deputy chief of the Bangkok-based Central Investigations Division.

Pongsak, who allegedly cracked after more than four

hours of questioning by police, confessed to having pointed out the target to Samrerng before the attack.

Wanchana and Pongsak were released on bail and suspended from duty pending trial.

Police initially said they thought the motive for killing may have been related to a business deal, although there has since been no confirmation of this by police.

Jurairat Kraitas, K. Preecha's wife, 37, declined to comment, citing that the case must now go through the Courts of Appeal.

7-baht wage hike had 'no effect' – Labor chief

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: The seven-baht increase in the minimum wage in Phuket to 193 baht a day, which came into effect on January 1, has not negatively affected businesses on the island, Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima announced on March 10.

Before the rise from 186 to 193 baht, bestowing Phuket with the second-most-expensive minimum daily wage rate in the country – and just a baht below the daily rate in Bangkok – concerns had been expressed that the move could be a threat to the survival of small businesses in Phuket.

"We have found that the increase has not affected Phuket's economy at all," Suthipong Saiskarej, director of the Phuket Provincial Labor Office, said.

"Phuket's economy depends mainly on tourism, and people in the hospitality industry are generally paid above the minimum wage anyway, so they have not been affected by the move," K. Suthipong explained.

It is believed that Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit aims to have the minimum wage in Phuket raised by another seven baht before the end of the year.

"If the economy continues to grow at its current rate, it is possible that raising the minimum wage even further will be considered, although it's not something that will happen right now," K. Suthipong said.

"There are many factors to be considered before we can increase the minimum wage again," he added.

Shops warned over trading stolen goods

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Secondhand-goods shops found trading or in possession of stolen goods may soon face legal action, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasilpin warned at a special meeting convened to tackle the issue on Tuesday.

"This is a problem in many provinces, not just Phuket. Thieves often sell stolen property to secondhand-goods stores for cash.

We need government officers and police to work together and check these shops to make sure they follow the law," K. Piya said.

He added that in recent months many shops in Phuket have been found with stolen property on their premises.

"There are more than 200 registered secondhand-goods stores in Phuket and many still buy stolen government property, such as copper cable and water meters, the same things you read about in the news," K. Piya said.

"We need to force secondhand-goods store owners to stop accepting these kinds of goods and charge them where necessary. We will warn them first, then charge them if they continue to ignore the law," he added.

Shops will have to keep



Shops found trading stolen property may face stern legal action, warned Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasilpin.

records of what is bought, including a description of the item, the date of purchase, the amount paid and – more importantly – who the item was bought from, proved by a copy of the seller's ID card.

"We plan to check all secondhand-goods shops in Phuket, starting mid-March," K. Piya said.

In addition to the registered secondhand-goods stores, there are many others that are unregistered, he added.

"We will start checking the registered shops first, then all the unregistered shops," he said.

Owners of illegal secondhand-goods stores will be given

a grace period within which to register their businesses, after which they will face legal action if found still operating outside of the law," K. Piya said,

"For shops that have bought things from suspects who are currently on trial for theft, we will wait for the court to deliver its verdict.

"If the suspects are found guilty, we will then consider whether the store that bought the stolen goods should be allowed to continue trading," K. Piya explained.

To revoke a business license would require approval from the governor, he added.

According to the Thai Penal Code, the current maximum penalty for receiving stolen property acquired without an act of violence is a fine of up to 20,000 baht, up to 10 years in jail, or both.

The minimum punishment is a fine of no less than 1,000 baht and no less than six months in jail.

Tuk-tuk driver drunk, shot and still missing

By Suganya Semacote

PHUKET CITY: Police have yet to hear back from a tuk-tuk driver who appeared at Phuket City Police Station early March 10 morning drunk and bleeding from an apparent gunshot wound – and told to come back later.

Pol Lt Saran Redeng, duty officer at Phuket City Police Station, said that Somkid Huangrapram, 42, arrived at the station about 2:50 am complaining that he had been shot by a gang of about six youths on motorcycles as he was driving past Central Festival, Lt Saran said.

The front windshield of his tuk-tuk was shattered and missing most of the glass on the driver's side.

K. Somkid, a resident of Rawai, said he was on his way home from the Larb Udon Isarn restaurant, on Bangyai Rd behind Big C, when his progress was slowed by the motorcycle gang, who were riding slowly three abreast, Lt Saran said.

The gang comprised six

males and one female. When he shouted at them to move, one of the gang shot at him, he added.

However, Lt Saran said that K. Somkid was too drunk to file an official statement and that his account was given only verbally.

K. Somkid was told to go to a hospital for treatment to a minor wound to his arm that was still bleeding, Lt Saran said.

"I told him to get treatment at a hospital for the wound to his arm, which appeared to have been scratched or grazed. He was too drunk to make a statement.

"However, he never came back to make a report or file a complaint. In fact, I'm not even sure whether he went to a hospital," he said.

"I think he had a problem with that gang, but as he never filed a report we have no complaint on which to act," Lt Saran added.

K. Somkid was unable to give a description of any of the gang members, he said.

Case closed on Korean tourist drowning

PHI PHI ISLANDS: The drowning of a Korean tourist while on a Hana Tour to Phi Phi Don Island last month is not being treated as suspicious, the *Gazette* has learned.

Sen Sgt Maj Suwan Tuamsri of Krabi Tourist Police told the *Gazette* the drowning death of 35-year-old Kang Kyong while she was swimming with her tour group at Loh Dalam Bay was first reported by a Tourist Police volunteer about 1 pm that day.

Sen Sgt Maj Suwan confirmed the cause of death as accidental drowning, but said that he had no further details.

The case is now closed, he added.

Speaking to the *Gazette* on condition of anonymity, a staff member of Hana Tour Co Ltd, one of South Korea's largest tour operators, confirmed that Mrs Kang had come to Phuket on holiday with her husband, her four-year-old son, her younger sister and her younger brother.

On February 27, Kang went to the Phi Phi Islands with her family, but without her husband, who stayed behind in a hotel in Phuket, the source said.

"We were told by a guide [on that tour] that she swam away from the main group, but we don't know why she drowned," the source added.

Despite repeated attempts by the *Gazette*, the manager of Hana Tour (Asia) has been unavailable for comment.

In 2005, Hana Tour won the Excellent Travel Packages Award from the Tourism Authority of Thailand for its tour packages, which include Phuket and the Phi Phi Islands.

Three Brits still in Phuket Prison

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Court has denied bail to a British family charged with bank fraud after they were caught using counterfeit cards to withdraw more than 100,000 baht from a Kasikorn Bank ATM in downtown Phuket City.

Lt Col Chakaphol Suchon of Phuket City Police Station told the *Gazette* that the three suspects are still being held at Phuket Provincial Prison awaiting their next court appearance.

Mark Hubert Veerasawmy, 44, his son Sonny, 19, and Jennifer Anne Chapman, 31, were arrested on February 18 after an alert citizen notified police that the father and son were behaving strangely.

The three have refused to give any details about how they obtained the fake bank cards, except to say that they bought them off a man named "Peter", Lt Col Chakaphol said. Finding the elder Mr Veerasawmy's testimony unconvincing, investigators will continue to seek further evidence in the case, he added.

"Their request for bail was denied by the court, which cited the possibility that they would flee the country if released," Lt Col Chakaphol said.

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Not long after PM Samak stated his intention of legalizing casinos as a way of attracting more foreign tourists and generating additional government revenue, Assumption University's ABAC Poll conducted a study on 2,726 people in 18 provinces [See Around The Nation, page 7] on the issue.

The results revealed that 56.4% of respondents opposed the idea, while just 31.9% of respondents supported it, the rest were unsure.

Several years ago, when a similar idea was put forward during the first Thaksin Administration, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) conducted a similar poll among business leaders, government officials and other selected individuals here in Phuket with a similar result.

Yet despite the opposition, over 55% of those surveyed in the recent ABAC poll said they thought of gambling as a "normal thing", while 35% admitted they had gambled before.

These figures reveal the sense of squeamishness that exists in Thai society over legalizing a vice that is against the teachings of both Buddhism and Islam.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Paween Pongsirin told the *Gazette* that he favors the idea, because police officers are fed up playing cat-and-mouse games with people who set up illegal gambling operations on the island.

"We are very bored with it, but gambling is against the law so we must enforce it we can't ignore our duty. For this reason, I personally agree with legalizing casinos," he told the *Gazette* in his busy office on March 6.

"The key issue, however, is how we regulate casino activities and screen the people we allow to enter," he said.

"My main reason for wanting to legalize casinos is the presence of so many underground gambling syndicates all around

Casinos in Phuket?

On his Sunday morning talk show on March 3, Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej told listeners he would work towards legalizing certain forms of gambling by the end of his four-year term as Prime Minister should he make it that far. Interior Minister Chalermsak Yubamrung was quick to support the idea, which soon became the hottest news issue in Thailand.

Although the government has yet to offer up a concrete plan and insists that much study needs to be done, ideas bruited have included legalization of betting on international football matches as well as the establishment of legal casinos in certain tourist destinations including Phuket.

Here, the *Gazette's* Pathomporn Kaenkrachang and Sompratch Saowakhon ask local officials what they think of opening a casino in Phuket.

Thailand. The profits from these are not taxed and must be laundered before they can enter the legitimate economy. With legal casinos, the industry could be monitored and some profits would go straight into the government coffers, where they could be used to fund education and other projects to benefit society," he said.

"I see so many Thai people traveling abroad to gamble at casinos. Why not set up a place where they can gamble legally here?" he asked.

Col Paween however, doesn't think Phuket is the right place in Thailand for a casino.

"It is not suitable for Phuket because the island's strong point is its natural beauty.

So I support a casino, but not in Phuket. The best place to set up casinos would be remote, undeveloped areas. That would make them easier to regulate and control," he said.

Once legal casinos open, the

police would need to crack down on their illegal competitors, otherwise they would face even more problems from gambling than ever before, he said.

Col Paween likened the problem to prostitution which, while illegal in Thailand, is nevertheless widespread. Failure to regulate such vices can result in the spread of deadly diseases like HIV/Aids and a slew of social problems, he said.

Before opening any casinos, the government should first undertake a thorough study of casino operations abroad to ensure that the most suitable management system is established in Thailand, he said.

"We have to do our homework, otherwise international criminals could use the casinos as an excuse to bring large amounts of laundered money into the country," he said.

Despite his concerns, Col Paween supports the idea.

"Every new idea inevitably meets with some opposition, but if we concentrate on setting it up in the right way, it will be a success and win praise in the end," he said.

Sontaya Pankaew, a lec-



turer in the humanities and social science department at Phuket Rajabhat University, harbors numerous reservations about building a casino.

"Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country, so it is not surprising that the majority of the people are opposed to this idea," he said.

"To start, just how many Thai people will alter their gambling habits and become casino members?" he asked.

Siting a casino here would be a regional issue, so public hearings would need to be held in all six Andaman coast provinces not just Phuket, he said.

Noting that rural Thais traditionally gamble on things like cockfighting and bullfighting, K. Sontaya said the government needs to consider what affect the introduction of western-style casinos would have on Thai culture.

"If we have legal casinos

they won't be meant for local people, but a completely different class of player. So my question is: who is the government planning to set up casinos for?"

According to reports, PM Samak's plan would include letting foreigners in for free while charging Thais a one-time membership fee of 100,000 baht.

K. Sontaya expressed concern that the plan as envisioned by PM Samak would have little impact on deeply-ingrained gambling habits among the majority of Thais, for whom casino gambling is little more than a foreign curiosity.

Legalized gambling would be in conflict with Article 83 of the new Constitution, which states that the government must uphold and support the principles of HM The King's Sufficiency Economy theory, he said.

"I expect that the benefits legal casinos might bring to Thai-

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Not here, say key figures



In his book on Thailand's gambling industry, Pasuk Phongpaichit and fellow researchers estimated that gambling on football matches accounted for 12-16 billion baht of an illegal gaming industry that could be as large as 200 billion baht annually.

land would be outweighed by the problems they cause, such as increased crime and family problems," he said.

He also questioned why Thailand constantly feels the need to follow foreign trends.

"We do not need to compare ourselves with neighboring countries on the casino issue. We have different competitive advantages. For example, why don't we explore ways to improve local agriculture first? I think there are many more interesting and creative paths to follow than trying to legalize casinos.

"I want the government to go back and review the Constitution and all existing laws, chang-

ing them as necessary before proceeding with this idea. If we are going to allow legal casinos, first we will require a legal framework for them," he said.

Also opposed to the idea of a casino in Phuket is Phummisak Hongsyok, one of Thailand's 74 appointed Senators and former long-time mayor of Phuket City.

K. Phummisak agrees with the idea of setting up casinos in Thailand, but not in Phuket.

"The island is both a business and tourism hub that continues to attract investment in both these sectors. It would be better to site a casino in a less developed part of some other province as a way of spurring growth

there," he said.

"As we have no lack of people wanting to invest here, we should ask ourselves what we have already and what we need more of," said Senator Phummisak, whose company Anupas & Sons controls a 250-rai site off Chao Fa West Rd in Wichit that some might see as an ideal location for a casino.

Casinos in Thailand would need to be tightly regulated, with laws in place to protect the government, casino operators and players. This would include thorough background checks of all potential staff to ensure they don't have criminal records," he added.

If casinos are set up, they should be located in remote, difficult-to-access locations such as on an island. This would discourage Thai people from going there, make it easy control the standard of people allowed in and minimize social problems.

Target groups should include rich people and foreigners, he said.

Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Eam Thavornwongwongse said the gambling issue is highly sensitive and thus required very careful consideration of the costs and benefits.

"Thai people always worry when the subject of gambling is raised; they feel very anxious about the problems that could be created," he said.

While noting that legalized gambling would be a new source of government revenue, he worries about the effect on people addicted to games of chance.

A possible model to follow would be the one in Malaysia, where the casinos target affluent people and allow gamblers to leave a certain amount at the door so that they won't spend all

they have with them at the time.

However, K. Eam, a shareholder in the Kata Group of hotels, feels that Phuket is not a good choice for a casino because gamblers tend to be more interested in gambling than natural beauty.

"In my opinion it should be located far from large population centers, in the same way that Las Vegas was," he said.

However, if the government does allow casinos they should be large, world-class facilities on the same scale as those now being built in Singapore, he said.

Such a facility should be well-planned with complete facilities for tourists and with expertise from abroad in managing gaming operations, he said.

Noting the success of the Genting Casino in Muslim-majority Malaysia, K Eam does not see Thai Buddhism as a great hindrance.

A more likely obstacle, in his opinion, is whether all the public hearings, study, legal amendments and other requirements needed to make the idea a reality could actually be carried out within the term of a single administration.

Equally skeptical is Promchote Traivate, head of the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development.

He worries that legalizing casinos could open a Pandora's Box of problems that the government would be unable to control.

"Law enforcement is a big problem in Thailand, especially compared to other countries where casinos operate success-

fully," he noted.

"They are better at controlling their people's behavior [through law enforcement] than we are. Perhaps this is something we should consider," he said.

He added that the government should also consider what message legalizing casinos might send the the nation's youth.

K., Promchote is also worried about the effect that opening a casino might have on the island's well-established reputation as a "natural" destination.

"Casinos could damage that reputation and reduce Phuket's perceived attractiveness to the current target group.

Tourists have told me that it is easy to find casinos abroad so that if a casino is built in Phuket it should be something unique and special."

These leaders' positions seems to accurately reflect the opinion on the street, where many people

seem to feel that Thailand simply "isn't ready" for legalized gambling.

A woman identified only as Aorachon, aged 32, said she felt the government has yet to offer any good reasons for allowing legal casinos in a Buddhist country such as Thailand.

"We've gotten along well enough as a society without them for all these years, so why do we need them now?" she asked.

"The government should be seeking creative and moral solutions to the problems faced by society, not simply legalizing bad behavior, she said.

Over 55% of those surveyed in the recent ABAC poll said they thought of gambling as a "normal thing", while 35% admitted they had gambled before.

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Queer News

Lucky four-eared feline catnapped

PATHUM THANI: The owners of a four-eared cat fear that their pet has been kidnapped, after the feline mysteriously disappeared following a story in a national newspaper highlighting the luck the homeless kitty had brought its owners after they rescued it from the side of the road.

The missing cat, named Jao Chom Jan ("the one who admires the moon"), has not been seen by its owners, husband and wife Prasert and Maratee Unphetch, since February 18.

The couple, avid animal lovers who currently own more than 20 cats and dogs, noticed the cat lying by the side of the road last year.

When they looked closer, they saw that the mysterious moggy had four ears, the front pair black, the back pair smaller and flesh colored.

The little female cat was very thin and sickly, but with a bit of tender loving care soon made a full recovery.

Before long it became the cheerful playmate of the couple's young son.

K. Maratee said that after taking in the little cat in, the family had an extraordinary run of good luck.

They won the lottery three times in a row. Business at their shop, where they sell plastic buckets, suddenly increased.

News of the extraordinary cat and the Unphetch's run of good luck soon got out and in January, Thai-language newspaper *Khao Sod* ("fresh news") ran a story on the auspicious animal.

"Jao Chom Jan is not like

other cats," K. Prasert said.

"She has two ears on each side of her head that stick out and look very pretty, she looks a bit like Heng Jia [the monkey god born from an egg in Chinese mythology]."

Then, on February 18, Jao Chom Jan suddenly disappeared. K. Prasert at first thought the cat had just wandered off or perhaps gone for a long nap somewhere near the house. But after scouring the neighborhood, they could find no trace of their beloved pet.

As it was out of character for Jao Chom Jan to wander off, K. Prasert concluded that she must have been catnapped.

K. Prasert, however, was not bitter about the loss of such a powerful talisman. His only worry was that Jao Chom Jan might come to harm.

"When we took Jao Chom Jan in to look after, we weren't thinking about her bringing us luck. We love her. Our fates must be aligned; that's why we were so lucky.

"However, I don't know whether the fortune of the person who stole her will be so in line with that of Jao Chom Jan. Probably not, I would think," K. Prasert explained.

"But if Jao Chom Jan does bring luck to the person who stole her, then that's OK.

"I only ask that they look after her well and don't throw her back on the street, where she could be hit by a car. If the thief doesn't get any luck, then I ask for them to bring her back to us," K. Prasert said.

Source: Khao Sod

TRASHING Phuket



This stretch of roadside leading to the T-junction next to Nai Harn lake has become a dumping ground for construction materials and debris from landscaping projects. Although some attempts have been made to burn the rubbish, the site remains a sore point for locals who are disgruntled after Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) spent 40 million baht on improving the area. (See "Issues and Answers", page 29, for more information.)

Phuket Food Festival 2008

PHUKET CITY: Food lovers are in for a treat as the 11th annual Phuket Food Festival 2008 will be held this year at Saphan Hin from March 19 to 28.

The event is being organized by the Phuket Food Vendors' Club and Phuket City Municipality.

Diners will be spoiled for choice with some 60 food booths set up by restaurateurs from around Phuket and neighboring provinces, all open from 4:30 pm to 11 pm daily.

Families and other groups need bring no more than a picnic blanket with them to enjoy delicious, low-cost meals along with the cool sea breezes and the soothing atmosphere.

There will also be 20 booths selling handicrafts made under the One Tambon One Product (OTOP) project and there will be cooking demonstrations of well-known local dishes.

A wide variety of entertainment, available each night of the festival, will include stage shows

by local schools and universities, bars, restaurants and nightlife entertainment venues from around the island.

Jaras Sae-Tan, President of the Phuket Food Vendors' Club, said this is the second year all participants will be asked to use recyclable and biodegradable containers.

One type of container made of bagasse (biomass remaining after sugarcane stalks are crushed during juice extraction) will be unveiled during the upcoming press conference.

The opening ceremony, at 6 pm on March 19, will start with prayers for believers in the Muslim and Buddhist faiths.

These will be followed by a cooking competition to see who can produce the tastiest "Hor Mok Phuket".

All are welcome and admission is free on all days.

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Thais unprepared for retirement

Thailand urgently needs a viable pension system, a panel of speakers warned at a seminar on March 7.

The seminar, organized by the Government Pension Fund (GPF), invited experts from various fields to provide views on the subject of retirement planning.

All of the speakers voiced concern that many Thais remain financially, physically and mentally ill-equipped for retirement. Compounding the problem is a rapidly aging population.

The Bank of Thailand has warned that a large majority of Thais do not have access to financial products and they do not understand how to use the few options available to them.

Since the birth rate has stalled and people are living longer, the government needs to make retirement planning a national priority, said Kobsak Pootrakul, director of the Stock Exchange of Thailand Research Institute.

According to research by the GPF, the elderly now make up about 10% of the populace. The number is expected to rise to 20% over the next 20 years. The seven working adults now supporting a retiree will be reduced to four by that time.

There are generally three columns of support for retirees: social security; mandatory pensions or provident funds.

Thailand is one of the few developing countries not to have a mandatory pension or provident-fund scheme, said Wisit Tantitsunthorn, secretary-general of the GPF.

Its absence stretches the role of the social security system, he said.

Commercial breaks. Advertising on pay-TV channels is expected to boom following enforcement of the new Broadcasting Act. The new law allows at least six minutes per hour of advertising on cable and satellite television.



ON DISPLAY: A Karen Paduang hilltribe woman weaves cotton for tourists in Mae Hong Song. With their elongated necks, the stateless Paduang women have become one of the province's major tourist attractions.

However, the use of the tribeswomen as a tourist attraction has caused critics to label the village a "human zoo".

Until recently, such advertising was banned.

KGI Securities (Thailand) said advertising on cable TV would be a huge benefit for the industry, allowing advertising agencies to target niche markets at lower costs than through mass media, such as free television.

True Visions, the pay-TV operator of True Corp, is expected to gain additional revenue from broadcasting commercials. However, True Corp CEO Supachai Chearavanont said that he expected the extra revenue to account for only 10% of True Visions' total.

Gland illusion. A Dubai man died of heart failure after he received injections to enlarge his penis at a Bangkok clinic.

Saeb Almansouri, 50, died at Paolo Siam Hospital late on the night of March 7, police said.

He was admitted to the hospital after he went into shock after receiving two injections on his organ at a clinic on Soi Paowana, off Lard Prao Rd in Bangkok, earlier that day.

Speedy delivery. Police in Samut Prakan arrested a KFC

delivery boy for allegedly selling *ya bah* (methamphetamine) to local teenagers.

Nopporn Sathitprom, 24, was arrested in front of Big C department store in Bang Plee district at 10 am.

He admitted that he has been sidelining as a drug pusher, buying the drugs from two women and retailing them to customers.

Dressing as KFC delivery boy and hiding the drug in the delivery box had allowed him to avoid police inspections, he said.

Following his arrest, police later had Nopporn contact the women to deliver him the drug at two different rendezvous locations, where police arrested them in the afternoon.

The women were identified as Thassani Pikulhom, 29, and Ratchanee Thetrungruang, 34.

Stoning death. Anupong Sai-etch, 13, died of serious head injuries early on March 9 after a teenager threw a stone into his father's moving truck.

The incident took place on Phetchkasem Rd in Phetchaburi province.

Police are now trying to

track down Anupong's attackers.

The incident is only the latest in a deadly new trend that started last year and has spread throughout the country.

Thumbs down. Most Thais are against legalizing casinos, according to a recent survey by the Assumption University.

The survey showed that 56.4% of all respondents gave the firm "no" to Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's controversial idea that Thailand should finally host casinos.

The survey canvassed 2,726 people in 18 provinces.

Merit deficit. More than 2,000 Thais are waiting for an organ transplant, but there are just 93 donors registered with the Thai

Red Cross nationwide.

The greatest number of transplant candidates need kidneys, with more than 2,000 registered.

Thai Red Cross organ donation center director Dr Visist Dhitavat said that many people do not want to donate organs because they believe that their body will not be complete in the next life.

People should donate organs to help other people and to make merit, he said.

For information on organ donation, call the Thai Red Cross organ donation center in Bangkok at 02-2564045-6.

Cyber spoiler. Diageo (Thailand), distributors of Johnnie Walker, has launched a 50-million-baht campaign to help keep underage patrons out of drinking establishments by using fingerprint-scan technology to help verify the age of pub patrons.

Before gaining entry to a pub, one has to display an identification card. However, the next time just a finger scan suffices – either at the bar where the person registered or any other venue participating in the project.

The pilot project has been tested at 11 venues in the Thonglor-Ekamai areas of Bangkok. Diageo plans to roll out the project at 100 venues by year's end.

Some 20,000 drinkers have already registered at the 12 participating pubs.

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

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Koh Samui may finally claim city status this month after the majority of village leaders narrowly voted in favor of the proposal.

In a meeting on February 15, village chiefs and subdistrict chiefs from all parts of the island voted 18 to 14 in approval for Samui to apply for city status (*tessabaan nakhon*), which will bring in much needed funds from Surat Thani to improve the island.

The assessment for the upgrade in status included an audit to calculate the total revenue the island generated for the past year as well as a count of the population. Samui is said to have ticked all the boxes in relation to these requirements, pulling in more than 10 billion baht a year in revenue with a population of only 50,066 registered residents.

Samui Mayor Varakorn Rattanakorn has been an outspoken supporter of the proposal and was asked to try to bring leaders together after a petition opposing the idea was sent to government leaders in Surat Thani.

Opposition to the proposal was due to concerned village leaders whose jobs will be reassigned under the new status. The chiefs argued that as a city, Samui would be more difficult to manage and basic services would no longer be in place to help people

City upgrade vote sparks controversy



ENTERING THE BIG-TIME: The move to boost Samui's status from district to city has faced opposition from village and subdistrict chiefs, who stand to lose their positions.

living in more rural parts of the island.

The opponents believe they are better equipped to help in matters at the grassroots level with the existing island hierarchy starting in the villages.

"We want the governor of Surat Thani to approve this as soon as possible so that we can

move forward and send it to the Department of Provincial Administration," said Mayor Varakorn.

One of the attendees at the meeting, Jaroen Jantra, of Bophut, said that he believed those in attendance had nothing to do with the petition.

"If some people do not agree with the change, I think it's a pity.

The new status would help a lot in terms of financial power and manpower needed to develop the island," he said.

If the plan goes forward, the village chiefs and subdistrict chiefs will lose their jobs within a year.

Mayor Varakorn said plainly that after the vote has been sent to Bangkok and following further objection, he is willing to name and shame anyone who is looking out for their own best interest before that of the island.

In response to claims that the present system allows for more efficient services, the mayor said, "We will have a community board set up with representatives from nine areas. These will replace the village chiefs and subdistrict chiefs. These community committees will take charge of the problems of people and pro-

vide services better than the old system."

Valentine rage. A 19-year-old died after being stabbed in a jealous rage on Valentine's Day.

Thaworn Pansri was left lying in a pool of blood surrounded by flowers off a busy street in the Mae Nam subdistrict on the night of February 14.

His heartbroken girlfriend told police that the pair had gone to dinner at a local restaurant after the victim finished work as a security guard at one of the island's high-end resorts.

After they finished their meal, they went for a motorbike ride. Soon after, they discovered they were being followed by someone on a motorbike.

K. Thaworn's motorbike was rammed, causing him to fall. He was then beaten, stabbed and left for dead.

After investigations, police arrested a man named only as "Nuang" (last name withheld), who admitted to the stabbing, police said, stating he was overcome by jealousy when he saw his ex-girlfriend with another man.

Frenchman dies. French tourist Abdel Haksin, 36, has died in hospital from injuries sustained in a serious motorbike crash while he was holidaying on Samui in January.

Witnesses to the accident say that Mr Haksin was driving a Honda CBR400 motorbike at high speed when he lost control and bumped into another motorbike, propelling into a nearby shop.

His injuries included a fractured skull and broken bones. He was being treated at hospital when

he finally succumbed to his injuries.

The driver of the other motorbike, Juthaphon Kavichian, 20, suffered only minor injuries.



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By Max Rogers



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Songkhla massacre man surrenders

A man who shot dead a hospital director and seven others during a weekend drinking party surrendered to police on the morning of March 7.

Vinus Chukamnerd, 52, had his wife contact police to take him into custody from in front of a market in Krabi at 6 am.

He was taken back to Songkhla, where police had him re-enact the shootings. More than 100 officers were deployed to prevent the crowd from attacking him during the re-enactment.

Vinus told reporters that he became angry when eight people, including Dr Suthatip Thammachart, director of Namom Hospital in Songkhla, were being loud during a drinking session at his next-door neighbor's house.

Vinus said he had earlier warned Suthatip's boyfriend Trirat Choto to stop being loud because he could not sleep. He needed to wake up early to work in a rubber plantation he told Trirat, who was also killed in the shooting.

Trirat and his friends often held drinking sessions at a sala at Trirat's house, Vinus added. He said that he had asked Trirat to be quiet, but Trirat argued that he was drinking on his own property.

Vinus said he told Trirat that if he was noisy again within three days, he would shoot him.

The eight revelers were shot with an automatic pistol late on Saturday night, March 1. Vinus fled to Krabi.

Songkhla police chief Maj Gen Wirun Iampaijit said that Vinus decided to surrender because he found it hard to continue on the run.

Vinus said he bought the CZ 75B pistol, from a man identified only as "Ping", five months earlier. Neighbors said Vinus has been practicing shooting ever since.

Most of his victims were shot in the head. One of the victims was his own brother-in-law, Boontip Desro.



RANONG ROUNDUP

Thai officials in Ranong rounded up dozens of Rohingya on March 7 as they attempted to enter Thailand illegally on a fishing boat. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group from Myanmar's Rakhine State, close to the border with Bangladesh.

Last year, nearly 1,000 Rohingyas were arrested in Ranong, which many use as a transit point on their way to Malaysia, where there is a substantial Rohingya community.

Vinus said he did not know that his brother-in-law was also drinking there and that he was blinded by his rage, so he shot all the people present.

80 insurgents surrender. Eighty members of an insurgent group in Yala took part in a ceremony to surrender to the authorities March 7.

The ceremony, held at Yaha District Office, was chaired by Yala Governor Teera Mintrasak.

The former insurgents are residents of six villages in two tambons of the district; three of them are leaders of the insurgent group in the district, Governor Teera said.

An official from the Yala Islamic Committee performed a ceremony to annul the religious oath the insurgents had earlier taken part in to bind them in the fight for separation of the southern border provinces, Gov Teera added.

Dry days. After a full month without rain, Satun Vice-Governor Chusak Maneechayangkul on March 7 declared the province's Muang, La-ngu, Thung Wa and Kuan Kalong districts as disaster areas.

The Satun Governor's Office has allocated 50 million baht in relief for residents of the four districts.

The declaration allowed each district administration to use 1.5 million baht to help its residents without having to seek approval from the Governor's Office first, V/Gov Chusak said.

Rapist jailed. The son of a Surat Thani Democrat Party MP was jailed for 12½ years for rape and firearms offenses on March 3.

Saengroj "Uan" Kanchana, 35, was found guilty of raping a 19-year-old student at gunpoint in January, 2005. Three accomplices also received custodial sentences.

On the day of the attack, Saengroj paid two female friends to lure his victim into his car, the court heard.

He and a friend, Thiraphong "Nat" Jirawong, 20, then drove the woman to a house in Surat's Kanchanadit district, where Saengroj threatened her with a handgun and forced her to have sex with him.

Thiraphong was also sentenced to 12½ years in prison after being found guilty of being an accessory to rape.

The two women who lured the victim into Saengroj's car, Sisila "Palm" Jirawong, 19, and Jiya-phong "Jeab" Thaisuriyan, also 19, both received four-year jail terms.

The victim, a vocational college student at a Surat Thai poly-

technic, was the niece of a police lieutenant colonel. After the attack, relatives of the victim contacted her uncle, who ensured the case was pushed forward.

Saengroj's lawyer said that he would launch an appeal against the verdict.

Killer crash. Seven people, including a baby boy, were killed in Chumphon's Lamae district on March 7 when the pickup truck they were traveling in smashed into the back of a parked 18-wheeler.

Six other people traveling in the back of the pickup were also injured.

Police reported that the pickup, driven by Jirasak Duangchankan, 42, was traveling at high speed in heavy rain through Ban Khao Luang Village 3, Tambon Phor Daeng, when it crashed into the back of the large truck, which was parked by the side of the road.

Three of the victims were identified as Huan Iamphakdee, Bunnam Kaowmanee and Urai Wimonlasuk, all Chumphon natives.

The bodies of a woman about 20 years old, a man about 60 years old and a baby boy about 8 months old had yet to be identified at the time of going to press.

Six injured survivors who were riding in the back of the pickup were rushed to hospital. Police are now searching for the driver of the 18-wheeler, who fled the scene and did not return for his truck.

The bend where the crash happened is a renowned accident blackspot, especially in heavy rain.

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

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Sea Gypsies offered olive branch

By Janyaporn Morel

RAWAI: A truce has been reached in the dispute between Sea Gypsies and longtail boat operators in Rawai over rights to ferry tourists to nearby islands.

The man who brokered the agreement, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos, considered the conflict settled after a meeting on February 27, when the Sea Gypsies agreed to register their vessels with the Marine Department and abide by the same regulations as other longtail boat operators.

"The whole dispute resulted from misunderstanding on both sides and the fact that the Sea Gypsies didn't know about all the government regulations on longtail boat operators in the tourism industry," he said.

The conflict came close to violence on February 11, when three foreign tourists hired out a longtail boat operated by Sea Gypsy Pian Sae-ngor to take them from Rawai to Koh Hei, about five kilometers offshore.

In a formal complaint lodged with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit three days later, a group of 10 Sea Gypsies led by Niran Yangpan alleged that



Sea Gypsy boats sit idle while their owners wait for help in getting their vessels registered. The Sea Gypsies make a living ferrying tourists to outlying islands.

a group of rival longtail boat operators forcibly removed the engine from K. Pian's vessel, warning him never to return to the island – or face the consequences.

The boat engine was later returned when some witnesses to the incident intervened and negotiated a compromise, K. Niran Yangpan told the *Gazette*.

In response to the incident, the Sea Gypsies asked the Gov-

ernor for provincial support in protecting them while they tried to make a living.

The Damrongtham Center, which serves as the provincial ombudsman's office, accepted the letter on the Governor's behalf.

It wasn't the first time the Sea Gypsies had approached the province asking for protection.

In February 2007, some 100 Rawai sea gypsies petitioned the Governor to help settle an ongoing, sometimes violent dispute over fishing rights near resorts when one of their members suffered decompression sickness after having his oxygen supply hose cut while diving off Nui Beach on December 31, 2006.

One Sea Gypsy fishing method involves fishermen walking on the seabed and breathing oxygen pumped through a hose from a surface vessel.

The hose was allegedly cut by a resort operator on a jet-ski, who didn't want the sea gypsies fishing activities to spoil the view of visiting tourists, the plaintiff said.

The man was charged with attempted murder and the case is still being heard in court.

On the morning of February 19, the Sea Gypsies' latest complaint was discussed at a meeting chaired by Vice Governor Smith Palawatvichai.

Attending were representatives of various agencies including the Phuket Provincial Fishery Office, Chalong Police, Rawai Municipality, Muang District Office, Marine and Coastal Resources Center, as well as the Sea Gypsies who lodged the complaint.

At the meeting, V/Gov Smith requested that Mayor Aroon find ways to continue to help the Sea Gypsy longtail boat operators, who recently begun working in the tourism industry after completing training courses offered by the Tourism and Sports Ministry's Office of Tourism Development.

The two-day course, held in May last year, was funded under the government's *Yoo Dee Mee Suk* (good life and happiness) project.

K. Pian was one of 13 Sea Gypsies who attended and passed the course, allowing him to operate a longtail boat ferry service for tourists.

The training was intended to get Sea Gypsies jobs in the tourism industry to supplement income from their traditional livelihood – fishing.

K. Aroon told the provincial meeting that the best way to mediate the dispute was to sit both sides down together and explain to the longtail boatmen that the Sea Gypsies had the right to operate longtail ferry services – as long as they complied with all the relevant rules and regulations.

"Those longtail boat operators formed a group ferrying tour-

ists in the Rawai area and they didn't know that some of the Sea Gypsy villagers are now allowed to compete with them," said K. Aroon.

The meeting, at Rawai Municipality Offices on the morning of February 27, was attended by about 60 Rawai longtail boat operators and 30 Sea Gypsies. Also attending as witnesses were representatives from the Chalong Police and Marine Department Region 5 office in Phuket.

In the end, both sides came to understand that although the Sea Gypsies had certificates issued by the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 office allowing them to operate, they had not yet registered their boats with the Marine Office, as required by law, before starting to ferry passengers.

Municipal officers would help guide the Sea Gypsies through the process, which should be completed this month, said K. Aroon.

Villagers in the predominantly Muslim fishing village of Bang Khon Tee in Rawai who also completed the *Yoo Dee Mee Suk* training were also experiencing similar problems getting their fishing boats properly registered.

They would also get assistance from the Municipality in getting properly registered by the month's end, K. Aroon said.

"After registration, everyone who does this kind of business must comply with Marine Office regulations. These include having a life jacket and insurance for each passenger as well as observing limits on how many passengers can board each vessel. We will also set standard passenger fares for hiring boats to local islands," he added.

Sea Gypsy representative Niran Yangpan told the *Gazette* that about 80 Sea Gypsy villagers have been registered for various training courses under the *Yoo Dee Mee Suk* program, but that only about 15 of the community's boats would be used as ferries.

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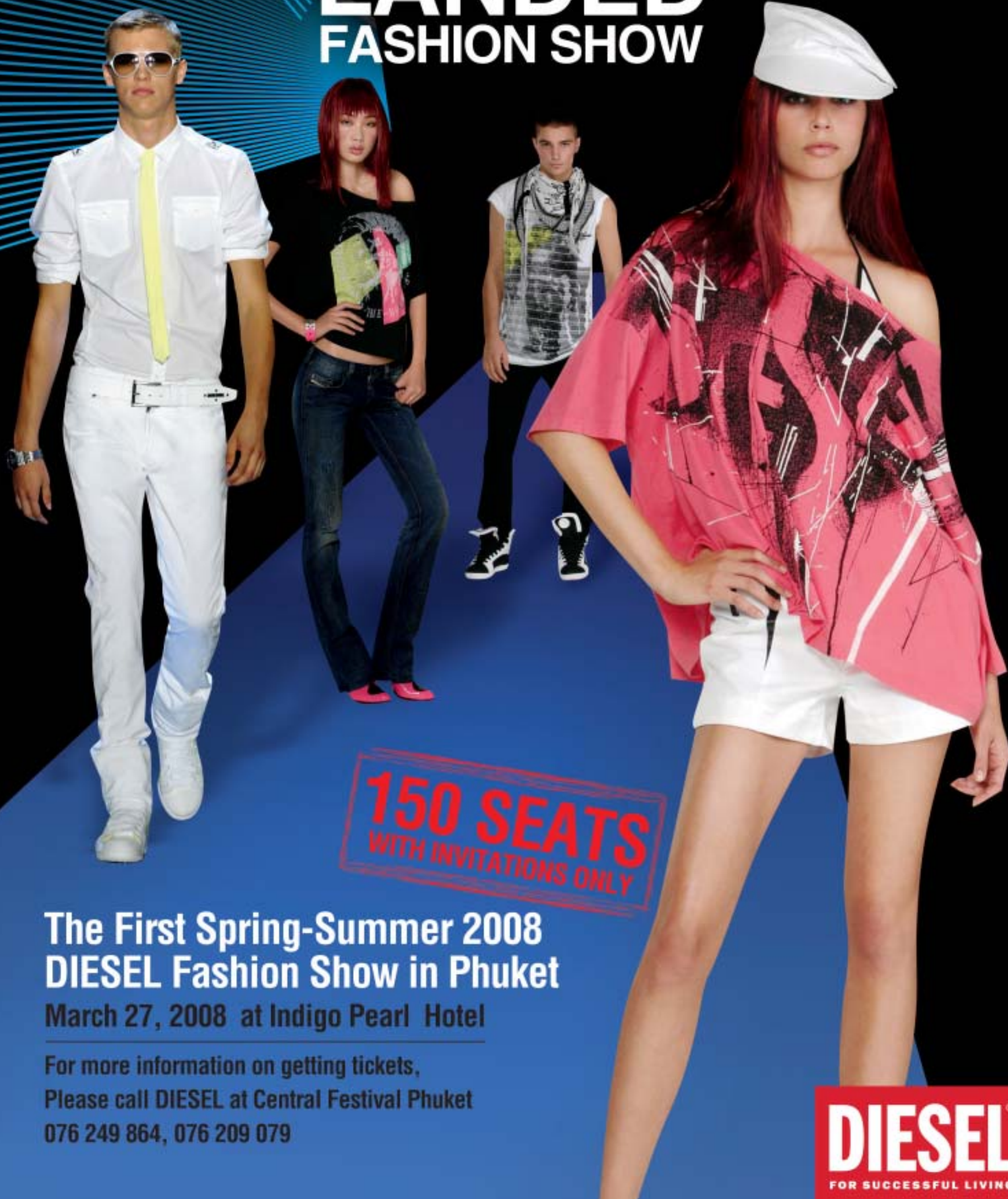
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Remember the first time you ate Thai food? Remember that perfect balance of sweet and sour with a knockout punch of chili and a healing hint of lemon-grass?

It was magical, exotic, divine and instantly addictive, wasn't it? But all things must pass and after some 12 years of consuming inordinate amounts of pad Thai, gaeng som, khao pad and pla neung manao I'm a bit Thai-fooded out, to tell the truth.

To be sure, my relationship with all culinary things Thai wasn't exactly enhanced when every housefly within five miles zoomed in on our kitchen for a knees-up every time my old lady opened the fermented fish jar. And fiery *tom yam goong* and *somtam* soon put paid to my stomach lining, admittedly along with countless gallons of Chang chased down by Sang Som rum.

If someone had told me 10 years ago that I'd be literally fed up with Thai fare, I'd have laughed in their face, but the fact remains that some Thai cuisine, at least for me, has become somewhat of an acquired distaste.

That leaves only the rest of the world's cuisine to choose from, doesn't it? So let's go. German? Nein danke. French? Trop riche pour moi. English? Are you joking? Italian? Basta pasta



Sala Mexicali: mi sala es su sala

grazie. Spanish? Now you're getting warm... Mexican? You got it!

Serving up foreign food in Phuket is an excuse to print money for some restaurants and it's downright off-putting to shell

out mountains of hard-earned cash for a bit of culinary exotica.

It comes as a welcome surprise to discover a new Mexican restaurant with reasonable prices. Enter Sala Mexicali on Wiset Rd, between Chalong and Rawai.



It comes as a welcome surprise to discover a new Mexican restaurant with reasonable prices. Enter Sala Mexicali on Wiset Rd, between Chalong and Rawai.

he never re-uses oil for deep-fried items more than three times, employs natural sea salt and uses no sugar in his sangria.

It may be distasteful to mention toilets in a food review but I believe that they're a pretty good barometer in gauging the level of a restaurant's commitment.

Mexicala's are fashionable and display a sense of humor (the little boys' room is labeled Los Cajones, but shouldn't that be cojones?) and there's a raised, see-through washbasin along with a reading bench outside, just in case the need to study up on Emiliano Zapata's life story suddenly grabs you while answering Nature's call.

There's no wine list here, just a basic house red and white, but the margaritas are as powerful as Zapata's La Cucaracha at full steam and the sangria extremely well balanced. Pretty soon the food arrives and carambitas hombre, it's fantástico!

The chips and salsa are as fresh as can be, as is the guacamole. The cashew, almond, apple-and-blue-cheese salad is a seductive mix of flavors. All in all, the

freshness of the food is wonderful. It's immediately obvious that it's been prepared just seconds before, with muchismos Pan-American-Thai TLC thrown in.

I know I sound unfashionably, gushy but everything about this place is wonderful.

The service is friendly and natural, perfectly complements the genuine *bienvenido en mi casa* ("Welcome to my home") feel to Mexicali. Pretty soon the table's groaning under the weight of some eight dishes – all winners, notably the black bean soup and a fantabulous chicken enchilada.

Yes, Sala Mexicali's definitely a winner and well worth an evening out, but the icing on the cake, or in this case the sombrero on the campesino, is the price list.

Chips and salsa are 60 baht, black bean soup 100 baht, two burritos (chicken, shrimp, steak or veggie) 190 baht, the cashew, almond, apple and blue-cheese salad 110 baht and guacamole 60 baht.

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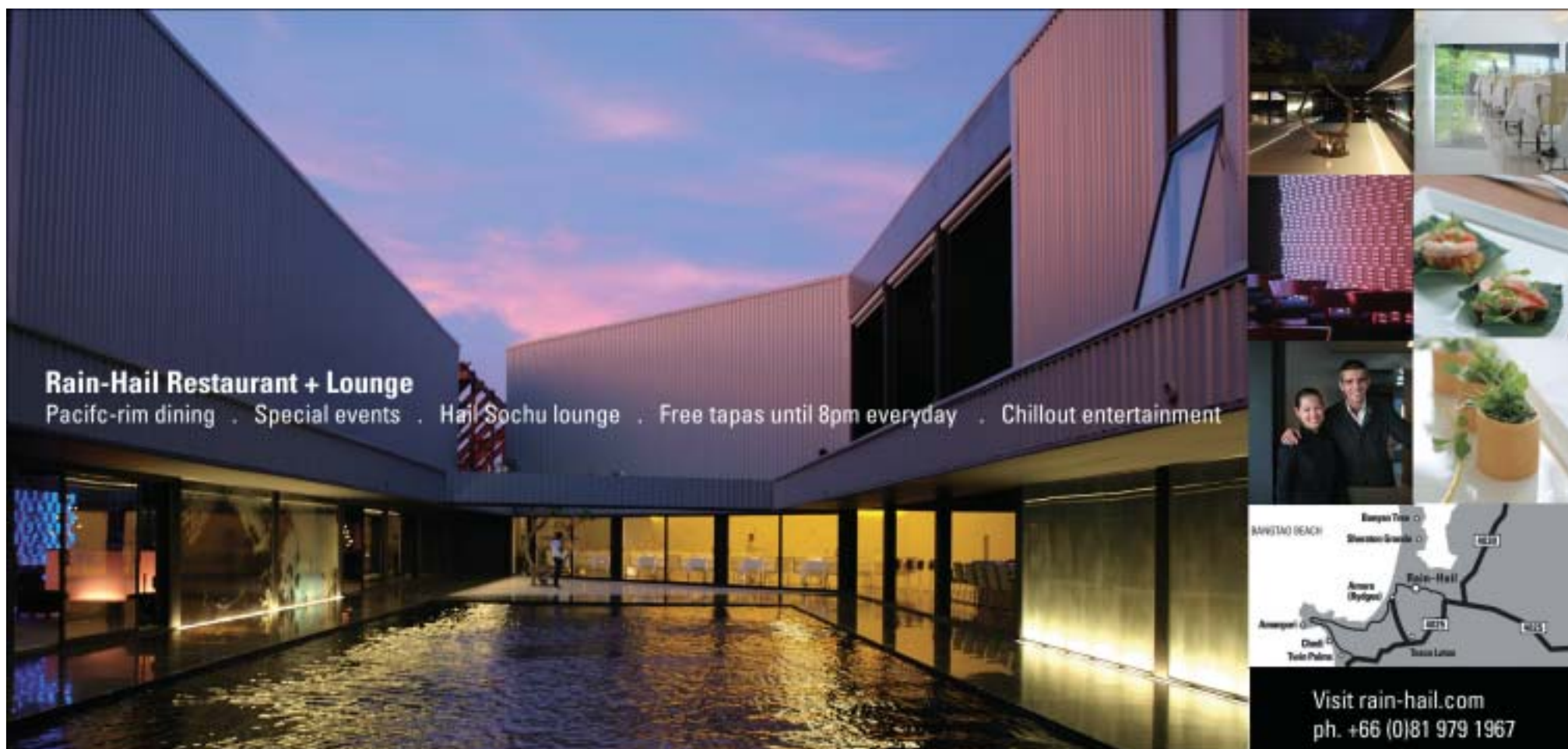
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SKIPPERS

Smiles break out on the faces of the kids as they return home from school and their mother greets them.

They surround her and vie for her attention, the younger ones wrapping themselves around her legs, older ones finding the crook of an arm or her shoulder to grab.

Mother gives each one of them her undivided attention one at a time as they show off a drawing or an origami bird that they made in school.

The abundance of smiles and homely air of maternal love and affection is touching.

There are tears from kids, too, as they relate to mother the quarrels and teasing they faced during the day or how they are missing someone.

Gradually, the older kids settle down at tables to do their homework, while the younger ones with talcum-powdered faces clamber about on the play equipment.

Their "mother" is Ajarn Wanasiri Taebanpakul, without whom, these healthy, well behaved and content children might not have a place to call home.

Ajarn Wanasiri is the "big mother" for the children staying at Phuket Sunshine Village (PSV), a home for children with-

Mothering a home of many hearts

By Nick Davies

out parents on Koh Sireh.

Sunshine Village was conceived by members of Child Watch Phuket and the Lions Club Phuket Andaman Sea after the 2004 tsunami. A board of seven directors was formed and they went about seeking funding from donors and other charities.

Administering the bureaucracy that goes with charitable funding for million-baht projects mean the board soon needed a full-time administrator. A hard-working administrator was found, the paperwork was eventually completed and the French Red Cross offered its support to get the project off the ground.

The French Red Cross' con-

tribution was to take over construction of the eight single-story homes on a tranquil three-rai plot, and to hand the project over to the PSV Foundation after the building was complete.

Franco Ferri, one of PSV's directors, explained that the foundation was then faced with the challenge of finding someone who could run the village and be a substitute mother for the 42 children aged between two and 14 who now stay at there.

"We knew that the village needed a very rare and special individual, someone who would really put their heart in the project and have the time and energy to dedicate their life to the well-being of the children. The foundation is very fortunate to have found Ajarn Wanasiri to fulfill that role," said Franco.

Ajarn Wanasiri is a former administration officer and teacher at Satee Phuket School. Now she rises early in the morning to greet the children for breakfast and send them off to school and she's always there when they return, staying until late at night, when the children have all finally settled.

The job doesn't end there though. It's a 24-hour commitment that very few people would have the dedication to fulfill.

Caring for this group of children, each with a distressing story of life before Sunshine Village, means sleepless nights for some and constant vigils kept by Ajarn Wanasiri and the six other substitute mothers who have a number of children under their care.

Many of the children at the



village have suffered traumatic events in their lives. Some have never known their real parents or had a place to call home before. Now, under Ajarn Wanasiri's care, the children have a home and a mother who is always there for them.

Although some of the children staying at the village are local and still see their natural parents regularly, they have a home at the Sunshine Village where adults have time for them and provide a safe and nurturing environment – a stark contrast to the world of poverty, neglect or abuse many of them were born into.

The children are taught to be responsible for themselves, each other and their home.

"Teaching the children responsibility and helping them to understand that this is now their

home can take time. Many of them come from environments with no parental support or supervision, or they may have been physically or mentally abused," said Ajarn Wanasiri.

A quiet six-year-old boy is hanging onto Ajarn Wanasiri while she is saying this. She strokes his head and praises him for being good. She explains that the boy from Sakorn Nakorn province is excited about going to school for the first time when next term begins.

She doesn't go into the details of the boy's history, but it is clear that with his new mother's care, he has gradually overcome behavioral problems stemming from the stress of existing in an uncaring environment that prevented him from attending school with his peers.

"Our job is to make these

'Our job is to make these children feel valued again.'

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Ajarn 'Big Mother' Wanasiri has enough love in her heart for every one of the children under her care at the Phuket Sunshine Village, a home of hope for homeless children.

children feel valued again, while also giving them the social and academic skills to make their own way in life when they eventually leave the village," Ajarn Wanasiri said.

The Sunshine Village aims to provide a nurturing environment for the children. As well as love and support, there is structure in the children's lives. The children who are old enough have to take care of their own washing and ironing and keep their rooms clean. There are schedules for dividing tasks and every effort is made to preserve a system of fairness.

Ajarn Wanasiri explained that there are no hard and fast criteria for the children who are accepted here. Some of the children here still have parents who visit them regularly, while some were abandoned at birth and have never seen the face of their natural mother.

"We are very lucky to have found such dedicated staff," she said. "This really isn't an average job. Volunteers come and go, and we welcome them all, but your heart has to be in it to always be there for your charges."

A lot of thought went into the planning of the Sunshine Vil-

lage. The main building has a library upstairs, equipped with donated books in English and Thai, plus a bank of computers.

Each of the homes has a name, shown on a plaque at the front, along with recognition for significant donors. There is an outdoor activity area with playground equipment covered with a colorful awning donated by local awning manufacturer Shades.

"Some donors have specific requests for what they want their donated money to go towards. Of course, donations are always welcome and in the future we will need to rely on the continued generosity of charities and individuals to keep the village running," Franco explained.

The village is not just nice, modern buildings in well-kept grounds. With Ajarn Wanasiri at the helm, it is a village filled with the love of young and old hearts, living together in a place they can happily call home.

Phuket Sunshine Village is located on Soi Namnungjaidiew, Tiampracha Uthit Rd, Koh Sireh. Tel: 076-252204. Email: info@phuketsunshinevillage.org Website: www.phuket-sunshinevillage.org

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This week



EIGHT IS ENOUGH: Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra on February 27 cuts the ribbon to open Muang Phuket Municipal School's open-house event, held to showcase the work of students in eight different subjects. Parents and students attended the event, which included exhibitions and stalls where students sold their artwork.



BEAR PASS: Paiboon Pongtatsana (center), director of the Phuket Provincial Education Area Office, visits Kajonkietsuksa School during the school's annual academic fair on February 15. The event featured booths displaying work from each class. Students also took part in talent shows, skill competitions and various other performances.



KEY SERVICE: Andrew Swatdipakdi (2nd from right), general manager of Kata Beach Resort & Spa, joins Kata Group executive Chalernpant Pookpant (center) and Kasikorn Bank Vice-President Wirol Howtavanich (2nd from left) after signing an agreement to make the resort the first in Phuket to use Kasikorn Bank's online-payment system K-Payment Gateway.



FULL MARKS: Mercure Patong Hotel Manager Veeranat Limprasutr (right) and staff celebrate completing the ResaVISION training program taught by Accor training specialist Lisa Cooper. Reservation agent Chatuporn Srisoi (front, 3rd from left) scored the maximum 100 points, making her the second person in Asia to have achieved the feat.



PIPS OF THE BUNCH: Allan and Claire Mossop (left and right), managing directors of Phuket Island Property Services Co Ltd, greet Kylie Brajak (center), director of sales and marketing of Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, at the opening of their property-management office and home-furnishings showroom in Cherg Talay on February 29.



WHERE IT'S @: Sittarom executives and staff celebrate at the opening of the Phuket@Town condominium project on February 23.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

Good fortune awaits if you look for it, Pisces

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Set your sights further than the immediate horizon if you really want to make progress. Remaining in your comfort zone guarantees that nothing much changes for the better – particularly if your birthday is this week, as golden opportunities are forecast in the year ahead. Romance continues to bloom and commitments are highlighted during the second half of this month.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Be as flexible as bamboo this week as plans could change daily. Dealing with Gemini could be especially irritating; waiting until the end of the month to seal agreements is a safer option. A bureaucratic appointment midweek probably requires more documents than you expect. Time spent this weekend on sorting out paperwork is a good investment.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will be content to stay at home this weekend, but friends have other plans for you. Libra thinks you're the bees' knees, but is still too shy to make an approach. The astral atmosphere will be more conducive to romantic hookups later in the month. Later next

week an introduction to a new sport could be just what you need to help blow off steam. Number five is lucky on Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Life is mostly a walk on the beach for you at the moment. With employment bringing more satisfaction and your romantic life becoming more exciting, only money matters could be a source of worry, but resist splurging until your finances receive a boost early next month. You could be stung by a Scorpio friend's tactless remark this weekend, but be wary that retaliation will only worsen the situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Find a peaceful place to clear out the cobwebs this weekend. A tricky work-related situation should improve next week when a troublemaker leaves the scene. Romance with Aries is well-starred, but finding common ground with their friends and family will be a challenge. Keep your head above water where finances are concerned by bargain hunting.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leo's ability to relax is very useful this weekend when friends try to in-

volve you in their disagreements. Maintain a cool composure to set an example for these hot-heads. Single Leos enjoy a warm breath of fresh air when Aquarius shows interest. Flattery could get them everywhere, but resist sharing too many personal secrets until you know them better. Wear scarlet to encourage incoming wealth.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Take a good look at your behavior towards others this week. Your tendency to always know best could be getting in the way of friendships and business relationships. Leo, in particular, would like to be taken more seriously. Thursday is best for negotiating a new work contract, but you will probably have to wait until the end of the month to reach final agreement.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your energy is strong and you should coast along comfortably until the end of March. A pleasant surprise is forecast for some time this week and should boost

your finances. Romance also takes a turn for the better. Plan a hot date with a difference for this Sunday; the person concerned will appreciate your efforts to impress. Wear the color tangerine to add zest to your appearance.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Having clearer aims will help you to climb out of a rut. A more positive outlook will evolve after making a few changes to your lifestyle. Aquarius can give some good advice, but Capricorn's words will act like a wet blanket. Wednesday is best for sorting out a money woes, but

the outcome won't be entirely in your favor. Wear the color lavender to encourage a more relaxed outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If you're aiming to move up in the world, you will have opportunity to prove your worth this week. A complete change of career might be a daunting prospect, but the stars are prepared to back your efforts

to succeed. Delay investments until next month as money matters are subject to insecurity at present. Cancer would like to steal your heart, but needs some encouragement to make a move.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Facing up to one problem will help you to solve others. If you've been burying your head in the sand during recent weeks, you are advised to dig your way out. The stars will support your attempts to get back on track. A love affair with Libra picks up pace this weekend and will provide a much-needed boost to your self-confidence. The number 5 comes alive this Sunday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You could learn that you aren't the only fish in the sea this weekend. Your hopes of a relationship with Pisces are about to fizzle out as someone more impressive enters the scene. However, Aries is about to make their presence felt and this liaison holds much more promise. Your spendthrift tendencies will soon land you in hot water unless curtailed. Wearing forest green encourages a more sensible attitude.

If your birthday is this week, as golden opportunities are forecast in the year ahead.

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Acting in fidelity

After the success of their first Christmas pantomime *Mother Goose*, local thespians The Andaman Players were inspired to put on a triple dose of short comedies with a more adult theme on March 7 to 9 at the Green Man pub and restaurant in Rawai.

Audiences were well-fed with traditional British fare on the Friday and Saturday evening performances with three- and four-course meals while enjoying two short comedies: *Scuba Lessons* by AR Gurney, as well as an energetic offering with a local theme written by Simon Hand, titled *Night in a Bar Room*.

These were interspersed with a series of classic comedy skits and songs that kept the giggles coming while the wine flowed.



Night in a Bar Room was an emotionally charged and fitting comedy, and an especially topical choice for the audience of mostly local foreigners. The play addressed the not-so-funny side of a Phuket love triangle and cheating, projected through a co-

medic lens. A farang husband finds himself a new Thai girlfriend, but the joke's on him when his wife decides to find herself a Thai girlfriend.

The Friday and Saturday evening performances made for an entertaining night out,

By Ingrid Stage-Jacobson

What's a girl to do? You'd think that life with frizz-free blond hair would be a peach, but where bottle-blondes have the upper hand over us naturals is in the eyebrow department. Though I'm rather proud of my fetching golden locks, having blond eyebrows is a bind.

Natural blonds have eyebrows so fair they're practically invisible. If I don't top up the color every six weeks or so, I end up looking like an eyebrowless freak.

While having no eyebrows never did any harm for the *Mona Lisa*, as a hip, young thing in Phuket, it just won't do. Believe it or not, Lana Turner didn't have any eyebrows, but it took careful work with an eyebrow pencil to make her beautiful enough to be a cover girl.

If you are blessed with light eyebrows, you have three choices: You can accept that others will assume you've lost your eyebrows in a freak fire-juggling accident, you can enlist the help of an eyebrow pencil (it's laborious, to say the least) or, better yet, you can pimp up your eyebrows by tinting them.

Yes, I'll admit it: I'm a tinter, or in other words, I use hair dye

Going easy



Before tinting, blonde eyebrows are almost invisible...

to color my eyebrows a subtle shade of brownish-gray.

Finding a beauty salon in Phuket that does tints was difficult. Although some places offered what they called "tints", I was cautious about who I was going to let touch up my brows; I didn't want to put my tinting into the hands of an amateur.

Being able to trust your beauty therapist is paramount to successful tinting, as I discovered

recently in Adelaide, where the therapist must have been color-blind. The dye she referred to as a discreet cox-gray ended up being more like an indiscreet charcoal. It's never been a desire of mine to look like a cross between Frida Kahlo and Brooke Shields. Suffice to say, I didn't return to that therapist. Ladies, be warned: once you go black, you have a long wait before you can go back.

It took me several days of



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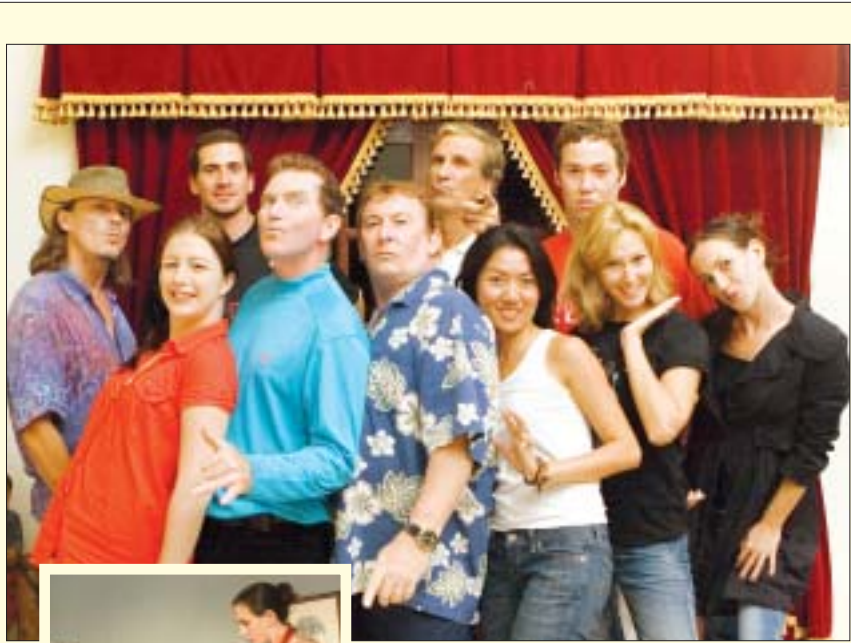
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ABOVE: The Andaman Players.



LEFT: But you're a Player, darling... A scene from *A Night in a Bar Room*.

with good wine, food and light hearted entertainment, while the Sunday matinee performance offered a more traditional theater experience.

on the eye



...but after the treatment, blonde eyebrows are visible, but do not make for a Brooke Shields-Morticia Addams look.

Googling and a volley of phone calls to track down a salon in Phuket with a therapist who knows about tinting.

Only a few months had passed since my tinting mishap, so it was with apprehension that I found myself at the West One salon one afternoon. I was shaky at the prospect entrusting the fate of my forehead to a total stranger.

I needn't have worried. Gorgeous George, the owner of West One, said, "We have done tints for the past six years. Lots of fair Scandinavian and British woman come here to have their

brows done. It's a very popular treatment. We do tints because our aim is to provide everything one can think of treatment-wise, from top to toe."

George sure knows a thing or two about tints. He is also aware that shades must be tailored for each client. After a color consultation, I was taken for a pre-dye wax. In less than one minute, an assistant had done away with any stray brow-hairs and I was ready for my tint.

I opted for a foxy gray and was relieved when the color turned out to be exactly that. A glance in the mirror revealed a pair of natural, yet noticeable, brows. No Frieda Kahlos here; the fox was back in town.

Brow-waxing at West One costs 400 baht, while a tint is 300 baht. For more information on tints, waxes and other beauty treatments, contact West One, First Floor, Central Festival. Tel: 076-248311

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The multi-seat Ssangyong Stavic has recently been launched in Thailand and promises to be a multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) with a big future despite Ssangyong's checkered history.

Established in 1939 as an engineering company and progressing to a Korean chaebol, or conglomerate, the company entered the motoring industry when it produced the aluminum bodies for the ill-fated Panther Kallista.

The bodies were pretty much hand-built, meaning each one was slightly different, making final construction in Weybridge, England, rather hit-and-miss.

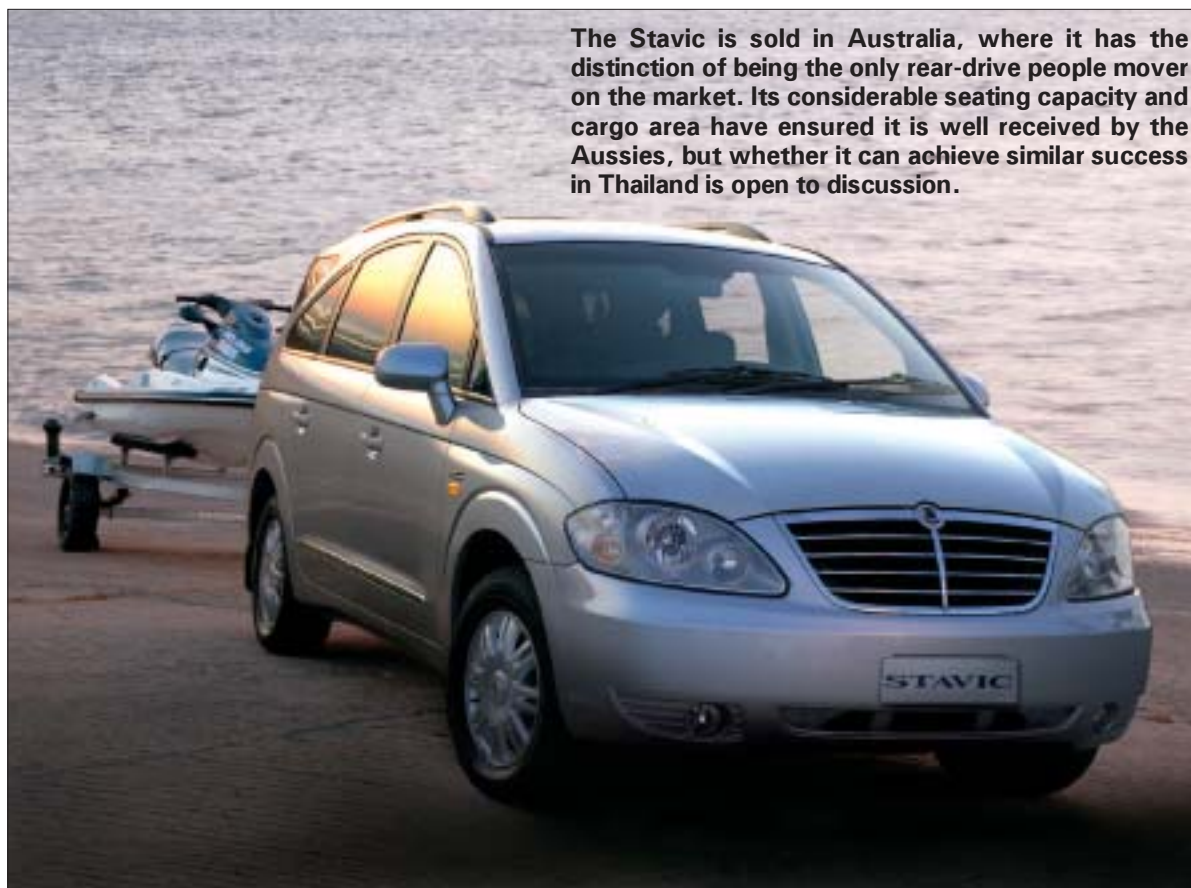
The plastic grille, for example, was fitted by eye – no jigs – to ensure it was in the center of the nose.

Additionally, the front suspension mounts had to be modified with the introduction of up to 10 washers to make them fit.

In 1987, Panther's then-owner, Korea's Young C Kim, sold the company to Ssangyong and in 1988 Ssangyong took over full production of the Panther.

In 1997, Ssangyong introduced the Chairman, a semi-luxury sedan based on Mercedes Benz mechanicals, but things turn a turn for the worse in 1998, when Ssangyong suffered greatly during the Asian economic crisis and linked up for a while with fellow Korean-automaker Daewoo.

Daewoo has since been absorbed by General Motors with Ssangyong now controlled by China's Shanghai Automotive



The Stavic is sold in Australia, where it has the distinction of being the only rear-drive people mover on the market. Its considerable seating capacity and cargo area have ensured it is well received by the Aussies, but whether it can achieve similar success in Thailand is open to discussion.

Stavic unleashed in Thailand



Industry Corp (SAIC), the outfit that for a time was interested in the ailing British Rover company.

At the end of 2005, SAIC committed \$1 billion to strengthen

Ssangyong.

To be invested over the next five years, this puts the Korean company on a secure footing and will enable new models to be developed, both in Korea and in

Shanghai, where a number of Korean engineers have been seconded.

The Stavic is an eleven-seat MPV with sufficient versatility to enable seats to be folded, turned

to face each other or removed altogether in the case of the rear-most seats.

The Stavic's power plant is a 2.7-liter, five-cylinder, turbo-charged, common-rail diesel engine, sourced from Mercedes Benz, but built under license in South Korea.

The engine is mated to a five-speed, tiptronic, automatic gearbox, also of Mercedes origin. Power output is a modest 163bhp (122kW), while peak torque, produced between 1,800rpm and 3,250rpm, is a healthy 342Nm.

Standard equipment includes ABS and an electronic brake-distribution system (EBD), dual front airbags, cruise control, rain-sensing windshield wipers and automatic headlamps.

There are two- and four-wheel-drive models, while a sunroof and rear parking sensor are optional on selected models.

The body styling is not quite done in-house, with Turin's Pininfarina having had some input, although SAIC is developing various cars in South Korea and Shanghai. Ssangyong describes the styling of the Stavic as "neo-fusion".

The Stavic has clean lines and a flowing roof profile ending in a discreet spoiler. The front and rear lights are distinctive and add to the uncluttered design.

This car is sold in Australia, where it has the distinction of being the only rear-drive people mover on the market.

Its considerable seating capacity and cargo area ensured that it was well received by the Aussies, but whether it can achieve similar success in Thailand has yet to be seen.

The two-wheel drive Stavic SV starts at around 1.39 million baht, while the top-of-the range 4WD sells at more than 2.05 million baht.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until March 29. Light of Life Art Exhibition.

"Light of Life" will feature acrylic and oil on canvas by Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwacharakul 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. Opening cocktail reception at 6:30 pm, March 8. Open daily 11 am to 7 pm.

For details, contact Bowie at Tel: 076-360867. Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

March 15-16. Aussie Bush Barbecue & Music (much of the) Night.

From 7 pm to 1 am at the Phuket Sport & Tennis Club Rawai.

Feature for the night will be a performance by the legendary Mal Clarke of the famed Australian band Bullamanka.

He's fresh from a four-month season at The Ayres Rock Resort Hotel, where he entertained thousands of visitors.

Mal will be joined by many other local and international performers in what promises to be the greatest jam session with a bush-country-rock flavor in the history of Phuket.

Please register early to make your booking.

For 500 baht, you will be well fed and entertained.

For more information call Stafford or Pat at 081-6072805 or 081-5696569 (Thai). Email: phuketsquash@e-mail.in.th Website: www.phuketsport.com

March 16. 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.

If you can't get your 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.

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



Get your water pistols ready and your buckets full of ice-cold water as Songkran Festival is almost here once again.

Songkran Festival (Public Holiday)

April 13-15

Songkran (Thai New Year), also known as the Water Festival, is held during the driest months in Thailand.

Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

March 19-28. Phuket Food Festival.

The 11th Phuket Food Festival will be held at Saphan Hin. Don't miss a local cooking contest on March 19 at 6:30 pm.

Find a great variety of local food every day, including fresh seafood.

There will be demonstrations of local delicacies, sales of OTOP products, cultural and contemporary performances and more.

Entry is free.

For further information contact Jaras Sae-Tan. Tel: 081-3261526. Email: rat_st99@yahoo.com

March 22. Easter Buffet @ Wine Connection Chalong

A Super Easter Buffet with carved leg of lamb and many more dishes, such as Parma Ham, Coppa and more, are awaiting you – along with a live band and fireworks. 650+ baht per person. 6:30 pm - 11 pm. Contact Pascal. Tel: 087-889 6074. Email: fb.phuket@

wineconnection.co.th

March 23. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

March 28. Laguna Phuket Sea Turtle Conservation Ceremony.

Since 1994, Laguna Phuket has held this event within its complex to raise funds for the sea turtle conservation programs run by the Royal Thai Navy and Phuket Marine Biological Center.

Apart from the releasing of sea turtles, there will also be many other fun activities, such as a sea-turtle-conservation exhibition, a turtle sand-sculpture completion, T-shirt painting, bead-bracelet making and games booths at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket beachfront from 4 pm to 6 pm.

For further information contact Saranya Tantiphiriyakul. Tel: 076-362300 ext 1304. Email: saranyat@lagunaphuket.com

March 28-April 24. BIS IB Visual Arts Exhibition.

A display of works by graduating students of the British International School IB program at Room Limited on the bypass road.

Private viewing on Friday, March 28, from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Open to the public from Saturday, March 29 until April 24, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Contact K. Gai. Tel: 076-238711-20 ext 3603. Email: saowarotm@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

March 30. Mac Group Therapy – Chalong.

The first-ever Macintosh Group Therapy meeting will be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong on March 30.

PC users are invited, too, but the emphasis will be on problems folks are encountering with their Macs. Bring your questions. Bring your computers. Let's see if we can find some answers.

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

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day (Public Holiday).

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

April 13-18. Phuket Bike Week.

Full details to be announced nearer the time.

April 30. Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

Dates and details to be an-

nounced.

May 3-June 1. 10th Phuket International Rugby 10s.

Marking a decade of international rugby on Phuket, this year's Rugby 10s will be played at Karon Municipal Stadium. For more information contact Patrick Cotter. Email: phuketrugby@gmail.com Website: www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com

June 15. The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another success this year with more than 1,000 participants in the 42km marathon, 21km half-marathon, 10k run, and 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' run.

Also, eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi will be guiding interested runners over the course, focusing on the enjoyment of the race and interaction with spectators without the pressure of achieving a certain finish time.

Registration is available at www.phuketmarathon.com Early bird offers end on March 31. Registration closes June 5.

For more information contact Roman Floesser. Tel: 02-2362931. Email: direct@goadventureasia.com

July 23-27. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek.

Described by veteran yacht racers as "the most exciting mixed fleet regatta [in] this region", Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is four days of monsoon-season racing and five nights of glittering five-star parties.

For details contact Grenville Fordham. Tel: 076-264491. Email: gren@image-asia.com Website: www.phuketraceweek.com

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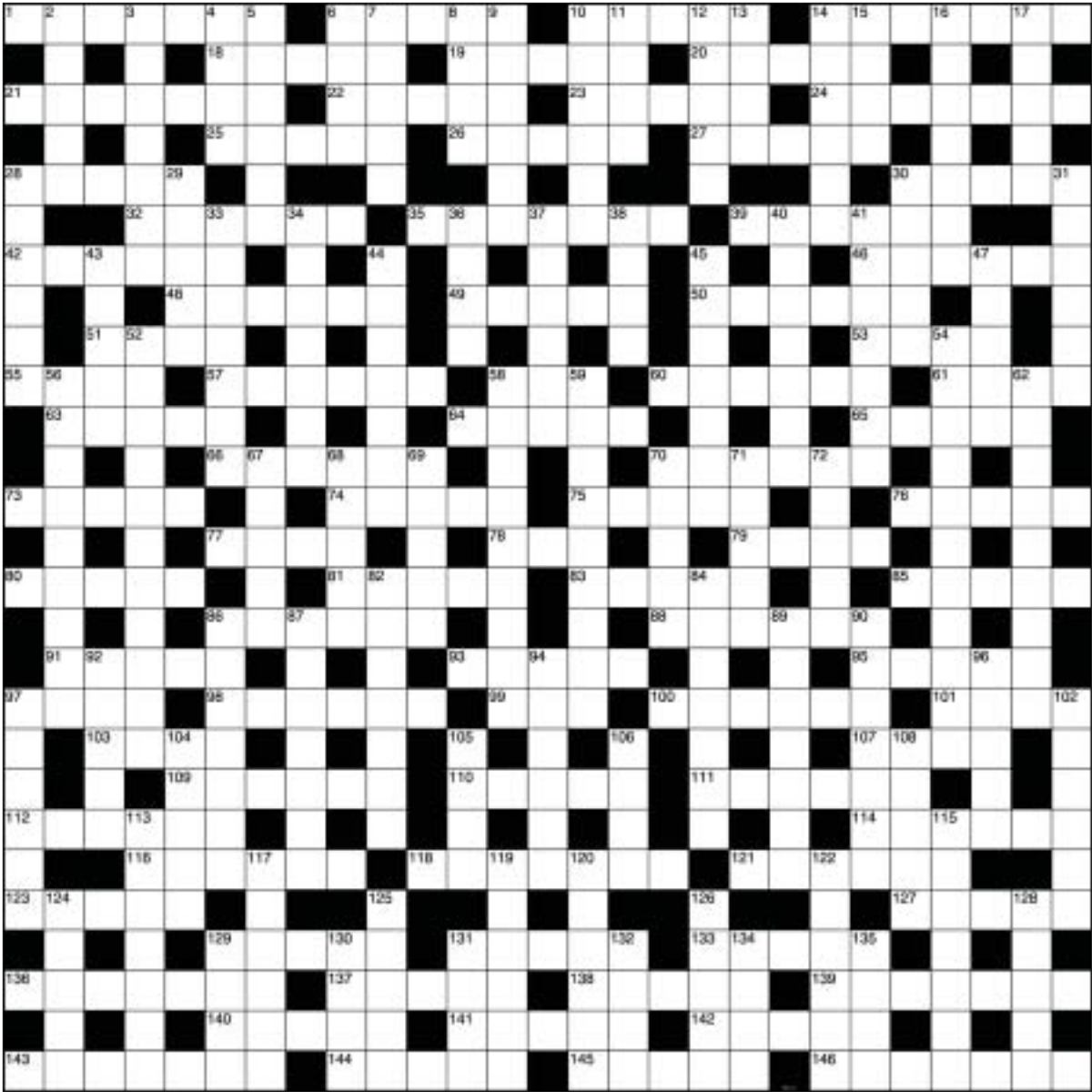
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Puzzles

The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference

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



© 2007 Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

- Across

1. Aggressively self-confident

6. Merits

10. Frighten

14. Drug peddlers

18. Brothel manageress

19. Weight unit

20. Stoneworker

21. Small quantity

22. Incurred (costs) (3,2)

23. Expect

24. Fluffed timing

25. Window material

26. Belgrade natives

27. Lure

28. Knight's mount

30. Tiddly

32. Drizzled

35. Fetuses

39. Sphere of influence

42. Lifting devices

46. Double edged knife

48. Stomach sores

49. Check recipient

50. Beer-maker

51. Tibetan leader, Dalai...

53. Jotters

55. Address to royalty (2'2)

57. Grumbled

58. Form of Buddhism

60. Capsize

61. Use book

63. Hindu teacher

64. Mixer drinks

65. Hire agreement

66. Quietened

70. Mainly

73. Snaking dance

74. Perfect

75. West African land

76. Radiant

77. Amongst

78. Cry of delight

79. Dinner or lunch

80. Gadget

81. Departing

83. Prohibited

85. Aunt &...

86. Strangest

88. Passes (legislation)

91. Giant

93. Cremation remains

95. Sing lullaby

97. Trifling

98. Be in power

99. Sticky coal by-product

100. Pakistan/Afghanistan ...Pass

101. Fertilizer compound

103. Knuckle of veal stew, ...bucco

107. Porridge flakes

109. Outdoor meal

110. Come up

111. Remember

112. Author, Enid...

114. Gave temporarily

116. Sweet

118. Gazing fixedly

121. Population count

123. Rowing crew

127. Ventured

129. Equal

131. India's Taj...

133. Regale

136. Stockpile (5,2)

137. Light brownish color

138. Actress, Greta...

139. Investigators

140. Vapor

141. Scythed

142. Dressing gowns

143. Reeds, water...

144. Argentina's Eva...

145. Comic actor, Eric...

146. Actress, ...De Mornay

Down

2. WWII German sub (1-4)

3. Tarries

4. Self-satisfied

5. Actor, Harry...

6. Organs of hearing

7. Collect

8. Intelligence

9. Great

10. Encrusted

11. Church benches

12. Skips

13. Actress, ...Winslet

14. Beanie ball

15. Military subdivision

16. Chopping wildly

17. Smells foul

28. Breakaway sect

29. Information item

30. Jewelled headband

31. Told involved story

33. Muslim

34. Stare menacingly at

36. Be listless

37. Sounded alike

38. Oil producers' group

40. Pig out

41. Proficiently

43. Marriage relative (2-3)

44. Showed (to seat)

45. Dump

47. Helium & hydrogen

52. Mixes together

54. Protracting (8,3)

56. Partner

58. Fauna scientist

59. More disobedient

62. Aircraft

67. Carrying a gun

68. Gnat

69. Red ledger entry

70. Perhaps

71. Pacific Island group

72. Slightest

82. Largest bird

84. Blowing from sea

86. Still happening

87. Prophet

89. Changing booth

90. The Dead Sea...

92. Incongruity

94. Mistier

96. Actor/director, ...Welles

97. London's ...Arch

102. Complied, ...by the rules

104. Tea pourer

105. Immense

106. Aquatic bird

108. Audibly

113. Crew-necked tops (1-6)

115. Normally (2,1,4)

117. Modifies

119. Actor, Frankie...

120. Mental pictures

122. Cricketer, ...Hussain

124. Bury

125. Disgrace

126. Trooper's sword

128. Moral

129. Ponder

130. Fellow

131. Reminder note

132. Woman

134. Cow calls

135. Threat, do it or ...!

Solution on next page

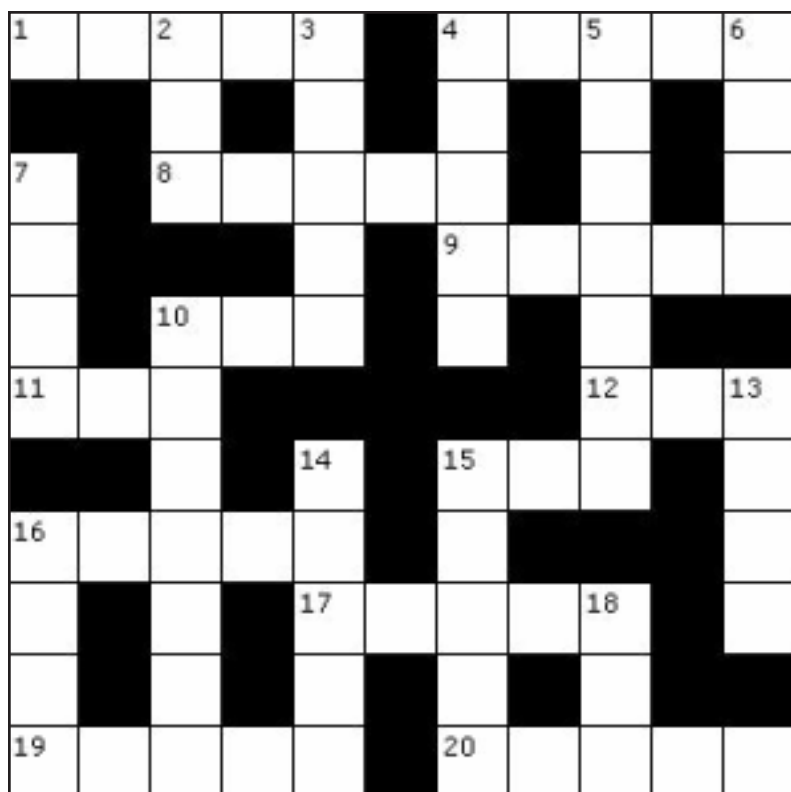
su | do | ku

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

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

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

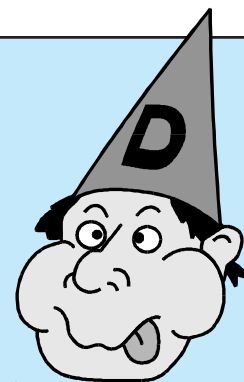
1. Vegetable
4. Monster
8. Oh my God, they killed...
9. Black
10. Woman's undergarment
11. Owed
12. Pride
15. Staff
16. Trunk of the body
17. Instrument
19. Juliet's lover
20. Race done in teams

Down

2. In a pen
3. Fighting person
4. Someone who purchases
5. Given permission
6. Not messy
7. Part of a sentence
10. Where you sleep
13. Cookie
14. Japanese city
15. Used for shaving
16. Rip
18. A commodity

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 BBC show did Morph first appear?
2. Which shop did Anita Roddick open in Brighton in 1976?
3. Zola Budd caused the fall of which athlete in the 84 Olympics?
4. Which instrument did Stuart Sutcliffe play in the Beatles?
5. Which station is the starting point for the Hogwarts Express?
6. What was the title of Mariah Carey's debut single?
7. What nationality was Vincent Van Gogh?
8. Which character did Hugo Weaving play in *The Matrix*?
9. With which group did Tony Christie have a top 10 hit in 1999?
10. Who commanded the Scottish army at the Battle Of Bannockburn?
11. Which *Friends* star appeared in a Bruce Springsteen video?
12. Who bought Chelsea FC for £1 in 1982?
13. With which song did The Bluebells have a number 1 in 1993?
14. Who holds the men's long jump record?
15. Who was the first line of Band Aid originally intended for?
16. Which 60's TV character had a name derived from "man appeal"?
17. Which band is after the a character in the film *Paris, Texas*?
18. Which football team plays at Ewood Park?
19. Who first sung *White Christmas*?
20. When is International Nursing Day annually held?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Take Hart; 2. The Body Shop; 3. Mary Decker; 4. Bass; 5. King's Cross; 6. Vision of Love; 7. Dutch; 8. Agent Smith; 9. All Seeing I; 10. Robert the Bruce; 11. Courtney Cox; 12. Ken Bates; 13. Young At Heart; 14. Mike Powell ; 15. David Bowie; 16. Emma Peel; 17. Travis; 18. Blackburn Rovers; 19. Bing Crosby; 20. May 12.

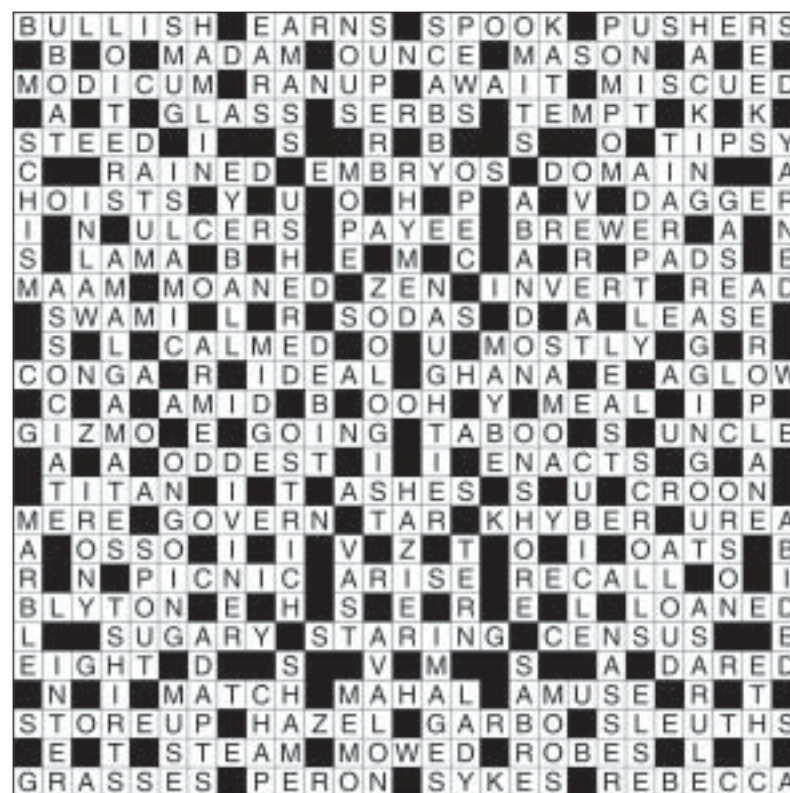
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



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What will Phuket be like in the future? Will it be the eco-tourism destination many are hoping for, or will the island become something else entirely? A friend inspired this column by writing, "In a couple years, Phuket will just be more concrete, brothels, golf courses and endless shophouses. Quality, thinking tourists will go elsewhere." Let's look at the worst-case scenario.

It's 2020. Khao Lak is out. Cyclone Hyacinth of 2012 took care of that. With unstable global warming pushing the traditional cyclone path 300 kilometers east, Hyacinth pushed an eight-meter storm surge into Khao Lak's flatlands. No lives were lost, but property damage was on a par with a tsunami.

Phuket is now a cross between the Costa del Sol and Orange County. Water stolen from Phang Nga and Ranong is pumped onto the island through four 3-meter pipes, drying out forests to the north. The water is pumped to the resorts that now ring the island, with a few mud-flats on the east coast.

Most of the hillsides slipped when Hyacinth's rains washed away the homes and roads that replaced the forests. Mother Nature destroyed many of the island's developments.

If you look at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) numbers, Phuket tourism is booming. Unfortunately, quality tourists left long ago, forced out by mass-volume, low-quality groups. Many of the five-star resorts were returned to their reinforced concrete shells, sold at a loss and re-opened as two-star properties to feed the Asian tour market.

Phang Nga National Park is now a rubbish-filled playground for factory workers. Wildlife in Southern Thailand disappeared from all areas accessible to humans. HIV/Aids has returned to the beer bars because the market refuses to wear condoms.

Looking beyond 'Paradise Sold'



PUSHMI PULLU?
Human-powered cars like this one in Puerto Princesa could play a major role in global eco-tourism in the future.



It's the same year, 2020, but this time we're at a hotel in Kerala, India. The hotel is elegant and without the energy-intensive reinforced concrete, air conditioning, harsh lighting and water heaters of our possible future Phuket.

The Kerala hotel is at one with the elements. The basic earthen structure has been tested over thousands of years to create comfort during drought and monsoons. Rooms are large and temperate. Even the swimming pool is natural, using traditional plants to aerate and clean the water. The five-star market says energy-consuming infrastructure is a no-no in the era of global warming, so the hotel is fully booked year-round by quality environmental guests looking for authentic culture.

There are no Las Vegas-style floor shows here. The Indians are proud of their culture. You can take a paddle boat down a

traditional reed-lined canal to participate in an intimate show. There are no rubber-chicken buffet dinners to feast on. Your meal is presented with the pride of a culture 4,000 years old. Land is at a premium due to over-population, therefore vegetarianism is "in" by 2020.

A traditional barge big enough for a family navigates a network of canals restored to their Colonial-era ambiance. You hear shorebirds while trundling to the next cultural stop or traditional restaurant.

Fields run to the horizon, all groomed and rubbish-free. An occasional water buffalo and farmer work their plough and trees pepper the flat landscape and its maze of quiet canals – no longtail boats in sight.

East of this vision of a future Phuket, Puerto Princesa in the Philippines has an international airport that is 10 years old. Green

Globe logos front every eco-lodge. If a developer doesn't meet Green Globe standards, he isn't allowed to build. Every beach is clean, with seas so pure you needn't wonder what you are diving into.

The destination is promoted as "the city in a forest" because that's exactly what it is. There's an environmental festival every month. Instead of mass-tourism tours, visitors often go mangrove planting.

Resorts are either mountain

view or beachfront. Either way, when you want to go out, you take an electric tricycle to the edge of town where a circle road on tracks provides human-powered cars propelled by legs.

There are stops where you can leave the car and go shopping in the art colony, eating food in restaurants reminiscent of museums and art galleries.

When you go dolphin watching by kayak in Princesa Bay, a commercial harbor, you hire an electric tricycle to travel to the put-in.

When you want to return to your lodge, you push a button at the dock and a tricycle picks you up without a single tuk-tuk driver threatening you or your trike driver.

Princesa's main attraction is a 13km underground river; actually a huge tidal sea cave. The government recognized that local authorities were more responsible than the National Park system and returned administration to the city 20 years earlier.

You go with a city guide paddling a small banca. Departures are every 10 minutes, and you only get to go 1.5km inside to protect the cave from the CO2

emissions of human breath. It's a two-hour drive to reach the cave. The rainforests are perfect, the views spectacular and the occasional villages clean and pure. Sabang, the small beach community along the way, is a picturesque beach with a mangrove paddle between the village and the underground

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

river.

The choice is yours: Phuket, Kerala, Princesa or a dozen other eco-friendly destinations. This is just one possibility from the decisions we make today. If it becomes a reality, I know where I would rather be in 2020.

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Play It Again, Woody

I often begin book reviews by introducing the author, his life and works. Woody Allen needs no introduction. Director, screenwriter, comic actor, Allen has won four Academy Awards and produced such masterpieces as *Annie Hall* and *Manhattan*. The 73-year-old New Yorker has recently undergone a creative re-birth in London where, following in the footsteps of Diane Keaton and Mia Farrow, Scarlett Johanson has been his muse for *Match Point* and *Scoop*.

Allen has also published four slim books of humor: *Getting Even*, *Without Feathers*, *Side Effects* and, most recently, *Mere Anarchy* (Random House, New York, 2007, 160pp). *Mere Anarchy* is a collection of 18 short pieces, mostly published in *The New Yorker*.

Generally his modus operandi is to notice an obscure news item and then run a comic riff off it. His exuberant comic language is its own reward. Take this introductory passage to "Calisthenics, Poison Ivy, Final Cut":

"As a hatchling chloroformed and shanghaied each summer to various lakeside facilities bearing Indian names where I struggled to master the dog paddle under the baleful eyes of capos otherwise known as counselors, my atten-



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

tion was pinioned recently by something in the back pages of *The New York Times Magazine*.

Amongst the usual dumping grounds where well-heeled parents might stash their sniveling issue and savor a comatose July and August were ads for such trendy modern specialties as basketball camp, magic camp, computer camp, jazz camp, and, perhaps the most glamorous of all, film camp...

"This pricey inspiration seems a long way from Camp Melanoma, run by Moe and Elsie Varnishke in Loch Sheldrake, where I suffered the dog days of my fourteenth year playing dodgeball and keeping the calamine-lotion industry solvent."

This leads to a nine-page comic shtick

correspondence between the father of a film wunderkind and the greedy camp owner who wants a cut of the pie.

In fact, many of these stories are set in the purlieus of show business and featured desperately greedy Jewish protagonists trying to scrape up a lucrative hustle. Yiddish words abound. You don't need to be a New Yorker to understand Yiddish, but it helps. If, like me, you grew up in New York, you're Jewish even if you're not Jewish.

In "This Nib for Hire", a struggling writer named Flanders Mealworm reflects:

"It is said Dostoyevsky wrote for money to sponsor his lust for the roulette tables of St Petersburg. Faulkner and Fitzgerald too leased their gifts to eschmatte moguls who stacked the Garden of Allah with scribes brought west to spitcall box-office reveries."

Thus Mealworm gets a call from a big Hollywood producer named E. Coli Biggs. The offer? To write a novelization of Three Stooges skits. This leads to a mock-existentialist treatment of violent slapstick that has Moe exclaiming: "We suffer. O woe to the random violence of human existence."

In "On a Bad Day You Can See Forever", the narrator recounts the expensive

agonies he endures in restoring a small brownstone on Manhattan's Upper West Side. This is his wife's decision while "the wallet in my breast pocket began to flutter like a hooked flounder".

He settles on a suspicious looking contractor: "one Max Arbogast alias Chic Arbogast, alias Specs Arbogast - a waxy little ectomorph with the glinting eyes of a claim jumper in a Republic western. When we met on the premises some inner voice told me I was face to face with someone who would indeed blow up the silver mine while coolies toiled innocently within rather than stand them their wages."

There follows seven pages of hilarious chicanery.

The last story is different in tone: the hard-boiled detective diction of a 20-year veteran in the homicide division of the NYPD. There's a serial killer afoot who leaves his victims dead without a trace of foul play. The detective has never seen anything like it and he's the one who colared the Astrology Killer.

"The Astrology Killer was a vicious maniac who liked to sneak up and bash people's heads in while they were yodeling. He was tough to nab because there was so much sympathy for him."

The household hokey cokey 'You let the girlfriend in, kick your girlfriend out...'

This month, Mr A got himself into trouble building a house on land bought in his Thai partner's name.

Mr A, like so many other retirees from Europe, came to Thailand for a holiday and fell in love with the place and decided to live out his golden years in Phuket. He later fell in love and started living with his special lady. They decided to buy some land and he built a house on it.

Unfortunately for him, all the paperwork was in the name of his new love and when problems between them started and later got out of hand, she told him to move out and that their relationship was over.

As all the ownership deeds were in her name, he would not have any rights to any money he had invested in the land and house. Mr A did move out, but he did not leave it at that - he went to see a lawyer and filed a case in court.

In court, the judge made it clear to the wife that Mr A had paid for the house and that she should try to come to a settlement.

Mr A and his wife came to a formal agreement under which he was allowed to stay at the house and pay a minimal amount

of rent to her until the land and building could be sold and the proceeds split between the two parties.

Mr A moved back in and while he was living in the house his wife made an attempt for them to get back together and move back in. Mr A agreed and decided to give their relationship another chance.

They lived together again for some time and Mr A took her with him to his home country for three months. During that time, he did not pay the rent and his

wife did not ask for it.

After returning to Thailand,

the couple's differences became obvious again and Mr A decided he could not live with her. He asked her to move out of the house, at which point his wife filed with the court to terminate the agreement previously made as Mr A had failed to pay the rent.

This was the last Mr A needed and now he really wanted her out of the house. However, she refused to move out.

In court again, Mr A showed evidence that he had paid rent, though late, and gave reasons why he had paid the rent late.

He asked the judge to order his wife to move out. However, the judge said that under the case being heard in court, he was unable to order her to leave and he told Mr A that it was his own fault for letting her back into the house.

Upon inquiry, the judge learned that the house still had not been sold, which he said would

have been the end of the couple's problems. Both parties blamed each other that the house still had not been sold.

The judge offered to have the sale arranged through the

court, which would hopefully bring an end to the squabbling.

This case shows that under Thai law, foreigners can have the same rights as Thais and that justice can prevail.

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

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Making casinos a safe bet

While Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej pushes on with his plan of establishing casinos in tourist destinations around Thailand, there currently appears to be little support locally for the idea of siting one in Phuket [See Inside Story, page 5].

The unease with which many people have reacted to the plan in Phuket mirrors a nationwide trend revealed by Assumption University's ABAC poll, which found that more people admitted to having gambled before (35%) than those who actually support the legalization of gambling (32%).

More than anything else, the figures reveal the extent to which Thais view gambling as a vice – rather than a form of entertainment.

One aspect that has emerged from the debate is that all sides seem to agree that it makes sense to set up casinos on Thai soil as a way of parting foreign tourists from their cash – while at the same discouraging or outrightly denying entry to poor and middle-class Thais.

Apparently our paternalistic leaders feel Thais cannot be trusted with the same rights in their own country as those enjoyed by foreigners – at least when it comes to indulging in this particular vice.

This strange reversal of the normal “double pricing” strategy long in use at national parks and other tourist attractions around the country would have the desired affect among all but the richest Thais, who would continue to indulge in the wide variety of gambling options already available to them – legal and otherwise.

While the plan to legalize gambling in general has some definite merits, the details put forward by PM Samak are fundamentally flawed. If the 100,000-baht membership fee for Thais mentioned by PM Samak were introduced, it is hard to imagine why any Thais would pay it.

After all, for most Thais it would only be a bus ride to a border, where they could continue to gamble free of charge and without other restrictions. They would also be starting with a stack of chips worth 100,000 baht, at least taking into consideration the money saved by gambling abroad.

As a result, this would do little to keep the estimated 80 million baht spent by Thai gamblers inside the country – one of the key problems the casinos are meant to address.

Given the lack of Thais in “Thai” casinos, it is likely the casinos would resemble in spirit and atmosphere the same generic tedium that tends to characterize other such venues around Asia – which is why they can't rival a unique destination such as Las Vegas.

Then again, maybe they could add other illicit activities to increase the appeal. After all, there could be a lot of money in it – and Thais wouldn't be subjected.

– The Editor

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

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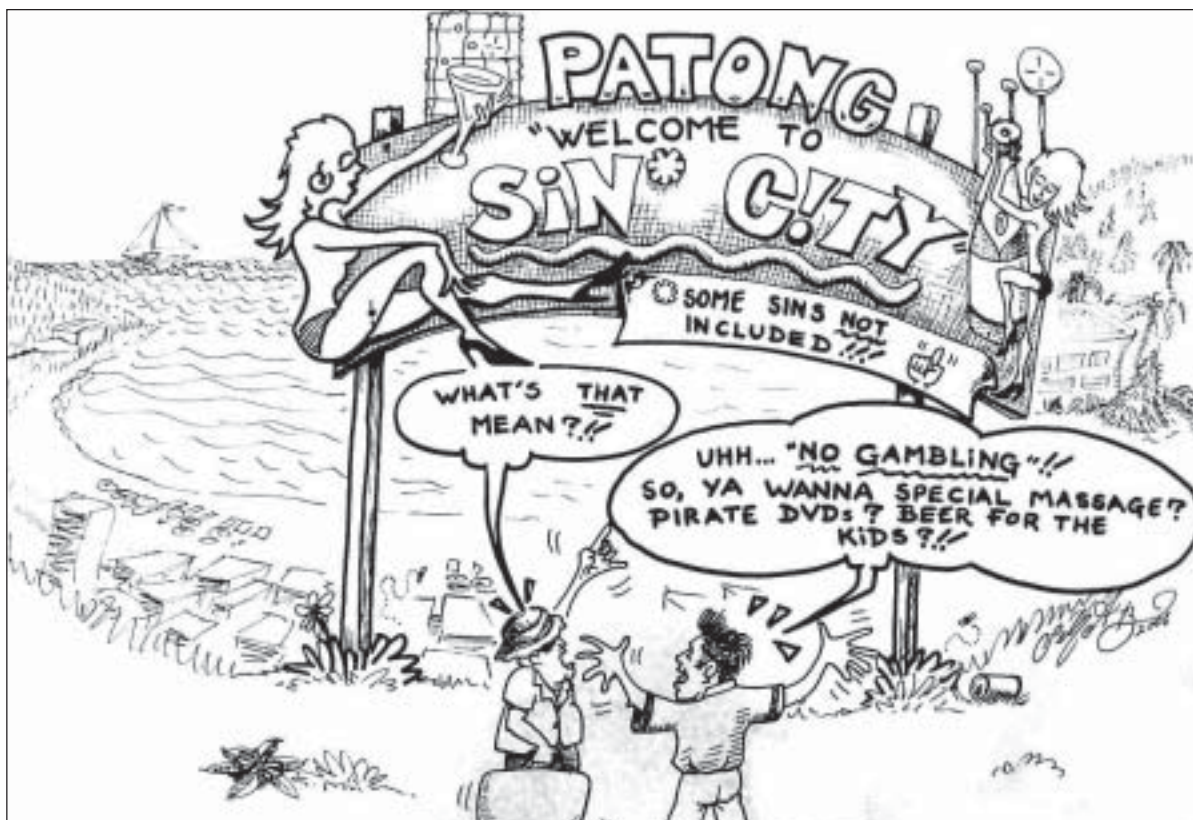
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Letters

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

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

Switch the Ambrosia column, please

Frankly, Ambrosia seems less and less relevant to farangs living in Thailand and increasingly self-involved, deluded and objectionable.

Ambrosia's writing is often deeply offensive and wildly inaccurate, particularly for male readers and for any readers who live in Thailand. For example, this line from her most-recent article: "The answer is quite simple. Women are genetically programmed to be the less selfish sex."

It seems clear that Ambrosia has never been to Thailand, or forgotten the experience if she has been. In Thailand, the pervading attitude is: "Guys buy women everything; they must support women and the women's families for life." This is the country where men are expected to behave like plow-oxen, meekly giving the money we earn to girlfriends, or giving control of our savings to our wives or their female relatives.

For simple proof, go down to Patong and count the number of women buying drinks for, and showering gifts on men. Alternatively, go to Phuket Town and poll Thai couples: "Who makes more money, husband or wife? Does the wife give the husband money, or vice versa? Who works longer hours?"

I could object to Ambrosia's writing on the grounds that her understanding of genetics is deeply flawed and badly dated: "Women are genetically programmed"? Are we back in the 1940s, when everyone thought that men and women were genetically predisposed to being

immensely different animals? Is Ambrosia trying to kill off the equality between the sexes that Western society has been struggling to achieve since the 1960s?

I could object on grounds of political correctness. This shallow woman talks voluminously about showering herself with clothing, toys and whatnot and only gives a fraction of one sentence to the rest of the planet.

How, exactly, is this "unselfish"? She asks us to tolerate paragraph after paragraph of her obsessive "guilt" related to eating chocolate, but has not one word to share about neighborhood improvement or Amnesty International.

She lives entirely within her own narrow, selfish body, career and family concerns. The *Gazette* should not burden the paper with paragraphs obsessing about Ambrosia's household and personal cleanliness.

Name supplied
Phuket

Sleepless in Patong

The 90-decibel, 2 am bylaws are known and openly violated by many open-air bar owners on Sirirat Rd in Patong – all at the expense of local residents. These open-air bars, of which the *ma-hout* [elephant keepers] live-music club is the worst offender, keep residents and their families awake until 4, 6, or 8 am – sometimes even later – every single night, with loud music that can be heard more than two kilometers away.

When approached by residents to turn the music down, certain owners – perhaps the managers – respond with anything from insolence to threats of physical violence.

Visits by the police, includ-

ing a recent liquor-law crack-down, are a blessed relief, but more often than not, the noise gets turned up in defiance the moment the police leave and the misery is redoubled.

The argument of the owners that they have the right to earn a living is disingenuous when by "earning a living", they are depriving their neighbors of the sleep needed to do likewise.

A number of these clubs are little more than noise boxes where a couple of loudspeakers provide a sense-dulling crash pad for three or four intoxicated friends. Furthermore, incidences of violence are common and have forced residents to improve security around their homes.

Perhaps now is the time for the town council to consider laws that require certain establishments to conduct their activities behind four walls and closed doors.

Sleep Deprived
Patong

Patong bars must fight 2 am closing

What about pub closings during international sporting events, especially football and rugby? I think certain bars should get permission to show these live events, especially as Thailand is football daft. Not everybody can afford UBC and cable is limited in its coverage.

I am sure that Thais and expats would agree it is fun watching a great game with friends and a few beers, but the time difference means that many matches are on after the 2 am closing time.

Neill Campbell
Scottish football fan and
Rawai resident

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.

EC chief urges residents to make their voices heard

The PEC [Phuket Election Committee] is an independent entity. My staff and I are based at the Provincial Election Commission office and we are employed as government officials. We receive our salaries from the Budget Bureau for the Office of the Prime Minister. Provincial Election Commission officers are transferred to new locations every four years.

As director of the PEC I oversee local and national elections.

I work directly with the EC [Election Commission] and coordinate efforts with the police and other government organizations to manage the distribution and collection of ballot boxes, set up polling stations, deal with complaints and act on reports of election violations.

When ballot counts are complete, I then report election results to the President of the PEC or Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha, who passes the results on to the EC.

In the nine years that I have worked as director for the PEC, I have never heard of any major problems in Phuket.

FIRST PERSON

For the past nine months, **Supap Akkam**, director of the Phuket Election Committee (PEC), has overseen operations in Phuket during general and senate elections.

He moved to the island from Trang Province before the national referendum held in mid-July.

Here K. Supap speaks to *Gazette* reporter **Pathomporn Kaenkrachang** about ensuring fair elections and how the people of Phuket are contributing to democracy.



One issue of importance is that of ensuring that members of the public know whether they are eligible to vote in a particular election. People are often mistaken about their right to vote in local and national elections, so I urge people to check the list of eligible voters before voting day to see if they are actually on it.

Most of Phuket's voters

turned out for the general election. I think it is very positive that a large number of voters also showed up for local elections.

In the last general election, 74% of the island's eligible voters turned out, showing that Phuket people did not ignore the election.

There was a much lower voter turnout for the senate elec-

tion [47.3% of Phuket's 219,835 eligible voters], which was due to a new law forbidding senator candidates to enroll on behalf of any political party.

This meant there were no canvassers bringing groups of voters to the polling stations, but I think the results are positive and reflect genuine public opinion because several voters [15.8 %] actually ticked "No vote" on their ballot slip.

Some people have complained that the EC's public-awareness campaign before the senate election was ineffective and led to a low voter turnout. In fact, we focused on public relations for the senate elections much more than we did for the general elections as we wanted to ensure a high voter turnout.

In my opinion, we did the best we could to inform the public of the senate elections and

followed the correct procedures, but it is ultimately up to individuals to be aware of their voting rights and make their votes count. That right belongs to the people.

My position as PEC director doesn't come with a bouquet of flowers. When political opponents accuse each other of violations, I have to collect and consider all the evidence and report my findings to the EC, so it is important to ensure fairness.

Of course, you can't please everyone, no matter how fair you are.

Those who are proven innocent of charges will be happy, but those who are proven guilty will hold resentment. Whatever the outcome, it is very important to remain neutral.

There were two claims made by party candidates of violations in the general election, who handed petitions to the PEC during the elections. One claim was that a candidate had unfairly won a seat, the other was concerning the distribution of slanderous leaflets.

Both these cases went to court and the candidates accused of committing the violations were found not guilty.

Alcohol bans during election times from 6 pm the evening before voting day until midnight on voting day help to ensure law and order.

This is a nationwide law that must be enforced, regardless of where the elections are being held.

Elections for the presidency of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) will be held on April 20. Candidates can enroll from March 17 to 21.

Third-party claims on compulsory car insurance

I bought an old jeep from somebody who was leaving the island, but the jeep is still registered in the name of the previous owner, whose whereabouts is currently unknown.

When I went to buy the compulsory insurance for it, I just handed over the blue registration book, forgetting to tell the insurance company that the name in the book was not mine and that I was unaware where the previous owner had gone.

So the insurance policy was issued under the name of the previous owner and not mine.

When I balked at paying, I was told by the insurance company, "No problem you can still file a claim on the policy if you are involved in an accident, even if the policy is in somebody else's name."

I took their advice and paid up, but now I am beginning to have doubts about the whole thing. Can you confirm whether I can file an insurance claim and be paid with a check made out to my name, even though the policy is in another person's?

Road worrier
Samkong

Charot Klinmanee of the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office, replies:

Insurance companies must honor compulsory third-party insurance policies regardless whether or not the owner of the vehicle and the person taking out the insurance coverage are one and the same, so you shouldn't have any problems.

Issues & ANSWERS

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Why has Nai Harn Lake been neglected?

Could Aroon Solos, president of Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), explain why there has been no upkeep or maintenance work around Nai Harn Lake – especially after 40 million baht was spent on improvements there?

It's a disgrace for Nai Harn.

Nai Harn Lover

Rawai Municipality Mayor Aroon Solos replies:

We are now taking care of the lake area very well and it's in good condition now.

Before Rawai Tambon Ad-

ministration Organization was upgraded to a municipality, we didn't have the funds or the manpower to take good care of the area.

Also, the works completed around the lake are still under warranty by the construction contractor, Prayongsilp Karn Yotha, which must repair anything that is not up to standard, including the landscaping – we just need to tell them.

As for watering the trees, we now have staff to maintain the gardens every day; public facilities, such as the toilets, are now being maintained daily.

AUTHORITY OF THE PEC

The Election Commission can authorize the Provincial Election Commission to perform the following:

- Hold an election and a referendum in that province.
- Propose to the Election Commission constituency boundaries for a constituency-based election.
- Collect and inspect data on the number of voters eligible to vote in an election or referendum.
- Recommend to the Election Commission the appointment of a person who will be given powers to perform the duties concerning election or referendum voting.
- Perform other activities related to election or referendum voting.

The rules and procedures that dictate the duties of the Provincial Election Commission are decided by the Election Commission.

The trouble with veggies

One of my pet peeves is dogmatic vegetarians. I don't mind the un-dogmatic ones – the genial and mellow folks who say, "Hey, if there's nothing available but meat dishes, it's cool, I'm flexible" – but I have a real problem with hardcore veggies.

I object to their dogmatism firstly because if you're eating at a restaurant with a group of friends who include a dogmatic vegetarian, you have to plan the entire meal around that individual. It's fine if you can order one vegetarian dish for him and non-veg dishes for the rest of the gang, but in restaurants that don't serve vegetarian dishes, this is a hassle. The veggie's vegetarianism causes inconvenience to others. I admire other people's devotion to principle only so long as it doesn't get in my face.

My second objection is that vegetarians make the rest of us feel like moral lepers. Philosophically, they have an airtight case. Why should we have our fellow creatures killed so that we can eat their flesh when we can just as easily subsist on vegetables? Confronted by the ster-

ling example that vegetarians set, the rest of us feel guilty.

Why not join them, then? We wouldn't have to feel guilty about killing animals and we could revel in our moral superiority over the savages who still eat meat.

One problem is that it's inconvenient. Vegetarian restaurants are hard to find in Phuket – except during the Vegetarian Festival – and if you cook at home, you have to go out of your way to find ingredients that will give you a balanced diet with a sufficient amount of protein.

We shouldn't spend so much time fussing about our food. People who obsess about food have their priorities wrong.

Another problem is that most vegetarian food is bland and tasteless. There are two exceptions I can think of; maybe readers can think of more.

The first is South Indian vegetarian food, which is one of the top undiscovered cuisines on this planet. Bangkok is one of the great food cities of the world, but it is a blot on its culinary escutcheon that there are so few South Indian restaurants there.

The second exception is the vegetarian food served in the Buddhist temples of Taiwan. Taiwan has vegetarian restaurants where the food is reasonable, but for mouthwatering gastronomical delight, you have to eat in the temples.

The nuns can do things with beancurd that you couldn't imagine. Some of the dishes taste just like meat, so you can enjoy the flavor of meat without making yourself an accomplice to the murder of animals.

If a South Indian restaurant or a Taiwanese temple that serves food were set up in my neighborhood, I would become a vegetarian before you could say, "Jack Spratt could eat no fat."

But I would not be dogmatic about it, on the grounds that 1) we shouldn't be fussy about our food, and 2), we shouldn't inconvenience others who may be eating with us.

I must mention one exception to my antipathy towards dogmatic vegetarians. A few years ago, I made the pilgrimage to Mount Kailas, in Western Tibet, with some Indian friends. One lady was a strict vegetarian.

The support staff of our tour group were Tibetans, and Tibetans are big on

eating meat. The news that we could eat only vegetarian food struck them dumb with incomprehension. We might as well have told them we wanted to eat stones.

Their idea of vegetarian food was boiled noodles. I'm not talking about boiled noodles served in a broth or in a sauce with some condiments; I'm talking about boiled noodles, period, with all the water drained off. Think of spaghetti or kanom jeen without any sauce and you'll get an idea of what we had to suffer.

Fortunately, this Indian lady was an excellent cook. After a few days of putting up with boiled noodles, she kicked the Tibetans out of the kitchen tent and took over the cooking.

Despite the lack of decent ingredients, she managed to serve up delicious vegetarian dishes that kept us salivating for more.

If you're ever stuck at a restaurant with a vegetarian who complains about the food, suggest that he or she go into the kitchen and do the cooking for your group. You might get a pleasant surprise.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's wondering what it would be like to eat stones.



Set a fitness goal then make a run for it

Many people want to be fit and strong, but yet they look on in envy as colleagues or friends talk of fitness achievements and how great their accomplishments make them feel.

There are two natural responses to this. The first is the negative one: You openly scorn at these people and cannot understand why they continue to go the gym, run or take part in fitness activities. Shame on you.

The second response is the positive approach: When you hear

about someone who has done something extraordinary with their fitness, even if you have never experienced or felt what it is like to achieve something special, you will be inspired and motivated

enough to get up and have a go yourself. But where do you start?

Write down four words: dream, believe, create, succeed. Think of something you

would love to achieve. Maybe you want to run the Laguna marathon, swim a length of Kata Beach, bench press your body weight in the gym, learn Muay Thai or have enough stamina to

play four days of good golf. Don't forget, this is your wish list.

Be positive and tell yourself that your dream is achievable. Believe in yourself. The next step is to create a plan of action that will enable you to achieve your dream. The plan must be SMART: Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound.

Talk to your friends about their fitness routines, find out what they do, call in and talk to a trainer who can help you create the appropriate plan for your targets, but most of all, never give up.

Avoid commencing a fitness

plan with your only target linked to cosmetic change. By this, I am talking about goals such as losing 10 kilograms of body weight, shedding size from your waistline or reshaping your whole body into

something like Arnold Schwarzenegger's.

Yes, regular fitness work can and will change your body to a certain degree, but if your expectations are unrealistic, you will lose motivation quickly and eventually stop.

Keep your goals related to fitness and remember that you cannot change your basic body shape without cosmetic surgery.

Here are a few fitness targets that you may consider:

- Compete in a TriBallistic triathlon-series event
- Run the Laguna marathon or take part in the 5km walk

• Walk from Nai Harn Beach to Laem Promthep and back

• Bench press your own body weight five times in the gym

• Train at a Muay Thai camp for a week

• Paddle a sea canoe to a nearby island

• Go on a week-long trekking or cycling adventure

• Swim the length of your local beach

• Learn how to kite surf

• Reduce your body-fat percentage

• Improve your golf drive by 30 yards

Now go for it.

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

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By Nick Dobyn

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My 90-day trial, security-software suite from a big security vendor (BSV) expired recently. I never thought that I would look forward to an expiration date so much.

I have a few reasons for being happy to get rid of it. For one, the BSV suite is overkill. I'm not a high-risk surfer. I do not visit porn or gambling websites or use pirated software, and less than once a year I'm hit with malware.

Also, I use my PC as a normal Windows user as often as I can. If I am hit with a virus or worm, it can only perform actions that I could do as a normal user and not administrator, which avoids a lot of potential damage.

The biggest reason that I wanted to get rid of the BSV suite was that it was just downright annoying. I continuously received pop-up alerts that I couldn't configure to not pop up and when I would have liked to see an alert, I didn't get one.

For example, I set Windows Update not to install updates automatically, but to download them and alert me when they are ready for me to take action. Evidently, this is a security no-no for the BSV software because every time I logged in either as a normal user or administrator, I received an ominous "You have a security problem" error message.

Also, BSV's firewall blocked a program from accessing the Internet once I started it. That's fine, but the trouble was that there was no notice – no beep, no pop-up window – leaving me to furiously double-click on the damned program icon to get it to start when it had already started but the BSV software had blocked it.

Security suites have three major components: firewall, antivirus protection and anti-adware and anti-spyware.

A firewall is like a gate – it decides what traffic to let in and, for some firewalls, what to let out. Antivirus software has a database of signatures of known malware and is continuously on the lookout for it on the PC's drives.

As for anti-adware and



Why free security tastes so suite...

Socking it to the security vendors

anti-spyware, spyware is software that is installed on a PC for financial gain without the owner's consent and adware is roughly a subset of spyware, but both have the same symptoms: unwanted pop-up ads that slow down the PC.

BSV security suites have more components – anti-botware and rootkit detection – but from my experience, the first three components listed are sufficient (consistently doing backups completes the circle).

A popular stack of security programs for Windows XP are AVG antivirus, ZoneAlarm firewall, Spybot Search and Destroy anti-spyware, and Ad-Aware anti-adware. All are free for personal, non-commercial use. I thought it would be fun to walk you through installing these.

After downloading the software, uninstall any current security software, although it's good practice to have a firewall on at

all times. If you have a third-party, standalone firewall, leave it on for now. If you have Windows Firewall, remove the third-party firewall. If the third-party firewall comes as part of a security suite, it's best to remove the entire suite at the same time.

I went to my BSV's website to download the removal tool, which some people joke is the best software the BSV has ever written. Yet, it still took longer to remove the software than it did to install and update it.

Next, reboot your PC. Windows always likes a reboot – it's like having a good nose blow.

Now switch Windows Firewall on if you have it installed.

AVG antivirus installation is first. Follow the instructions, ac-

cept the default settings and be sure to update the software during the process – this is crucial because the latest antivirus "signatures" are downloaded.

The use of ZoneAlarm Free as a firewall in infosec circles is not without detractors. Many say that it slows down a computer and pops up too many alerts, but this sentiment comes from a security-savvy crowd of low-risk surfers.

Windows Firewall can be used, but it only watches traffic coming in and does not monitor outgoing traffic. Installation is straightforward, but stay alert for one section: make sure that you uncheck the box on the main installation page that says, "Include ZoneAlarm Spy Blocker, a free, easy-to-use toolbar that protects

you from dangerous sites." You don't need this toolbar.

Configuring ZoneAlarm takes patience. It has a database of known software programs that you can configure in one sitting or you can wait until a pop-up asks you what action you want to take. Most of the time you will want to choose "Allow" – as opposed to "Deny" – and check "Remember this setting" so you don't get more pop-ups about similar situations.

Next, install Spybot Search and Destroy, then AdAware 2007. Some users forgo AdAware, but because the success rate of catching spyware and adware is about 50% per program and this type of malware is very difficult to remove once installed, I see no harm in having both installed and working at the same time.

For Spybot, in the "Select Additional Tasks" step, choose both "SDHelper" for Internet Explorer protection and "TeaTimer" for detecting when system settings are being changed. Update both programs.

I've been using my new – free – security suite for several weeks and I'm relieved that I don't have any BSV software annoying me anymore.

Quick 'n' easy downloads:

- AVG antivirus: www.free.grisoft.com/doc/downloads-products/us/frt/0?prd=aff

- ZoneAlarm: www.zonealarm.com/store/content/catalog/products/sku_list_zs.jsp

- Spybot Search and Destroy: www.vninet.com/vninet/downloads/2128856/spybot-search-destroy

- AdAware 2007: www.lavasoftusa.com/products/ad_aware_free.php

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

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ON THE MOVE

Chantouch Srinilta, 42, from Bangkok, has been appointed District Sales Manager, Phuket, of Thai Airways International (THAI). K. Chantouch graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Computer Science at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang and a master's degree from Sri Prathum University.

K. Chantouch began working for THAI in 1987. Before moving to Phuket, he worked as a District Sales Manager in Chiang Rai.



Raymond Pereira, from Malaysia, has been appointed Resident Manager at the Indigo Pearl Resort.

Mr Pereira has degree in commerce from Murdoch University, Australia. He began his career in the hospitality industry in 1992 and has extensive experience working in five-star hotels, including the Hard Rock Hotel Bali, InterContinental MidPlaza Jakarta.

Before his appointment at Indigo Pearl, Mr Pereira was Resident Manager at the Gran Melia Jakarta.



Anan Phongsuriyah-chote, from Bangkok, has been promoted to Senior Sales Manager at the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. K. Anan has a degree in tourism and hospitality and 20 years' experience in food and beverage and front office.

His experience includes as Assistant Sales Manager at the Crown Plaza Bangkok, as Sales Manager at the Holiday Inn Silom in Bangkok and at the Meritus Suite State Tower. K. Anan joined Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket's in 2004 as a Sales Manager.



PHUKET: Although the recent high-profile testing of WiMax Internet access from a sailboat offshore from Le Meridien Phuket Resort proved successful, the high-speed wireless service is unlikely to grace Phuket's shores this year, the *Gazette* has learned.

The WiMax tests were carried out on February 22 by broadband service provider the Benchachinda Group with its affiliate companies United Information Highway Co Ltd (UIH) and BB Broadband Co Ltd.

Benchachinda Group was

WiMax tests positive, but roll-out unlikely this year

formerly incorporated as UCOM Co Ltd.

The tests, carried out near Le Meridien Phuket Resort, were just the beginning of a nationwide push to introduce WiMax to Thailand. The effort is being coordinated by the National Telecom-

munications Commission (NTC), which has awarded exclusive rights to 12 companies to provide WiMax coverage, with each company given exclusive rights in certain areas.

The Benchachinda Group has been allocated Phuket as well

as the Phi Phi Islands, Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao in Chumphon province.

UIH Product Development Director Passakorn Hongsyok told the *Gazette*, "During the tests, we used a PCMCIA card to act as the receiver for a notebook computer. We received the WiMax signal from a WiMax access point set up at Le Meridien. This was connected to the Internet through our own fiber-optic cable network."

Supporting the "last mile" WiMax technology was UIH's own fiber-optic network coupled with the nationwide DTAC network that was originally created by UIH, K. Passakorn explained.

The network comprises 50,000 kilometers of fiber-optic cables spread throughout all 76 provinces. About a decade ago in Phuket, UIH laid a fiber-optic loop that passes through most densely populated areas on the island.

The February 22 tests successfully connected a laptop computer to the Internet at 8 Mbps as the boat sailed about a kilometer offshore.

Sending the connection signal from the hotel was a one-watt tower, which had a range of up to three kilometers, set up specially for the trial.

Although WiMax has been used to provide Internet connec-

tions as far 30km away without line of sight, to ensure continuous coverage to an area such as Patong would likely require about four towers, K. Passakorn explained.

"We would probably use 20W towers, but to determine how they would work in reality in Phuket would require testing," he said.

"We are looking at providing blanket coverage. Once we are permitted to provide WiMax service in Phuket, we will install signal-transmission antennas to cover the whole island," he added.

The tower used in the trial was provided by Motorola, which will provide hardware including antennas, modems and PCMCIA cards that would be used by Benchachinda to deliver the service, if approved.

Like the other 11 companies seeking NTC approval to provide WiMax service, Benchachinda must complete its trials by the end of April. However, it is still early and the criteria for gaining NTC approval are still not clear, K. Passakorn explained.

In addition to trial results, Benchachinda will have to submit to the NTC a general business plan outlining what services would be offered – and at what prices.

"We're looking at rolling out service for corporate users. We would rather not sell direct to consumers," K. Passakorn explained.

WiMax connection packages, once available, will be provided through the group's marketing arm, BB Broadband Co Ltd, better known as BeeNet.

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Gold's new glitter a flash in the pan

The gold price is now trading at record levels after a 28-year gap during which prices fell to almost a quarter of their current price. Even the current prices, pushing US\$1,000 an ounce, are still a long way behind the highs of 1980 when inflation adjusted.

Gold is a more complex investment than it initially appears. Long a dependable source of wealth, it has disappointed investors in recent decades. Imagine that you had bought gold in its physical form near the old high of US\$840 an ounce in 1980. It would have been a serious miscalculation.

In 1980 or any time in the past 40 years, the favored way for investors to enter the gold market was through the stock market, buying shares in gold mining companies. But buying gold in its physical form meant sorting out the transaction and physically storing the gold in a bank vault. However, this facility is now often not available and gold has to be insured. In general, it is a pest.

The introduction of a new "vehicle" – Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) – has changed the general approach to investing in physical gold. If an investor today wishes to buy, say, US\$50,000 worth of gold, the investor simply places a trade to purchase this amount inside a selected ETF and the transaction is completed, often on the Internet.

ETFs are currently most popular on US stock exchanges, where they are growing like mushrooms. The investor receives confirmation from the fund manager that "X" amount of gold is being held to the investor's credit.

The whole transaction process is properly regulated. ETFs have a much wider use than just gold. This route to the gold market, because it is so simple and



Just like disco and pastel polyester suits, gold as an investment fizzled out from 1980 onwards.

ETFs are very affordable, has led to a significant increase in the demand for physical gold.

The whole sector of investment in physical gold recently received a significant boost from an unlikely source. It is always important to remember as an investor that factors affecting your investment often come from the most unlikely places, a typical "left field".

Gold Fields of South Africa announced that it expects output of gold to fall by between 20% and 25% this year due to electricity blackouts in South Africa.

The current ANC government completely underinvested in the national electricity supply, led by the Electricity Supply Commission (ESCOM). The sad part is that when the ANC inherited ESCOM less than 14 years ago, it was a highly professional, first-world electricity supplier.

Hugh Hendry, chief investment officer at Eclectica, a Hedge Fund Manager, stated on CNBC's Europe Squawk Box, that it would take five years to solve South Africa's electrical problems. Perhaps he should have "hedged" that statement by saying at least five years.

The result for ETFs holding physical gold, or for anyone holding physical gold, was an imme-

diated profit. Investors were more reluctant to buy gold-related shares and wanted direct access to the precious metal.

The positive reason for investing in gold is the recently resurrected role of gold as counterweight to the fortunes of the US dollar. The increase in inflationary pressures is another draw card. In an era of uncertainty, with the US and other areas of the world reeling from losses on subprime and volatility on financial markets, gold is reassuming its "safe haven" status.

That's the "Goldilocks" scenario (where the market is stable); now for the three bears. First, when the price of gold soars, history shows us that eventually it reaches a price where demand decreases from the jewelry fabrication sector. Around 75% of gold demand is for jewelry fabrication.

When prices overheated in 1980, however, this demand evaporated and for a short time gold prices continued to rise on speculative demand until it collapsed. A graph of this period is different from any other chart I have seen – it looks more like a needle.

This current situation could end in tears as a large percentage of gold ETFs are held by individual private buyers. The tendency for these investors in any market is to try and cram through the exit doors simultaneously when things turn sour.

Gold could well continue its run while the US dollar remains weak and inflationary pressures remain.

1980 was not that long ago, but it may feel like a very long time if you have been holding gold since then and waiting for a recovery.

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Wonjongkam fails, Peter wins title and the Hayemaker scores

By Scott Mallon

The weekend of March 8 and 9, chock-full of world-title bouts and thrills and spills, was by far the busiest so far in 2008.

Tokyo, Japan: There is an old axiom that states, "Styles make fights." However, the respective styles of flyweights Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (67-3-1, 35 KOs) and Daisuke Naito left the boxing purists wondering who actually came up with this adage.

Wonjongkam, a southpaw, previously held the World Boxing Council (WBC) world flyweight championship for more than six years.

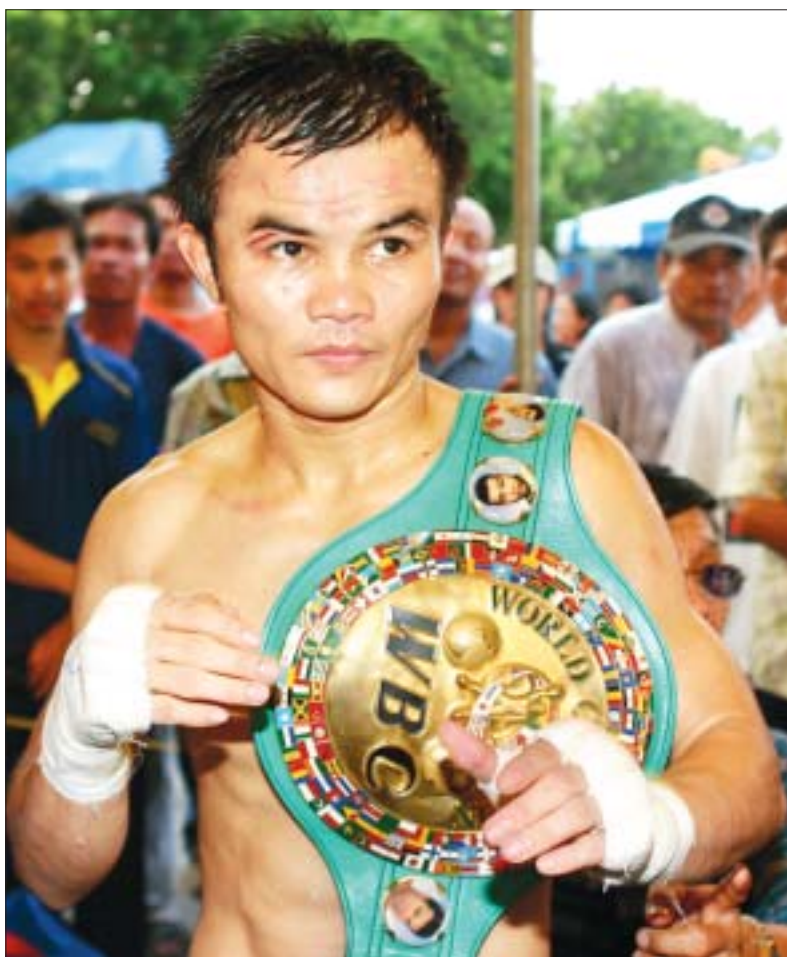
During that period he used pinpoint accuracy, defensive skills and unflagging stamina to dominate the division.

Naito employs an ugly style. He is devoid of technical boxing skill and totally dependent on his own stamina and a Kamikaze, go-for-broke mentality. His lack of power and sloppy style makes him painful to watch.

Yet he somehow managed to become the WBC's world champion in July of last year, scoring the upset win over Wonjongkam, who is fast approaching 40.

Saturday night in Tokyo, Naito again out-hustled the Thai, scoring a draw to retain his title. Both fighters kept up a brisk pace throughout the fight. Wonjongkam scored repeatedly with his straight left. Naito, with his aggression, occasionally got a punch through – but more often missed wildly, sometimes comically.

In the end, the bout was



Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (pictured) fought to a split-decision draw against Daisuke Naito.

declared a split-decision draw, effectively ending not only Wonjongkam's reign as the flyweight champion, but Thailand's stranglehold on the division.

Wonjongkam looked excellent defensively, however he was unable to pull the trigger when necessary – a sure sign that age has begun to get the better of him.

Cancun, Mexico: Nigeria's Samuel Peter (30-1, 23 KOs) did exactly what he was supposed to, knocking out Russia's Oleg

Maskaev (34-6, 26 KOs) in six rounds to win the WBC world heavyweight title.

For five rounds, the pair danced and held and occasionally let their hands go.

Finally, when Peter decided to throw more than one of two punches at a time, he floored the big Russian, ending the bout. At 39 years old, Maskaev's career looks to be over.

On the undercard, Nate Campbell (32-5-1, 25 KOs) turned in the performance of his

life to win a split decision over Juan Diaz (33-1, 17 KOs), battering the previously unbeaten lightweight champion and claiming three belts in the process.

Diaz suffered a bad cut over his left eye and brutalized in the later portion of the bout. He'll need plastic surgery to repair his eye and one has to wonder how he will come back after being on the receiving end of such a beating.

London, England: Britain's David Haye (21-1, 20 KOs) proved he's got what it takes to be boxing's next superstar, destroying Welshman Enzo Maccarinelli (28-2, 21 KOs) in the second round by TKO. Haye held the WBA and WBC titles, Maccarinelli the WBO title. Both fought out of the UK and both possessed some serious one-punch knockout power.

Haye has quickly built his reputation as someone who not only talks the talk, but also walks the walk. In his five-year career, he's already defeated Alexander Gurov, Glen Kelly, and in November of last year, Jean-Marc Mormeck – all by KO.

Maccarinelli was trained by Enzo Calzaghe, *Ring* magazine's trainer of the year and father of super middleweight champion of the world Joe Calzaghe. It ended

as most expected – by knockout. Both fighter's landed strong punches in the first round, but it was Haye who landed the big punch in round two, his "hayemaker," dropping Maccarinelli.

The Welshmen rose at the count of eight, but was clearly wobbly and unable to continue. Haye now plans to move up to the heavyweight division.

Fight of the month: Former WBA world champion Somsak Sithchatchawal (56-2-1, 44 KOs) and Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym (32-1, 22 KOs) go head-to-head in Rajadamnern Stadium, Bangkok, on March 24 to determine who will be next in line for a world title shot against Panama's Celestino Caballero.

Every so often, the best Thais in the same division meet. This is one such encounter, promising to be a cracker for as long as it lasts. Sithchatchawal scored a huge upset over Mahyar Monshipour in 2006 to win the world title only to lose it in his first defense against Caballero.

Kratingdaenggym challenged for title in 2006, dropping a decision to bantamweight champion Vladimir Sidorenko.

Kids set for first Island Trophy

AO YON: When the adults of Phuket and Samui get together for one of the many regattas held around the region every year, their younger sons and daughters have to sit back and watch while their parents belt around the bay chasing each other's vessels.

Not any more, as the inaugural Island Trophy for Optimists will soon give youngsters a chance to show their stuff on the water.

Ten young sailors from Samui will arrive in Phuket to race against 10 of their counterparts from across the isthmus. Racing will take place in Optimist dinghies, which are about 1.6 meters long.

The event will be held March 22 and 23 and is being organized by Phuket Yacht Club.

The Island Trophy came about because the sailing communities of Samui and Phuket both have active youth-training schemes.

Twelve Optimist boats will be supplied by the two yacht clubs. All children have been trained for at least six months and will be supervised from other boats in the water.

Races will take the young sailors outside Ao Yon and around a course set according to weather conditions on the day.

A full schedule, entry fees and closing date for registration have yet to be decided.

For details contact Rolien Jongerius. Tel: 085-0690940, 086-0454634. Email: rolien@andaman-sea-club.com

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Bepy joins Mullies on the 9th

THALANG: Sixty-five golfers contested the Mulligan Annual Reunion trophy at the Blue Canyon Lakes Course on March 9, marking the The Mulligans' ninth-anniversary.

Patrick Holland topped the leaderboard with 43 points off a 10 handicap in the Stableford-format competition, while Liam Stuart finished runner-up with 42 points off a 17 handicap.

Several players scored more than 36, including Anton Supan, who had the best low gross score of 40 points off a 4 handicap.

HotelTravel.com sponsored five holes and put up a 200,000 baht voucher toward booking travel anywhere in the world for a hole in one on any of the par-three holes. Unfortunately, there were no lucky winners of this prize.

Henry Kaye from Seahorse Interiors put up a special prize for



Named after a retaken, errant shot in golf, the Mulligans are so-called in recognition of their below-par golfing skills.

the nearest to the pin with the second shot to the 18th green.

A special treat for players on the day was a tour of the course

by Mulligan Bepy Graziano of Toto's Restaurant and Pizzeria. He also attended the prize-giving and celebrations in the evening.

Entries open for pétanque tourney

CHERNG TALAY: Cherng Talay Municipality Office will hold its annual pétanque tournament at Cherng Talay Wittayakom School.

The competition, which is open to males and females of all ages, will take place March 15; players can register on the day.

Each team must consist of two players of either sex. Players will compete in two divisions: one for players aged under 15 years old and one for those aged fifteen years old and over.

Entry is 500 baht per team for players 15 years old and over and 200 baht for under 15s. Registration forms are available at Cherng Talay Municipality Office.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: In a tight game between the two top teams, Queen Mary succeeded in stretching their unbeaten record to 27 games with a 5-4 win over Piccadilly.

Piccadilly took revenge by comfortably taking the beer leg. Luckily for Queen Mary, Piccadilly only had two Tonys, who shared four 140s between them.

Simply Red got their first victory, but are still last as Market Bar beat Valhalla. The poor Sick Buffalo was slaughtered yet again, this time 9-0 by Shakers. Sick Buffalo showed signs of life by rallying to steal the beer leg.

March 4 results: Queen Mary 5 Piccadilly* 4; Dogs Bollocks* 7 Offshore 2; Sick Buffalo* 0 Shakers 9; Market Bar* 5 Valhalla 4; Simply Red* 6 Beach House 3.

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (23 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (20); 3. Offshore (13); 4. Dogs Bollocks (12); 5. Valhalla, Sick Buffalo (10); 7. Shakers, Market Bar (9); 9. Beach House (8); 10. Simply Red (6).

March 18 matchups: Queen Mary v Sick Buffalo; Dogs Bollocks v Beach House; Piccadilly v Valhalla; Offshore v Simply Red; Shakers v Market Bar (home team first).

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Phuket's striking stars do battle in Chiang Mai

CHIANG MAI: The cream of the Island Furniture Cricket League were on tour in Chiang Mai February 22 to 24 as part of the second Inter-regional Cup.

Teams played three 40-over matches over the three days, with the Phuket lads facing stiff opposition from teams from the South, Central and the Northeast regions of Thailand.

Phuket came up against strong teams and managed one win and two losses, with a poor show of batting letting the side down. In the first match, Phuket faced off against the South team, only to lose by eight wickets.

In game two of the competition, the Central team took the match by 105 runs.

Phuket had better luck in the final match of the campaign, taking it to the Northeast team and winning the match by a convincing six wickets.

Camdyn du Preez was in fine form at the crease, scoring 37, 30 and 47. Other outstanding performances included Anand's bowling of 4 wickets for 30 runs off eight overs in the final game and scoring 42 runs – earning him the "Man of the Match" award.

Martin Foster scored 53 not out and played well throughout the tournament. Roddy Meyer couldn't find form with the bat, but bowled well with his menacing balls.

Russell Loughland captained the team on a difficult tour with the squad accumulating injuries. Jafar Ali tried hard throughout the tour and fielded brilliantly.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Hillside apartments on target

Patong sidewalk nears completion



Pedestrians in Patong will have to put up with a cluttered sidewalk for only a few more weeks, when repavement is expected to be completed.

PATONG: Work to repave the sidewalk along Sawadirak Rd, from Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd to the Patong beach road, is expected to be complete by mid-March.

Suchatree Boonrit, a civil engineer at Patong Municipality Public Works Department, told the *Gazette* that the sidewalk is being repaved to make it safer for pedestrians as parts of it, including concrete blocks and drain covers, have been missing since the area was damaged by the tsunami.

The 1.338 million baht project is now 90% complete, he said. When complete the sidewalk will be 1.9 meters wide, 660 meters long and cover a total area of 1,254 square meters.

The repaving was due to start on November 8 and was expected to be complete by February 5. However, the project is behind schedule due to construction contractor JRM Engineering Construction Co Ltd not commencing work until about a month after the agreed start date.

As a result of the delay JRM Engineering Construction has had to pay daily fines of 1,338 baht since the agreed completion date, K. Suchatree said.

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PATONG: Developer Modern Architecture & Design Co Ltd announced that construction on View Talay, a 4-story apartment building on Soi Phra Barami Soi 3 in Patong, is now 90% complete with a grand opening scheduled for March 18.

Construction of the Patong hillside development began in January, 2007. The building is 18 meters above sea level comprising a total of 14 apartment units that will offer residents a 180-degree views of Patong Bay.

Three types of apartment are available, ranging in size from 80 square meters to 270 sqm. Cost range from between 5 and 20 million baht. There will be four 1-bedroom apartments, eight 2-bedroom apartments and two 3-bedroom units, all penthouse suites.

Five units have been bought since sales began in September last year.

Managing Director of Modern Architecture & Design



A computer-generated image of how View Talay will look upon completion.

Michael Kirchner said that View Talay has been specially designed and built to be user friendly for disabled residents.

"There are two elevators for apartment residents, giving them direct access to the building's car park on the ground floor and to ensure privacy when going to their apartments," he said.

"Foreigners can buy these apartments freehold and they are designed to offer modern comforts in an international style. Each unit has a private Jacuzzi," he added.

Facilities include a maid service, round the clock security, a

rooftop garden and swimming pool, plus a fitness center for residents.

"The apartments are popular with Europeans and Australians who want to be near Phuket's shopping and night life entertainment areas. Unit owners can take advantage of the

apartment rental pool management service for additional income when they are not here," Mr Kirchner said.

Modern Architecture & Design Co Ltd has over 15 years experience in the construction and property industry in Europe. The company has overseen all aspects of design and construction for the View Talay project.

For more information contact Michael Kirchner, Modern Architecture & Design Co Ltd, 240 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong. (Tel: 076-293076; 083-1736521 or visit www.patong-view-talay.com or email mk@patong-view-talay.com).

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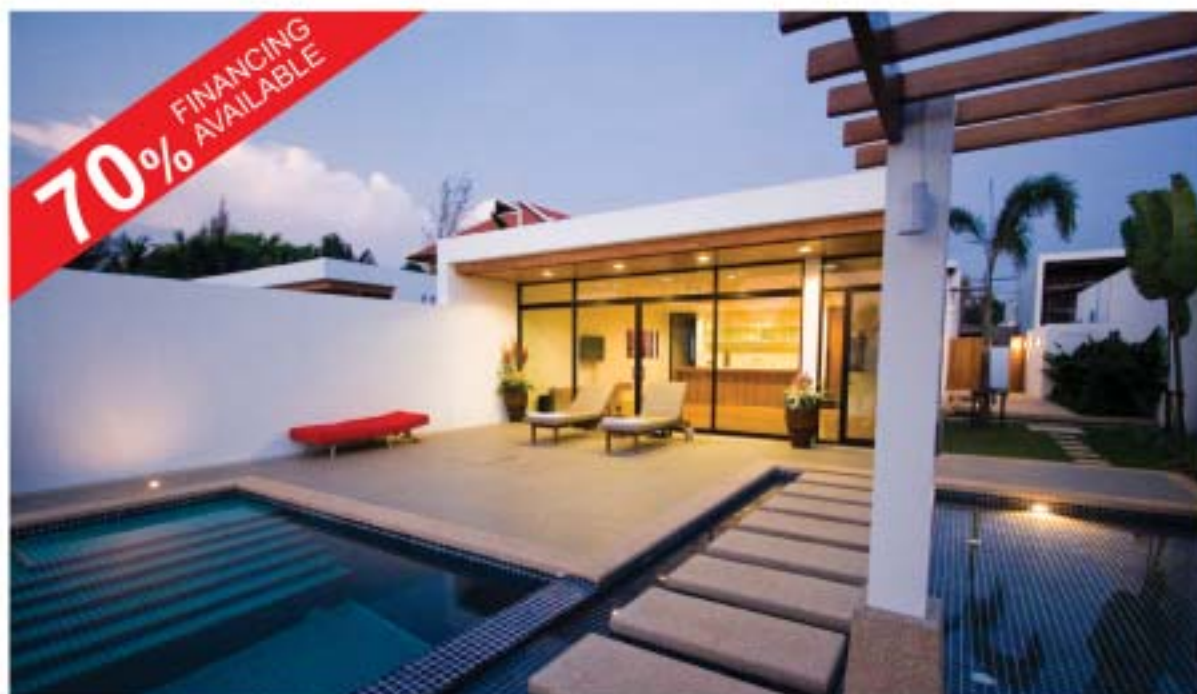
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Home of the Week

Chalong

Fusion villa has best of both worlds

This newly built property by an experienced local builder on a 600 square-meter plot is a fusion of Thai-Balinese architecture with modern interiors, using natural materials to fit in with the surrounding tropical landscaping.

Located in a quiet area of Chalong, the villa has views of the hills and surrounding greenery while ample space separates the property from its neighbors, providing suitable privacy.

The roof is made of natural materials in a contemporary, Thai-Balinese style which helps to keep the house cool by shading the walls. Large windows and glass doors still allow sunlight to enter the property and create a sense of openness.

Large white tiles line the floors and smaller ones cover the built in shelving throughout much of the house, adding to the feeling of cool spaciousness.

A free-form pool measuring 15 meters by 4.5m and outdoor whirlpool bath can be accessed directly from the sliding glass doors of the living room and master bedroom. The garden and pool can be seen from the tall windows of the naturally lit bathroom,



Thai-Balinese architecture and a modern interior design keep things comfortable and cool.

which is fitted with an oval stone bath and high grade fittings.

In keeping with the Balinese theme, separate pavilions for bedrooms and living areas add another dimension along with wood-vaulted ceilings and wooden-

framed doors and windows. Complimenting the interior are decorative stone tiles and hardwood flooring in the bedrooms.

Amenities include built-in wardrobes, three bedrooms with bathrooms en suite, air condition-

ing in all bedrooms, the living room and a large storage room. The main bedroom pavilions are single story, while the living room pavilion is two stories with an additional bedroom with bathroom en suite on the second level.

The property is available freehold at 10.2 million baht.

For more details contact Patrick. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamreal estate.com

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Design

By Semacote Suganya

Since opening in November, the White Box restaurant and bar in Kalim has provided a stunning distraction to drivers along the winding coastal road. And those who venture inside are treated to a minimalist, intimate atmosphere reminiscent of cool Mediterranean luxury.

The restaurant's structure was once a small, one-story house, said White Box's managing director, Marc-Antoine Audibert. He wanted to keep the simplicity of the house's design, but at the same time turn it into a chic, eye-catching space. The concept started with the name, White Box, from which all the design elements grew.

Architect Nathapol Wongthasanadilok said that attracting passers-by was a primary concern, which was a challenge with only 175 square meters of space, set on beachfront land subject to heavy construction regulations. He did, however, manage to transform the venue into a two-level, 76-seat restaurant and 52-seat bar that feels cozy but not crammed.

As usual with designer-client relations, there was some push and pull throughout the design and construction process. "White is the main theme," K. Nathapol said, "but Marc wanted to have some blue color." In the

Beach chic, cubed

A clean, white look is outstanding, yet unobtrusive. Inset, a fold-back roof keeps guests comfy, rain or shine.

end, K. Nathapol convinced Marc to stick with white for a more dramatic contrast to the blue sea backdrop.

White also helped create a look of space in the small, low-ceilinged layout. Details of cubes and lines on the interior walls add texture without weighing down or darkening the room.

In the upstairs bar, a cover set in a steel roof structure can be folded back or pulled over the space to suit the weather conditions.

The main level is partitioned to create semi-private, intimate spaces, while the upstairs is open and airy, with no patterns on the walls – framing the sea views as a main focus point. "We don't need it to be more outstanding than the sea," said K. Nathapol.



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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Herbal hippie bug blasters

Hippies annoy me. Sorry if that offends any hippies reading this, but you are irritating. Actually, it's unlikely that they would shell out some of the money they don't have for this paper, plus I don't think it's printed on unbleached paper produced from 100% renewable sources.

Hippies aren't exactly difficult to identify. Just look for the white quasi-Rastafarian standing around with a vacant expression. The glazed look is often brought on by the inhalation of rather special herbal mixtures, rather than the discovery of internal harmony and tranquility.

What is it with them? Dreadlocks, perhaps combined with any variation on the theme of unwashed hair? Why do they feel compelled to survive on a diet of lentils? They're horrid. The lentils aren't good, either. Far be it from me to generalize, but these people are more than a little "far out".

What's most annoying about them is that most of their accusations of what's wrong with the world are right – in principle, at least. I hate to admit it, but there is one area in which hip-

pies have a point – growing plants naturally. In the west, organic farming, has become more fashionable recently and for a very good reason. Fruit and vegetables grown with no additives, shielded from the spray of pesticides, are infinitely more palatable than their commercial contemporaries.

I'm with the hippies when it comes to chemical pesticides. I would much rather hack off a bug-infested branch than spray it with toxic nastiness.

Recent figures show global pesticide use has increased 5,000% since 1950, with 2.5 million tonnes of industrial, chemical pesticides used worldwide each year. It's inevitable that these pesticides pollute the land in all sorts of unknown ways. They collect into chemical cocktails, combinations of which nobody can predict or prevent from seeping into water tables and the oceans. Only time will tell if the damage can be repaired.

A modern approach is to move towards more appropriate use, and the reduction, of chemical pesticides and to develop natural pesticides. There are a number of trees and herbs that occur naturally, which can be blended



NATURAL BORN KILLERS: These tasty herbs – basil, garlic and red chili pepper – are also effective in keeping the bugs at bay.

into natural insecticides. Keep in mind, although a pesticide may be organic, it can still harm beneficial insects.

There are some extremely effective natural and herbal pest control methods, many involving nothing more than a few leaves or vegetables.

Caterpillars can be a problem – I've seen the fat green ones with a fake eye on their rear ends consume every leaf on a plant overnight. The cure for caterpillars is the least technical method of garden pest control: pick them off the plant and remove them from the garden. Wear gloves for hairy caterpillars, as the hairs can irritate the skin or worse.

Garlic and red pepper spray

both work well for moth caterpillars. Cut up and mash an unpeeled onion and an unpeeled head of garlic. Drop them into a saucepan and pour in a liter of water. Add one heaped tablespoon of red pepper to the mix. Cook for about 20 minutes on low heat and let cool.

Pour the goo into glass jars (not metal) and seal with a lid. It will keep in the refrigerator for about a month. When you are ready to apply the herbal spray, use a couple of tablespoons of water per liter. You'll find that it kills aphids, mosquitoes and onion flies. It will stink a bit (well, a lot), but it keeps the bugs away.

Basil is brilliant. In addition to being a tasty spice, it's also an

effective repellent and larvicide for mites, aphids and mosquitoes; a growth inhibitor for milkweed bugs; and a fungicide.

From the little I know about natural pesticides, it would seem that neem is the ultimate. I'm not sure if it's available in Phuket, but it should be, as it's common all over Asia and Africa.

Although all parts of the tree act as insect repellent, its seed extract is an exceptional repellent and feeding deterrent for a broad range of agricultural and household insects. Unlike most insecticides, the seed extracts appear to be nontoxic to humans and animals, and are essentially non-poisonous to plants.

Well, I started off having a go at hippies, at which point they probably stopped reading their recycled, six-month old copy of the *Gazette*. Let's keep my mutual agreement (at least in part) with these people a little secret between ourselves, shall we? Please. They're still annoying.

Bloomin' Bert can be contacted by email at: bert@bloominbert.com

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Property Gazette

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Living area: 600sqm + garden area of 6,400sqm (4 rai). 250sqm terrace. 3 bedrooms and 1 master bedroom (en suite). Open-plan kitchen, 200sqm living room, Jacuzzi, swimming pool and snooker table. 100m artificial stream and charming island. 3-car garage and exterior parking. Located in Pa Khlok, 5 mins from Ao Por. Always high-tide marina, golf, aeroclub and private airfield. Company formed in 2002. Chanote title. Well-equipped for 8 people, ready to move in. Project by international architects. Fully furnished. Price: 1.1 million euros. Price negotiable without furniture. No sea view. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-8935270, 085-2599590. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr or visit our website www.tropical-house.net

HOUSE FOR SALE

Villa-style, 3-bedroom house located in good position within Villa California. Extended, air-conditioned master bedroom, with mirror-door wardrobe included and large en-suite bathroom. 2 air-conditioned bedrooms and separate bathroom. Lounge with aircon. Dining area, utility room. Extended and modern European style kitchen with 4-ring hob oven and washing machine included. Connected to main water and sewage lines, no septic tank. Viewing recommended. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-2891502.

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

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in these pages are

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Property Gazette

SHORT SALE B2.8M



Moo baan Chao Fa Thani. Detached house, 260sqm of land, community pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

GATED COMMUNITY IN KAMALA

Small land plots from 500-6,500sqm. Exclusive location a few min from beach and city center. Price 14,000 baht per sqm. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

LAND FOR SALE

22 rai (NorSor 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

LAND FOR SALE

Near Laguna Phuket – good for residential projects. 22 rai (NorSor 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

FLAT LAND IN KAMALA

1 to 5.5 rai. Chanote, road and electric supply. Exclusive location a few min from beach. From 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.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

HOUSE/LAND MAI KHAO



Now offered at 4.5 million baht for quick sale. Built 2005. 2/3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, Euro-style kitchen, sitting room, entrance hall and large garden with car port. Total interior floor area approx 120 sqm, on almost 1 rai of land with space for large swimming pool, tennis court, etc. Tel: 081-5380781. Email: blackbag01@yahoo.com For more photos, please see our website at <http://mai-khao-beach.com/house>

NICE TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 3 new aircons, 2 kitchens, laundry, lounge/dining, phone & ADSL, cable TV, fully tiled. 5 mins to Central Festival. 1.35 million baht. Chanote. Please call K. Kob. Tel: 081-5357767. Email: phuketjon@csloxinfo.com

LAND FOR SALE

13 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

SURIN LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

PRIVATE SALE OF 1 RAI

next to Phuket Country Club golf course. The land has a new road and is in a very nice neighborhood. 7 million baht. Tel: 081-6766214.



Detached House for Sale

- In Chalong
- New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title
- 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 with jacuzzi), 3 toilets, 1 living room and Western kitchen (with microwave, dish washer, big cooler, electric hot plates), 1 stock room.
- Car(s) park
- Ornamental pond and jets of water which maybe fitted out in swimming pool
- Big underground septic water tank
- Frontal view of a small lake
- Quiet, well-situated and exposed
- Near all commodities
- Telephone line
- Internet ADSL, Cable TV

Price: 7.5 million baht. Must see! Tel: 087-2709093 Email: allservices29@gmail.com

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www.phuketproperties.com If you are a real estate developer or owner, you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

LAND ON KOH SAMUI

Located at Namuang on the southwest coast. Easy access - only 10km (5 minutes) from main road, 8km to the ferry, 10km to town (Nathon), and 17km to the airport. Hill-side land, stunning sea view. Full infrastructure with electricity and water available, access on concrete surfaced road. Chanote. Eight and four rai next to each other. Price: 2.5 million baht per rai. Land purchase is directly from owner – no brokers. Contact K. Boonyarat for info. Tel: 086-9484803. Fax: 077-232268. Email: grus35@hotmail.com please visit our website at www.abmprojects.com

CHALEYKERE VILLAGE IN KATHU

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-9347637.

80 RAI, BEACHFRONT

At Bangsak Beach, 10 min from Khao Lak, 340m of beachfront. Chanote, good road. 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

KATA SEAVIEW HOME



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, huge pool. Teak kitchen, ceilings and doors, marble and wood floors. 200sqm on 600sqm land. Self-contained guest suite. Quiet location, parking, overlooks Kata Beach. 13 million baht. Serious offers only. Contact us at Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

MODERN OFFICE BUILDING

2-story office building centrally located in Chalong with the following facilities:

- 10 rooms on 408sqm of office space
- 3 toilets with showers
- Computerized central air conditioning
- Keyless card-access system
- CCTV monitoring and alarm system
- Dedicated fireproof server room
- CAT 5 cabling for Internet, electricity and telephone
- 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: 076-282-211, 081-8926251. Email: michael@origopub.com

AIRPORT & BEACH-AREA LAND

1 rai (1,600sqm) with four 2-bedroom houses. Includes 2 bathrooms, full furnishings, shared swimming pool, Internet. 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

RAWAI LAND

First to view will buy. 2-level plots with hill views in exclusive gated community. Road, 3-phase electricity and water. 1,009sqm for 4.4 million baht. 1,185sqm for 5.1 million baht. Tel: 089-9702745.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 bathrooms, 2-car parks. Tel: 087-8933183. Please see our website at: www.phukethome.ws

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote. Hillside, panoramic sea views, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket Airport, close to the beach. 10 rai, 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG: B3.6m

New 2-room deluxe condos. Fully furnished, in best location in Patong, with pool and parking. 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-besthomes.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms are en suite with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

CHIANG MAI HOUSE

New, luxury house for sale, ready to move in. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Total area: 452sqm. Living area: 300sqm. 4.5 million baht for quick sale by owner who is relocating. Tel: 081-5369252. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

Cheng Talay area, Chanote, 1.1 rai. 7 million baht. Contact Ms Tanaka. Tel: 081-8927721. Email: ytmiland@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW PLOTS IN BANG TAO

Infrastructure completely finished. Fantastic sea and waterfall views. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

Phase 1 houses for sale or long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC, swimming pool.

Contact : 089-7243669

Free Beach Car



New Property in Rawai

comprising of 2 units separated by a swimming pool and communal kitchen. 4 individual living areas, approximately 50sqm each, with an overall living area of 300sqm. Situated on a quiet soi near Rawai Pier. Ideal for owner occupation plus rental accommodation.

FREE beach car for lucky buyer before 21 March 2008.

SPECIAL PRICE, NOW: 7.5 million baht.

Can be seen at www.kbpd-phuket.com or Tel: 084-6722725 or 081-7888280.

QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES

Renovations, construction, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, real wood, parquet, gardening, painting, tiling.

Fair prices and free estimates given.

Contact K. Pueng for additional information at Tel: 087-2709093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-6899679 (English, Thai).

Email: allservices29@gmail.com.

Property Gazette

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.

NEW LUXURY PENTHOUSE



Beautiful panoramic sea and sunset views over Patong Bay. Large living room and balcony. 2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Fitted kitchen, aircon, ceiling fans. Includes private roof terrace. Total area: 245sqm. Also includes lift, pool and private covered parking. Price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8879070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

BANGWAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural Lagoon behind Bangwad Dam. Approx. 26rai, sloped land, access road, water and electricity. Good for residential project. 2.5 million baht per rai (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Saiyuan. Spacious, open-plan, swimming pool, 2 en-suite bathrooms, modern kitchen, convection oven and fan. Nice garden with native plants. Parking space, perimeter wall, gate and water tank. 320sqm area. 6 million baht. Contact Miss Kob. Tel: 081-2733303. Email: info@sariyahouse.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK



at Parichart Village 35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. Chalong area. Urgent sale! 4 million baht, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679, 087-2681341. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

DESIRABLE



unique and elegant home/office. This ideally located property (Samkong, Phuket City) represents the ultimate in a comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of more than 4 million baht, this 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 bathroom, and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property has 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.

PATONG BEACH

14th floor of Phuket Palace. Best offer over 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7974532.

PRIME SLOPING LAND FOR SALE

2½ rai, asking for 20 million baht per rai. Behind the Government Saving Bank-Patong. 400 meters from the Phrabaramee Rd. Suitable for condo/service apartment. New, wide access road. Quiet. Contour done. Real owner available for discussion. Contact Songpan. No brokers please. Tel: 081-7378662.

LAND IN RAWAI

7 rai has been leveled and fenced off. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 089-6666726. Email: lasonth@ksc.th.com

KAMALA BEACH LAND

Very nice building plot. Quiet area with view. Secure estate. High-end houses can be built to suit buyer. Good price. Tel: 083-9680662.

HACIENDA HOUSE

in Cherg Talay. 4 bedrooms, pool, furnished. Only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

KAMALA CONDO

1 bedroom, 65sqm, common pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

KATA SEAVIEW LAND

Best land in Kata, 1,200sqm. 3-phase electric, Chanote, easy access, building plans for 19 units. Net profit of 60 million baht. Great deal! Company transfer. Only 12.5 million baht, includes plans. Tel: 089-6525664.

BEACHFRONT LAND

8 rai of stunning land, prime plot for development. 20 million baht per rai. (Ref: SL0134-08-07). Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, see our website at www.thaipropertyplus.com

AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

HOUSE AT VILLA 5

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 160sqm of land, good condition. Only 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-5358460.

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE

4 bedrooms, pool, furnished, golf course and lake view. Only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

KOH YAO YAI

Quick sale, 4 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, 5 mins to beach. 500,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-8928208.

RAWAI, 3-BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL

220sqm living space, newly built, 700sqm of land. Sauna, Jacuzzi, quality interior, salt-water pool, PVC windows and doors. Resale, original price: 10.9 million baht. Save 3 million baht. Now only 7.9 million baht. Top bargain. Come and see now. Tel: 089-6525664.

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

SEA AND HILL VIEW

6 rai of hilltop land with view of Mission Hills golf course. Architect plans available. 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-9785804.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Near butterfly home, Pisitkaronee Rd, Patong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, Internet, fully furnished, 21sq wah, Chanote. Tel: 089-7298852. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketdir.com/alibaba

CHALONG VILLA

Convenient location in quiet soi off Chao Fa West Rd in Chalong. Two bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, laundry/kitchen and car port, plus covered outside area. Aircon, telephone, ADSL & cable TV installed. Only 3 years old and in superb condition - viewing essential. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8949668. Email: cantaneze@gmail.com

PATONG CONDOS FOR SALE

Condos from 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk Please see our website at www.housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com

LUXURY BEACHFRONT VILLA

in Samui. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, swimming pool. 65 million baht. Contact for info. Tel: 087-8302725. Email: monchai_ae@yahoo.co.th Website: www.thesamuivilla.com

MILLIONS OFF LISTING PRICE



Owner relocating. New 370sqm villa at Kamala Beach. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, aircon, Western kitchen, BBQ, furnished, pool, 750sqm of land. Perimeter wall, ADSL, plasma TV. Tel: 084-8500568.

BARGAIN HOUSE

Located in desirable Choa Fa Thani. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 en suite). Living room, kitchen/diner, study, laundry room, 4 verandas, garage, fully furnished, ADSL, True TV. Ready to move in. Fenced garden in secure estate. 6.8 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western kitchen. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL LAND, 1 RAI

Chanote, near Ton Sai Waterfall. Good road, 3-phase electricity, water supply. Located in quiet area. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 076-321062, 086-8194373. Email: pojjana@swift-mail.com

THAI-STYLE VILLA WITH POOL

500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Furnishings negotiable. Stunning villa in secluded hillside development. 29.95 million baht. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, please see our website at www.thaipropertyplus.com

MISSION HEIGHTS LAND

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.

URGENT SALE, KAMALA

3-bedroom house on 1 acre of land, fully furnished and many extras included. Price reduced to 15 million baht ono. Tel: 084-8406751. Email: gsant osj12@yahoo.com

NEW TOWNHOUSE KATHU

Phuket Goldenville 2. New 2-story home with extension, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and lock-up parking in front yard with gates. Some new furniture included. Good location with security close to markets and Big C. Opposite turn-off to Kathu Waterfall. 1.8 million baht. Contact for further details or inspection. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com

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 087-2709093, 081-8687676

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent



Need help finding property for rent?
081-777-4-799
 www.phuketeasyrent.com

STUDIO APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Private kitchen, aircon, True TV, ADSL, pool. 5,000 baht per week; 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

FANTASTIC SEAVIEW

Karon beach, pool-bungalow. Private and quiet area. Nice, furnished, True TV, Internet. 22,500 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-593-8690. Email: ruen_narayan@hotmail.com

KAMALA FOR RENT

3-bedroom detached house in small, select compound. 20-meter pool, security, True TV, ADSL, maid. Tel: 081-9560527.

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool and gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837.

LAND AND HOUSES PARK

house for rent. Chalongs, new, fully furnished, nice decorations, 3 bedrooms, safe. Tel: 085-7863213. Email: abelenp@yahoo.fr

CONDO FOR RENT IN CITY

Condo in best location in Phuket City, with pool and parking. Fully furnished, aircon, TV, kitchen. Long or short-term rent, 6,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-7197015.

HOUSE ON BEACH

50 feet from the sea, 10 minutes from Phuket City, fully furnished, big terrace. On quiet, safe beach. Short- or long-term rent. Tel: 076-200961, 081-0792592. Email: jarbau19@hotmail.com

FOR RENT

House in Chalongs, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 82sq wah. Rent for 1 year at 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-9074004.

NEW, NICE, CHEAP

House for rent 13,000 per month, near Khao Khad/Ao Yon, furnished, European kitchen, good neighborhood. Tel: 089-9710774. Email: kwanarune@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

Furnished, 12mx4m pool, close to bank. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

APARTMENT SALES & SUB LETTINGS

in Kamala, Surin and Bang Tao. 1- & 2-bedroom modern apartments. Sales and short- & long-term sub lets. Tel: 081-5372018. Email: matt@phuketwest.com Website at www.phuketwest.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



in Soi Ban Krang, Chalongs. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished and aircon. 25,000 baht. Tel: 084-8746270.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN CHALONG



Fully-furnished house for rent in Chalongs. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 aircons, set in the quiet and beautiful Baan Maneekram Estate. Private garden, TV, DVD, fridge, microwave, washing machine, telephone line and internet access, etc. Rent: 16,500 baht a month, minimum 6-month contract. To view the house, call 087-8874659 after 7 pm. Email: marchusted@yahoo.com Website: www.phuketchalongs.com

FOR RENT, 3-BEDROOM

house with pool in Rawai. Great, fully furnished house, newly built, 12m salt-water pool, big garden, in secure area. Tel: 089-6525664.

FOREIGN-OWNED

house in Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terrace, aircon, ceiling fans. ADSL, True TV, alarm system, fenced-in garden. Car park, 100sqm storage. Quiet area. Furnished: 28,000 baht/month. Unfurnished: 26,000 baht/month. Long-term rental only. Tel: 076-388194, 085-4767318. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

QUIET GUESTHOUSE

in the center of Patongs. Rooms for rent, pool, sauna, gym, lovely garden. Tel: 081-0843415.

HOUSE FOR RENT



Beautiful house, 180sqm. Quiet, 5-min walk from Rawai Beach to bank, market and clinic. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fully-equipped kitchens, large living room, fully furnished, aircon, gardens, pool, Jacuzzi, ADSL and gazebo. Long term. Tel: 089-1824674.

SHOP IN PATONG, SOI FOODLAND

Townhouse shop, now used as a restaurant, with kitchen. Best location, available in June, 2008. Ready for 3 years' rent. Tel: 076-340920, 081-8928526. Fax: 076-340920. Email: Peter@phuket-besthomes.com

HOUSE FOR SHARE

Nice, big, quiet house, Chao Fa East Rd, for single person to share. From 22,000 baht per month. Email: greatdeal94@gmail.com

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

4 BEDROOM HOUSE NEAR BIS

The Sunny Point. 4-bedroom, 6-bathroom house with swimming pool, surrounding garden, 2-car parking. Long-term rent. Special rates for BIS parents. Tel: 076-261940, 081-7373459. Fax: 076-261945. Email: rental@gracegardensphuket.com Website: www.gracegardensphuket.com

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

PATONG CONDO, SEA VIEW

2-story, 50sqm, 9th floor balcony, kitchen, bathroom. Available from 2/04/2008 until 1/10/2008. 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8381814.



Best Rental
 Fully furnished, grade A property for rent
 Condo. 2 bed 30 Km walk to Nai Harn Beach, lake view.
 House. 3 bed 25 Km 4 min drive to Laguna.
 House. 3 bed 18 Km near Central festival Brand new.
 Free property listing service
 Tel: 076-242844 Email: info@phuket4rent.com

POOL VILLA RAWAI



Beautiful 2-bedroom villa with private pool close to Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Furnished, aircon, TV, ADSL. 35,000 baht per month. Available mid-March for 6 months. Tel: 081-9701716.

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. Tel: 087-3830936.

2 RAWAI POOL-VILLAS

3 or 4 bedrooms, furnished, near beach. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

LAND FOR LONG-TERM RENT

2,200sqm, Sakdidee Rd with utility access. 88m from main road. In natural location ideal for resort, apartments or condominiums. Sea view of Chalongs bay and Phuket bay possible. Owner has done project layout, easy to start. Tel: 083-5212244.

NEW VILLA FOR RENT



Nai Harn near Sai Yuan Rd. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. Fully furnished, open-plan Western kitchen, 8mx4m pool and lovely 800sqm garden. Gardener and pool cleaning is included. For long-term rent. Please contact Paew at Tel: 089-9725378 or Wolfgang at Tel: 083-3888036.

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE

Full furnished. Phuket Villas 3, Soi 8/1, 70/76. Good price. (private area). Tel: 081-5376045.

KAMALA BEACH

New home for rent. Also, 1 apartment, near beach, fully furnished. 15,000 to 30,000 baht. Tel: 083-9680662.

CHARMING HOUSE

in Mai Khao for rent in quiet, safe area. Long or short term. Furnished with antique furniture. 2 bedrooms, 3 aircons, True TV, DVD, phone, big garden. 3 mins to Mai Khao Beach, 10 min to airport. Tel: 081-7197015, 089-4708926. Email: eanfieviet@voil.fr

FURNISHED HOUSE

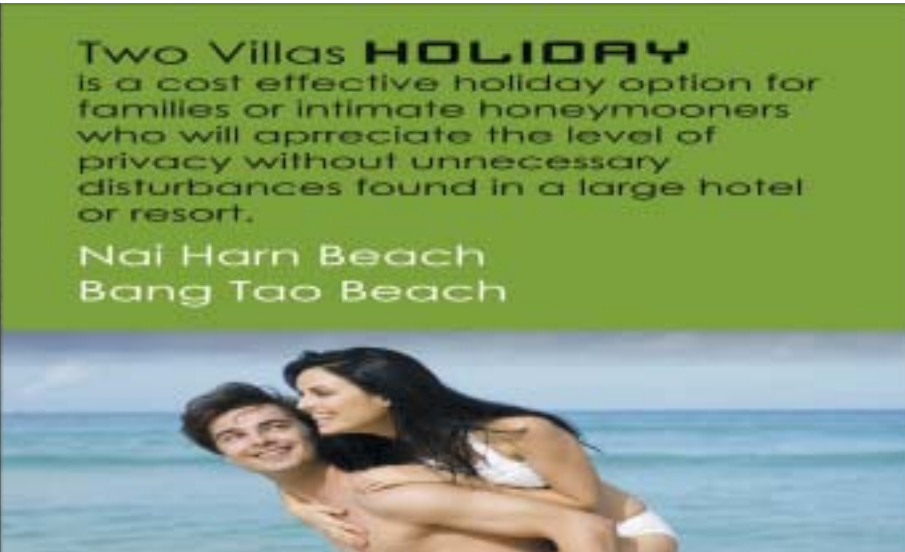
for rent. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen & telephone line. Tel: 081-5379878, 089-7298472. Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL HOUSE

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Phuket Office : Tel: 66(0)76 239 111 Email: charter@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

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with the Frog, a fast Firefly catamaran. Experienced and novice sailors. 1,950 baht per person, inclusive of fees, drinks and club barbecue. Call Andaman Sea Club. Tel: 086-0454634. Email: chris@andaman-sea-club.com

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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. USD\$ 395,000. Ready to navigate. Price negotiable for empty boat. High performance motors. Tel: 081-8935270, 085-2599590. Fax: 076-260152. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr or visit our website www.tropical-house.net

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Great speedboat with Mercury 260hp engine. Only 1.1 million baht, including Thai registration. Enjoy snorkeling, fishing, diving, speed driving and visiting quiet beaches by yourself. Tel: 085-7988522. Email: nils.harald1978@gmail.com

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Looking for a Contract Coordinator or Thai Lawyer

- Age between 25-35 years old
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Please send your resumé, recent photo and expected salary to
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manager_phuket@phuket-realestate-law.com



Two Villas Holiday, Phuket

Guest Service Agent (Day & Night Shift)
Aged 23-35 years. Thai National, fluent in English, has computer skills (easyfo system) and has at least one year of experience in the hotel industry.

Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager
Aged 28-40. Thai national, fluent in English, has computer skills and at least one year of experience in the hotel industry. Duties will include being responsible for sales tasks and contracting, making local & international sales calls, maintaining sales databases and accounts information etc. Salary > 15,000 baht/month + incentive + car & telephone allowance.

Forward CV via email.
Tel: 076-289614 or 081-9580743
Email: hr@thevillaservice.com



Luxury resort now open at Chalong Bay, Phuket

We are seeking Thai nationals with outgoing, energetic, pleasant personalities who have a hospitality background for the following positions: (URGENTLY REQUIRED!)

1. Guest Service Officer/Receptionist

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor's degree
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Good computer literacy & usage required
- Organizational skills & good team work

2. Waiter/Waitress

3. Housekeeper/Cleaner

4. Technician/Maintenance

Please submit a CV with recent photo & expected salary by email to:
hr@scandinavianlaguna.com
For more information call 076-380301.
Website: www.scandinavianlaguna.com

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, a member of Starwood Worldwide Inc, is located on Phuket's western coast on a secluded beach.

We would like to invite candidates to apply for the following position:

Security Consultant

Fixed term 3-months contract. Mature, experienced Thai or expatriate with a background in Security or Loss Prevention for at least 15 years. We require a hands-on consultant to handle various projects to enhance security of a 5-star resort. The scope of work will include the establishment of policies and procedures and training. Intermediate English skills are mandatory (written and spoken language). For expatriates, experience living and working in Thailand and basic Thai language skills are a distinct advantage.

If you are the right person for this project, please contact Hrach Khatchanian, Hotel Manager on 076-370100

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Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555



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Applicants are invited to apply in person or send their full in English with recent photo to:

All About Residence Co., Ltd.

24/28 Moo 1, T. Rawai, A. Muang, Phuket 83130.

Tel: 076-388136, 289261 Fax: 076-388103

Email: hr@allaboutresidence.com, sales@allaboutresidence.com

SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Kitchen Manager and Sous Chef wanted for Sunwing Resort and SPA Bangtao Beach

Sunwing Resort is a part of Thomas Cook Group - a leading international leisure travel group. The tour operators Ving, Spies and Tjäreborg are also a part of this group.

Requirements:

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Documented experience from similar positions.
- ◆ Very good knowledge of kitchen hygiene.
- ◆ Leadership abilities, such as leading and assigning tasks, organising work, scheduling, staffing and a very good ability to meet and handle our guests.
- ◆ Very good knowledge of English, written and spoken.

Desired qualifications:

- ◆ Knowledge of Thai.

Applications:

Send your application as soon as possible to:
johan@sunwingphuket.com

or: Sunwing Resort & Spa Bangtao Beach

22 Moo 2, chueng Thalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110

Application should be marked "Kitchen Manager" or "Sous Chef".

PHUKET PAVILIONS, 30 private pool-villas on a hilltop overlooking the Andaman Sea & lush green valley at Bangtao Beach, is now seeking motivated and active professionals to join our team in the positions of:

FOOD & BEVERAGE	
Food & Beverage Manager	1 Position
Waiter / Waitress	2 Positions
HUMAN RESOURCES	
Asst. to HR Manager / Training Manager	1 Position
ADMIN	
Executive Asst. to G.M.	1 Position
KITCHEN	
Steward	1 Position
HOUSEKEEPING	
Villa Attendant (Temporary)	2 Positions
ENGINEERING	
Electrician	2 Positions
GARDENING	
Gardener	1 Position

Candidates fitting above requirements are invited to send a resumé with a recent photograph to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
PHUKET PAVILIONS**
LS Pavilion Development Co., Ltd, 31/1 Moo 6, Koktanod-Layan Road
Cheng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand.
Tel: +66 (0) 76 317600 Fax: +66 (0) 76 317601
E-mail: kanak@phuketpavilions.com, www.phuketpavilions.com

Staff Required

Motor Yacht Captain

Phuket's leading luxury yacht charter company, Tawan Cruises, is looking for a Thai national to fill the above position.

Requirements

- First Class helmsman and Special First Class engineers certificates
- At least 5 years' experience (preferably in charter), as skipper in the Andaman waters
- Knowledge of English reading, writing and speaking is essential
- Good interpersonal skills

Please contact
prue@tawancruises.com or Tel: 081-8943234 for further information.



All Seasons Nai Harn Phuket, ideally located on Nai Harn Beach, is seeking young and dynamic individuals for the following positions:

1. Human Resources Manager
2. Training Manager
3. Assistant Sales Manager - Pacific Rim
4. Executive Secretary
5. Chief Accountant
6. Executive Chef (Expat)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TEL: 076 289333, FAX: 076 289322
Email: hrm@allseasons-naiharn-phuket.com

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Island Job Mart



สนามกอล์ฟบันยัน รับสมัครงานด่วน!

The Banyan Golf Club, Hua Hin set to become one of Asia's finest golf operations. Due to open in August 2008, we are currently, searching for energetic and dynamic people to join our pre-opening team across all departments.

เดอะบันยันกอล์ฟคลับหัวหิน สนามกอล์ฟที่ดีที่สุดในเอเชียจะเริ่มเปิดให้บริการตั้งแต่เดือนสิงหาคม 2551 เราต้องการทีมที่มีพลัง และความสามารถ พร้อมทำงานร่วมกันกับเราในตำแหน่งต่าง ๆ ต่อไปนี้

HR Department

แผนกทรัพยากรบุคคล

- HR officers

Finance Department

แผนกบัญชี และการเงิน

- Assistant financial controller
- Cost controller
- Accounts-payable clerk
- Accounts-receivable clerk
- Purchasing officer
- Storekeeper
- Secretary

Food & Beverage

แผนกอาหาร และเครื่องดื่ม

- F&B manager
- F&B supervisor
- Waiters (restaurant & banqueting)
- Barman
- F&B secretary

Kitchen

แผนกครัว

- Chef de cuisine (head chef)
- Chef de parties
- Demi chef de parties
- Commis chefs
- Chief Steward

Housekeeping

แผนกแม่บ้าน

- Housekeeping supervisor
- Public area attendants
- Room attendants

Engineering

แผนกช่าง

- General supervisor
- Handyman
- Carpenter
- Electrician

Golf Operations

แผนกปฏิบัติการ

- Golf-operations officer
- Caddie master
- Caddies
- Golf reservation team
- Pro-shop attendants
- Golf-course marshalls
- Golf-service team
- Drivers

Course Maintenance

แผนกบำรุงสนาม

- Green keepers ใช้เครื่องจักร
- Green keepers general
- Maintenance crew team
- Head mechanic
- Mechanics

Security

แผนกรักษาความปลอดภัย

- Security supervisor

All persons interested in joining this exciting new golf club team are asked apply in person with recent photographs and employment references or forward your resumé to hr@banyanestatehuahin.com You will make the difference! Be part of something exciting!

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The Banyan Golf Club (Hua Hin) Co Ltd

104 Moo 9, Tab Tai, Hua Hin 77110, Tel/Fax: 08 1142 6184

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www.banyanestatehuahin.com



CoColopez, a new Phuket fashion brand, will open a boutique, Café & Internet service on June 15 at Jungceylon Patong. We are seeking to fill the following positions:

■ Office (based in Kamala)

- Brand Manager 1 position
- Accountant 1 position

Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree or higher relative to the position.
2. 1-2 years' experience in the same field.
3. Good command of both spoken and written English required.
4. Service minded with excellent customer contact skills.

■ Boutique (Jungceylon)

- Designer 1 position
- Cashier 2 positions
- Tailor 1 position
- Waiter/Waitress 1 position
- Boutique supervisor 1 position
- Sales staff 3 positions
- Bartender 1 position
- Housekeeper 1 position

Qualification

1. Higher Vocational or Bachelor's degree relative to the position.
2. 1-2 years' experience in the same field.
3. Good command of spoken English required.
4. Pleasant personality, service minded with excellent communication skills.

Commission & service charge can be negotiated for boutique's staff
Interested applicants are welcome to apply in person or send your application with complete resumé and recent photo to:

CoColopez Fashion Phuket Co., Ltd

Human Resources Department

86/16 Rimhard Rd, Kamala Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Contact: Khun Jakrapon Wichan

Email: dayuke@hotmail.com

Tel: 076-386157 Fax: 076-386158 Mobile: 089-1211642



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

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wineconnection.co.th

ROCK CITY SINGERS WANTED



Rock City is opening a second venue in Patong and is looking for Rock singers who want to live the rock n'roll lifestyle. Any rock genre considered. Show us what you've got! Demos/CVs/references are welcome. Rock neverdies... Please contact for more information.

Tel: 086-6864170, 087-3866223. Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com
Please visit our website at www.rockcity.cc

TELESALES, NATIVE ENGLISH

Full- or part-time native-English speakers for telesales desks. Excellent opportunity on board professional team. Call or email today for more details. Tel: 087-1111646. Email: colin@evocation.net

NEW RESTAURANT IN KATA

New restaurant in Kata. The restaurant will have about 240 seats for dining and about 50 employees. We need: manager, chef, sous-chef, restaurant manager and head waiter.

Are you adventurous, have relevant education, adequate experience, good knowledge of English and want a real challenge?

Then you will be welcomed.

Send application with CV to Email: rkristiansen@phileasfogg.no
Apply by June/July for training in Norway.

TIMESHARE JOBS HONG KONG

Absolute is looking for 4 English-speaking, sensible, experienced, cold-line and in-house sales staff to join its newest sales center in Hong Kong. Excellent product, potential and package. Sales manager is John Parnell, training starts March 9. Don't miss this opportunity! Email: bl@marbella.net Email your resumé or apply online at www.clubabsolute.com/fivestar

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht charter company is looking for a technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Please send to Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

OFFICE HELP NEEDED

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Qualified female, good command of English and computer literate. Interested? Tel: 076-239112, 084-0633319. Fax: 076-238943. Please send your CV and a recent photo to Email: dorian@electrical-marine.com

PHP & ASP PROGRAMMERS

Need experienced PHP / ASP programmers. Good English skills. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

STAFF WANTED, TRAVEL AGENCY

located in Chalong. We are looking for Thai or European staff who speak French. Computer/Internet knowledge is essential and a past in travel is a must. We provide training and a very good salary.

Please contact for more information.

Tel: 076-282906 or
Email: info@thailand-circuits.com

Sports marketing company in Boat Lagoon is seeking personal assistant/administrative officer. Candidates with secretarial/administration background, interest or knowledge of sports are needed together with excellent English skills. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-2701970. Email: josh.burack@iec.se

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Great Patong location. Contact Kevin. Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-7300190.

BEAUTY & SPA

for lease or rent with all equipment included, in the basement of Fantasia in Phuket Town. Tel: 086-5930086.

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

GUESTHOUSE LAGUNA

5 bedrooms, bar, restaurant, spa, swimming pool. Lease: 29 years left + renewal option. 6 million baht + 15,000 lease. Rent for 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-1823751.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

wanted. I will be relocating from Bangkok to Phuket this August and am currently looking for a hands-on investment opportunity based in Phuket. Please contact via Email: stephancookca@yahoo.ca

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Italian restaurant for sale in Kamala. Eight dining tables and full kitchenware. Near Krungsri Ayudhya bank. Please contact to Khun Na. Tel: 083-1802143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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Many language books and about 5,000 used books with shelf. For quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

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on Bangla and Nanai, many business opportunities. For further details, please visit our website at www.janepropertyphuket.com

KATA GUESTHOUSE

with bar/restaurant, Internet cafe, laundry. 5 mins' walk from beach, inside Kata night bazaar. Close to the fastest developing area in Kata Beach. Freehold title with company, easy transfer. Tel: 081-8948446. www.southernfriedrice.com

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ROCK CITY SINGERS WANTED



Rock City is opening a second venue in Patong and is looking for rock singers who want to live the rock 'n' roll lifestyle. Any rock genre considered. Show us what you've got! Demos/CVs/references are welcome. Rock never dies. Tel: 086-6864170, 087-386-6223. Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com For further information, please visit our website at www.rockcity.cc

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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For rent 40sqm, outdoor kitchen, aircon, cable TV, telephone and furniture. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6714178.

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More than 30 combined years of experience in Thailand, we have business opportunities and land banks like no other. We have Thai families looking for the best deals. Please phone us, you will not be disappointed. Tel: 087-2795021. Email: bbee_1@hotmail.com

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 City.
- Please contact via email for an appointment. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

SHOP IN KOH PHI PHI

This shop is near 7-Eleven. 2nd floor is 40sqm with 3 bedrooms. 43sqm of first-floor shop space. 800,000 baht for 8 years. Tel: 084-9174966. Email: xeocth@gmail.com

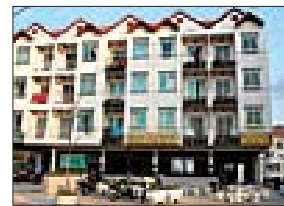
BUSINESS BUY OR RENT

Boutique in Karon, near Orchid Hotel. Due to family reasons, need to sell or rent half of shop. Please contact K. Tim. Tel: 081-8956027.

URGENT DIVE CENTER SALE

Located on Koh Lanta. Sale includes fiberglass speed boat, pick-up truck, 34 tanks, 13 sets of equipment (3 years old). Price: 3.5 million baht. If telephoning, please contact me between 7pm and 9pm. Tel: 084-3315972.

HOTEL PATONG



Bromma Guesthouse, 3 units, 4 floors. Interior area of 800sqm, on 400sqm of land. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-2909567. For further details, please see our website at: www.bromma-thaihouse.com

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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, Chermg Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

RESORT SHARES FOR SALE

SHARES OF ROYAL BANGSAK BEACH RESORT

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Miss Supaporn Buabarn and share holders have announced the sale of shares of Royal Bangsak Beach Resort (holding under Bangsak Fortune Co Ltd) located at Tambon Bangmuang, Amphur Takuapa, Phang-Nga.

A total of 8,000 shares will be available for purchase at 55/779-780 Villa, Daowroong village, Chao Fa Rd, Tambon Vichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket on March 25, 2008 at 1 pm. For business information, please visit www.royalbangsakresort.com

The selling of shares will be made by bidding. Buyers must pay a 25% deposit of the shares' value by cash or bank cashier check upon signing contract. The rest of the shares' value (as agreed) must be paid in full within 10 days after contract date. Buyer's representatives, please submit power of attorney letters before bidding.

Sellers shall hold the right to make the final decision to sell, and can object or postpone the bidding if bidders make offers too low for the value of shares, or for any other reason.

For more information, please contact Miss Supaporn Buabarn Tel: +66 81-8925388 or Mr Sa-nga Rakmuean Tel: +66 89-7252244 Email: andaman102@hotmail.com



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CHEVROLET OPTRA LT SS

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MAZDA MX5

Showroom condition, well-maintained by lady driver. 35,000km. Price: 1.25 million baht. Tel: 087-0804258.

DAIHATSU MIRA

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2002 full options model. Only 2 Western owners. 8 airbags, traction control, trip-tronic gear box, electric seats, computer, iPod dock and anything else you can think of. Must be seen to be appreciated, spotless condition. Private sale but can offer a warranty. 999,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-8954480. Email: security@mail2michael.com

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2005

MITSUBISHI STRADA 4-door, aircon, 30,000km, manual, insured, service book. 300,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-2727636. Email: rewopnadia@hotmail.com

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1996 MITSUBISHI STRADA

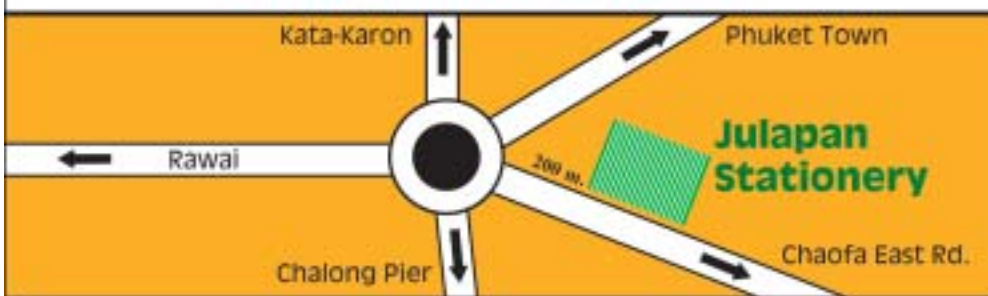
2.8L, excellent condition. 190,000 baht obo. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-9719776.

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HARLEY DAVIDSON SALE

Model is ultra-classic. Year: 2005. Price: 950,000 baht, with log book. Contact Sumon. Tel: 076-352069, 081-691-9346. www.ridethailand.com

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YAMAHA NOUVO

Secondhand Yamaha Nouvo, only 1.5 years old. Price: 35,000 baht. Contact Khun Tan for further details. Tel: 076-296658, 089-6513479. Email: noonno@hotmail.com

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HONDA AIR BLADE MOTORBIKE

for sale. 2007, red & black, 3,000km, very good condition. Asking 35,000 baht. Tel: 084-9106585. Email: tahola@gmail.com

SCOOTER YAMAHA NOUVO

2006, white and black, 6,000km, great condition. Asking 38,000 baht. Tel: 081-3670991.

HONDA PHANTOM

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TOYOTA VIOS FOR RENT

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Honda Wave for 2,300 baht per month, or Honda Click for 3,500 baht per month. Tel: 076-288548, 089-9735081. Email: somthavin_pw@hotmail.com

A1 CAR RENTALS



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TWO NEW TOYOTAS FOR RENT

New Fortuner (silver and bronze) and Toyota Camry (silver and bronze) for rent. Call for more info. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 084-1915669 (Thai).

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Suzuki Caribbean, new: 600 baht/day; 3,800 baht/week; 12,500 baht/month. Honda Phantom, new: 350 baht/day; 2,000 baht/week; 7,000 baht/month. Kois bar Kamala Beach. Tel: 086-2663836.

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