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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Registration van makes little progress; Patong beach road to be cleared out.
Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: How Phuket stacks up compared to Thailand's other provinces?
Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE NATION: Gem thief reveals how he robbed the rocks.
Page 7

AROUND THE REGION: Briton faces charges over land development.
Page 8

AROUND THE SOUTH: Narathiwat cop blasts his bosses.
Page 9

AROUND THE ISLAND: In the navy, come on and join your fellow man.
Page 10

GOOD LIVING: Pukka pork fills the void.
Page 12

PEOPLE: Taxiing's first lady tells her tales of the tarmac.
Pages 14 & 15

SPORTS: Viagrabonds take a beating; Lizards trump PCC; Lady Pie loses the line; Youths come out on top.
Pages 34 & 35

PROPERTY: Construction Update; Home of the Week: Fusion living; Design; Gardening.
Pages 37-42

PLUS

QUEER NEWS, STAMPS 6; HAPPENINGS 16; HOROSCOPES 17; LIFESTYLE 18 & 19; MOTORING 20; WHAT'S ON 21; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; GRAY AREA 26; BOOKS, WORD COURT 27; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 28; FIRST PERSON, I & A 29; TOWNINGS, LAYING DOWN THE LAW 30; COMPUTERS 31; BUSINESS, MONEY TALKS 32 & 33; CLASSIFIEDS 43-55.

Gov suspends Destination Air Patong flights

By Stephen Fein

PHUKET: Citing complaints of noise pollution and threats to public safety, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit on April 3 ordered Destination Air to stop its seaplane shuttle flights to and from Patong Bay until the company complies with all Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) regulations.

The DCA representatives and Gov Niran noted that although Destination Air was issued a permit to operate non-scheduled flights to several destinations along the Andaman Coast until 2011, the permit granted by the DCA was based on an Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) to operate in a marine national park in Krabi.

DCA Deputy Director-General Wuthichai Singhamanee admitted that the DCA was unaware of actual conditions in Patong when it granted the permit.

Destination Air's permit specifies several conditions of operation, including the use of safety buoys to mark landing and takeoff zones and the obligation to ferry passengers from plane to shore by boat, which must also warn other vessels in the area before landings and takeoffs.

Instead, there was solid evidence that the planes have been flying low over several resorts before landing, then taxiing to a floating dock, K. Wuthichai said.

The DCA may suspend the permit if the carrier is found to



DESTINATION WHERE? Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit has ordered Destination Air to stop its seaplane service to Patong until it complies with all Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) regulations.

Photo by Yongyot Preurksarak.

be violating the conditions under which the permit was granted, he said.

Destination Air's listing of a flight schedule on its website and promotional brochures was also a problem because Destination Air's permit was granted strictly for non-scheduled flights, K. Wuthichai added.

Gov Niran said he decided to halt the flights until Destination Air can prove it will comply with all DCA conditions.

The carrier can resume its service to Patong after it submits a new IEE for its operations in the area and convinces the DCA that it will abide by all the terms listed in its flight permit, he said.

Candidates register for Phuket City elections

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: The first day to register candidacies for the upcoming Phuket City Municipality elections saw a large turnout by supporters of both the incumbent Khon Noom (Young Turks) party-led by incumbent mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana, and her rival Ayuth Tansirirot and his Chao Baan Sarng San (Creative) party on April 8.

K. Ayuth, a lawyer and former ally of K. Somjai, hopes to wrest control of City Hall from the Young Turks after almost three decades of continuous rule.

One of three deputy mayors dismissed by Mayor Somjai in April of 2005, K. Ayuth is a cousin of one of the original founders of the Young Turks.

Candidacy registration opened at 8:30 am at the Phuket City Municipality meeting room on Narisorn Rd. The process was overseen by Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augaradacha in his capacity as president of the Phuket Election Committee.

After Phuket City Municipality's four-year term ended on April 4, the new election was set for May 11.

On that day, polling stations will be open in four voting districts across the city, from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

Voters will cast ballots for mayor, along with six choices for a city council seat from their district in the 24-seat assembly.

In a draw of lots, K. Somjai and K. Ayuth drew numbers 1 and 2, respectively.

For regular city councilor seats, Young Turk candidates drew numbers 1 to 6, while Creative candidates drew numbers 7 to 12.



Celebrate Songkran

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Robbery ring rounded up

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: Kathu Police on April 7 arrested six men for a string of robberies in the popular beach town.

Kathu Police Inspector Lt Col Chalermchai Hernsawas and a squad of fellow officers made the initial arrest about 5 pm.

The case started when 25-year-old Saiyon Jantorn reported seeing a man sitting atop her red-and-black JRD motorcycle, which was parked near Laem Petch Temple, he said, adding that K. Saiyon had reported the motorcycle stolen on March 31.

"We moved quickly and arrested Chokchai 'Choke' Janpairoj, 22, from Rayong. During questioning, he admitted that he and his friends had stolen the motorcycle," Lt Col Chalermchai said.

"We then raided his rented room near Soi Kathu Waterfall, where we arrested his roommate Kanoknan 'Nok' Sawangwong, 25, from Phuket.

In their room, police seized a purse that still contained the ID card of its owner, a DVD player, six mobile phones, a Honda Wave motorcycle and receipts from a pawnshop for pawned gold necklaces. "We took both men back to the police station for further questioning. Last night [April 7] we were able to arrest their four friends at the football field," he said.

All confessed to committing several robberies and turning over the stolen goods to Choke, who would sell them and divide the proceeds among them, he added.

Lt Col Chalermchai identified three of the other suspects as: Wassana "Eak" Buathong, 24, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat; Virachai "Lek" Choomjud, 26, also from Nakhon Sri Thammarat; and Boonyarit "Rid" Srisuwan, 29, from Patthalung. The fourth person was identified only as "Wanchai", from Nakhon Sawan.

The 'Khun Bhumi' patrol boat arrives

PHUKET: The Phuket Marine Police Region 5 office on March 31 received two new patrol boats: Tor 635 and Tor 814, also named the Khun Bhumi.

Tor 814 (pictured, right) is named *Khun Bhumi* in memory of Khun Bhumi Jensen, the son of HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya who died in the tsunami.

Attending the official reception at Rassada Port were Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima and Marine Police Commander Maj Gen Misakawan Buara.

Both boats were commissioned to patrol the Andaman waters and to replace patrol boat Tor 813, which the tsunami left stranded about a kilometer inland at Khao Lak.

Tor 813 remains where it was grounded as a memorial to the disaster.



New registration van makes slow progress

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET CITY: The introduction of a high-tech mobile registration van late last year has recorded an increase of 16,000 in Phuket's official population, only a small fraction of the island's "hidden population" of about 300,000.

The project is the brainchild of Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, who announced that tackling the hidden population problem would be a top priority after he was promoted to Governor in October 2006.

The main goal of the Internet-able van, fitted with equipment costing 4.6 million baht, is to register as many as possible of the estimated 300,000 Thais who now call Phuket home, but who are registered as residents of other provinces.

With only about half of the Thais living in Phuket registered as living here, Phuket loses out on population-based budget allotments from the central government, including those for critical areas such as education and law enforcement.



The mobile registration van (pictured) has not had the impact provincial government officers had hoped for.

Of the people who have used the mobile registration service since it was launched in January last year, 35,117 used it to transfer out of the province compared with 49,212 who used it to register as now officially residing in Phuket.

Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasilpin admitted that the project has not been the success the provincial government had hoped for.

"The service was set up to

increase the registered population, but we must allow people to use it to transfer out of the province as well," he said.

Among those who transferred out of Phuket are recently graduated students and people who find work in other provinces, he said.

Current funding allows service stops about three times a month until September 25. The service is provided in areas requested by Phuket's three District Offices, K. Piya said.

Frenchman crushed under cement truck

By Alin Boonkrungthong

PHUKET CITY: French national Dominique Jules Valery Bagus, 46, died instantly when he was crushed under the wheels of a cement mixer truck on March 30.

Capt Supachai Petchsakul of Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* that Mr Bagus was driving a Suzuki motorcycle on Thepkasattri Rd when the accident happened.

"He was overtaking a cement truck being driven by 31-year-old Yutthana Promwiset, who was on his way back after a delivery in Soi Luck Kong Sri.

"As the truck turned left, Mr Bagus tried pass it in the left lane, leaving the truck driver no time to brake," he said.

A Kusoldharm rescue worker told the *Gazette* that Mr Bagus was killed instantly when his skull was crushed under the wheels of the truck.

According to the French Embassy in Bangkok, Mr Bagus' family, who are from Avesnes-le-Comte in France, arrived in Phuket on April 4 to claim his body at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

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Patong beach road to become 'clearway'

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PATONG: Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkabal on April 2 announced that from next high season no parking will be allowed along the busy beach road.

"Taxis will be allowed on Thaweewong Rd only to drop off passengers," K. Chairat told a press conference at Phuket Provincial Hall.

"Tuk-tuks and hawkers are currently taking up all the parking spaces along the beach road, leaving tourists with no place to park. We will provide more car park spaces and change traffic regulations to force all cars to park on the new road, away from the beach," he said.

The new road he was referring to was Phang Muang Rd, which is being built parallel between Nanai Rd and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, which is expected to be completed before the next high season.

The new road will redirect traffic, including tuk-tuks, away from Thaweewong Rd, thus making Patong more tourist-friendly, he said.

K. Chairat said that the area has long been struggling with a high number of tuk-tuks because drivers from Kata, Kamala and Karon flock to Patong due to the higher income potential.



From next high season, the busy Patong beach road (Thaweewong Rd) will be free of parked vehicles, leaving traffic to flow along the popular beachfront, says Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkabal.

He added that Patong Municipality had received a growing number of complaints from tourists who felt that the town was overcrowded with tuk-tuks and taxis.

"They are annoyed by the traffic jams on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and Thaweewong Rd," he said.

Traffic accidents near the beach and on Patong Hill, especially during rush hour, were also on the tourist's list of concerns, he added.

While focusing on cleaning up the town, K. Chairat said that Patong Municipality would be

keeping an eye on the number of sun beds being rented out on the beach.

"After the tsunami, we allowed sun bed operators to set up an extra row of sun beds, but they have kept adding to them and now we see up to three rows in the high season, totaling about 2,000 sun beds.

"We want to ensure that number is sustainable and does not grow any further," he said.

"Also, food vendors and hawkers are required to number their vehicles and stalls so that tourists can report them when a problem arises," he said.

Tourist Police call for more volunteers

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Tourist Police have appealed for Swedish- and Russian-speaking volunteers.

"There are now many Swedish and Russian tourists in Phuket, so we should be prepared to take care of them," said Phuket Tourist Police Inspector Col Sathaporn Sangaunsuk.

"We have about 100 officers, including 18 foreigners," he added.

In preparation for Songkran, about 100 Tourist Police officers and volunteers attended a sea rescue training session at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 30.

Volunteers learned basic first aid and techniques for rescuing people from the water.

Part of Tourist Police duty during Songkran will be to assist

lifeguards at Patong and Karon beaches.

To become a Phuket Tourist Police volunteer, call 076-254693.



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'Bepy' Graziano di Ceneda, pictured here with his staff at the popular Toto restaurant, passed away April 7.

Bepy passes away

PHUKET: Well-known restaurateur and local resident "Bepy" Graziano di Ceneda passed away about 9:30 April 7 after succumbing to lung cancer.

A native of Florence, Italy, Bepy had lived in Phuket for 15 years and was well known here, especially in Cherng Talay, where his popular Toto restaurant stands at Tinlay Place on the road into the Laguna resort complex.

Bepy was also well known for starting the Mulligan Golf Association nine years ago, a fun golf club that many hold as testament to the man's lighter outlook on life.

His friend Graham Doven said, "He told me many years ago that if he died, he would want his friends and family from Thailand, the country that he loved and adopted as his home, to enjoy his restaurants, food and wine as a celebration of his life. I think they will definitely respect his wishes, but for now we will miss him."

Services were held at Wat Cherng Talay from 7 pm.

Dane dies in hotel reception


KARON: Danish tourist Finn Hansen, 54, was found dead on April 3 in the lobby of the Welcome Inn Hotel, where he had been staying since March 18.

"He was sitting in a chair in the hotel lobby for three hours before anyone noticed he was dead," Capt Theerawut Thap-Luen of Chalong Police told the *Gazette*.


As there was no evidence of foul play, police expect that Mr Hansen died from natural causes, he said.

"It's possible that he suffered a seizure before his death," Capt Theerawut said.




Mr Hansen's body was sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital for autopsy and the Danish authorities have been notified of the death.



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The government of former Prime Minister Surayud Chulanond commissioned the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSO) to conduct an in-depth statistical analysis to quantify levels of "human security" in Thailand.

Using a set of 56 individual statistical parameters grouped into 10 different categories, the MSO recently announced the results of the study, which it calls the Composite Human Security Index survey for 2006 (CHSI/2006).

The most surprising result of the statistical exercise, at least to island residents, is that Phuket residents were determined to be at greater risk of violent crimes and theft than residents of any of the other Southern provinces – including the three southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

Such crimes include murder, robbery and various kinds of theft, rape and other forms of physical and sexual assault.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

The overall CHSI index for each province is calculated by averaging 10 different CHSI indicators: housing; health; education; employment; personal security; family life; social support; society and culture; justice and human rights; politics and good governance.

Overall, Phuket came 34th in the nation, while the coastal province of Samut Songkhram near Bangkok took first place and the strife-torn province of Pattani came in last (see chart).

The surprising results for Phuket in terms of the CHSI for

A comparative survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security for 2006 found that Phuket ranks statistically in the middle of the Thailand's 76 provinces in terms of overall security and quality of life, but comes dead last when it comes to one key indicator: "personal security".

Gazette Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel and News Editor Stephen Fein report.

personal security were reported to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit at the March 28 meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee.

At that meeting, Phuket MSO office chief Phannee Sitthikarn told Gov Niran that while Phuket fared about average overall, it did very well in three areas: family life (first overall), social support (first) and society and culture (third).

CHSI rankings for each category theoretically range from zero to one: 1.0000 is the highest and 0.0000 the lowest.

For overall CHSI, Samut Songkhram came first with a score of 0.9757, while Pattani finished last with a dismal 0.1371.

Phuket's overall CHSI rating of 0.7120 indicated a "medium" level of human security, K. Phannee reported.

She explained that both overall and individual CHSI values are divided into three levels: low (0-0.65), medium (0.65-0.75) and

high (0.75-1.00).

Phuket CHSI rankings were thus classed as "low" for three factors: housing (0.5120 for 70th overall); education (0.6461 for 55th overall) and private security (0.2284 for 76th).

DAMN LIES?

To explain why Phuket's CHSI rating for personal security came out below even those of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, K.

Pannee suggested that Phuket's large "hidden population" and an understaffed, overworked police force were key factors.

Official government statistics estimate the number of unregistered Thais living in Phuket to be about 300,000, roughly equal to the island's registered population.

"Some non-official estimates have put the total population as high as one million in the high season, when occupancy of some 40,000 hotel rooms and

LAZY DAYS: Are we living in a haven or a hell hole?



guest houses on the island reaches its peak.

"The reason that our CHSI for personal security is so low lies in the way it is calculated. We use the total number of crime cases reported on the island divided by the total number of registered households as our basis for calculation.

"Phuket has a large unregistered population of Thais, together with many alien workers and foreign tourists," she said.

"Whenever any of these commit a crime here, it is tallied by the provincial police, regard-

less of the perpetrator's place of origin," she added.

K. Phannee added that the number of police officers assigned to the province, also based largely on the registered population, is also far too low.

Police officers stationed in Phuket also have to spend much more time doing special tasks, such as providing security details for visiting VIPs, than their counterparts in other provinces, she said.

The CHSI rating for personal security is in fact a composite itself.

It is calculated by first summing the number of criminal cases in each of six categories: murder, general theft cases, snatch-and-run thefts, assault, rape and cases related to "pornography".

These figures are in turn divided by the number of households to calculate a number of cases-per-household figures for each class of crime.

These are collectively combined to calculate the CHSI for

Phuket residents were determined to be at greater risk of violent crimes and theft than residents of any other province – including the three southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

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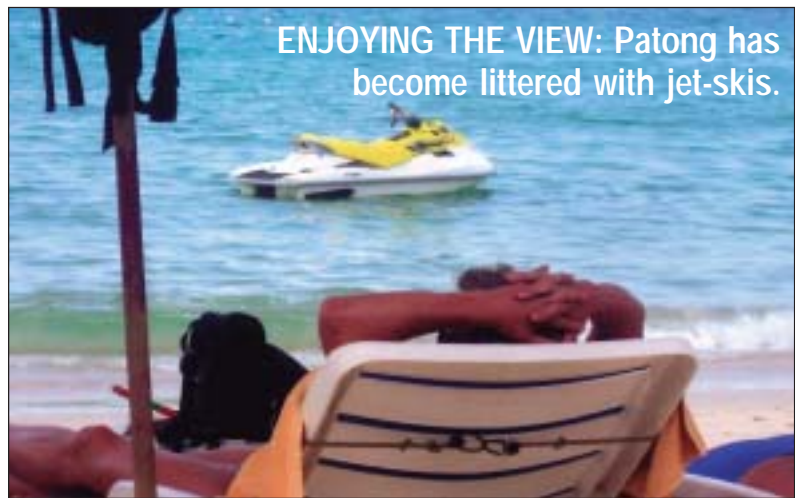
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— or province of peril?

The seven factors used to calculate the CHSI for “personal security” are culled exclusively from police crime statistics. Remarkably, the number of reported accidents and deaths on the roads – or the water – are not included in any of the 10 CHSI categories.



ENJOYING THE VIEW: Patong has become littered with jet-skis.



personal security.

A computer program called Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), which can be run on Microsoft Excel software, is in turn used to calculate the overall CHSI.

While noting the demographic factors that contributed

to Phuket’s extremely low CHSI for personal security, K. Phannee urged all government officers at the security committee meeting to have their agencies work together to improve the security situation on the island.

The MSO plans to conduct

a nationwide CHSI survey annually as a way of noting nationwide trends.

CHSI data will also be included in key performance indicators (KPIs) developed for each province.

These will be made available for use in government planning. The CHSI/2006 study was the first nationwide study of its kind the MSO had conducted since it was formed in 2002, she said.

K. Phannee admitted that it had taken a long time to compile all of the data and said that she was unsure when CHSI/2007 results would become available.

Also attending the security council meeting when the CHSI figures were released was Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Butnampeth, who has long lobbied Royal Thai Police headquarters in Bangkok for more officers and budget as a way of providing better security – but to little avail.

He told fellow committee members that Phuket’s CHSIs were not reliable indicators of the actual situation on the ground, especially the CHSI for “personal security”.

Provinces with high concentrations of unregistered, migrant laborers comprise the huge majority of provinces with the worst CHSI ratings for personal security, he said.

These include other common tourist destinations such as Chonburi (home to Pattaya and 74th overall) as well as highly-industrialized provinces such as Pathum Thani (75th); Rayong (73rd) and Samut Sakhon (72nd), he said.

All of these are magnets for migrant labor, he said.

Reported criminal cases**

in Phuket, by station

From 2003 --Sept 2007

| No | Station(s) | Total cases | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007* |
| 1 | Kathu & Kamala | 235 | 284 | 244 | 219 | 129 |
| 2 | Phuket City | 579 | 505 | 623 | 482 | 448 |
| 3 | Cherng Talay | 30 | 74 | 67 | 44 | 47 |
| 4 | Tung Tong | 24 | 27 | 58 | 48 | 48 |
| 5 | Thalang | 112 | 124 | 103 | 87 | 81 |
| 6 | Chalong | 74 | 109 | 114 | 123 | 136 |
| 7 | Tah Chat Chai | 28 | 33 | 33 | 38 | 24 |
| Total | | 1082 | 1156 | 1242 | 1041 | 913 |

Notes: Kamala began individual reporting when it was upgraded to a district police station in January 2008.

* Figures for 2007 include the first three quarters only.

** Statistics includes murder, attempted murder, assault, rape and other violent crimes as well as cases involving damage or loss of property, such as theft.

10 “safest” provinces

Highest CHSIs for “personal security”

| | | |
|----|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Chiang Rai | 0.8295 |
| 2 | Phrae | 0.8255 |
| 3 | Lampang | 0.8246 |
| 4 | Yasothon | 0.8213 |
| 5 | Nakhon Phanom | 0.8162 |
| 6 | Nan | 0.8115 |
| 7 | Maha Sarakham | 0.8089 |
| 8 | Lamphun | 0.8065 |
| 9 | Surin | 0.8038 |
| 10 | Roi-Et | 0.8010 |

Source: Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

10 “most dangerous” provinces

Lowest CHSIs for “personal security”

| | | |
|----|----------------|--------|
| 1 | Phuket | 0.2284 |
| 2 | Pathum Thani | 0.2466 |
| 3 | Chonburi | 0.3297 |
| 4 | Rayong | 0.3712 |
| 5 | Samuth Sakhorn | 0.3981 |
| 6 | Prachinburi | 0.5043 |
| 7 | Nonthaburi | 0.5149 |
| 8 | Ranong | 0.5170 |
| 9 | Yala | 0.5193 |
| 10 | Surat Thani | 0.5327 |

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Queer News

Fowl play suspected in local election

ANG THONG: Police Region 1 are leaving no stone unturned in their attempt to bring to justice a vicious gang of youths who abducted 1,500 waterfowl from a local politician, in what police believe could be a politically motivated ducknapping.

At about 3 am on March 28, six young men, some on motorcycles, some in a six-wheeled truck, pulled up at a duck farm in Village 2 Tambon Yan Seu in Ang Thong Muang district.

The youths grabbed the lone security guard, 44-year-old Reuangsak Khruea-kaow, and bound him hand and foot before administering a savage beating for good measure.

With the security guard taken care of, the youths turned their attention to the not-inconsiderable task of getting the 1,500 ducks from the coop into the back of the truck.

When all the birds were safely on the truck bed, the gang sped away amidst the sound of startled quacking.

When a badly bruised K. Reuangsak managed to wriggle

free from his bonds at about 5 am that morning, he called Ang Thong Police to report the crime.

When police learned that the missing fowl belonged to a Lamlee Noinongwun, deputy president of Bang Phlap Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), they jumped into action.

Maj Gen Thanisak Thirasawat, commander of Ang Thong Provincial Police, said, "The criminals are probably from within the world of duck rearing as they knew how to properly transport the birds and also knew where K. Lamlee kept his ducks, which is a quiet and secluded location. "We are now taking statements from witnesses who saw the truck [used in the robbery]."

Gen Thanisak added that his superior, Police Region 1 Commissioner Lt Gen Rachot Yensuang, was also following the case closely and had urged him to rapidly bring it to a close.

He therefore ordered Muang District Superintendent Col Wareeroj Kongkanphai to

take personal responsibility for the case.

Col Wareeroj said that he had contacted the Provincial Livestock Office for information on local duck-keepers who could be involved in the crime.

He has also ordered police and Volunteer Defence Corp officers to inspect all duck farms in the area to look for any ducks acting suspiciously.

If two flocks of ducks are introduced to each other, they will not mix and will stay as two separate flocks, Col Wareeroj explained.

Police have received tip-offs from confidential informants indicating who the gang of youths are and believe the mastermind behind the plot is likely to be one of K. Lamlee's competitors in the duck-rearing business, but are not yet ruling out a political motive for the ducknapping. K. Lamlee was preparing to run for another term as *OrBorTor* deputy president, Col Wareeroj added.

K. Lamlee told reporters that the ducks were worth about 150,000 baht.

K. Lamlee added that he didn't want to believe that the theft was politically motivated, but admitted that he did have some problems with political rivals.

A source told the *Gazette's* Thai-language sister-paper *Kom ChadLuek* that the motive behind the great duck theft was to intimidate K. Lamlee ahead of the upcoming *OrBorTor* elections.

The perpetrators were a group of youths from Tambon Pho Rang Nok in Pho Thong District under the control of one of K. Lamlee's political rivals, the source explained.

Source: *KomChadLuek*

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STAMPS



This series of stamps depicts the seals of 10 of Thailand's provinces.

Thailand Post launches provincial stamps

PHUKET: Thailand Post on April 2 launched a series of stamps depicting the official seals of 10 provinces.

The first stamp shows the seal of Nakhon Ratchasima province. The statue of Khunying Mo is seen in front of Chumphon Gate. Khunying Mo was the wife of the deputy governor of Nakhon Ratchasima when King Anuvong of Vientiane attempted to seize the province while the governor was away.

Khunying Mo gathered a rebel army to fight the invaders.

The second design shows the Nakhon Sri Thammarat seal, which depicts a stupa emanating rays of light. The stupa image is surrounded by the 12 signs of the Thai zodiac. In the past, the province had 12 colonies, each represented by a zodiac symbol.

The third stamp shows Wiman, a mythological castle found in heaven, which is the seal of Nakhon Sawan province. The gods are believed to live in heaven and those who make merit are said to be reborn in Wiman.

The seal of Nonthaburi province adorns the fourth stamp, showing earthenware, an ancient product of Nonthaburi that is still used to this day.

On the fifth stamp is the seal of Narathiwat province. A boat with the image of an elephant on its sail symbolizes that the marine trade plays an important role in the province.

An usuparatch bull carry-

ing the pagoda of Phrathat Chae Haeng is the symbol of Nan province and the image on the sixth stamp. The rulers of Nan and Phrae were, at one time, brothers. They met on a mountain to discuss the border between their lands. The ruler of Nan traveled to the meeting on the back of a buffalo.

The seal of Buri Ram province is the subject of the seventh stamp. Phanom Rung sandstone castle stands in the background. An angel, believed to invoke happiness and alleviate misery, dances in front of the castle.

On the eighth stamp is the seal of Pathum Thani province. A pink lotus flower with two ears of rice bending over it refer to Pathum Thani as the perfect place for agriculture.

The Kuha Karuhas pavilion is the symbol of Prachuap Khiri Khan province. Behind the pavilion is the island of Koh Lak in Prachuap Bay, a historical center of administration.

The final stamp shows the seal of Prachin Buri – a bodhi tree. When a group from India went to the province, they brought bodhi trees, which is the same species of tree under which Buddha achieved enlightenment at Mahabodhi Temple.

The stamps, measuring 35 millimeters by 35mm, are available at all 10 of Phuket's post offices for three baht each, with 900,000 stamps produced per province.

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Convicted murder mastermind and former top cop Chalor Kerdthet is turning stool pigeon and will tell all about the controversial 630-million-baht Saudi gem heist that has soured relations between the two countries for two decades.

Chalor says he'll take the witness stand in a court if required.

He made the pledge to Justice Minister Sompong Amornwiwat, who visited him in Klong Prem Central Prison in Nonthaburi on April 3.

The former Central Investigation Bureau deputy chief is serving life for masterminding the killing of the wife and son of a gem dealer involved in the saga.

The dealer was the chief prosecution witness.

A Thai house-servant at the Riyadh palace of Prince Faisal, son of King Fahd, stole kilograms of gems while the prince was on holiday in 1989.

He fled to his native Lampang province, where he was arrested. He was sentenced to five years in jail.

A box of jewels was returned to the prince, who determined that nearly 80% of the loot had disappeared. Some had been replaced by crude fakes. Many of the stolen stones, worth millions, are still missing – as is a Saudi businessman.

Saudi Arabia downgraded relations in 1990, after three Saudi diplomats were murdered in Bangkok in separate incidents. The move affected many Thai workers who worked in the oil-rich country.

Justice Minister Sompong reopened the case last week, hoping to end the rift between the two countries.

"I am willing to testify as a witness if requested," said Chalor, who has been behind bars for 14 years and had several appeals turned down.

Chalor says he's not talking in return for freedom. "I want to help solve the case... and I have been friends with the minister for a long time," he said.

Noxious blaze. A massive blaze at a private landfill in Samut

Chalor promises to talk about Saudi gem heist

Prakan's Muang district covered nearby communities with thick smoke and left dozens of people hospitalized with respiratory problems, dizziness, nausea and vomiting caused by harmful fumes.

Many families were evacuated, with some moving to relatives and others seeking local authorities' help.

More than 100 fire vehicles were called to the Tambon Praekkasa Mai landfill to fight the blaze, which started on April 4 and was still smoldering as this edition went to print.

Thirapon Yangkhao, chief of the Samut Prakan disaster prevention and mitigation office, initially blamed underground gases and hot weather for the start of the fire.

Wet wishes. Ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is the under-20s' preferred person to offer Songkran wishes to, a poll says.

Dr Noppadon Kannika, Director of the Assumption University Academic Network for Community Happiness, Observation and Research, said half of all people aged 20 or younger want to splash the former prime minister with water.

Some 44% of respondents older than 20, however, preferred to see in the Thai new year by splashing opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Among under-20s, 43% named PM Samak Sundaravej, as did 41% of over-20s.

The survey questioned 3,997 respondents over 14 years old in 18 provinces between March 29 and April 5.

Perilous placards. Following a billboard crushing to death 15-year-old Piyanan Kamsaeng in Ayudhya province during a rainstorm late last month, Dr Pen-



JEWEL OF DENIAL: Former Central Investigation Bureau deputy chief Chalor Kerdthet, who has spent the past 14 years in prison after being found guilty of conspiring to commit murder, says he will finally come clean and reveal all he knows about the case of the missing Saudi jewels.

neung Wanichchai of the Asian Institute of Technology said that even billboards that meet legal requirements pose a public safety risk.

"I believe there will be more billboard collapses this year, causing both casualties and property damage. The question is not if it will happen, but how often and where," said Dr Penneung.

Dr Penneung has looked into the safety of billboards in Bangkok and other parts of the country. His research shows most cannot withstand strong winds.

"The wind force can rise to 193 kilograms per square meter,

"These incidents become news only when they kill," Dr Penneung said.

Pervert potion promotion. The Paveena Hongsakul Foundation is sending samples of drinks allegedly laced with aphrodisiacs to the Food and Drug Administration for analysis, fearing they could be used by sex predators on unsuspecting women.

The foundation, established to protect women and children from abuse, has taken issue with orange juice and instant coffee products that carry the following message in Thai script: "Warning: Drink components have strong sexual-stimulation effect."

The feared abuse has occurred in at least two cases reported to the foundation, but victims refuse to press charges, said founder K. Paveena.

"We want the FDA to clarify if there is any legal restriction on the sales of such drinks containing aphrodisiacs. It can be harmful to unsuspecting women if sex predators surreptitiously and maliciously give them the drink," she said.

K. Paveena demanded legal action if the drinks are sold without FDA approval.

Sourced from The Nation, DailyXpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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Briton arrested over land dealings

Long-time Samui resident, Lawrence Fay, 32, has returned home after a brief overnight stay in a Bangkok detention facility. He was arrested on March 18 on charges of illegally acquiring and selling land.

Fay, part owner of Sabai Properties, was taken into custody with four charges against him: foreign ownership of land in Thailand, using a Thai nominee to own land, subdividing land without a developer's license and developing land without a license.

Fay has stated that he has done nothing wrong, has followed all the correct procedures and holds all the proper legal paperwork.

Police have questioned Fay's staff over the past 18 months following an accusation that he was part of the notorious Bandidos gang. His arrest comes after the release of another alleged gang member, Crispin Paton-Smith, who was set free after the prosecution failed to present any evidence against him.

Fay claims to have never been a gang member. His name was included on a document produced by discredited prosecution witness, Eric Remsdyke, who had filed allegations implicating him at the same time that charges had been brought against other well-known business people identified by Mr Remsdyke.

"I have always been a law-abiding citizen. I've been here for over 11 years and never on a tourist visa," said Fay. "I have always had the correct documentation, visas and work permits as dictated by lawyers."

The case has caused a lot of controversy over the rights of foreigners to purchase and sell land using 51% Thai ownership.

Fay entered the property business on Samui seven years ago with his Thai business partner, Samui-born Adisak Chittheap, who owned 51% of Sabai Properties.

"Adisak has been my legiti-

Lawrence Fay faces four charges relating to illegal land development, all of which he denies.

mate business partner and we have always followed the advice of our Thai lawyers regarding correct procedure. I took legal advice from trusted Thai lawyers and now I'm being punished for it," Fay commented.

A court date has not been set for the hearing, but the case's outcome is eagerly awaited due to its possible influence on cases of a similar nature.

Aussie woman raped. Koh Samui police on March 26 responded to reports from one of the international hospitals that a foreign woman had been raped.

Investigating police questioned the 19-year-old Australian woman, who said she had been sleeping in her room at the Samuang House Resort while her friend slept in an adjacent room.

The woman told police that a man carrying a knife entered her room and raped her before fleeing with her cellphone, cash and passport.

The *Bangkok Post* has since reported that a 26-year-old man was arrested and charged with the rape.



that a large crowd of Thai youngsters congregated around a fight between a 15-year-old Thai male named only as "Sahachert" and a 14-year-old Thai male, who police declined to name due to his age.

The 14-year-old was allegedly holding a knife when Mr Dadhwal tried to intervene, but was subsequently attacked with the weapon.

Sahachert was also seriously injured during the attack, suffering lacerations to his face and neck that required more than 30 stitches.

Both victims were rushed to Bandon International Hospital on the island, where Mr Dadhwal died from his injuries.

Representatives from Bandon Hospital reported that Mr Dadhwal had stab wounds to the left side of his chest, to his right arm and his right cheek and neck.

An investigating team led by Pol Lt Gen Thaneer Tawitsee, commander of Provincial Police Region 8, traveled to Koh Pha-ngan by helicopter to interview seven youths being held in relation to the crime.

Police have taken statements from witnesses.

The prime suspect has denied all charges.

Ferry price increase. April 1 will see a rise in the price of ferry tickets from mainland Surat Thani to Koh Samui.

Damri Boonjing, Vice-Governor of Surat Thani province and head of the local committee for boat transport, confirmed that approval has been granted after a petition from operators to increase the fares due to the rising price of fuel.

However, V/Gov Damri said that the increase will not be dramatic and should not drastically affect paying customers.

The new fares for adult foot passengers will increase to 130 baht while students will pay 60 baht per journey. Passengers with motorized vehicles will have to pay 345 baht.

Full moon murder. Koh Pha-ngan's monthly full moon party saw another violent incident on March 7 when 24-year-old Indian native Chetan Dadhwal was killed while trying to break up a gang fight.

Witnesses told investigators

laxing on some of the island's beaches.

Princess Beatrice was said to have been with friends on a three-week tour of Thailand.

Two British Police guards kept watch over the princess and her friends, who stayed at the Morning Star resort on Ban Tai Beach.

Resort owners K. Jita and K. Arun were said to be taken with the princess and prepared flowers and special greeting cards for her with only two hours notice of her arrival.

The pair said the princess had impeccable manners during her stay in a simple wooden bungalow on the beach. "She was very polite and made a point of taking her plates and glasses back to the reception after she had finished with them, while her other friends just left them on the beach," said K. Jita.

Aside from relaxing, the princess was also spotted enjoying herself at the full moon party.

Visa run bus accident. A popular minibus used to ferry people to and from Malaysia to obtain visa stamps crashed, injuring several people, including the driver and tour operator.

The tour company, Herbert's Visa Run, was on its way to the border when the driver lost control reportedly after one of the minibus' tires blew out, causing the vehicle to flip over.

Passengers were tossed around when seats that had been bolted to the frame came loose.

Four passengers on the bus were treated for leg fractures, including two who

suffered fractures to the femur bones of both legs.

The company owner suffered a broken arm and the driver suffered cracked ribs.

All were treated at Haad Yai Hospital.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

Princess visits Pha-ngan. Samui's sister party island Koh Pha-ngan played host to a visitor from the British Royal family last month. Princess Beatrice, daughter of Prince Andrew, Duke of York, spent more than a week re-

suffered fractures to the femur bones of both legs.

The company owner suffered a broken arm and the driver suffered cracked ribs.

All were treated at Haad Yai Hospital.

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Policeman slays his superiors

A Narathiwat police corporal on March 31 shot dead two of his commanding officers after being reprimanded for gambling and poor discipline.

Witnesses reported that at 7:10 pm, Cpl Thakeng Moonmek, a Crime Suppression Squad leader at Sri Sakhon Police Station in Narathiwat's Muang District, pulled up outside a restaurant opposite the station where his two commanding officers, Maj Sawek Phukphasuk and Maj Aphiwat Khotwong, were eating.

Cpl Thakeng walked up to the officers' table, drew his pistol and shot Maj Sawek in the face. Maj Aphiwat attempted to return fire but was gunned down. Cpl Thakeng then shot Maj Sawek two more times before trying to escape.

However, other officers in the restaurant managed to subdue him and place him under arrest. Maj Aphiwat was rushed to hospital, but died en route. Maj Sawek died at the scene.

Col Chok Chawanwiwat, deputy commander of Narathiwat Provincial Police, said that before the incident, Maj Sawek had called Cpl Thakeng to his office to speak to him about disciplinary issues. Maj Sawek rebuked Cpl Thakeng about turning up late and missing shifts and also ordered him to stop gambling as it was damaging the reputation of the police force. Maj Sawek warned him that he was likely to face disciplinary action over his conduct.

Officers reported that after the warning, Cpl Thakeng wandered around the station looking troubled before going home. He then returned with his gun to shoot Maj Sawek, Col Chok said.

Cpl Thakeng was likely to have been worried that he could be dismissed from the police force and the stress from this combined with his gambling problems may have led him to shoot his commanding officers, Col Chok added.



SUSPECTS ON PARADE

Col Chok Chawanwiwat, deputy commander of Narathiwat Provincial Police, announced the arrest of nine suspects on drug- and insurgency-related charges on April 3. The suspects were caught in an early morning search involving 700 police, soldiers and volunteers covering five districts of the restive province.

Maj Sawek was an Acting Crime Suppression Inspector at Sri Sakhon Station. Before taking on the role two months ago, he had worked as an inspector at Narathiwat Provincial Police Headquarters Security Center. He also served in the Border Patrol Police in Su-ngai Padi district and Surin province.

Maj Aphiwat had been a Criminal Investigation Inspector at Sri Sakhon since October and had previously served with the Border Patrol Police in Udon Thani.

Getting better? Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Anupong Paochinda on April 3 said that the situation in the Deep South had improved and that the army does not have to request special assistance from the government in its attempts to end the insurgency.

He said civilian officials, police and soldiers have been satisfactorily cooperating in their

missions to end the violence.

He added that violent incidents in the region had declined during the past four months and it appeared the number of attacks would continue to fall.

Election violence. The President of Krut Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) in Kanchanadit district, Surat Thani, was seriously injured after an attempted assassination early on April 5.

Kowit Wacharasawat, 42, was shot three times while sitting in his pickup, waiting for his wife after the couple had attended the funeral of a relative, Yothin Wacharasawat, in Village 6 Tambon Changsai.

Funeral guests rushed K. Kowit to Surat Thani Hospital to be treated for his injuries. However, after spotting a man acting suspiciously near K. Kowit's room, relatives began to fear that he may be at risk of another at-

tempt on his life and asked for Surat Thani Muang District Police to send plainclothes officers to guard him.

Later that day, K. Kowit was transferred to a hospital in Bangkok, where relatives believed he would be safer.

Police said that there were at least two gunmen who waited in ambush for K. Kowit to leave the funeral.

Police believe the attempted murder was connected to the upcoming elections for Surat

Thani Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) due to be held this month.

K. Kowit worked as a canvasser for one of the three candidates standing for election as the *OrBorJor* council member for Kanchadit district Constituency 3. K. Kowit's support in the election could be a key factor in the outcome of the race as he is a popular figure in the area and about four months ago won a second term as president of Krut *OrBorTor* in a landslide victory, police said.

Bike ring busted. Police in Chumphon bust a ring of motorcycle thieves after catching one of them driving a stolen bike to the Burmese border on April 1.

At 12:30 am, Chetsak Thanabat, 28, was stopped by Sen Sgt Maj Phinit Phonwacharin as he was driving a motorbike with no registration plate past a police checkpoint in Baan Thung Sawan Village 7, in Lamae district.

Under interrogation, Chetsak confessed that the motorbike was stolen and that he had been paid to drive it from Chumphon to Kraburi district in Ranong, from where it was to be smuggled across the border to Burma.

From Chetsak's testimony, police seized another stolen motorbike and arrested three other suspects: Suriya Srisuwan, 21, Phairat Naowhat, 28, and Aekarin Mukda, 31.

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

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Navy boys are good to Phuket

By Nick Davies

Last week, three US Navy ships made a historical call to port. It was the first time that the three warships, *USS Hopper*, *USS Ingraham* and *USS Port Royal*, had anchored in the same port to give the 900-plus enlisted personnel and officers some well-earned R and R in Phuket.

While the ships were at port, groups of seamen could be seen around the island, letting loose on some of the tourist attractions. One group of officers donated their time and skills to their host community by taking part in community relations projects, or "comrel" as they call it.

On April 4, a group of nine officers clad in navy-blue overalls and led by their on-board Southern Baptist Chaplain, Mark Haley, rolled into Baan Kamala School to begin sanding down and varnishing desks that curious students were bringing down from their classrooms.

Baan Kamala School is by the beachfront and was destroyed in the 2004 tsunami, prompting the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation to focus its charitable efforts there.

The comrel projects were co-ordinated by American expat Brad Kenny and USN Naval Attaché Captain Walter Bruce Watson Jr on behalf of the foundation, which works with local educators to improve the opportunities of young people by funding English-language education in government schools.

"We've done about 16 comrels so far," said Chaplain Haley, adding, "We really just want to bring goodwill as ambassadors of our country."

Some of the other comrel projects they have undertaken at



From helicopter pilots to galley grunts, some US navy crewmen got down and dirty in sprucing up Baan Kamala School.

various ports of call include painting churches, schools and bus stops. Chaplain Haley recounted a recent project to help transport education supplies across land and water in remote areas. "These supplies were ready to be distributed to schools, but the locals had no way of transporting them, so we helped load up the supplies and get them to the students," he said.

The group of volunteers ranged in age and rank, each a specialist in a particular field, including a helicopter pilot who had rooted out a pair of old flying greens for the day of dusty desk work.

They made quick work of sanding down the desks with power tools while school kids brought desks from classrooms to add to the "assembly line."

On Sunday, Chaplain Haley and volunteer crew members pitched in at the Life Home Project, a shelter for orphans, HIV-positive mothers and their children. This time the volunteers brought a bit more order to the grounds by clearing weeds, trimming hedges and planting fruit trees. They later joined the mothers and their children for snacks.

"It's really good to see these opportunities and we're grateful to the Rotary club for their help in co-ordinating this," said Chaplain Haley, adding that each of the volunteers are specialists in particular fields. "Whether they are weapons specialists, electronic engineers, chefs or medical personnel, they are able to contribute their skills to the community projects we undertake and they are glad to make a positive contribution away from the wartime environment," he said.

"We are actually on our way home after a long time at sea, but it's both exciting and important for us to build community rela-

tions in the ports we stop at. It's important for people around the world to know that as individuals, we have the best of intentions and are here to help," said Chaplain Haley.

"Having experienced the trauma and grief that comes with working in conflict zones, it's also good to be able to take on this kind of supportive role in the community. It's very rewarding to know we can make a difference in a positive way," he added.

Chaplain Haley explained that a lot more of the ships' crew members were planning to participate in the comrel project at the school, but the first "mail drop" in several months a few hours earlier meant that many officers were preoccupied with pouring over letters from loved ones.

"Doing these community projects is a moral booster, but mail drops are rare and the fact that the three ships are in port together means that friends on separate vessels can meet up again for the first time in many months," Chaplain Haley said.

"We've been on board for about six months already and are hoping to get home in about another two months, but we could be called upon for operations at any time. We're at the 'tip of the

spear' at the moment, meaning we're in a high state of readiness. That doesn't just mean we are ready to jump into wartime action, but to be prepared to carry out humanitarian projects and community relations projects such as these. It really depends on what we're called to do next," he added.

CSSR Ford is one of the newer recruits, joining the navy less than a year ago. On board the *USS Port Royal* he works as a chef, but took the opportunity to join the group of volunteers so he could experience some of the culture. "It's easy to go crazy and spend loads of money when we make a port call, so I wanted to do something positive and see something of the culture while I am here," he said.

The three warships anchored off Makham Bay made for a dramatic backdrop to the tropical vista and Chaplain Haley expressed his confidence in the high-tech defense capabilities the ships can provide for their host country.

At just over 10 years old, the *USS Hopper* (DDG-70), based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is the youngest of the battleship trio and weighs in at nearly 9,000 tons when full. She's 154 meters long and can carry her 338-strong crew over 4,000 nautical miles at 20 knots. She can also carry a single SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter. The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer sails with the motto: *Aude et effice* (Dare and Do).

The *USS Ingraham* (FFG-61) is the fourth US Navy vessel named in honor of Captain Duncan Ingraham (1802-1891), whose career in the US Navy began as a midshipman when he was 10 years old. The *USS Ingraham* (FFG-61) is classified as an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate. She is based at NS Everett, Washington and was launched in 1988. She carries a crew of 236, including pilots for two Sea Hawk helicopters.

The *USS Port Royal* is also based at Pearl Harbor, and is the largest of the three ships, displacing 9,600 tons when fully loaded with a crew of 360 and two Sirkorsky SH-60 Seahawk LAMPS III helicopters. She's 173 meters long and cuts through the water at 32.5 knots.

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One mouthful of K. Kacky's *khao ka moo* (stewed pork leg on rice) and I thought, "Holy moly! Where have you been all my life?"

Chiang Mai native Apissada "Kacky" Putyot, 42, serves this culinary wonder daily at Ka Moo Boraan Restaurant on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd. Customers fill up the place from 7 am until 5 pm, but with just seven tables available, you may not be able to find a seat during the lunch-hour rush.

The restaurant has attracted a large following of loyal Thais and foreigners who have made frequent visits during the eight years the eatery has been open.

K. Kacky opened the restaurant with the help of her husband, Treechai "Ning" Yodmuang – and together, the pair serve up their tasty treats seven days a week.

K. Kacky worked with her aunt in a restaurant in Patong for two years before she had the idea to pursue her own *khao ka moo* venture. K. Ning is also a culinary veteran, having spent several years working as a chef on a cruise ship.

Non-Thai-speaking foreigners need not worry about placing an order because both K. Ning and K. Kacky are proficient in English.



The restaurant may look average, but appearances are deceptive. The taste is exceptional – a Chiang Mai family recipe passed down from generation to generation that in Phuket only K. Kacky and her husband know. The secret ingredient is a Chinese herb mixed in with the broth in which the pork is cooked.

"It was my own idea to add the herb. I also use lemongrass to make the dish smell better. I add a bit of garlic, as well as galangal for soaking up the fat in the soup, which then makes it less oily," she added.

Working every day to feed hungry islanders leaves K. Kacky and her husband with little time

to spare. "Since we started working here, we haven't had a holiday. There's no way we can ever get sick – or die!" laughed K. Kacky.

"We start cooking the pork leg late in the evening, boiling it for about six hours before it's ready to be served at 7 am the next morning," she added.

K. Kacky and K. Ning wake at 5 am every day and get straight to work by cooking huge quantities of rice. Once the rice is done, the *khao ka moo* is ready to be dished out to the hordes of breakfast-seekers.

The long period of time the couple spend preparing their food is what makes each dish so soft and rich in flavor, said K. Kacky. "Every day, we prepare 25 kilograms of pork. If it's a busy day, we might sell all of it before noon," she said.

As well as *khao ka moo*, another popular dish is the boiled-entrails soup. For foreigners, the most popular dish is *khao ka moo* with *moo krob* (crispy pork).

"I have one group of farang



ABOVE: Chiang Mai native Apissada 'Kacky' Putyot and her husband Treechai 'Ning' Yodmuang

LEFT: K. Kacky's famed *khao ka moo*.

customers who come here often. They always order *ka moo*, with no fat and a side of *moo krob*," she said.

"We prepare our *moo krob* by using fresh lemon juice to ferment the meat. This makes it crispy on the outside, but soft on the inside," she said.

One large serving with all the trimmings will set you back 50 baht. Even if you have the appetite of a rhinoceros, you won't need a second helping because each dish is sufficiently filling.

"With one kilo of pork, we can make up to 15 dishes, so each day, we make about 375 dishes," said K. Kacky.

Some customers order *ka moo* without rice and take their food back home to enjoy.

"We also have a lot of Korean customers who come here every day with their tour groups. They like the food here so much," she said.

Speaking from personal experience, this writer gives two thumbs up to K. Kacky's *khao ka moo*.

Ka Moo Boraan Restaurant is located on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, on the left about 20 meters before the Tung Tong (Caltex gas station) Intersection when driving from Phuket City. Open daily 7 am to 5 pm. Tel: 089-9729438.

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By Sompratch Saowakhon



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First lady of the road

Freshly arrived in her husband's native Phuket, after 20 years in Bangkok, where she had worked for a pharmaceutical company, Suwan "Patty" Petchwang, 51, originally from Prachuap Khiri Khan, didn't have a clue where to start looking for work.

They had come to Phuket as her husband had simply wanted to come home. "At the time we didn't know what to do for a living in Phuket. One day we were doing the paperwork to transfer our car registration from Bangkok to Phuket at the Provincial Land Transportation Office and we started chatting to some guy.

"We were discussing various work options on the island when he suggested that we get into the

There are 45 metered taxis in Phuket, but only one is driven by a woman. In high season, Suwan 'Patty' Petchwang can make up to 70,000 baht a month driving a taxi. But it wasn't always so. Rewind 13 years and K. Patty decided that it was time for a change of career. Here, K. Patty tells Semacote Suganya what life's like behind the wheel in Phuket.

tuk-tuk business. He said that it was very profitable and offered to sell us his tuk-tuk, "Why not?" we thought so we agreed to buy it off him for 160,000 baht," K. Patty explained.

But it was not to be plain sailing. "Not long after we bought the tuk-tuk, my husband had to leave Phuket and move first to Bangkok and then Saudi Arabia to work as a factory manager.

He had to go because we had just bought a new house and had a mortgage to pay.

"Apart from when he came to visit us every six months or so, I was on my own. Money was short to say the least and with him gone there was no-one to drive the tuk-tuk. I just used it to take the kids to school," K. Patty said.

During her school rounds, K. Patty would often come



'I was the first woman to drive a tuk tuk in Phuket and many people on the island found it a little peculiar I guess, but I just got on with it,' said K. Patty.

across people in need of a ride, asking her to take them somewhere. Although she put a sign on the outside of the tuk-tuk indicating that it was not in service, most people did not see it and tried to hail her.

"For a while I did not pick anyone up. Besides selling a little fruit here and there, I ran private errands in the tuk-tuk," K. Patty explained.

"One day I drove past Robinson shopping center and yet another group of people tried to hail me. This time I decided to pick them up. I charged them 5 baht each, which was the minimum fare back then.

"I was the first woman to drive a tuk-tuk in Phuket and many people on the island found it a little peculiar I guess, but I just got on with it.

"Usually, I would park in front of Coca Restaurant, opposite Robinson, which was a good spot as it was never short of fares. But once I got to know the area better and learned to find my

way around town, I became more adventurous and started to venture further afield.

"Often, I'd pick up fares at Tilok Pier and Sangrat Pier near Koh Sireh, which were both near my house. I'd take them to Patong, which at that time cost only 150 baht. Trips around Phuket Town were just 45 baht."

Though business was occasionally good, K. Patty struggled to get fares in the low season to keep her afloat. Sometimes she would have only two fares a day, making as little as 70 baht. After eight years, she decided to sell the tuk-tuk and buy a taxi with a meter. That was two years ago.

"Because I sold the tuk-tuk, I was no longer allowed to park at the tuk-tuk rank at Rassada Pier. Also, as with the tuk-tuk, sometimes I would get only two fares a day. Another problem I soon discovered was that metered taxis in Phuket are different to those in Bangkok in that they are not allowed to pick up

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clients trying to get them to get in their cars instead. They were jealous of me.

"When the clients declined because they said they felt safer with me, it would make them really angry. It took a while before they started to accept me and understand that I was not going to go away," K. Patty said.

Today, everyone in the business knows K. Patty, or the "Iron lady", as her male colleagues call her, and have accepted her into their fraternity. "These days, they say that they are glad to have me," K. Patty said.

Though business is good, there are many costs in running a taxi business. "I have been driving a metered taxi for two years now. I bought it on finance for 800,000 baht and paying it off with 8,100 baht a month over 10 years.

"Though the money is good, driving a taxi is hard work. Taking someone to Kata takes one hour and then you have the trip back, which takes another hour. Depending on the length of trips, I have four to five fares a day, which makes me from 30,000 to 70,000 baht a month, depending on the season," she said.

"If I could, I would like to adjust the meter price and make it slightly higher," she explained.

Driving a taxi is not pure profit. "We charge about 420 baht for most trips from the airport. Out of that we have to pay 40 baht to the taxi rank. After petrol, you are left with a profit of about 300 baht. Then you need to pay for maintenance of the car and other expenses," she said.

"I once picked up a family from a Patong hotel who wanted to go to the airport. As they got out, they forgot a bag on the front seat. I went after them and returned it. It turned out to be full of cash and jewelry and they were very pleased to get it back. They wanted to give me a cash reward, but I refused and I told them that it's my duty to help my clients.

"The wife cried and gave me a big hug. What stuck in my mind was when she said she would remember me for the rest of her life. It makes me happy when clients praise me for being such a good driver," she said.

clients everywhere," she said.

"In Phuket taxis have to stick to designated pick up areas and taxi ranks. You can't just pick up any client off the street. At some hotels, you are allowed to drop off clients only, not pick them up. Other hotels have their own cars or have made deals with certain taxi drivers who are the only people permitted to standby outside. The only official taxi rank for metered taxis is the one located at the airport," she explained.

The competition among Phuket's taxi drivers is fierce and at first it was a struggle for K. Patty. "Back then, it was unusual to be a female taxi driver. I was the only woman in the business down here, but it was often an advantage. Many people liked having a female driver, which made other taxi drivers unhappy with me. Many women clients preferred to ride with me because I am a woman," she said.

"Others chose me as they thought that a lady driver would be more polite and a safer driver. In the beginning, sometimes other taxi drivers would chase after my

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This week



HIGH-SPEED SERENITY: Finnish Ferrari driver and Formula 1 world champion Kimi Raikkonen (center), with Ramesh Hamal (left), chief operating officer of Green Heritage Group, and Elad Kushnir, development director of Serenity Development Group, announces he has bought a condominium unit at the Serenity Terraces Resort Condominiums and Villas project overlooking Chalong Bay and Rawai Beach.



NEW OFFICE: Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos (in pink shirt) hands a bouquet to Wichit Municipality Council Chairman Nimit Akevanit at the opening of the new Wichit Municipality offices on March 27.



CAKES TO COCKTAILS: Restaurateur Suthida 'Jib' Limrattanakorn and her staff celebrate the opening of Margarita on April 1. Margarita, on Yaowarat Rd in Samkong, Phuket City, was previously known as Baan Cafe. The restaurant and bar now serves snacks and cocktails nightly in the 'garden in the city'.



ON SHOW: British International School Phuket art teacher Samantha Fruin (center) joins student artists Nattakun Charoenkul (left) and Hiroe Nakashima (right) at the opening of the BIS Visual Visual Arts Exhibition at Room Limited on the bypass road on March 28. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm until April 24.



STAND UP, SIT DOWN: It was standing room only at Phuket's first Mac Group Therapy at Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong on March 30. The free Sunday morning PC and Mac Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the Gazette, give computer users one-on-one help plus the latest information on computing and the Internet in Phuket.



BIG BUNNY: The Easter bunny entertains a young boy at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on March 23.



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In The Stars

by Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Not everyone will be ready to share your enthusiasm for getting soaked this weekend. Those of you who are intent on having a good time should seek out the company of Pisces and Leo. Business proceeds smoothly after the holiday. The chance to expand your horizons comes towards the end of next week when an ex-colleague has a tempting proposition. Those celebrating a birthday this week can expect better rewards in the year ahead.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Your tendency to over-react to small problems could land you in hot water this weekend. Where romance is concerned, you are advised to give a potential new partner enough space to decide for themselves. Money matters are particularly well starred during the remainder of April. A surprise bonus is forecast to arrive before the end of the month. Wednesday is the best day for dealing with difficult bureaucracy but remaining calm is the key.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Those of you who are ready for some fun in the sun will be spoilt for choice this weekend. By Monday, you will be happy to relax in your hammock at home, but work demands next week will require instant attention. A last-

Easy on the water, Aries

minute hitch in a business affair could cause a great deal of frustration on Wednesday. Cancer is becoming interested in turning a platonic relationship into a romance.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Your sideways approach to challenges will not help you to get ahead this week. Someone has noticed your creative talents and is about to make a tempting offer, but you will need to show more motivation in order to be taken seriously. Early next week you discover that not all that glitters is gold; those who are tired of being taken for a ride in a relationship will be ready to move on.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

A lazy weekend is what most of you will be looking forward to, but this is unlikely to happen. Friends and family are counting on your participation in water festivities and it will be difficult not to join in. Next week at work you get to the bottom of a mystery concerning a colleague. If you are single you will be glad to discover that an attractive Arian has finally noticed your existence.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Too many demands made by family could result in you becoming irritated this week. To avoid being taken for granted you should clarify exactly how far you're prepared to go to help others. Providing financial support is likely to be a bone of contention, but streamlining commitments is recommended. Those who are footloose and fancy free are forecast to meet a tempting Taurean this weekend. The number 9 can bring some good fortune next Monday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

April continues to be an easy time for most of you, especially after you receive welcome news early next week. Holiday planning will be on your agenda after the middle of the month; taking a trip with Pisces is recommended, but going away with Sagittarius will only cramp your style. Those looking forward to some quality romantic time this weekend will have to juggle this with a surprise family visit.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Being a wet blanket this weekend is not an option.

Those of you who have a lot on your mind at the moment are advised to set your worries aside and join in the fun. One niggling problem will dissolve when Libra offers a helping hand mid-week, and other concerns are set to lessen towards the end of this month. Wearing the color aquamarine can encourage a more stable outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Your dedication to hard work finally begins to pay off. Those of you who are keen to take on more responsibility will receive a golden opportunity around the middle of April. Romance with Libra is not well starred, but Taurus would welcome the chance to get to know you more intimately. Delay decisions regarding relocation – a more appealing offer is around the corner. The number 5 can be lucky on Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

It will come as no great surprise to anyone when a holiday romance fizzles out. Your practical attitude to life allows you to view this situation realistically and a more feasible relationship

is forecast to be a feature sometime next month. In the meantime, business commitments urgently require your attention. Pisces' inability to confirm their involvement in a deal will cause frustration mid-week. Don't settle for less than originally agreed.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

There's no chance of boredom this week. You will find it difficult to keep up with the social pace and others are counting on you to show them the way to go. Where work is concerned, this is the ideal time to push the boundaries further. Libra is ready to jump aboard a new business scheme and their creative energy will ensure success. The number 3 can bring some good luck on Monday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Stay in the shallows instead of diving headfirst into a business arrangement that is too complicated to understand. Your desire for a simple life should not be compromised or stress will result. You will be content to stay dry at home this weekend and an impromptu party could occur when like-minded friends pass by. Thursday is the best day for negotiating financial arrangements. Wear the color orange to encourage more optimism.

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Scoop up fresh and fruity ice cream for Songkran

After 50 years of production, Mövenpick's ice cream has finally made its way to Phuket just in time to give ice cream aficionados a taste of quality creams and sorbets for the hottest months of the year.

Mövenpick ice creams were recently launched at Mövenpick Resort & Spa, the only venue in Thailand where you can experience classic flavors of the Swiss treat, such as Vanilla Dream, Swiss Chocolate, Maple Walnut, Espresso Croquant and, of course, strawberry.

The ice creams are given their authentic flavors with all-natural ingredients sourced from their native habitats around the world.

The cocoa is from Maracaibo in Venezuela and the vanilla beans are from Madagascar, hailed by Kenneth Donaldson, Executive Director of ice Cream from Nestle (Thai) Ltd, as the best land in the world for growing vanilla beans.

Vanilla beans are used in



Mövenpick ice cream only when they are at their ripest to ensure the richest aroma from them. Strict quality-control measures keep the ingredients chilled at under -18°C throughout production," he explained.

"These ice creams are made using all-natural ingredients, prepared with care in traditional ways," said Business Development Manager of Nestlé (Thai) Oliver Jakubowicz.

Some of the classic ice cream recipes available in cones, bowls or even in a take-away tubs include Vanilla Dream, with pieces of real vanilla bean. For a dark twist on the vanilla, there's the Stracciatella – vanilla with chocolate shavings.

For a classic taste of Swiss winters, try Maple Walnut or the Espresso Croquant (hazelnut and coffee).

Of course, no ice cream collection would be complete without a few fruity flavors.

The strawberry and raspberry ice creams are laden with the red fruits picked at the height



Thailand's talented pop diva Tata Young popped into town to perform songs from her latest album, One Love, at the Port Arena at Jungceylon, Patong, on March 30.

Three aspiring young singers also shared the spotlight with their idol, winning recognition for their vocal virtuosity by singing renditions of Tata Young's songs for the "One Love One Voice" singing competition.

Sasithorn Lhaowisetkul won 5,000 baht, Sasima Phaphon earned a 2,000-baht prize, while Hataichanok Kaewsingoen walked offstage with 1,500 baht.



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FRESH 'N FRUITY: They don't come much fruitier than a passion fruit and mango sorbet.



SWEET: Chill out in stylish comfort at the Mövenpick Resort & Spa's ice cream parlor, Café Studio, or take away a Vanilla Dream in a tub.

of their ripeness and bursting with natural flavor.

For a really fruity experience, though, try an exotic passion fruit and mango or classic lemon and lime sorbet made from sun-ripened fruits.

The sorbets are 99% fat free and taste as if you are biting into a piece of chilled fresh fruit.

Never a man to mince his words, Executive Chef Ameer Ibrahim Al-Ali admits that Mövenpick

ice cream is an indulgence, but adds, smiling, "And what is wrong with a little indulgence

now and again?

"Our ice cream is made to be enjoyed and savored like a good wine. The ingredients are first class, and the care that goes into making it – even though it is produced on a large scale – is as great as if it were home made."



"Our ice cream is made to be enjoyed and savoured like a good wine." Mövenpick Executive Chef

"In fact, with generations now having grown up eating Mövenpick ice cream, it has been 'adopted' as home-made by many people."

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By Jeff Heselwood

Tata closes deal on Jaguar, Land Rover buyout

At last, the deal is done: Tata of India, a giant conglomerate, has finally concluded the takeover of Land Rover and Jaguar from Ford.

The Tata Group comprises 98 operating companies in seven business sectors: information systems and communications, engineering, materials, services, energy, consumer products and chemicals.

Tata recently launched the "1 lakh rupees" (100,000 rupees) car called the Nano, although it is unlikely to ever be exported to other markets, for safety and other compliance reasons.

In the accounting year 2006 to 2007, Tata had revenues of US\$28.8 billion.

Ford bought Jaguar in 1992 for US\$1.2 billion, but never went significantly into profit with the brand, despite pumping millions of dollars into the iconic British luxury-car maker.

Land Rover, the legendary 4x4 manufacturer, was acquired from BMW when the German automaker disposed of the ailing brand in 2000.

Although Land Rover is profitable, the company requires huge investment if it is to move forward.

There has been some concern, notably among US dealers, that the takeover of Jaguar by a company



from the subcontinent will devalue the iconic luxury brand, but Tata has made every effort to reassure critics that the firm will remain essentially British.

It is, however, inevitable that some components will, in the future, be produced in India, where labor costs are substantially lower than in other countries.

The total cost of the takeover by Tata, paid in cash, is around US\$2.3 billion, but Ford will contribute roughly

India-based global conglomerate Tata Group is adamant that Jaguar and Land Rover will remain essentially British. Pictured are versions of the new Jaguar XF, launched in January this year to replace the S-type.



US\$600 million to the Jaguar and Land Rover pension plans.

The deal is expected to be finalized by the end of June. The British government and trade unions have been kept in the picture throughout the lengthy negotiations and have indicated their full support for the agreement between Ford and Tata.

"Jaguar and Land Rover are terrific brands," said Alan Mulally, president and CEO of Ford Motor Company.

"We are confident that they are leaving our fold with the product, plan and team to continue to thrive under Tata's stewardship. Now it is time for Ford to concentrate on integrating the Ford brand globally, as we implement our plan to create a strong Ford Motor Company that delivers profitable growth for all."

As part of the transaction, Ford will continue to supply Jag-

uar and Land Rover with engines, powertrains, stampings and other components, as well as various environmental and platform technologies.

Ford is also committed to providing engineering support, including R&D, plus help with IT, accounting and other essential services.

Ford's extremely profitable subsidiary Ford Motor Credit Company will continue to provide financing for Jaguar and Land Rover dealers and customers during a transitional period of up to 12 months, depending on the market.

Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Sons and Tata Motors, said, "We are very pleased at the pros-

pect of Jaguar and Land Rover becoming a significant part of our automotive business.

"We have tremendous respect for the two brands and will endeavor to preserve and build on their heritage and competitiveness, while keeping their identities intact.

"We aim to support their growth, while holding true to our principles of allowing management and employees to bring their experience and expertise to bear on the growth of the business," he added.

Geoff Polites, CEO of Jaguar Land Rover, said, "The management team at Jaguar and Land Rover is very pleased that Ford and Tata Motors have come to an agreement.

"Our team has been consulted extensively on the deal and we feel confident that it provides for the business needs of both brands going forward.

"We have also had the opportunity to meet with senior executives from Tata Motors and the group and they have expressed confidence in our team delivering significant improvements in Jaguar and Land Rover's business performance," he added.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted by email at jhc@netnavigator.com

'The management team at Jaguar and Land Rover is very pleased that Ford and Tata Motors have come to an agreement.'
- Geoff Polites, CEO of Jaguar Land Rover

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until April 12. Phuket Bike Week.

Phuket BikeWeek is an annual celebration of everything about motorcycles. There will be exhibitions, bike cruises and weekend parties. The bikers will then celebrate Songkran outside the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa.

For further information email sumon@ridethailand.com or alissa@ridethailand.com or visit www.phuketbikeweek.com

Until April 24. BIS IB Visual Arts Exhibition.

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

Open to the public daily from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Closed during Songkran, from April 13-16.

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

April 13-15. Songkran Festival (Public Holiday).

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

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

April 17-20. Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

Winner of prestigious awards from the International Cricket Council and the Asian Cricket Council, the Phuket International Cricket Sixes will be held at Karon Municipal Stadium, with play from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

Phuket Sixes attracts club cricket teams from around the world, along with local Phuket sides, to enjoy the competition and camaraderie of cricket.

For details contact Mark Burns. Tel: +852-96365545. Email: media@phuketsixes.com Website: www.phuketsixes.com

April 20-24. Phuket Asian Senior Masters 2008.

Sports stars, including snooker player Jimmy White, will be in Phuket for a spot of celebrity golf in May.

Phuket Celebrity Golf Tour

May 26-29

The Phuket Celebrity Golf Tour is a unique event where players of all handicaps and abilities can play a round of golf with top football, snooker and entertainment celebrities from the UK.

Each evening, the group of celebrities will provide entertainment at the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa in Patong.

Contact Jeff Ogden for further information. Email: jsogden@talisman-energy.com

Come watch the Phuket Asian Senior Masters 2008, a senior professional golf event. This event will have a full field of more than 140 senior golf professionals from more than 20 countries.

On April 20, there will be a pro-am tournament. Entry costs 30,000 baht per team of four golfers.

Play commences each day at 7:30 am. Free entry for spectators.

For more information contact Prachuab Subcharoen. Tel: 081-6072672. Email: thaiseniorgpa@thaiseniorgpa.com Website: www.thaiseniorgpa.com

April 20. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

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. 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

April 26-May 17. Soldiers – Art Exhibition.

In his 20 paintings, Thaweesak Srithongdee questions what causes wars and destruction, whether it be past wars or current conflicts.

He looks at who is involved in the wars, the instigators and the victims. He also observes how nonsensical and destructive it is to have wars.

At D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina, daily from 11 am to 7 pm.

Contact Bowie for further information. Tel: 076-360867. Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

April 27. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

May 1. Labor Day (Public Holiday).

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day (Public Holiday).

Coronation Day commemorates the ascension to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 14. Punchline Comedy Club – Live Stand-up Comedy.

Punchline Comedy Club in association with the London Comedy Store presents another night of live international stand-up comedy.

Three top comedians, two glass-filling intervals and a joke competition will fill a night of fun and laughter.

Comedians Paul Thorne, Tom Wigglesworth and Ian Moore will perform from 8 pm to 11 pm at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket.

Tickets are available from Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

For further details contact Pete. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Web: www.phuketcomedy.com

May 19. Visakha Bucha Day (Public Holiday).

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month of the Thai calendar.

It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

May 31-June 1. 10th Phuket International Rugby 10s.

Marking a decade of international rugby on Phuket, this year's Rugby 10s tournament will be played at Karon Municipal Stadium.

For details contact Patrick Cotter. Email: phuketrugby@gmail.com Website: www.phuketvagabonds.rfc.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, 10km run, and 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' run.

Registration, which closes on June 5, is available at www.phuketmarathon.com

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

July 17. Asarnha Bucha Day (Public Holiday).

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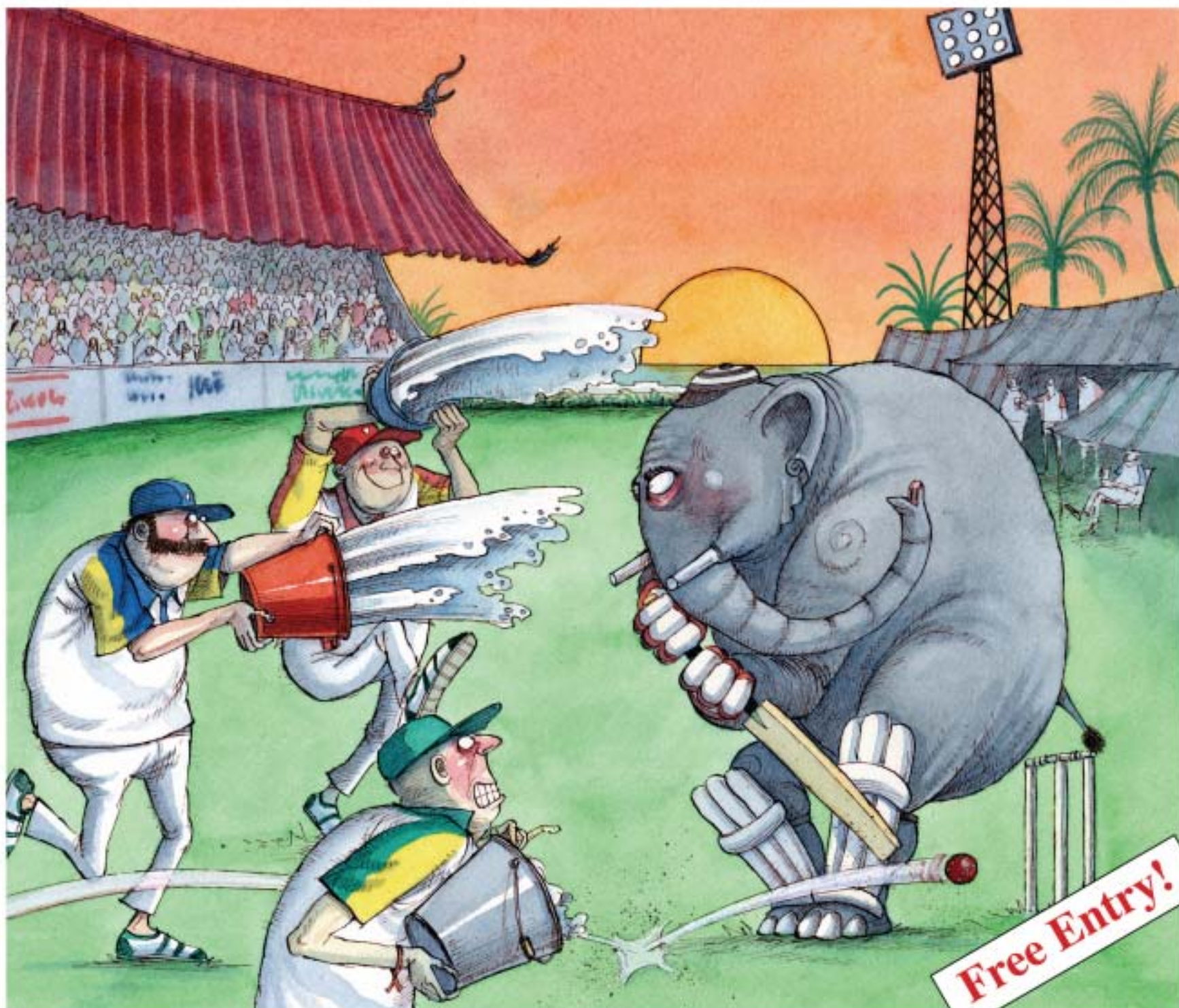
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Phuket International Cricket Sixes 2008

17th–20th April 2008



Karon Stadium, Phuket

Thurs 17th, 9.00am–6.30pm

Fri 18th, 9.00am–6.30pm

Sat 19th, 9.00am–6.30pm;

7pm Floodlit Charity Twenty20 match

Sun 20th (Finals), 9.00am–6.00pm

www.phuketsixes.com



Phuket Gazette



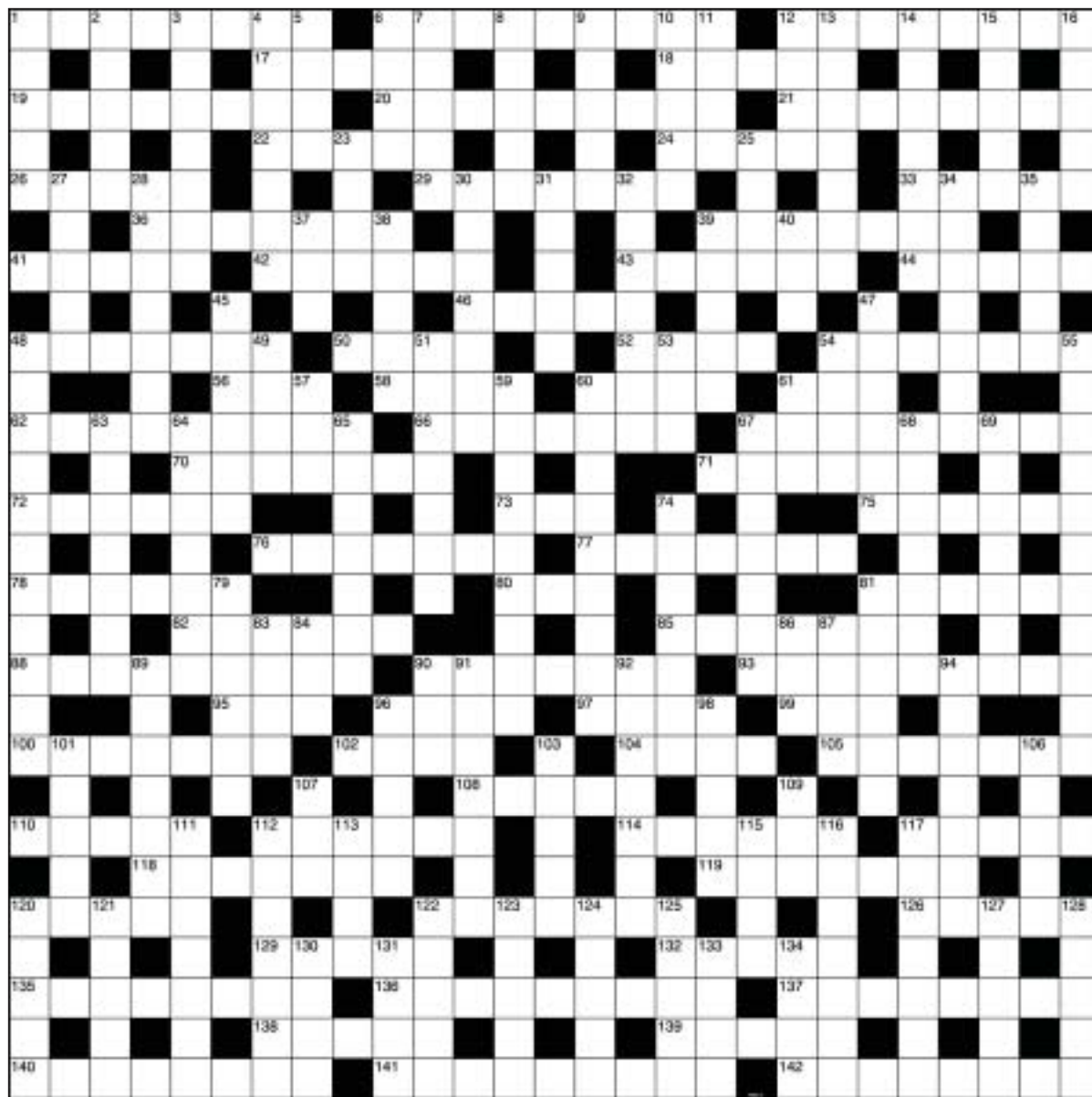
Puzzles

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. Increases in attractiveness
6. Queasy
12. Merriest
17. Inca city, ...Picchu
18. S American parrot
19. Selects (5,3)
20. Compression weapons (3,6)
21. Deep down
22. Rocky shelf
24. Cider fruit
26. Light-ray tool
29. Yummier
33. Actor, Ethan...
36. Scapegoats
39. Beans & peas
41. Actor, Ryan ... (1'4)
42. Abate (4,2)
43. Behave cheekily (4,2)
44. Tibetan ruler, ...Lama
46. Bake (meat)
48. Climbing plant
50. Until (2,2)
52. Wild goat
54. Rock band follower
56. Armed conflict
58. Keep
60. Urged on, ...up
61. Uncooked
62. Cartridges
66. Tidiest
67. Letter of recommendation
70. Book perusal
71. Neck frill
72. Marijuana cigarette
73. Director, ...Gibson
75. Surgical knife
76. Reverent shout

77. Public speakers
78. Examines (accounts)
80. Fix (race)
81. More sacred
82. Maggots
85. W African stork
88. Hive insects (5,4)
90. Gratifies
93. Figure-hugging
95. Discarded cloth
96. Cleaning girl
97. Trim, ...& terrific
99. Bustle
100. School bag
102. Pack animal
104. Minor quarrel
105. Triumph
108. Gibe
110. Pull out all the...
112. Wood-shaping machines
114. Good look
117. Beginning (of illness)
118. Flimsy (argument)
119. Countries
120. Arm joint
122. Assign officially
126. Small ducks
129. Board
132. Dutch city, The...
135. Theatrical
136. Change of habitation
137. Voracious
138. Moral standard
139. Wasp bite
140. Saboteurs
141. Weds again
142. Furthermore

Down

1. Dismiss (pupil)
2. Pawns
3. Breathing hole

4. Strive to equal
5. Overfill
6. Cormorant
7. Peaceful
8. Noblemen
9. Non-uniform
10. Smudge
11. Clasp
12. Prison
13. Confessed (5,2)
14. Hated
15. Bequeath
16. Leaf seasoning
23. Grows faint
25. Eagle, bird of...
27. Cartoon strip, Li'l...
28. Travel cheats, fare...
30. Authorise
31. Handle
32. Exhausts
34. Normally (2,1,4)
35. Light olive-brown
37. Actor, ...Holm
38. Oozes
39. Loafed
40. Revolver
45. Tankard material
47. Author, George...
48. Household pests
49. In proportion, pro...
51. Digress, go off at a...
53. Gamble
54. Fish-landing pole
55. Voting regions
57. Danger color
59. Especially tagged
60. Earth scientist
61. Football arbiter
63. Writer, Sidney...
64. With upright posture
65. Afternoon naps
67. Gossip items

68. Computer print-out (4-3)
69. Notching
74. Prepares for exercise (5,2)
79. Cavalry swords
81. Accolade
83. Genuine
84. Relax, ...out
86. Also titled (1,1,1)
87. Makes offer
89. Excludes
90. Friend
91. Raises (5,2)
92. From the Orient
94. Infuriate
96. Butterfly relatives
98. Transported
101. Moving about
103. Of hearing
106. Hard alloy
107. Former Chinese leader, ...Zedong
109. However
111. Hindrance
112. Bumpier
113. Rotate
115. Long tooth
116. Line of forebears
117. Constantly busy (2,3,2)
120. Bereaved wife
121. Furious
122. ...In Wonderland
123. Hooded jacket
124. Bury
125. Neither these nor...
127. Audibly
128. Actress, ...Spacek
130. Performances
131. Islamic governor
133. Termites, white...
134. Cremation vessels

Solution on next page

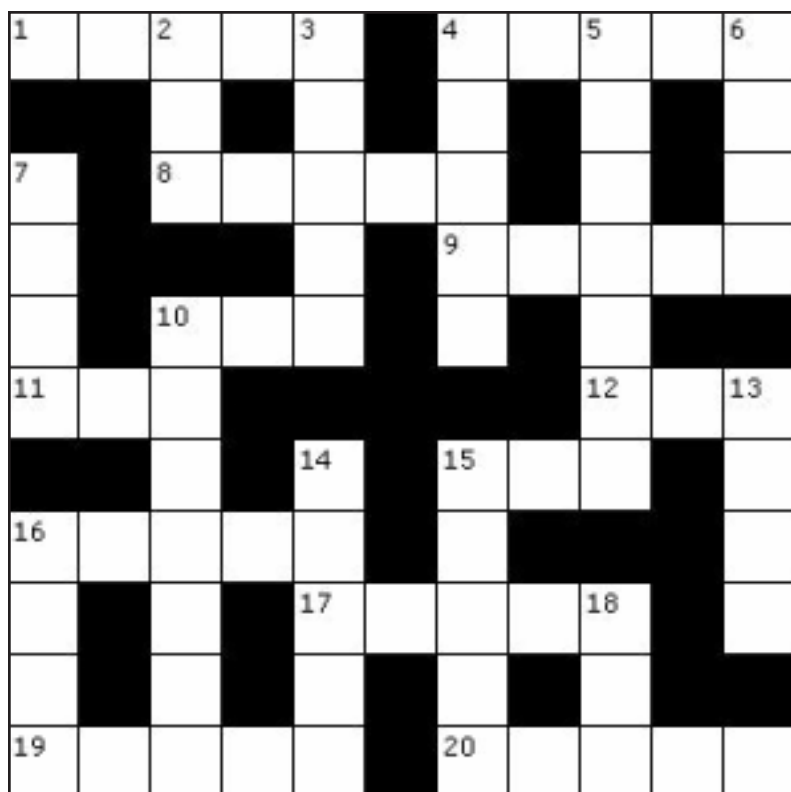
su | do | ku

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

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

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

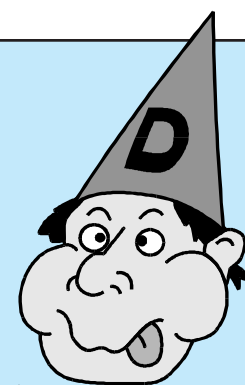
1. Jaws
4. Healthy meal
8. Gnaw away
9. Relationship in numbers
10. Tree
11. Large bird
12. Chest bone
15. Poet, Edgar Allen...
16. Dirt
17. Young person
19. Leather
20. Person

Down

2. How old you are
3. Bash
4. Strict
5. Lesson
6. Show
7. Beverage
10. Sketch
13. Actor, ...Pitt
14. Herb
15. Lavish
16. Bother
18. Meat

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



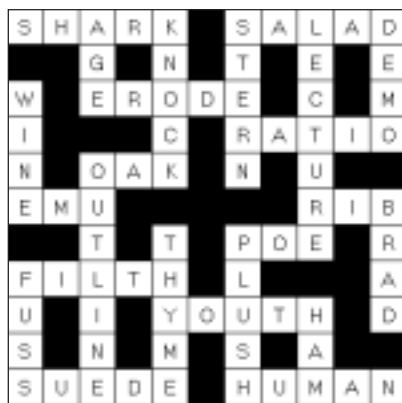
Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy, but if you do some research you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. What is the name of the pan in which paella is made? | 6. How many dots are there on a pair of dice? | 13. In which city is Plaza Catalunya? |
| 2. What were the first names of Riggs and Murtaugh in the <i>Lethal Weapon</i> films? | 7. What South American city's name means "our lady of peace"? | 14. Who wrote <i>Le Deuxième Sexe</i> ? |
| 3. Which law firm represented Princess Diana in her divorce from Prince Charles? | 8. Which Harvard graduate founded Facebook? | 15. What are Grey Dagger and For-ester species of? |
| 4. Which home of Napoleon is located on the site of an ancient hunting lodge? | 9. Who played Mr Freeze in the 1997 film <i>Batman & Robin</i> ? | 16. What nationality is the singer Feist? |
| 5. Which actor was nominated for Emmy Awards for playing the same character on three different shows? | 10. In the Bourne trilogy, what is Bourne's first name? | 17. What is measured on the Mohs scale? |
| | 11. What is the capital of Botswana? | 18. How long, in kilometers, is the Suez Canal? |
| | 12. The six wives of Henry VIII were English, Spanish and what other nationality? | 19. Who wrote <i>Therese Raquin</i> ? |
| | | 20. What is the capital of Kansas? |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Paella ("Paella" means "frying pan" in Valencian); 2. Martin and Roger; 3. Mischo de Reya; 4. Chateau de Fontainebleau; 5. Kelsey Grammar (*Cheers*, *Frasier* and *Wings*); 6. 42; 7. La Paz; 8. Mark Zuckerberg. 9. Arnold Schwarzenegger; 10. Jason; 11. Gabarone; 12. German (Ann of Cleves); 13. Barcelona; 14. Simone de Beauvoir; 15. Moths; 16. Canadian; 17. The hardness of minerals; 18. 163; 19. Emile Zola; 20. Topeka.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| ENHANCES | SQUEAMISH | JOLLIEST |
| X O O MACHU | A U MACAW | O N H |
| PICKSOUT | AIR RIFLES | INWARDLY |
| E K T LEDGE | L T APPLE | T O M |
| LASER | A I TASTIER | R D HAWKE |
| B VICTIMS | P R M LEGUMES | H |
| ONEAL | EASEUP | E PLAYUP |
| DALAI | | |
| E D P N E ROAST | Z N O R K | |
| CREEPER | UPTO | T I BEX |
| GROUPIE | | |
| O R WAR | SAVE | GEED |
| RAW | L | |
| CASSETTES | NEATEST | REFERENCE |
| K H READING | R O | RUFFLE |
| I C | | |
| REEFER | E E MEL | W M LANCET |
| O L C HOSANNA | ORATORS | D K O |
| AUDITS | T T RIG | R U HOLIER |
| C O LARVAE | K I | MARABOU |
| N A | | |
| HONEYBEES | PLEASES | SKINTIGHT |
| E X RAG | MAID | TAUT |
| ADO | N E | |
| SATCHEL | WOLF | A SPAT |
| SUCCESS | | |
| S E S M T TAUNT | K B R E E T | |
| STOPS | LATHES | D EYEFUL |
| ONSET | | |
| I TENUOUS | U I R | NATIONS |
| E | | |
| WRIST | M R APPOINT | N N TEALS |
| I R B | PANEL | A N HAGUE |
| H L I | | |
| DRAMATIC | MIGRATION | RAVENOUS |
| O T C | ETHIC | K E E STING |
| G U S | | |
| WRECKERS | REMARRIES | SECONDLY |

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



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When I first explored Phang Nga's sea caves back in January, 1989, they presented an obvious argument for carrying capacity.

Volume isn't usually a concern in sea kayaking, a highly ecological paddling and camping activity, but I came to Asia to introduce environmental awareness, professional standards and ideas for sustainability.

Common sense dictates that the capacity of Phang Nga's cave system is about 120 people per day. The caves are extremely narrow and access opens and closes with the tide.

I stopped taking bookings at 50 people per day – huge for sea kayaking. It was a fateful decision. Had I continued growing, no copycats would have started. But our first copycat did start, on January 1, 1993.

I saw the impending doom, worked with the park and in 1994, a local Thai-language newspaper quoted the park director as saying that up to 120 people per day is logical and responsible.

There were four companies at the time. I agreed to lower my volume by one-third so everybody could take two trips of 15 people per day in two different escort boats.

Since then, however, Phang Nga's sea kayaking industry has let its standards slip. Many owners are travel agents who haven't even been on their own trips. Two owners are actually speedboat operators.

Thai paddling isn't sea kayaking. There is no such thing as a "sea canoe" – I invented the name as a joke. Owners make no attempt at learning the activity they copy for money. There is no interest in the graceful art of sea kayaking or protecting the fragile marine environment.

Thailand is blessed with world-class natural treasure. Instead of honoring this gift, the travel industry often works

Boomtown business leaves scenery scarred



The Mangrove Hong in Phang Nga is so called because of the thick forest that used to fill the area. Thanks to large numbers of visitors, the Mangrove Hong's tree population has taken a severe battering.



against it. It's just one symptom of a boom-town mentality, killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Hotel tour counters often book exclusive clientele onto mass-tourism-kayaking trips. Highlights of these tours include traffic jams inside caves, feeding monkeys bananas where bananas don't grow and tossing rubbish that kills marine life.

The group tours will continue to roll in as long as tourist arrivals are the primary aim on the island.

How are we going to explain this to our children in 20 years?

I researched the carrying capacities of other famous destinations. A properly maintained Phang Nga could rival Machu Pichu, so when Machu Pichu's carrying capacity came up in a discussion recently, I devoured it.

Man-made Machu Pichu in Peru and Nature-made Phang Nga are spectacular. Before 2001, both suffered the negative impact of uncontrolled mass tourism.

One popular access route to Machu Pichu, an ancient Inca trail, suffered at the hands of four-day round trips. In 2001, Unesco reported that the footpath was "littered with trash", that the "toilet facilities [were] totally inadequate" and that there were "mini-slums" in the mountains along with erosion, trampling, vegetation destruction, fire-wood cutting and other severe environmental degradation.

Increased numbers of visitors resulted in congestion that impeded the smooth flow of tourists among the ruins. In 2002, 400,000 people visited Machu Pichu.

Sounds similar to what has

happened in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, but 2002 is when the similarities ended.

Machu Picchu is a Unesco World Heritage Site. Phang Nga Bay should be, but is always denied thanks to poor management and stewardship.

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

So how did Peru turn around Machu Picchu?

If Peru didn't do something, Unesco would have pulled Machu Picchu's World Heritage status. Peru did the right thing in developing a natural-resources-management plan similar to those solutions for Phang Nga

presented in previous Gray Area columns. The plan looked as follows:

1. Strict limit of 500 people per day, including porters, guides and cooks. This limits tourists to about 150 per day.
2. No groups of more than 16 people.

3. Only trained and approved tour companies can visit the area.

4. US\$50 charge per person.

5. Tickets issued with names and passport details, available for inspection at all times.

6. Camping in designated areas only.

7. Trekking only from 5:30 am to 7 pm (prevents poaching and fence jumpers).

8. No litter, mobile phones, sound systems, pets, antisocial behavior or food in ruins. All solid waste must be packed out.

9. Tour companies must provide portable fuel for cooking and heating.

To add to this, payments are no longer accepted at registry and entry control points.

To protect our planet, the next generation must be committed to respecting natural marvels. When we enter pristine environments, we must exercise the same respect as when entering a temple or mosque. That's difficult when some of the people controlling entries respect mostly money.

I once asked a competitor why he is in sea kayaking. "We just go out to have a party in nature," he replied.

It's going to take serious inter-departmental coordination to save Phang Nga from mass tourism and preserve marine resources for the future.

At Machu Picchu, Unesco provided the wakeup call. We are all responsible for our own actions.

If people want to exploit Thailand's beautiful side by promoting low-end group tours, we need to develop a sustainable nature-protection plan first.

Phuket deserves sustainable quality. Thailand doesn't have the management courage of Machu Picchu or Puerto Princesa, but we can still do better. Right now, our image is trash to the global community.

Paddle guides and owners should be licensed in environmental responsibility and other disciplines. Travel agents need awareness training. It won't diminish their greed, but at least they would confront the consequences of their actions.

Tour managers ought to go on their own trips at least once a year and licensed guides should receive a minimum wage of 500 baht per day.

Most people respond positively once they know the facts. There are many good guides out there, but they just need a bit of training and direction.

Let's properly collect entry fees, report numbers and put the money into protecting Phang Nga, Krabi and Phi Phi by creating a conservation ethic. Start at the top and it might work.

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Monk sees 'The Way Things Are'

Thailand's collection of expat writers has produced hundreds of titles over the years, but most fall into the same boring category: fictitious tales dealing with familiar topics such as beer, bar girls and sick buffaloes.

Given this literary landscape, *Monk in the Mountain* (Tam Song Ta Meditation Sanctuary, Nakhon Ratchasima, 2007, 202pp, 495 baht) by Ajahn Sumano Bikkhu really stands out: a lucid, articulate and often entertaining look into the nature of reality as explained by the first Western monk to be ordained in the tradition of Thai forest monks.

Ajahn Sumano, born as Jeffrey Phillips in Chicago, studied law and started his own business before embarking on a spiritual journey some 30 years ago. He first came to Thailand to study under the revered Ajahn Chaa at Wat Nong Pah Pong, a forest monastery in Ubon Ratchathani province.

For the past 20 years, Ajahn Sumano has spent most of his time in solitude at his Double-Eyed Cave Retreat in the Khao Yai mountains, northeast of Bangkok.

I have to admit that when *Monk in the Mountain* was put before me, my initial reaction was: "A monk living in a cave on top of a mountain – how cliché is that?" It reminded me of the old "What is the meaning of life?" mountain-top comic gag that was played out so often in the late Johnny Hart's comic strip BC.



Off the SHELF

By Stephen Fein

It is the fourth book by Ajahn Sumano, and the subtitle "Simple lessons you can use from a Western Buddhist monk" accurately sums up its content.

Although *Monk in the Mountain* can be read by anyone, those familiar with the Buddhist concepts of karma, reincarnation and the inevitable suffering that results from attachment will get the most out of this book.

A read through a dispassionate primer such as *What the Buddha Taught* (Walpole Rahula, 1974, an extensive preview is available online at www.books.google.co.th/books) might be a better place to start for those who first want to gain an understanding of the the basic tenets of Buddhism.

The theme throughout *Monk in the Mountain* is gaining insight through meditation into the true nature of reality, or as Ajahn Sumano calls it, The Way Things Are.

The simple question-and-answer format makes it an enjoyable read. The book's preface states, "The questions posed came from a wide spectrum of guests. Their ages ranged from 18 to 75 and their countries as diverse as Australia and Zimbabwe".

Some of the questions border on typical "agony aunt" fodder. One man asks for advice about a relationship he is having with a bar girl who he is seriously considering getting married to, despite repeated warnings from friends.

"Almost every morning she offers food to the monks," he says in the woman's defense. "Apart from her occupation everything about her is appealing."

Ajahn Sumano first advises the man to take time to develop their friendship before rushing into marriage. Then he adds, "From a Buddhist perspective, I have to offer this for your reflection. The love you feel will certainly lead to suffering. Not because she has worked in a bar, but because of love. Romantic love, inevitably, is the catalyst for suffering. Your friends are right, but for the wrong reason."

Other questions are more metaphysical: "Is the soul in the mind or the body?"

Ajahn Sumano's reply: "Neither. The soul is neither in the body or the mind. It isn't anywhere because it doesn't exist. It exists only as a concept in our mind to try and secure continuity, to try and establish

ourselves as an enduring entity. In reality, there isn't anything of substance anywhere at all. The concept of soul arises out of hope and confusion.

"It disappears once we investigate and find nothing of substance of in a sea of ever-changing phenomena arising and passing away. When we see the situation with clarity and wisdom, the fear factor that generates the concept of soul is displaced with awareness of the insubstantiality of everything. Then, a new distinct kind of security arises that cannot be described; it can only be known. With this security comes the assurance that all is well and that our inability and incapacity to be the owner of anything whatsoever is quite all right."

Other topics he addresses include learning to develop and trust one's intuition, how to integrate meditation practice into modern life, sexual problems, worries about children and loved ones and how to deal with death, disillusionment, depression, despair and heartbreak – all from a strictly Buddhist viewpoint.

Monk on the Mountain will probably not appeal to those with fixed, non-Buddhist religious beliefs. For those interested in Buddhism and the freedom that is said to be obtainable by doing away with one's sense of "self", however, this book is a must read.

For more information visit the website: www.next-life.com

Are capital letters for the birds?

A biologist sent a document for us to post to our state-agency website. He used capital letters to start every word of the names of seagulls, including the word "gull".

I told him that common names for animals should not be capitalized unless there are words in the name that are proper names normally. He argued that all common names for birds are capitalized per scientific standards. The editors in our agency do not agree. What is your opinion?

Joanne Mooney
Albany, New York

Barbara replies: If your biologist were publishing something in the journal of the American Ornithologists' Union, *The Auk*, his capitalized bird names would be appropriate. The instructions for

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

aspiring authors of *Auk* articles are clear: "English names of birds should be capitalized."

But professional ornithologists don't edit your website – you and your co-workers do. You're right to apply mainstream standards to what appears on it, assuming the site is intended for the public. You're right, too, about what mainstream standards are as they relate to bird names. Correct examples are "California gull", "Franklin's gull", "herring gull", "laughing gull".

Specialists like your biologist

often make the mistake of thinking that the standards that they use when speaking or writing for other specialists are somehow better than the ones in common usage. They're not; they're just different. And while they make the language look more familiar to the specialists, they can make it look weird to everyone else. Stick to your gulls – I mean guns.

We have a dispute at work about the use of plural or singular in the sentence "No residual high-grade dysplasia and

no infiltrative pattern are evident." One person claims it should be singular "is" rather than "are". Which is correct?

Laura Plude
Beaverton, Michigan

Barbara replies: As a nonspecialist in whatever the heck specialty that jargon belongs to (medicine, surely?), I have trouble wrapping my mind around the exact words you used. So let's experiment with grammatically equivalent ordinary words: "No person and no dog were present." Um, no – that's no good. Because the words "person" and

"dog" are being negated, they don't count toward a plural total, as they would if the sentence read: "One person and one dog were there."

If the negated words were plural, that would be different: "No people and no dogs were there." But "dysplasia" and "pattern" are singular, so the singular verb "is" would be correct.

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

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Do we really know about personal security?

While initially startling, the results of the Composite Human Security Index Study for 2006 (CHSI/2006) should come as little surprise to *Gazette* readers familiar with Phuket's longstanding "hidden population" problem [See "Inside Story", pp 4-5].

The nationwide study, the first of its kind conducted by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSO), was ordered for planning purposes by the government of former Prime Minister Surayud Chulanond. This was laudable, given that statistical analysis can be a powerful tool.

One of the more interesting results of the CHSI/2006 study – one you will never see mentioned by Tourism Authority of Thailand officials during their road shows abroad – is that Phuket came in dead last among Thailand's 76 provinces in the index for "personal security".

To most people, the term "personal security" will conjure up a wide range of issues: Is it safe for me to walk alone at night? What is my risk of falling victim to a terrorist attack? A drunk driver? A rabid dog? The avian flu virus or some other dangerous pathogen? What about disasters, natural and man-made? The list goes on, limited only by our capacity to engage in creative worry.

Unfortunately, the criteria used by the MSO researchers in establishing the CHSI/2006 index for personal security is too narrow, depending, as it does, solely on crime statistics tabulated by the police, whose purposes have more to do with pleasing superior officers than providing clean data for social scientists to analyze.

The extent to which the personal security indices are skewed by their over-reliance on police-provided data is indicated by the fact that only one of the three Southern border provinces at the center of the Muslim insurgency – Yala – fell in the bottom 10 nationwide.

Could it be that police who find themselves assigned there are more concerned with their own personal security issues than compiling impressive arrest records?

The CHSI/2006 study is only the first in what the MSO says will be a yearly exercise. The fact that they were not released until well into 2008 says as much about the current state of bureaucratic efficiency in Thailand as it does about the personal security issues facing the typical resident of Phuket.

More optimistically, perhaps the government will use the results to justify giving tourism provinces like Phuket and Chonburi the law-enforcement resources they need to better protect their millions of annual visitors.

– The Editor

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

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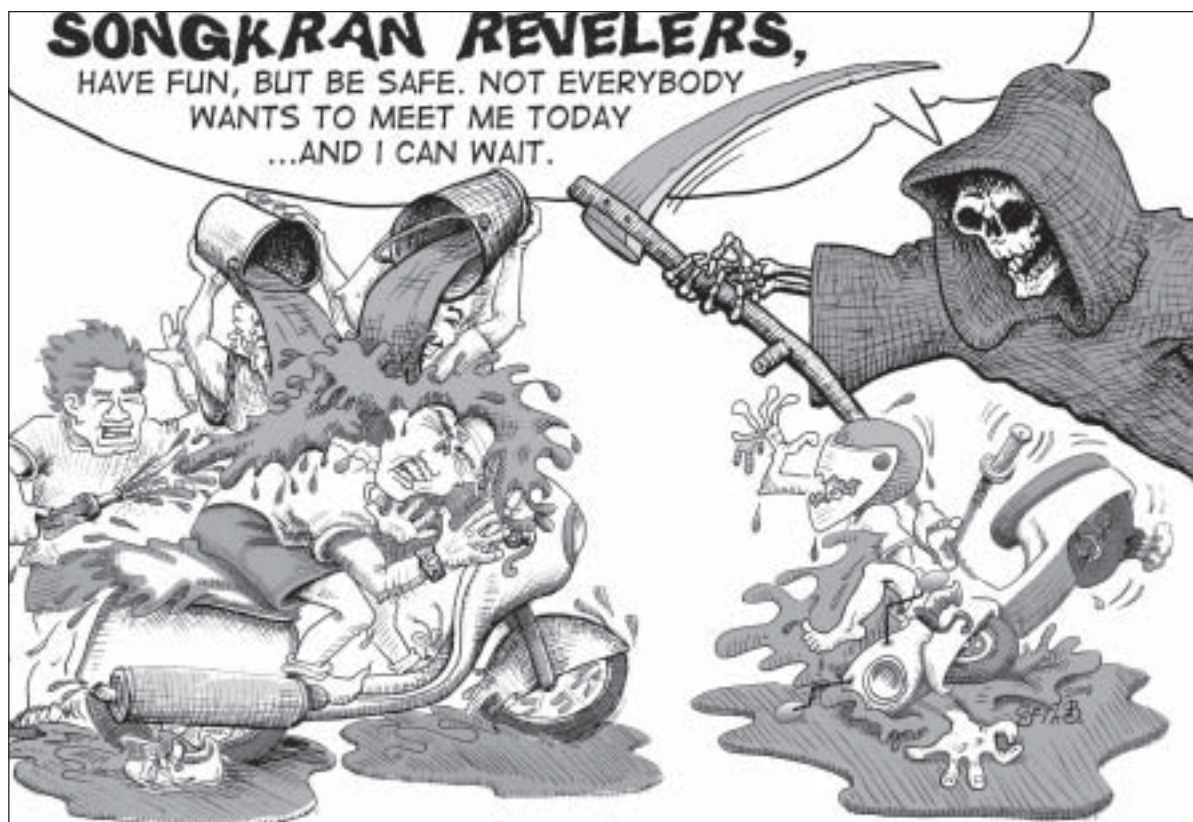
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Letters

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.

Naked torsos do not a good view make

Don't you think that those people wandering almost naked in the streets are giving the worst image of Phuket?

If the police don't want to do anything about tourists in swimming suits or without shirts, walking or riding motorbikes, at least the guards at the entrance of Jungceylon should not let them come in. What are those guards for?

To avoid unwanted mass tourism, the first step should be to prevent respectable visitors from being attacked by the view of rude and dirty others.

Michel de Lastelle
Phuket

Dog shelter is a shock and a shame

I have recently returned from what I can only describe as a hellish experience.

I requested my taxi driver to take me to the Soi Dog Foundation in Mai Khao, as we have donated our time to their work there. Somehow we ended up at what is, I gather, the government dog pound just north of Thalang.

To the people who wrote recently wondering where the dogs of Patong had gone, I do not suggest they visit this place.

Everywhere are dogs covered in ticks and sores, many with horrible injuries I guess caused by fights over food. They were being eaten alive by maggots. Others were clearly dying from disease. I saw only one old lady, who spoke no English, but was waving her arms clearly in despair.

Surely it would be kinder to

put these poor creatures to sleep with a simple injection than to allow them to die a slow, painful death like this.

Yet this is going on only yards from the main highway where thousands of tourists pass each day, clearly oblivious to what is going on here. My wife and children were in tears at what they saw and I have to say I felt in shock.

Shame on Phuket that in the 21st century the authorities allow this to go on. If that is welfare, God help us!

James Hardcastle
San Francisco, Ca

Navy boys make America proud

I was on the beach the morning of the tsunami. As much as people hate sometimes Americans, the Navy's community-relations project [see April 7 *Gazette* Online and Around the Island, p10] is an example of what it means to be American.

I was staying in Patong and in the Muslim neighborhood where I was, my neighbors and I ended up helping each other that morning and for weeks after.

I want to say thank you for printing this story and thank these guys for working on the school. I am a middle school teacher in Los Angeles, California, and consider Phuket my second home. Way to go!

Kreg Asplund
Los Angeles, USA

One-way system dangerous, dirty

Since the one-way loop system was implemented in the center of Patong I have noticed an in-

crease in pollution. This is caused by the need for vehicles to circle the loop, thus driving a further distance than they would have originally to get to their destination.

Also, it was rumored that the city of Patong was building a speed bump on Rat-U-Thit Rd to slow down traffic. Do you think we will see this speed bump materialize in the future?

Once a taxi motorbike almost hit me because he was driving down Rat-U-Thit Rd, which is part of the one-way system, in the wrong direction.

It happened right in front of a policeman who did nothing to stop him.

Louis Paquet
Quebec, Canada

Leave the head count to Tiger

Regarding your [April 4] online news story under the headline "Registration van makes slow progress".

This is supposed to raise the recorded number of Phuket's population so that the island gets more funding, right?

Every time I read about this subject ad nauseum in the *Gazette* (obviously, it's another boondoggle right up there with the Soi Dog Foundation), I am reminded that Tiger Airways consistently reports Phuket's population at more than one million in their bi-monthly travel magazine.

To be honest, I trust its statistical-gathering skills more than the government's. Somebody, at least once, should check with Tiger Airways and find out how it arrives at its numbers. Perhaps it could save a lot of time and money.

Heavens Spent

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.

Patong flight closure not an issue, says GM

Regarding the order, there is really no reaction from Destination Air, as we were closing out the season anyway. The monsoon winds have changed and we had already made arrangements two weeks ago to move our pontoons because the wind is blowing out of the west now. The governor and everyone were well aware that we were moving everything out of there for the season – it is a seasonal location.

It changes absolutely nothing in terms of our scheduling because April 7 was to be our last day for the season. We can't go in there now; weather conditions don't allow it.

This is a short-term thing. They have asked us to create a couple of studies and we are working closely with the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and the environmental people already, as we have been for the past three or four months.

The DCA is satisfied that Destination Air was landing and flying in the authorized areas, not outside them. Some people came in and secretly made some videos of our takeoffs and landings and those confirmed to the DCA that we were operating where we were entitled to be. As far as the pollution and the noise, they also did some checks there and determined that the levels were acceptable.

Destination Air sees no rea-

FIRST PERSON

Following complaints by several hotels, Governor Niran Kalayanamit on April 3 ordered the non-scheduled seaplane carrier Destination Air to suspend its service into Patong Bay.

Here, Destination Air General Manager **Pat James** explains that the airline had already planned to suspend services to Patong at the start of April due to the arrival of the southwest monsoon winds, and that it will be flying into the bay once again at the start of the next high season – with a few procedural changes in place.



son for not resuming operations in Patong Bay once the weather changes back to the northeasterly winds. What we will do, however, is set up differently. We will not come into the [Star Cruise] pier area. We'll transfer people by boat from a pontoon as we do at all of our 36 other authorized locations.

Over lunch and dinner meetings with the DCA, we discussed everything in detail. They requested that we file a new IEE request for the environment and request a different procedure in terms of how we process the

passengers there. Both of those are not a problem; they are things we do everywhere else anyway, such as the boat pontoons for the transfers.

So we didn't see anything to the contrary or to the negative that was not already anticipated in our scheduling and our actions in terms of changing our services to the customers.

We discussed advertising scheduled flights with the DCA and they have asked us to move ahead and begin the process to become a scheduled carrier, just like the Bangkok-based carrier

SGA did after years of being a non-scheduled carrier.

So we'll start the procedure to become a scheduled carrier. Between now and then, we simply will not post a "schedule" per se. We will have morning and afternoon flights available, but we will not market ourselves as a scheduled airline.

The announcement was somewhat anticlimactic as far as we are concerned, because there was nothing that resulted from the meeting that wasn't already pre-planned many months ago. The outcome of the meeting did not

surprise anyone; it was anticipated.

The service that Destination Air offers to the community and to the tourism industry is tremendous for the high-end customers, the four- and five-star customers that the governor wants to attract to the area. So this is just a way of, how you would say, "pleasing" those who feel offended by the services – finding a better way of pleasing them.

We have never tried to be confrontational with anyone in any sense – nor will we ever be. We offer a specialized service to a very limited market. Destination Air works together with the DCA, the Ministry of Transport and the governor – we meet the governor quite regularly – to ensure that harmony is maintained.

The DCA director-general asked me to go ahead and curtail the service as we had planned to anyway and if we could do it two days earlier. So we said "sure".

So if you ask if this affects Destination Air in any way, it does only in the sense that we have a little more work to do over the monsoon season to reinstate ourselves as a more "community-friendly" commodity to the area.

As far as our customers are concerned, the main difference will be that instead of being able to walk on and off in a more convenient manner, now we will simply be doing it from a bit further offshore.

Compiled by Stephen Fein

Who is protecting the environment in Phang Nga Bay?

Is it legal to clear-cut mountains and burn the debris? On my last few visits to Phang Nga Bay, I've seen clear-cutting, fires and smoke towering up into the clouds on Koh Yao Yai.

This is certainly visible from Phuket.

Also, are jet-skis legal in this park? They certainly shouldn't be. They are annoying and dangerous.

There were four jet-skis racing up and down the west coast of Koh Yao Noi yesterday. Certainly someone in authority should do something about this.

I've never seen anyone patrolling the bay. Having visited the bay literally hundreds of times and seen illegal activities almost every time, what's the scoop? Is it a free-for-all or what?

Please protect and preserve this national treasure.

If nothing else, let tourists call in violators if the authorities aren't going to patrol for whatever reason.

Dave Williams
Phuket

Phang Nga Governor Wichai Praisangob replies:

Thank you so much for your information. Recently, there was encroachment on Pru Nai forest on Koh Yao Yai.

We have the names of 20 people who encroached on about 400 rai there.

We will charge them soon. We can't let this issue pass without doing anything. They must be punished.

As for the jet-skis, I'll or-

der a team to investigate what jet-skis were being raced or ridden in that area.

We thank you again and if there are any other illegal issues you know of, please inform us – anytime, 24 hours.

To report encroachment, drugs and other crimes, please inform the Phang Nga Governor's Office at 076-411401,

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you. Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

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

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You can also inform Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander by calling 076-411366 or 076-411328, or by mail to PO Box 191 Phang Nga 82000.

Alternatively, email the Phang Nga Provincial Information Center at phangnga@moi.go.th

Where do I get my free safety whistle?

In light of recent attacks on women in Phuket, I'm worried about my personal safety and have heard that visiting women are being offered free whistles.

As a resident, am I entitled to a free whistle? If so, where do I get one?

Susan
Chalong

Pol Major Sathaporn Sangnansuk of Phuket Tourist Police replies:

The idea to give whistles to female tourists came from the Tourism and Sports Minister while he was in Phuket after the murder of the Swedish tourist at Mai Khao Beach.

However, we have yet to receive any orders about that, so for now there are no free whistles.

Disastrous discussion 'bamboozles buddies'

Some time ago, a number of US senators complained that the Iraqis weren't doing enough to combat the insurgency.

I believe this is a problem in communication, caused by the American tendency to see the world in terms of baseball and football. Consider this imaginary dialog between an American senator and the average Iraqi:

Senator: You know, we've been real good to you folks. We've liberated you from a despicable tyrant, given you a democratic government and expended massive amounts of blood and treasure trying to get your government to function effectively. Yet you've failed to establish security and fight the insurgency. Why won't you step up to the plate?

Iraqi: The what?

Senator: The plate, the plate. Why won't you step up to the plate?

Iraqi: The plate? You mean there's a plate on the floor? And you want us to step up to it? And eat off the plate like a dog? Are you trying to insult us?

Senator: No, no, I'm using baseball imagery. It means to step up to home plate and hit the ball.

Iraqi: We don't play baseball, sir. And what does hitting a ball have to do with this war?

Senator: OK, well, let me put it another way. We want your government to pick up the ball and run with it.

Iraqi: Is this a baseball you're talking about?

Senator: No, I'm talking about a football now.

Iraqi: A football! But, sir, you're not supposed to pick up a football and run with it. That's against the rules. You're supposed to kick it.

Senator: Good grief, this gets worse and worse. I'm not talking about soccer. I'm talking about American football.

Iraqi: We don't play American football, sir.

Senator: What I'm trying to say is: We want you to get on the ball.

Iraqi: Is this an American football you want us to get on top of? Or a baseball?

Senator: No! No! I'm not talking about getting on top of a ball!

Iraqi: But that's what you said, sir.

Senator: Damn! How can I communicate with you? Let me try again. We've set up benchmarks for your government to achieve and you haven't met any of them.

Iraqi: Benchmarks? What are those? I know what a bench is and I know what a mark is. You put a mark on a bench. Fine, I understand that. But why? What is the significance of the mark?

Senator: A benchmark is a criterion, a goal we've set. And you have to meet it by a certain deadline.

Iraqi: Errrrr.

Senator: OK, don't tell me. You don't know what a deadline is.

Iraqi: Yes.

Senator: Yes? You do know what a deadline is?

Iraqi: I mean yes, I don't know what a deadline is. What kind of line do you mean? A line drawn on the ground? A telephone line? And why should it be dead? Wouldn't a live one be better?

Senator: That's it, I give up, this is hopeless.

Iraqi: Sir, may I say something?

Senator: Sure. Say anything you want.

Iraqi: We didn't ask you to invade our country. We didn't ask you to impose a democratic government on us. We didn't

have an insurgency until you came along. And now that you've destroyed our country and stirred up an insurgency, you expect us to take over from you and fight the insurgents. You're passing the buck, the same way you did in Vietnam. And just as you did in Vietnam, soon you will abandon us to the wolves.

Senator: Well, what do you suggest we do?

Iraqi: We want a strong man to govern us. But a nice one, not a nasty one like Saddam. So give us Arnold. Send him over here and make him governor until he can sort things out. And give us Chuck Norris to handle the mili-

tary. It may not be too late. If you'd sent Chuck and Arnold over, you wouldn't have this problem.

Senator: Hmm. I'll see what we can do.



S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, but not while he's trying to find out if Arabic has words for "benchmark" and "deadline".

Mr A is a good-hearted, experienced businessman. He helped his Thai friend set up a business, coming up with the marketing and business plans for him and even lending money to start the business and expand it in accordance with those plans. Mr A also acted as a consultant for his friend.

Freezing a friend's assets

The future of the business looked bright and was improving each year. Only when the business was profitable and had sufficient assets did Mr A ask for repayment of the money he had loaned his friend.

Mr A's friend, however, refused to pay back Mr A, claiming that he did not have enough money to do so. After a while, Mr A became frustrated with his friend's excuses and their friend-

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich
'Sam' Fauma

ship soured. Mr A's friend even stopped accepting calls from Mr A and avoided him at all costs.

Mr A then filed a complaint

in court using as evidence the standard-loan-agreement document that Mr A's friend had signed when borrowing the money.

The court accepted the filing and ordered both parties to agree on how and when the loan should be repaid.

Even though the court had accepted the loan-agreement documents submitted as evidence by Mr A and had ruled against Mr A's friend, the friend still did not make the payments.

Mr A was then able to use the court-case documents to seek enforcement of the court agree-

ment. Having those documents saved Mr A a lot of time, as the case did not have to go back to court because no witnesses needed to be called to testify. Because the court's earlier decision was in favor of Mr A's claim, Mr A was able to request the freezing of his friend's assets.

Although Mr A's claim was supported by the court, he still faced the difficult task of finding out exactly what and where his friend's assets were before any action could be taken to freeze them.

With an intimate knowledge of his friend's business, Mr A

knew that his friend owned a piece of land. Mr A was able to force his friend to sell the land through a public auction, enabling Mr A to recoup about one third of the total amount owed to him.

For the remainder of the outstanding loan, Mr A requested that additional assets of his friend, such as company shares, be frozen and sold through public auction.

This particular case was concluded quickly compared with the time it would have taken for Mr A to go through more court appearances to hear witness testimonies, plus the possibility of having to appeal the court's initial verdict.

This case demonstrates that disputes over loans can be settled quickly if there is sufficient documentation as evidence.

One should never lend a substantial amount of money without a proper agreement secured with a property that can be easily disposed of through public auction.

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In last week's column I covered a large portion of a flurry of more than 40 announcements in March by Thai government agencies on high-technology projects planned for the next five years. Here, I will attempt to complete the big picture.

For a start, four mini-Silicon Valleys are in the works. The grandest is the World Paradise of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) R&D project to be situated on 4,000 rai in the "foothills surrounding Phuket".

Working with local authorities, TOT, CAT and the private sector, Paradise will provide incentives to foreign software firms, such as an eight-year, corporate-tax break, business leads through the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) and help with visas and work permits. The goal is to attract about 20 software companies within six years.

After starting IT development in Thailand by introducing computers and the Internet to the Thai masses a decade ago, the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (Nectec) has a 10-year plan to further aid the isolated province of Mae Hong Son near the Myanmar border by building a new IT center called IT Valley.

The main purpose of the center would be to serve developers and local people. The goals of the center are to receive outsourcing contracts and be a hub of "open-source software or something related to animation".

Meanwhile, the Science and Technology Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the Industry Ministry are planning to set up Science City in Pathum Thani province. Envisioned as a high-tech industry park, it will serve as a center of information, science and technology with a goal of facilitating foreign investment by improving competitiveness in Thai ICT by raising it to overseas standards.

Finally, Software Park Thailand is working with East Software Park, a Chinese software park operator in Hangzhou, to develop the software park business in Thailand by finding local partners for a new venture.

A potential benefit is to attract foreign investors who may see the potential of Thailand as a springboard to further penetrate markets in other countries in the region.

More plans for a high-tech haven

Each of these new IT centers needs more infrastructure and there is no shortage of announcements for higher Internet bandwidth for Thailand.

Mun Patanotai, the new ICT minister, aims to establish a nationwide, third-generation wireless broadband network within one year. He hopes that TOT and CAT will invite the three main cellular operators – Advanced Info Service, DTAC and True Move – to form a joint project to establish an operational High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) system within a year.

HSDPA can be quickly deployed by upgrading GSM infrastructure, a technology used by all three main mobile operators in Thailand, and does not need new licenses from the National Telecommunications Commission (NCT) to be set up.

According to the president of the Association of Thai ICT Industry (ATCI), the NCT has steadfastly refused to grant public use of the 5GHz frequency range for Wi-Fi networking, putting Thailand in the company of Bangladesh, Tanzania and Zimbabwe as countries yet to do so. Using the 5GHz frequency

would provide more wireless connection channels, each with a higher throughput capability.

If Minister Mun can get TOT, CAT, AIS, DTAC and True Move to work together to improve the nation's Internet infrastructure, he has my write-in vote for a Nobel Prize.

Closer to home, a tremendous amount of action will be required to make Phuket folk forget what has gone down in the history books as the December 15 Internet Meltdown.

TOT is planning to invest 380 million baht to lay fiber-optic cable around Phuket as part of a fiber-to-home network that would provide high-speed bandwidth



One project underway is a drive to attract more visitors to the 800 or so Thai government websites currently online, reportedly all listed at the EPPO website pictured above.

capacity of 30Mbps to "high-end customers, businesses and foreigners who live in Phuket". TOT did not elaborate on the definition of "high-end".

These improved Internet speeds are purported to be a catalyst for new e-services and e-government – and there is no shortage of announcements in these areas.

The ICT committee of Parliament has been drafting the "Thailand E-Government Strategic Plan Framework" for the development of electronic government services over the next three years.

A study by the Government Information Technology Services department revealed that about 800 government organizations provide information and services, but attract only a small number of visitors.

The fourth and final step of the plan is to integrate government services into a single portal that will offer 500 electronic services rather than the 100 that are currently available.

SIPA in Phuket is developing the Phuket One-Stop Service

to allow people to access government and private-sector services from the Internet.

The first category, E-services, will allow the Phuket Immigration Office and the Phuket Employment Office to exchange information with the private sector, such as companies, hotels and hospitality services, that will provide tourist information and help people locate jobs.

The second category, data services, will enable entities such as the education office to access information on students. The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office will keep a database of patients in order to monitor the status of the public's health.

Before the end of this year, the ICT Ministry will set up a new

agency, the Electronic Transaction Agency, to oversee the development of electronic commerce and electronic transactions.

The new organization will undertake policy development and lay down infrastructure, including standards and legislation for the government and business sectors.

Initial projects include setting security standards, the establishment of a root-certification authority and the development of a legal framework.

So what success is projected for these ambitious projects? The Association of Thai Software Industry (ATSI) is aiming to increase Thai software companies' market share of software used in Thailand to 50% by the end of next year.

The supply side of the strategy is to work with government organizations responsible for software industry development, including SIPA, Nectec and Software Park Thailand.

The demand side of the strategy is to partner with associations representing those who use software, such as the Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Chamber of Commerce, to encourage their members to use Thai software.

ATSI will also be promoting Thai software for export by working with SIPA to set up software outlets in other countries.

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

CORRECTION

The computers column last week erroneously featured the logo "The S Files by Seth Bareiss". The column was part of the Pressing Buttons series by Ignacio Evans.



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Short sellers target banks

According to US Banking Group Morgan Stanley, the current world-banking crisis is the worst in 30 years, and has sparked a trend among investors of "short-selling" shares.

Short-selling means borrowing shares of a certain stock from a long-term holder, such as a pension fund, and selling them with the aim of buying the shares back at a lower price in the future. The shares are then replaced and a profit is made on the difference – less an interest charge from the long-term holder.

The US investment bank Lehman Brothers recently found itself marked as a favorite target for short sellers, so the bank defended itself with a capital-raising exercise to the tune of US\$3 billion (more than 90 billion baht). The market was in fact prepared to invest US\$4 billion in Lehman Brothers. This show of confidence in the Lehman Brothers was sufficient to cause many short-sellers to quickly repurchase Lehman shares as their value rose sharply.

Other examples of underlying confidence, despite the global banking crisis, include a "bear raid" in late March on shares of the UK's largest mortgage lender, the Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS). In just one morning, market rumors about the finan-

cial health of HBOS led to an 18% fall in the share price.

The ensuing panic forced Britain's central bank, the Bank of England, to take the highly unusual step of publicly backing the bank and attesting to its financial strength, enabling HBOS to quickly recover most of its losses, although an official investigation has been launched to name the parties involved in sparking the rumors.

It is quite legal in most markets to "short" a stock, or, in other words, to profit from a falling share price. It is most definitely illegal, however, to start false and malicious rumors in order to create panic among investors. Naturally, these cases are difficult to solve, as short-sellers will simply claim that they viewed a company in a negative light and had been swayed by "rumors".

In some cases regulators can prove foul play by showing

that certain parties made huge profits in a short period. Short-sellers actually add to the depth of a market and are generally viewed as welcome participants. Insider trading, however, remains illegal.

Yet another case of a large bank being forced to raise more capital to remain solvent was highlighted in an announcement by Switzerland's largest bank, the UBS, of more losses in US mortgage-related business. The announcement was made almost simultaneously with the Lehman Brothers fiasco.

UBS Losses have amounted to more than US\$38 billion since the final quarter of 2007. Its chairman Marcel Ospel resigned and a group of activist shareholders are threatening legal action against the bank if it does not exit the US market. UBS share prices fell by about 50% at the beginning of the credit crunch.

When UBS announced the departure of its chairman, share values began increasing and a broader market rally in financial stocks was also apparent. Naturally, this is not the image UBS wishes to present to the world.

The UK also saw a rally on financial stocks but the banking system is still "frozen" at unpleasant levels, making mortgages and other forms of credit harder for people to obtain, especially potential borrowers with poor credit histories and first-time house buyers.

The freeze has resulted in a nationwide dip in housing prices over the past five months, according to a survey conducted by the UK's second largest housing lender, Nationwide.

However, the results of a survey published by Bloomberg show that residential property at the "top end" (London) is still growing in value, albeit at the slowest pace in four months.

Credit supply is vital to a country's economic growth. The slowdown in availability is causing much concern in the UK, where economists predict that economic growth in 2008 and 2009 – though not necessarily halting completely – will still be slow enough to feel recessionary.

Here's another example of how quickly a company and the names of those at its helm can

be tarnished when things don't go so well. If, sometime before March 27, you had asked members of the wider British public to name the CEO of British Airways, very few people could have responded correctly. 48 hours after that date, more than half of those questioned would be able to answer "Willie Walsh".

Willie Walsh was recently in the spotlight when British Airways and airport operator BAA opened a fifth terminal at Heathrow Airport. Aptly labeled "T5", the new terminal was an instant disaster. Bad planning and inadequate testing before the terminal's launch caused the entire airport's baggage system to fail.

Baggage handlers claimed that British Airways were so out of touch and behind with the preparations that airport workers arriving at the new terminal on the opening day found the staff car park locked.

Willie Walsh admitted to the media that this was not British Airways' finest hour. Although

he said he would take full responsibility for the carnage, he did say "no" when asked if he would resign from his position. Perhaps the outgoing chairmen of UBS, Citigroup, Merrill Lynch, et al, should also have tried that line.

Bloomberg reports that some 20,000 bags are somewhere on an eleven-mile baggage conveyor system under T5 – two of them belong to me. As a result, BA's lost property system appears to have collapsed under the strain. It just goes to show how quickly a respected brand name can be tarnished.

Richard G Watson can be reached by email at: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com



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ON THE MOVE

Orasa Singha, from Songkhla, has been appointed Director of Human Resources at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket resort. K. Orasa has more than 17 years' experience in human resources at leading hotels and resorts, including the Dusit Rayavadee Resort Hotel, the Novotel Phuket Resort and the Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa.

Before joining Sheraton, K. Orasa was Director of Human Resources at Alila Phuket Villas in Kamala.



Chiang Rai native **Pornpimon Choosakunpattana** has been appointed Senior Marketing Communications Manager at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. K. Pornpimon has a bachelor's degree in mass communications and a master's degree in business information technology from the University of Westminster, in London.

Before joining Marriott, she was Accounts Manager with Keen Media Thailand.



Natarujar Sukkharat, from Patthalung, has been promoted to Health and Leisure Manager at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. Before her promotion, K. Natarujar was Assistant to the Health and Leisure Manager.

K. Nataruja has a master's degree in tourism management from Assumption University in Bangkok.

Before moving to Phuket, she was Marketing Executive at President Park Group in Bangkok.



By Lana Willocks

PHUKET: Citing a lack of demand, Jetstar Asia Airways has ditched its service between Phuket and Singapore, while Tiger Airways has halved its service of the same route.

Only 18 months after introducing a Phuket-Singapore air link, Singapore-based Jetstar Asia announced on March 30 that it has suspended its service of six flights a week. Low demand and a reallocation of resources were revealed as the reasons behind the sudden cancellation.

Meanwhile, the *Straits Times* reported on March 27 that Tiger Airways has reduced its Singapore-Phuket service from twice daily to once daily, while at the same time beefing up its routes to Vietnam and India.

"Inconsistent demand" was cited in the *Straits Times* report as being the primary reason for cutting back on the Phuket service.

Jetstar Asia, together with its sister airline Valuair, also shifted its focus to other markets, particularly Indonesia.

Valuair recently launched six weekly flights between Singa-

Jetstar and Tiger slash Singapore-Phuket route

pore and Medan and increased flights between Singapore and Jakarta from three daily to four daily.

Jetstar Asia introduced daily services to Kuala Lumpur and Macau from Singapore earlier this year and continues to operate its twice-daily Singapore-Bangkok link.

When asked whether Jetstar Asia would ever resume the Phuket-Singapore route, public relations manager Tan Khai Hua told the *Gazette*, "We are constantly evaluating the deployment of our resources and currently we are focused on other opportunities."

"However, we will review the possibility of resuming the route on a regular basis."

Rival budget-airline Thai AirAsia is continuing its once-daily Singapore-Phuket flights

while full-service carrier SilkAir is operating four daily flights on the same route through low season.

Following Jetstar Asia's announcement, Thai AirAsia was quick to issue a statement that it was "confident its load factor on the Phuket-Singapore route will reach over 80% in the next three to four months."

Since opening the route in November last year Thai AirAsia's seat occupancy has risen from more than 60% to more than 70%.

Tassapon Bijleveld, Thai AirAsia CEO, said, "We are strongly confident in the Phuket-Singapore tourism market and expect it to grow stronger."

"A tremendous increase in traffic should come with the airline's aggressive marketing of the route and Tourism Authority of Thailand's support. Already, the route is getting more attention from travelers from Singapore and Phuket."

SilkAir recently trimmed its flight schedule from 32 flights per week to 28 weekly, but is set to

resume the 32-flight schedule in October. Many of its seats are filled with transit passengers from parent company Singapore Airlines' long-haul flights.

SilkAir's Phuket branch manager, Hansoo Tan, told the *Gazette*, "We are enjoying healthy loads and Phuket remains one of our top-performing destinations."

"Outbound sales have shown growth in spite of the excess capacity on the route and as competitors pull out, we expect this trend to continue with more industry support."

Regarding the outlook for travel between Singapore and Phuket, Mr Tan said, "We have no crystal ball here, but we always have to be prepared for the fact that leisure markets are elastic and are easily impacted by world developments and natural events."

"What makes Phuket spe-

cial is it that it has shown itself to be an incredibly resilient destination. It is a quality product, easy to package and very accessible," he said.

"Also, as Asia is growing increasingly affluent, we expect more interregional travel, which Phuket will benefit from," he said.

"We're not just looking to grow point-to-point traffic, but are constantly leveraging on the combined Singapore Airlines-SilkAir network of more than 90 destinations," he added.

Key markets of Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan are important source markets for inbound tourism to Phuket, he said. India is among the emerging markets that SilkAir sees as offering "tremendous potential" for growth, he added.

SilkAir has operated the Singapore-Phuket route for nearly 20 years.

Jetstar Asia Public Relations Manager Tan Khai Hua told the *Gazette*, "We are constantly evaluating the deployment of our resources and currently we are focused on other opportunities."

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Pie-munchers make a right meal of ACYC finish

AO CHALONG: In light winds that shifted 180° mid-race, Ben Copely and his crew on *Katsu* won the Racing class and line honors in the second race of the ImageAsia Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2008 on March 30.

John Clayton on *Millennium* finished second in the class.

After a spinnaker start on Chalong Bay, the 15-boat fleet rounded Koh Bon and then the rest of the nearby southward islands before heading north up the final stretch to the finish line.

Shifting winds kept crews busy, except that of *Eos*, skippered by day-sponsors Harry and Susan "Lady Pie" Usher. Their crew was busy munching meat pies 200 meters short of the finish line with the spinnaker still up.

The wind shifted some 40 degrees, catching the crew unprepared and leaving the spinnaker on one side of the boat and the spinnaker pole on the other – an achievement earning them the Encouragement Award of the day.

John Fenn on *Four Winds* won the Cruising class with a corrected time 1 minute 30 seconds ahead of Nigel Beare on *Fidji*. Roger Diggelman on *Nerida* finished third in the class.

Matt McGrath on *Typhoon* recovered well from his first ACYC outing to win the Multihulls class, followed by Roger Kingdon on *Moto Inzi* and Bill Phelps on *Twin Sharks*.

The next ACYC regatta will be April 27. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074.

Old Bangkok Bangers overpower Viagrabonds

BANGKOK: Rugby's most fiercely fought rivalry was fueled on the last weekend of February as the Phuket Viagrabonds faced off against the Old Bangkok Bangers in the Old Boys tourney of the Bangkok International 10s.

Most importantly, the prestigious Weasel Cup was also at stake as these two behemoths of rugby collided.

The seasoned individuals of the Bangers side were surprised by the nonchalance of the Viagrabonds, who took each moment in their stride, opting to down a few pre-match beers while the Bangers stretched out their hamstrings.

Jean Francois Klentzi opened the scoring for the home

side, giving the Bangers the lead after just four minutes. "Schlonger" of the Viagrabonds then made an uncharacteristic near-20-meter dash for the line to put the traveling side on the board.

Both teams were fired up and locked horns with the scent of sweat instilling a wild passion in each of the players. The promise of beer after the match was enough to keep the Viagrabonds' hearts ticking over.

With time running out and the Viagrabonds holding a small lead, the Bangers were awarded a penalty. Pressing forward, they scored a try and wrapped the game up to take the upper hand in this longstanding rivalry.

Thanks to the Viagrabonds sterling performance in Bangkok, the Phuket side will next travel to Pattaya to take part in the Pattaya 10s to be held May 3 and 4.

The Old Bangkok Bangers will also be out in force in Pattaya, leaving Phuket with a chance to avenge their recent defeat and win back the Weasel Cup.

From May 31 to June 1, rugby 10s returns to Phuket for its 10th annual outing. The list of teams has been initialized and includes such giants of the rugby world as the Moorabbin Rams, the Pot Bellied Pigs, the Cully Cobras and, of course, the Old Bangkok Bangers.

For more information visit www.phuketviagrabondsrfc.com

Patong Cricket Club grounded by on-form Lizards

CHERNG TALAY: With the Island Furniture Cricket League reaching the halfway stage of the season, match 10 on March 9 proved to be a table-topping clash between the Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) and the Patong Cricket Club (PCC) at Chong Talay Wittayakom School.

Lizards skipper R Meyer won the toss and sent his lads into bat.

Despite losing M Ayling for just five runs in the fifth over, the Lizards managed to put some solid partnerships together to notch up 261 runs in their 35 overs.

The Lizards at one stage were 180 for seven wickets before B Daniels entered the picture. Nevertheless, some wayward bowling and a lackluster performance in the field by PCC didn't help their chances.

Chasing down 262 runs for a win against the league leaders was never going to be easy, but PCC got off to a steady start by making 43 runs before losing opener R Desmond (7) to a sharp catch by Ayling.

Patong were all out for 154 in just the 26th over with the Lizards' bowlers sharing the wickets.

The Lizards took 20 points away from the match while a disappointed Patong side weren't too happy with their day; they walked away with just seven points.

Man of the match went to B Daniels

For further details email Mark Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th



ACES OF THE FUTURE

The 14th Wilson Lawn Tennis Youth Competition was held March 29 to 31 at Saphan Hin tennis courts, with 175 children from Thailand's Southern provinces battling it out over the three days. Dr Bodin La-ia (front, left), assistant director of Phuket Bangkok Hospital, was at the event to hand out medals to the winning players.

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Students strike gold at Thailand Youth Games

PHUKET: Phuket youths were out in winning form at the 24th Thailand National Youth Games held in Ubon Ratchathani province from March 19 to 29.

Phuket students came away from the games with three gold medals, seven silvers and 17 bronze medals.

The annual youth games were this year dubbed the "Dok Bua Games" ("Lotus Games") with 9,500 children aged between five and 18 years old from around Thailand competing in 28 events.

The three gold medalists were Sorrasack Srinarak, who found form in the triple jump, Nitcha-orn Jindapon, who took top honors in badminton, and Pimpakarn Kanae, who came out on top in karatedo.

Chaline Krueyot, Jenjira Mookkhapan, Siriporn Jailhak and Pathompong Jansidum won silver medals in the karatedo competition, while Jakkrapan Ruanphae picked up a silver for cross-country mountain biking.

Maneepong Jongjit won a silver in badminton and Suwit Thuekaew leaped 1.9 meters to



British International School Flying Fish swimmers Karnnika Porter (right), 15, and Gavin Lewis (left), 17, were also part of the Thailand National youth Games held in March.

take the runner-up spot in the high jump on countback after a tie for first.

Of the 17 bronze medals, 10 were awarded for karatedo, with two each for taekwondo, table tennis and badminton, and one for high jump.

Phuket finished a respectable 22nd out of 76 provinces on the medals table, placing the province third out of the 14 Southern provinces.

Phuket is expected to host the Thailand National Youth Games in 2010.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: The following is not an April Fool's joke: In April 1 matches, formerly invincible Queen Mary saw their unbeaten streak end at 30 after a shock upset at home against Valhalla, but the defending champs didn't lose any ground in the standings as Market Bar pulled another big upset with a surprise win over Piccadilly.

In the Queen Mary match, Valhalla went to a 4-2 lead in the doubles, but Queen Mary fought back to tie it all up going into the final doubles. In highly uncharacteristic form, Queen Mary were

unable to close a X2 in 10 tries and Thor's hammer finally struck down with full force, giving Valhalla the 5-4 win. Queen Mary did win the beer leg, so the one point matches Piccadilly's surprising loss to Market Bar.

In that match, Market Bar, playing with a friendly bunch of guys from County Cork, got off to a 4-2 lead in the singles. Geoff, who won the high score with 160, was the hero for Market Bar when he closed out the second doubles.

In the game between Beach House and Sick Buffalo,

the teams split the singles before Sick Buffalo swept the doubles. In the beer leg, Beach House had a comfortable lead until one player decided to make the high score 140 – with just 149 points left on the board. Perhaps inevitably, Sick Buffalo stormed back to win the free beer as Beach House were left stranded on the beach with those nine points.

In the Shakers-Offshore showdown, Offshore won 7-2 and Mike of Offshore won the high score with 138, but it was Elvis of Shakers who was singing at the end when he closed out the X1 to give Shakers a valuable point in the beer league.

All players should note that play is on for April 15, in the middle of Songkran.

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

April 1 results: Queen Mary* 4 Valhalla 5; Dogs Bollocks* 7 Simply Red 2; Piccadilly* 4 Market Bar 5; Offshore 7 Shakers* 2; Beach House 3 Sick Buffalo* 6; (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (32 points); 2. Piccadilly (30); 3. Dogs Bollocks (18); 4. Shakers, Offshore (17); 6. Sick Buffalo (16); 7. Market Bar (15); 8. Valhalla (14); 9. Beach House (12); 10. Simply Red (9).

April 15 match-ups: Queen Mary v Market Bar; Dogs Bollocks v Shakers; Piccadilly v Sick Buffalo; Offshore v Beach House; Simply Red v Valhalla (home team first).

PATONG POOL LEAGUE

Standings after March 29

| | Team | Pld | W | L | Beer | Pts | For | Ag |
|----|--------------|-----|----|----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Anchor Bar | 18 | 16 | 2 | 28 | 139 | 111 | 51 |
| 2 | Offshore Bar | 18 | 14 | 4 | 26 | 134 | 108 | 54 |
| 3 | Montes | 18 | 13 | 5 | 18 | 110 | 92 | 70 |
| 4 | Thunder Bar | 18 | 11 | 7 | 16 | 108 | 92 | 70 |
| 5 | Skylight II | 18 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 99 | 85 | 77 |
| 6 | Black Dragon | 18 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 91 | 79 | 83 |
| 7 | Frog Club | 18 | 6 | 12 | 22 | 89 | 67 | 95 |
| 8 | Shakers | 18 | 6 | 12 | 20 | 85 | 65 | 97 |
| 9 | Lek Murphy's | 18 | 4 | 14 | 20 | 81 | 61 | 101 |
| 10 | No Name Bar | 18 | 3 | 15 | 4 | 54 | 50 | 112 |

For further information about the Patong Pool League call Murray at 086-1511600.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



A billboard at the project site gives prospective renters an idea of what the developer expects Golden Dragon Plaza to be like.

Chalong night bazaar underway

CHALONG: When complete, the two-story Golden Dragon Plaza currently under construction near Chalong Circle will cover 800 square meters and make available 25 units for rental.

Each of the high-ceilinged units, which are designed to serve as beer bars, are 13 square meters in area.

The entire complex is triangular shaped and occupies half a rai, with communal mens' and women's bathrooms at the rear.

Sun Land Hill Co Ltd are carrying out the construction of the plaza at a cost of about 12 million baht.

About 20% of the construction has been completed since building began at the beginning of April. Expected to be fully operational by mid-May, the plaza will include an area dedicated to stalls for what its developer expects to become a popular "night bazaar".

"This plaza will offer another meeting point for people in the Chalong area," said Na-phet "Tony" Phetklang, General Manager of Sun Land Hills Co Ltd.

Some 60% of the shop units

available for rent have already been reserved, he said.

"So far, eight of the units are clothes shops. There is also a coffee shop and a beer bar," he said. Units must be leased for a minimum of three years. Rental costs range from 8,000 to 12,000 baht per month along with a 100,000 baht security deposit," he said.

Golden Dragon Plaza will operate 24 hours, providing an area in front of the shop units for a night bazaar comprising 40 stalls. Traders will be able to rent the 1.20-meter-wide stalls for 120 baht per day, with no deposit required.

"A large, metal dome and the high ceilings make the plaza look clean, modern and spacious. Golden Dragon Plaza will be a trendy meeting point, especially for expatriates and holiday makers in the Chalong area," said K. Tony.

The plaza will be an alternative shopping venue to similar venues in Phuket City, but with plenty of parking space at the site of the old Chalong Market about 50 meters away.

Rawaiya Suites on target for October

RAWAI: Construction of Rawaiya Suites Condominium project in Rawai is now 75% complete with work expected to be finished by the end of October.

Don Krajaiklang, managing director of Tharadon Estate Co Ltd, the company carrying out development and construction of the project, told the *Gazette* that the project's low-rise apartment units are suitable for people who desire privacy close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches.

Construction of the project on 1.5 rai began in January last year and comprises 27 one-bedroom apartments spread over two three-story buildings.

There are two types of apartment unit: A-Type and B-Type, ranging in price from 3.5 million baht to 3.9 million baht for either type of unit. Both unit types cover 65 square meters but differ in the layout of the rooms. Apartments are fully furnished and ready to move into.

"Our prices will have increased, however, by about 5% by the beginning of May because condominium prices are constantly rising due to the economic situation," said K. Don.

"We have been involved in the construction field for more than 12 years, so developing this project gives ourselves and our customers an advantage. We offer quality work at good prices," he said.

"Although there are many condominium projects being developed in Phuket, our project stands out because we have less



There are just 27 one-bedroom apartments in this project, spread over two three-story buildings, creating a secluded, private residence within easy reach of Rawai and Nai Harn beaches.

units and can offer heightened levels of privacy," he added.

The project will also feature a communal swimming pool, a fitness center, sauna and a restaurant.

"We have had a positive response from customers so far. We started selling off-plan at the end of March and have already sold two units," said K. Don.

Thirteen units can be bought freehold while the rest are available leasehold. Tharadon Estate

Co Ltd also offers rental-management services for the project.

For more information contact Tharadon Estate Co Ltd, 17/13 Chao Fa Road, Talad Nua, Phuket City, Phuket 83000. Tel, Fax: 076-245968. Alternatively, contact Rawaiya Suites Condominium on-site sales office, Soi Khok Makham, Rawai. Tel: 076-289910. Email: info@tharadonestate.com Website: www.tharadonestate.com

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Home of the Week

Rawai

With a modern design, this four-bedroom house is on a quiet street in a neighborhood of new homes in Rawai. The property has views of the surrounding hills and forestry. There are still many rubber trees and abundant natural foliage in the area.

The house has an artistic edge thanks to the bold use of colors in the design. Quality tiles and natural parquet floors are found throughout.

High ceilings help keep the inside temperature cool, even without the use of air conditioning. Additional design features include arched doorways.

A large entrance hall with a chandelier provides the welcome to this property. There is an open-floor plan with plenty of large windows, allowing for cool breezes and natural light to flood through the property.

The living room has a built-in table fixture and a ceiling fan in addition to a 42-inch TV hung on the wall. Large, wooden-framed doors open up to the patio leading to the backyard.

The patio is currently being extended to create a larger outdoor living area. There is also one bedroom complete with a bathroom en suite on this floor.

The Western-style kitchen is fitted with a granite countertop

A Technicolor tropical home



The muted exterior conceals a home that bursts with color in every room.



and breakfast bar. Additionally, there is a built-in washing machine.

A wide staircase leads up to a landing hosting a family room.

Each of the three upstairs bedrooms open out onto the balcony that runs the length of the house. All of the bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms.

The house has yet to be equipped with air conditioning or an electric gate, however, the owner is willing to add these features on request. The house is available either furnished or unfurnished.

The driveway has recently been sandwashed and the owner will soon add a garage to the property.

The house, which sits on a 700-square-meter plot, is being offered for sale freehold with Chanote for 10.9 million baht.

For further details contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com

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Design

By Semacote Suganya

Ringling in a Balinese belle

Although “contemporary Balinese style” is all the buzz in Phuket property, Antonie “Tony” Polfliet of The Bell in Kamala says that it is the special finishing touches incorporated into the project that makes the private enclave of 17 villas unique.

“The style and the concept is mostly contemporary Balinese. We have a black-tiled pool in the middle and everything is built in an L shape around it. But inside, the furniture is more like contemporary Chinese. This gives the homes a modern Asian-Chinese look. It’s very special; not many projects have something like this,” he said.

“The design creates an ‘open’ feeling and we have tried to create a lot of open space outside with a large terrace where people can wine and dine. Also, large sliding doors that open up from the living and dining rooms and from the master bedroom.

“All the furniture and decor was designed by our in-house artist, so it’s all pretty much custom made,” Mr Polfliet added.

“A lot of projects have nice furniture, but the furniture doesn’t work well with the home. We needed to have one source who had good taste and who could make good decisions so that everything would work perfectly together – that’s the most important thing for interior design,” he



ABOVE: The interior, complete with bell-shaped light fittings, is described ‘modern Chinese’

LEFT: The black-tiled pools and wooden shingles together inspire a unique feel to the homes.

said.

Mr Polfliet explained that a close relationship between the project owner and the architects, Phuket-based Roof Company, allowed for flexibility in settling on the final plans. “We wanted to create something romantic. When you walk in, the impression has to be stunning and the home has to have a romantic Asian feeling. That’s the most important aspect of our project. We tried to create that, and we

also looked for influences from elsewhere,” he said.

“The design took at least two years to finalise, and it was about three years before we started building. There were very few changes in the design. We had a very good idea of what we wanted before we started working with the architects and the ideas worked very well with the interior design artist as well,” he added.

Although most projects on

Phuket are named after their most prominent features, The Bell took a different course. “We wanted to create a theme for the project. Throughout the entire development, including the reception and in the villas themselves, you will see bell shapes, such as the light fittings in the living and dining rooms and the lampshades in the master bedroom,” Mr Polfliet said.

“It’s also a very easy name to remember,” he laughed.

The color scheme of cream with black trim, including the black-tiled, infinity-edge pools and the black powder coated aluminum sliding door frames, has received positive feedback, he said.

“The black and white creates a classic look which will still look nice in 10 years. It’s classy and works very well with the wood used throughout the project. We used cedar for roof shingles and teak for the doors, all of the highest quality,” he added.

“The wood creates a warm feeling. Homes with normal roof tiles don’t create the same feeling as the wooden roof tiles we have used, which do not look so tough or hard,” he added.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Germanating the world

Germans. You've got to love them. Well some body has to. It's occurred to me that there are one or two *Gazette* readers who may happen to be from that particular country, so I should choose my words carefully.

Or perhaps not. Their legendary sense of humor is world renowned and they probably have their own interpretation of the word "humor". I'm sure they would have found the T-shirt that I bought from Tesco-Lotus during the world cup hilarious – a large black, red and yellow flag with the word "GREMANY" emblazoned below.

They certainly know how to have fun. Each year in December the Gesellschaft für Deutsche Sprache (GfDS), the German Language Society, announces its selection of the top-ranked words of the year. Last year it was *klimakatastrophe*, a term arising out of the growing concern over climate change in Germany and the world.

German words are too long. I did a quick search online and it would appear that there isn't a "longest word" in German. This can get even more confusing than their rather curious Obsession with capital Letters for Nouns.

Flower names can be equally confusing. The cream-fruit plant, or Indian rubber vine, has two names in Latin: *strophanthus gratus* and *rouPELLIA grata*. I've asked several Thai friends and they struggle to provide a definitive name for the plant in Thai.

So far, we've come up with *daeg peenang*, *yaem peenang* and *nang yeng peenang*. The only thing all three have in common is a reference to the Malaysian island somewhere in the dim and distant history of the plant. Take your pick.

Originally from tropical West Africa, the cream-fruit plant was brought to this part of the world by early explorers. Its glossy evergreen leaves are thick and leathery, and it bears clusters of waxy, bell-shaped, purple and white flowers that look a bit like begonias but are fragrant at night.

Its distinctive scent kind of reminds me of the rather inexpensive perfume sported by early girlfriends, way back in my teens. Not exactly Chanel No 5, but fragrant enough.

The flowers that bloom from the initial deep-purple buds

The cream-fruit plant, or Indian rubber vine, grows like crazy, given the right conditions.

are a decidedly weird shape. Five petals surround an inch-deep hole in the center of the flower, with a long pollen-covered stamen in the middle. The open central part is surrounded by a dozen or so vertical spikes, in contrast to the delicate petals around them. Even after they're cut, these flowers last several days, making them an excellent choice for floral displays.

The folk healers of West Africa have found a number of uses for the cream-fruit plant. They make a rubbing compound from its leaves to reduce fevers;



they mash the leaves to treat various skin problems and wounds and they make certain medical remedies from the leaves to treat more "unmentionable" problems.

A substance known as ouabain can be obtained from the seed of the *strophanthus*. The most common use in its native land was as a source of arrow poison, used both for hunting and for forays with their neighbors.

It was this use that initially brought the plant to the attention of Western science back in 1861, when explorer David Livingstone observed natives hunting with a poison that had been made from the seed of a closely related plant (a vine called *strophanthus kombe*).

He later reported the substance as an apparent cardiac stimulant, which led to the investigation of many similar species, of which *strophanthus gratus* turned out to be the most valuable.

Africans who later heard

that the English were using the poison from the seeds as a medicine concluded that the English were a completely mad race. Still true to this day, of course.

As it belongs in the allamanda family, the internal sap of the plant is poisonous. Just before I sat down to write this, I picked a cream-fruit flower from my garden (the one in the picture) and it seemed quite keen to secrete as much sap on my skin as it could.

If you do handle this plant, make sure that you wear gloves or at least avoid touching that sap.

Strophanthus gratus grows like crazy, given the right conditions. The one in my garden started life as a tiny pot plant, but once it became established in a shady corner, it went completely bonkers, making its way into the eaves of the house, showing no signs of slowing down.

This plant adores the sun. It is content in the shade, but the more sunlight it gets, the more flowers it produces. More flowers also appear when it's drier, so it shouldn't be over-watered.

To propagate the cream-fruit plant, all you need is snip off a fairly woody cutting and stick it in some moist compost. It will take root and grow fairly quickly.

The cream-fruit plant is a delightful smelly plant that looks good too. What's it really called though? Germans, Africans and everyone else should just be careful if they use it to treat their "unmentionable" problems. Now there's an invitation for a German joke punchline, if ever there was one.

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Condo in Rawai, 250 meters from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

NEW HOTEL FOR SALE

Nanai Rd, Patong Beach, 1.5 rai. 50-rooms, swimming pool. Under construction; nearly finished. Asking price 230 million baht. Sale by owner. No Agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anut samantamit@gmail.com

FOR SALE OR RENT



Very spacious new villa in quiet area of Rawai. European style, quality building, large living area and huge terrace. 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 bathrooms (en suite), 1 separate guest toilet. Western kitchen, laundry, garage, wall, gate, tropical garden, True TV. 650sqm plot with Chanote. For sale at 9.5 million baht, or rent (long term only) for 35,000 baht per month. Contact Paula. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeu wissenpaula@hotmail.com

HOT LUXURY SALE

Apartment. 140sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, seaview pool. Good Patong location. 10 million baht. Buy before May and pay 7 million baht. Tel: 087-8984338.

RAWAI BEACH, PHUKET

220sqm plot in Rawai. Price: 1.5 million baht. Bigger plots also available. Build 2-story house and get view of the sea and mountains. I can build a house for you with my team of engineers. Contact Steve. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: thanque4@gmail.com

WATERFRONT CONDO FOR SALE

Waterfront condo in Boat Lagoon for sale. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-238948. Email: info@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com

GOLF VILLA 87 MILLION BAHT

Lock palm Kathu. Modern-style luxury. Fully furnished. 3 bedroom with en-suite, Jacuzzi, TV, Wi-Fi and landscaped garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: sebt13@hotmail.fr



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

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Located in Paradise complex, Patong Beach. Furnished, 8 rooms, 4 floors. Available for freehold sale. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-290393, 086-5888383. Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

Four bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms, pool with Jacuzzi, living, dining, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar power, hot water, sala, BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden set on a 1,606sqm land plot with over 400sqm of living area. Price: 25 million baht. Special rate for short-term rental. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

11 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

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: 081-539-9269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

SHORT SALE B2.8M



Moo Baan Chao Fa Thani. Detached house, 260sqm of land, communal pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

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

BANG TAO LAND

Nearly 2 rai with Chanote title at Ao Bang tao. Very good location for business. Price: 16 million baht. Tel: 087-6899679.

KARON BEACHFRONT

Land for sale. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking: 250 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anut samantamit@gmail.com

PHANG NGA BAY VILLAS

Two boutique seaview villas for sale near Cape Yamu. Each with 4 bedrooms, gym, study(s), games rooms, 10 meter pools, lounge(s), Western kitchens, dining room, two maid's rooms. Tel: 076-283288, 081-2737326. Fax: 076-283288. Email: keithmarshall747@gmail.com For further information visit at www.kykinternational.com

PATONG CONDO VIEW

35sqm. Furnished, TV, pool, parking, freehold. 2.1 million baht. Email: guntmit@aol.com

SHOPHOUSE CHALONG

Modern building on busy soi. 5.25 million baht. Tel: 084-8419040, 081-7974061.

HOUSE IN PATONG

One-story house, furnished, 23sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 1 bathroom with hot water, living room, kitchen. Tel: 076-341724, 081-569-0664. Fax: 076-344485. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

BEAUTIFUL 3-BEDROOM, 3-BATHROOM HOME



The Oasis: 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom modern home. Fully equipped kitchen, 14mx5m pool and Jacuzzi. Fully landscaped, 2-car garage. 2km from British International School. Brand-new construction. Tel: 076-239370, 085-796-9324. Email: oasisphuket@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

1 rai of land for sale in Cherm Talay area. 5 minutes from Laguna Phuket. 4.75 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 081-7879701. Email: sandyeuan@supanet.com

LUXURY VILLA IN CHALONG

Luxury villa situated in a private estate in Chalong area. Land: 1,000sqm. 3-story house: 770sqm. 6 bedrooms with aircon and en-suite bathrooms. Living room, dining area, private swimming pool. Chanote. Tel: 081-9583341. Email: lavilla phuket@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

LAND FOR SALE

10-min drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. Nice location, just 300m from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAST SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



This is the last seaview land available in Layan with big potential for a 5-star development. It has Chanote and the land size is 13 rai, 3 ngan. The owner has reduced the price to 5 million baht per rai. Great opportunity. For more details please contact tel: 086-2726508.

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

NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

SEAVIEW LAND

14 rai of seaview land located in Rawai on a hillside. Hill views. 6 million baht per rai. Contact Tip. Tel: 086-9496480. Email: thipsee84@hotmail.com

INEXPENSIVE LAND

1-rai house lots near airport and Mission Hills Golf Course. Chanote, underground electricity. 1.06 million baht, full price! Contact Chris Fisher. Tel: 086-9421930.

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Property Gazette

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

URGENT SALE 3.5M BAHT MISSION HILLS

- 1/2 rai chanote land
- New 3-bedroom home
- Lockup garage
- Near international golf course
- Underground power

Expensive homes being built on adjoining lots. May consider 1 million baht part-exchange. Tel: 081-2704291 or 081-8924804

PHUKET CITY CONDO

Corner condo unit overlooking pool. Great location opposite Tesco, near Big C and Central. 42sqm plus two balconies in a modern building. TV, stereo, aircon, washing machine, furniture all included. Will be finished by mid-2009. 3 million baht ono, but the price will increase near the project's completion. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

RAWAI 3 BEDROOMS, POOL

220sqm living space, newly built, 700sqm land. Sauna, Jacuzzi, top-quality interior, saltwater pool, PVC-window doors. Resale. Original price: 10.9 million baht. Save 3 million baht. Now only 7.9 million baht. Top bargain. Come and see. Tel: 089-6525664.

HOUSE IN PATONG

2 stories. 2 bedrooms, living room, 2 bathrooms and kitchen. All rooms fully furnished. 4 million baht. Tel: 081-7977199.

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Irawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad viewpoint. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE, KATHU



Built October 2006. Offer terms: freehold. House type: detached. Asking price: 6.8 million baht. 3 bedrooms (all en suite). Total land area: 375sqm. Title deeds: Chanote. Amenities: Tesco Lotus 10 minutes. Central 10 minutes. BIS 10 minutes. Reason for selling: Relocating to Krabi. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: mailpete@hotmail.com Full details visit www.kathu-property.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

Boat Lagoon luxury, 3-bedroom waterfront townhouse. Rooftop Jacuzzi and marble floors. 10.7 million baht or best cash offer. Contact K. So. Tel: 081-8622962.

SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

RAWAI SEAVIEW HOUSE

3 stories. 3 bedrooms. Pool. Garden. 11 million baht. Tel: 081-7839062. Website: www.phuketdir.com/pool-seahouse

VILLA FOR SALE



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandi-kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Balinese-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land area: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LAND



in Khao Lak, Phang Nga. 400 rai. 4 million baht per rai. Chanote. Separate plots at 6 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LUXURY PROPERTY

for sale and rent in Phuket and Phang Nga. For further details see our website at: www.janepropertyphuket.com

SALE BY OWNER

Last corner unit, new 2-story townhouse. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park, 113sqm. Between Heroines' Monument and Laguna. Reduced from 1.95 million baht to only 1.8 million baht. Tel: 087-3863388. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further information please see our website: www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets

RAI NEAR MAI KHAO BEACH

Nice plot near beach. Only 1.2 million baht. For more information, call Kenny at Tel: 086-5713667. Email: mmcgrath2@hotmail.com

DESIGNER POOL VILLA



in Rawai. Delightful 250sqm villa on half a rai of land for sale or long-term rent. Garden with sala. 11-meter-long pool. Fully furnished. Open plan. Modern kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large studio/3rd bedroom. 2 wide covered terraces. Wi-Fi broadband and True TV, 4 aircons. Quiet residential area. Sale: 10 million baht. Rent: 36,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289146, 089-9701861. Email: derek-davies@msn.com

TROPICAL POOL-VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

RAWAI BARGAIN! 3.5 MILLION BAHT

Room for pool. Must see! Safe soi. 2 bedrooms, open-plan living. 2 balconies, 200sqm garden, double garage, fully furnished. Tel: 084-8446476. Email: dildalarge@yahoo.co.uk

KOH SAMUI LAND FOR SALE

2 rai of land with one house, six bungalows and 10 rows of houses. Ideal for rentals. Near beach. Chanote title. Asking price 30 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-270-9093. Email: anutsaman.tamit@gmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT, KATA

70sqm in luxury, newly-built complex, 400m from Kata Beach. Pool, steam sauna, top kitchen, Jacuzzi. Come and look. From 2.9 million baht, full luxurious furnishings. Tel: 089-6525664.

LAND FOR SALE, YANUI BEACH

1,000sqm. Road and electricity, leasehold 30 years + 30. 4 million baht. Tel: 081-979-7767. Email: tamsinstead@yahoo.co.uk

SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

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

TWIN HOUSE RESORT B1.99m

Twin house, 80sqm, includes terrace, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, furnishing, aircon, clubhouse, security guard, resort facilities, common pool, 200sqm, quiet area, 5 mins to Nai Yang Beach. Tel: 076-245966, 085-7842004. Fax: 076-245962. Email: info@thailandpropertygroup.com For details, please visit our website at www.thailandpropertygroup.com/development_detail.php?idc=184

FOR SALE

Pool villa in Chalong. 743sqm. 3/4 bedrooms with maid's quarters. Jacuzzi. Bar. Office. Garage. Large external entertaining area. Garden. Euro-style kitchen. Quick sale: 8.5 million baht. Contact Jonathan Hirst (sales manager). Tel: 076-381490, 081-2710015. Fax: 076-280539. Email: jonathan@sea-property-international.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARGE POOL

Nice villa with large swimming pool. Very safe and quiet location with security. Available for long-term or holiday bookings. Tel: 076-378361, 081-676-4849. Fax: 076-263919. Email for full details. Email: info@etwood.com

UNIQUE & ELEGANT HOME/OFFICE



This property, ideally located on Samkong Rd, 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 ensuite "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 carport. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

BEST DEAL!

Land for quick sale. 400sqm for 1.6 million baht at Nai Harn Beach. Tropical location in the best area, 10 mins from beach. Contact K. Krit for appointment. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE

59/09. 2 stories. 3 bedrooms. Unique lake-and-golf-course view. Only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

PROJECT FOR SALE

Higher price range. High profit. No brokers. Only serious customers. Email: phuketprojectsale@yahoo.com

LAND IN RAWAI

Many small and big plots for sale. 1 rai, 43sq wah. Sea view. 5.9 million baht. Call for more information. Tel: 085-7955383.

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

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads

at www.phuketgazette.net

Property Gazette

BANG WAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural lagoon behind Bang Wad Dam. Approx 26 rai, 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

11 NEW BIG LUXURY VILLAS



in Kamala with private pool. Modern Thai-Balinese style. 24 hours security in a gated community. Exclusive location a few minutes from beach and center. Built in natural surroundings on flat land with a very good mountain view. Chanote. 4 bedrooms. Large modern kitchen fully fitted. All bedrooms with separate toilets and built-in cupboards. Jacuzzi. All rooms have air conditioning. Freehold or leasehold. 2 show homes fully furnished. Ready now. Prices from 21 million baht. Tel: 076-279289, 086-2742308. Email: kamala.paradise@yahoo.com For further details visit www.kamalaparadise.com

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



Small plots from 1 rai up to 100 rai with very good sea view. A few minutes from city center and beaches. Chanote, road, electricity & water supply. Price from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2642308 or Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

in Rawai at Sai Yuan. Perfect location, quiet area. 70sq wah/85sq wah/100sq wah. Starting prices between 1.45 and 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-6268105.

KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote (can be divided). All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Price from 6 million per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

LAND FOR SALE

We have land plots ranging from 1rai to 365 rai. Best Patong location. Sizes: 11 rai and 20 rai, beach front. Bangtao. 350 meters from the beach. 14 rai in Chalong. For more details and pictures please visit: www.thaisunrealestate.com

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GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale – one on half a rai of land and another on 1 rai. Both are located in a good residential area 5 mins from Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more info. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

GREAT SHOPHOUSE

for sale. 3 years old with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Excellent location on busy Chao Fa West Rd. 6 million baht. Contact K. Piyanute. Tel: 081-8926991.

1 RAI, GREAT SEA VIEW, KAMALA

1 rai of land in Kamala, stunning view. Price: 10.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8921097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1 rai up to 5.5 rai. Good road & electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Price from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATHU

Property built in October 2006. Freehold. Detached. Asking price: 6.8 million baht. 3 bedrooms (all en suite). Total land area: 375sqm. Title Deed: Chanote. Tesco Lotus 10 mins away, Central 10 mins away, BIS 10 mins away. Reason for selling: Relocating to Krabi. Tel: 081-9565650. For further details, please visit our website at www.kathu-property.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

in Chalong. Bargain. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 081-7475293.

SEAVIEW LAND IN YAMU

For sale: 1,360sqm land good for development. Close to luxury residence projects. Tel: 081-9580373. Email: mammimg@hotmail.com

THE HEIGHTS, PHUKET

Unit C-8, 195sqm, 1 story, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 21 million baht. (Best offer). Tel: 081-6144799.

KAMALA BEACH LAND

Nice building lot near beach. Hill views. Very private and quiet. Tel: 083-2803232.

KRABI NEAR AO NANG

New modern luxury pool villa. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a/c, European kitchen, 7.25 million baht. Tel: 084-3224044. Email: info@siamsol.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siamsol.com



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.

Contact : 089-7243669

KHAO KARD-AO MAKHAM



Chanote. 16 rai with panoramic view near Ao Makham towards Cape Panwa. Wide road-access directly to the site. 6 million baht per rai. contact at Tel: 081-5399269 or Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

KAMALA CONDO SALE

1 bedroom. 650sqm. Communal pool. Service. Quick sale only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

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 K. Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE 224

Brand new 5-bedroom townhouse. Comes with pool and Laguna membership. Only 18.5 million baht. Call Tel: 085-7839062.

NEW HOME FOR SALE

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Close to Boat Lagoon and British International School. Tel: 081-9580373.

PATONG SEAVIEW LAND

5 rai with Chanote. 3 minutes from Patong Beach. Near Sea Pearl Projects. Tel: 085-7839062.

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (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

PENTHOUSE FOR QUICK SALE

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, lake views. 105sqm. Newly furnished with shared swimming pool. UK builder. Private sale at 5.4 million baht. Tel: 081-8943839 (Don). Email: paddybpower99@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Price from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@kamalaparadise.com

HARMONY HOMES

4 unique executive town homes located directly on the 3rd fairway of Phuket Country Club Golf Course. From 17 million baht. Tel: 081-9583571. Email: sweettybee2000@yahoo.com

KOH YAO YAI

Quick sale, 4 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, 5 mins to beach. 500,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-8928208.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



1.5 km from Central Festival. Attached to Suanluang Public Park. 300sq wah. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 9 aircon. Pond in garden. Fully furnished. Fitness facilities. European kitchen. 2 living rooms. Contact Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

BAAN SUAN POOL, RAWAI RENTAL

1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. From 9,000 baht/month. 300 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL

3-bedroom villa on tip of southern headland of Kata Beach. Villa has built-up area of 3,400sq ft, is sited 15m above the sea and has spectacular seaviews. 6m-by-15m infinity pool overlooking the sea. Villa is surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings and is private. Thai, Japanese- and Balinese-design influences and artifacts. Excellent Thai live-in cook and maid provided, along with Toyota Fortuner and English-speaking driver. Tel: +65-63838354, +65-96210-254. Fax: +65-628 28991. Email: seavest@singnet.com.sg For further details please see our website at www.housephuket.com

NEW CHALONG HOME
2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

BAAN SUAN KAMNAN SEAVIEW RENTAL



Nice apartment with super sea view. Located in a green residential area just outside Patong. One huge bedroom and big balcony, UBC and wireless internet. 20,000 baht per month. Call Edwin. Tel: 086-7866350. Long-term only. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

STUNNING SEAVIEW APARTMENT

for rent in Patong. Quiet Location. A must-see. From 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-2553700. Email: m.higson@hotmail.com For further details and many photos, please visit our website at www.kalimbay.spaces.live.com

CONDOS FOR RENT

Rawai, Phuket. All necessities available. Tel: 089-6483711. Email: phuketcomfortcondos@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, 25,000 baht per month long term. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSE AT NAI YANG, NEAR AIRPORT

ADSL, cable TV, furnished. 12,000 baht/month. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

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- ▶ Male, age 30-38, Thai national
- ▶ Hotel school degree
- ▶ Minimum 2 years' experience in the same or similar position required
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English
- ▶ Enthusiastic, energetic and strong team leader
- ▶ Good communication and people skills
- ▶ Experience with French and/or Italian cuisine is an asset

Financial Controller

- ▶ Thai, male or female
- ▶ Accounting Degree or Designation preferred
- ▶ Minimum 2 years' experience at a four- or five-star hotel as FC
- ▶ Good command of English
- ▶ Basic FC duties and responsibilities apply plus exceptional communication, human resource, I.T., purchasing and audit skills.
- ▶ A team player who is accountable and trustworthy with a strong personality
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Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photo via email: gm@chedi-phuket.com

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- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Secretarial or any other related field
- Good command of English; computer literate
- Good interpersonal relationship skills, hardworking, a team player and service-minded

Receptionist

- Bachelor's in any related fields
- Good command of written & spoken English
- Service-minded

Office Clerk

- Higher vocational school in any related field
- Fair command of English; computer literate

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- Higher vocational in Electrical, Electronics or any related field
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of Phuket, an American-style school, has the following anticipated vacancies for the 2008/09 school year: pre-school teacher and a high school English teacher (not ESL). Successful candidates will be native English speakers, have at least a bachelor's degree and hold appropriate teacher certification. Letters of interest may be emailed to alansiporin@qsi.org Please include your resume and references and be prepared to document qualifications.

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Following a huge sales success on our current project, we are launching a new project, Sea-view Haven Lagoon Condo Phase 2. Our company is seeking sales staff who meet the following requirements: 1. Fluent in English, both spoken and written; 2. Attractive, outgoing personality; 3. Experience required: Tel: 081-5976195. Forward your CV via email. unique_property@hotmail.com

TELEMARKETING

Progressive company seeks English-speaking telemarketing staff to work from Chalong office. Hours to suit. Experience useful, but not essential. Good rates of commission offered. Tel: 081-8337836.

campbell kane

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd., the developer of Cape Yamu Residential Villas, The Bay, and The Yamu Resort Hotel and Villas, is seeking an experienced senior sales agent and financial controller/chief accountant for all three of its properties in Phuket. These are luxury oceanfront homes selling for between one and eight million USD each.

Lead Villa Sales Agent

Responsibilities include:

- Showing the properties to prospective buyers
- Answering queries from customers, both on the phone and in writing
- Tracking sales leads and issuing a daily sales report
- Coordinating with outside sales agents
- Maintaining the sales office and sales materials
- After-sales service including completion of sales contracts and lease registration

Qualification

- Thai national with 5 years' successful track record selling luxury property to foreigners
- Excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written
- Familiarity with Thai real estate law is a plus
- Pleasant personality and professional appearance

Remuneration:

The position provides an excellent salary, competitive sales bonuses and full benefits.

Financial Controller/Chief Accountant

Qualification

- Male or female, age 30 years up
- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree in accounting and qualified accountant
- Minimum 3 years' experience in the construction and property development sector
- Fluent English
- Knowledge of local legal/tax/accounting practices
- Usable knowledge in needed tools such as Microsoft Windows-Excel, Quick Books, Data Base, Outlook
- Motivated and energetic individual

Please send resume with covering letter stating salary expectations to annie@campbellkane.com

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- 2) **Information Systems Manager** - You will be responsible for establishing all aspects of the IT systems. Experience in a Micros/Fidelio Opera environment essential. Experience in shell builds and openings very advantageous
- 3) **Chief Accountant** - Set up accounting controls and procedures and oversee accurate and timely preparation of financial statements and related financial reports.
- 4) **Assistant Human Resources Manager** - Provide HR service and assistance to employees in matters related to employee benefits, payroll, compensation, employment, human resources administration, training and be integral in establishing these systems suitable to Thailand.
- 5) **Secretary** - Assist the Personal Assistant and Management team in all clerical and secretarial duties

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, are interested in any of the above positions, and, would like more information please email to the below address, with your resume, recent photo and salary expectations Pieter.vanderhoeven@outrigger.com. A full job description can be gained on request.

LHP FOUNDATION

is seeking a Thai national with prior social work and experience caring for HIV patients and other health conditions. Please contact for more information at

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- Experience in using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, HTML, CSS, Macromedia Flash and Dream Weaver
- Experience with development system
- Ability to communicate in English
- Good Communication and Presentation skills
- Able to work both in a team and independently

Service Support Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Computer proficient, good typing skills in both Thai and English
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects working with... housing service, shopping matters ticketing and accommodation arrangement, trip arrangement, transportation coordination.



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Phuket Ocean Villas are looking for motivated individuals to join their team. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai and have excellent computer skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527565. Email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

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for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motor-bike. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

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Patong hotel needs 1 receptionist with good English skills. Tel: 081-8921621.

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All positions are based in Phuket at various locations including Patong, Surin, Kamala and Mai Khao and require self-motivated, pro-active, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to the Director of Human Resources at pansak.l@marriott-hotels.com or fax: 076-348354 or mail to:

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Part time to do research and report facts about America and the American economy. Please email information about yourself to: ltmesneg@aol.com

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Wanted: Female aged 25-35 years old. English speaker, self-motivated, car owner who likes fitness! Good salary. Benefits. Commission. Tel: 076-355040, 081-8239448. Fax: 076-355039. Send CV to cj@searaspports.com

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travel consultant. We are an expanding travel agency located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish female travel consultant, 25 +. Computer/Internet knowledge essential along with a past in the travel industry. Organizational skills and a good knowledge of Thailand much desired. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

CHEF & WAITRESS - JUNGCEYLON

Chefs and waitresses wanted for a restaurant/cafe opening soon at Jungceylon shopping center. Good location! Contact K. Oh. Tel: 087-8810300 or Email: thommm@online.no

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Thai staff only. One accountant, female, 5 years' experience, can sign for a minimum of 4 million baht. Must speak and write English. One purchasing, female, must speak English. One secretary, must speak and write good English. contact for details. Tel: 076-203487, 089-8736889. Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

HOTEL, DIVING, SALES

Male, 43, Swiss national, sales manager (13 years' advertising experience), hotel business (head waiter) and diving (PADI instructor). Fluent in German, English and French (basic knowledge of Thai and Italian). I am looking forward to hearing from you soon, kind regards, Stefan. Tel: 087-2684981. For details please contact me by email at: stefanhaldenstein@hotmail.com

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Rockodile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink refrigerator, 2ft x 5ft: 4,000 baht. Desktop computer. Compaq: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-6288450.

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Bulletins

FORMING ARTISTS' COMMUNITY

International artist living on Phuket wishing to organize local artists and people interested in art to share work and ideas to better both the community as a whole and each of us individually. Tel: 076-381937, 087-0716063. Fax: 076-381937. Email: tbokich@tbokich.com

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BAR FOR SALE

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NIGHTCLUB FOR SALE

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Nissan station wagon, 1999, green, new wheels. Includes insurance until August 2008. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-7281887.

TOYOTA ESTIMA

7-seater, first-class condition, automatic with new tires. Please contact for details. Tel: 084-4413633.

MAZDA 323, 4-DOOR, CHEAP!

Good condition. 5-speed, new reg. and insurance. 65,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-9488139. Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

CITROEN FOR SALE

AX 1.4. Dark green. 1994 model. Aircon. 5-door hatchback. 110,000 baht. Contact to view or for more information. Tel: 083-1720876. Email: villawillis@gmail.com

TOYOTA VIOS

2007 model with automatic transmission and full options. 33,000km. Urgent sale at 510,000 baht. Please email for photos. Tel: 081-2713228. Email: moodiving@yahoo.com

CAR FOR SALE

Leaving Thailand. 1995 Nissan sedan. Perfect condition. 180,000 baht obo. Tel: 084-8491091. Email: jleinfelder@gmail.com

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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BMW 323i SPECIAL EDITION



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

SAAB 9,000CSE VIGGEN 1996

Recently modified with a Toyota Camry engine for easy and low-cost maintenance. Only 150,000 baht! Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-264399, 086-2711495. Email: wowwwwow@directbox.com

CAR FOR SALE

Leaving Thailand. 1995 Nissan Sedan. Perfect condition. 180,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-8491091. Email: jleinfelder@gmail.com

MAZDA MX5 2006

Latest model. 6-speed, automatic, mica-gray, 17,000km. 1.5 million baht. Contact K. Bjorn for more information. Tel: 081-8060555.

TOYOTA AVANZA

Metallic silver, 2005 S-version. 58,000km. Leather seats, automatic. Space for 7 people. 380,000 baht. Tel: 076-323459, 089-7291113. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

FORD LASER TIERRA SV

Great condition, service history. Black. 4 years old. Good price for fast sale. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-2167220.

CHEVROLET ZAFIRA



2.2 Sport. Only 40,000km. All checks done regularly. Non-smoking driver and passengers. Purchased for 1.4 million baht. Selling price: 780,000 baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-7975764. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

NISSAN TEANA FOR SALE

Blue, 65,000km, 3 years old. Good condition. 2,300cc. New: 1.55 million baht. Now: 900,000 baht. Contact for info. Tel: 081-8337836.

Pickups

CHEVROLET PICKUP

2007. New model, 13,000km. Looks and drives as new. 399,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4413633.

2005

MITSUBISHI STRADA

4-door, aircon. 30,000km. Manual, insured, service book. 285,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-2727636. Email: rewopnadia@hotmail.com

TOYOTA HILUX PICKUP 2.5 D4D

2004 Golden Tiger 55,000km. Sale by original owner. No finance, no haggles. 350,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 076-286424, 081-9583695. Email: simon@ssi-phuket.com

NISSAN 4-DOOR, 150,000 BAHT

1995 model. New engine. Minor scratches. Clean interior. Tel: 087-2806275.

NISSAN NV HARDTOP

Carryboy, 1995, excellent condition, power steering, aircon. 85,000 baht. Tel: 089-2878418.

1996 NISSAN NV

Power steering and windows, great aircon, stereo, metallic silver, 55,000km. First-class insurance. Perfect condition. 130,000 baht. Tel: 085-7981988.

2000 RANGER XL PICKUP

Maintained, CD, aircon, runs and looks great. 219,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-2699145.

ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4



2003. 100,000km. Perfect condition. Runs great. 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 510,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anut samantamit@gmail.com

NISSAN

PICKUP, 4-DOOR

Turbo, 2007. 395,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-4413633.

FORD RANGER

2005 with 13,000km. Diesel, open cab, 1st owner, TV, VCD and extras for 330,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-5395948.

1996 MITSUBISHI STRADA

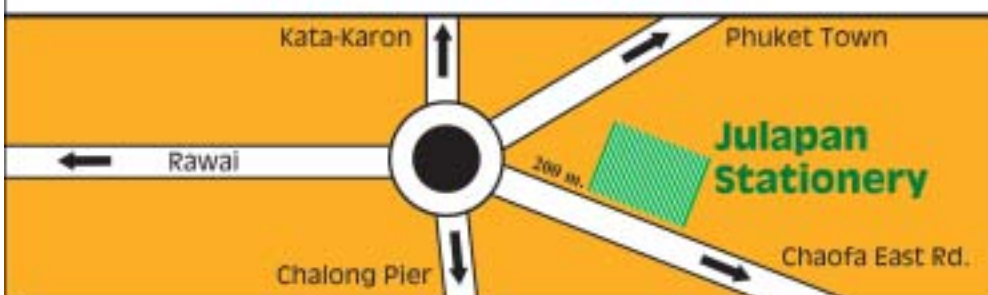
2.8L, excellent condition. 190,000 baht ono. Contact for further information. Tel: 086-9719776.

2003 MITSUBISHI STRADA GRAND 2.8L

Excellent condition with 48,000km. 4-door extended cab, power steering, power windows, aircon, central locking system. Carryboy top, roof-rack, chrome guard bumper. Serviced and maintained. Two-tone finish: red/gray. 350,000 baht ono. Moving, priced to sell fast. Tel: 087-2705177. Email: baxter831@msn.com

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ISUZU 2004 3.0L

4-wheel automatic 2-door. Metallic blue. Nice. 399,000 baht. Tel: 089-6503160.

ISUZU VEGA 2000

Auto 2800cc diesel. Gold. 4x4 Good condition. 400,000 baht. Tel: 084-0577505.

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ISUZU DMAX 3.0L 4X4

2006. 4-door, silver with tinted windows. Farang owner, fully serviced, 22,300km. In Excellent condition. 630,000 baht. For more details call Tel: 086-0891587 or Email: cain.rod@gmail.com

BLACK TOYOTA JEEP
5-gear. 1990, 2 doors. Plastic roof cover. Good condition. Western owner. 150,000 baht. Tel: 084-1893427.

MITSUBISHI STRADA 4X4

Mega Cab, Turbo, 5-speed, AC, alloy wheels, MP3, CD, Carryboy rack, full body kit. Farang owned, never used for work. 90,000km, great condition. 325,000 baht. Tel: 087-2770946. Email: drew_sl@yahoo.com

HONDA CRV, 2004

Mint condition, one owner. 725,000 baht. Call for info at Tel: 081-2722008.

ISUZU DMAX 2004 MUST SEE!

Nice dark-blue, 4-door, 4x4, 3.0L turbo. 535,000 baht. Tel: 086-9421969. Email: laclisque@gmail.com

FORD RANGER

4x4, 3.0L Turbo. Sept 2006, blue, Western owner. 26,000kms. Rarely used. Registered and insured. 545,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-8957095. Email: peter@seafa.com

MAZDA 4X4 DIESEL TRUCK

2006. Like new. Only 13,000km. 3.0L turbo diesel. Power steering, ABS. Price: 575,000 ono. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-6644050 or by Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

1997 MITSUBISHI 4WD

Two-door, standard. Great body, great engine. 270,000 baht. For more information contact at Tel: 089-8743005 or Email: garry.kirkland@vacationclub.com

DMAX LTD 3.0L

Turbo, 4x4, DVD, 11,000km. Top of the range. For long- or short-term rent. Also for sale. Tel: 084-4243562.

Motorbikes

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Excellent condition. Chrome parts powder coated. Need to sell quickly. Asking only 495,000 baht. Call: 081-7348309 or email: ducphuket@gmail.com

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Blue and white V-cruiser with blue book, road tax etc. paid very recently. 70,000 baht or higher. Tel: 085-7947156. Email: janfaroe@anderledes.dk

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SUZUKI VS 1400cc INTRUDER

Complete overhaul and power coating in December 2007. Green book and Phuket registration available. Tel: 086-1062566. Email: thai-live@web.de For further details, please see our website: www.phuket-apartment.info/big_bike_for_sale.htm

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1,200cc, Thailand's most beautiful anniversary model with original chrome parts all over. 17,000 km. 2 years on the road. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

BMW F650GS

1 year old, red, 3,800km, green book. Bargain price: 450,000 baht. Farang owner. For more details. Tel: 084-8520862.

HONDA STEED 600cc

Black. Tip-top condition. Year 1994. Western owner. 175,000 baht. Tel: 084-189 3427.

2004 YAM FAZER 1,000

16,000 km, new paint, chain, tires. Moving, must sell. 300,000 baht o.b.o. Green book. Tel: 084-7137495. Email: richguess@aol.com

HONDA SHADOW SLASHER

Year 2002, 13,700km, 400cc, blue, very nice 220,000 baht. Tel: 081-2730080.

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New Yamaha Mio, 2007, 2,300km. 34,000 baht. Honda wave 2007, 3,400km. 24,000 baht. For more information call: 081-3670991.

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Suzuki, red, modified, new seat, battery and tire. Call for details. Tel: 086-5150234. Email: rogerthai@hotmail.com

HONDA PHANTOM

2,300km, 18 months old. Black/grey with registration and insurance. 65,000 baht. Contact Michael. Tel: 086-0884990.

PM SUPER HARLEY

Very Beautiful Harley. Customized in 2005. Lots of PM-special accessories and chrome. Looks better than new! Paid 2 million baht in December 2005 for this eye catcher. My price now: 1.4 million baht. Contact at Tel: 076-388633 or Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

VTX 1800cc 2005

Black and chrome as new. Only 500,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

Rentals

CARS FOR RENT

Mitsubishi Triton 4-door, Toyota Yaris. Fully insured special rate for long-term. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

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TOYOTA VIOS, 1 YEAR OLD

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Nissan NV automatic. Year 2006. School teacher or office worker only. 12,000 baht per month. For more details. Tel: 084-4413633.

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FOR RENT

Late model Toyota Fortuner in immaculate condition. 1st class insurance. 25,000 baht per month, long-term only. Non-smoker preferred. More info at Tel: 089-4756748. Fax: 076-620002, Email: garyguild@hotmail.com

Bicycles

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Beautiful, brand-new tandem bicycle, imported from Taiwan. Custom painted in Thailand (red and gold), work guaranteed by Number One bicycle shop in Phuket. Includes two matching helmets and tyre air-pump. A bargain at 27,000 baht. To inquire or view please call before 10 am or after 6 pm. More information: Tel: 076-282676.

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