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Paiboon defeats Anchalee in OrBorJor poll

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: The prelimi-
nary count of votes cast in the
island-wide polling on April 20 for
the presidency of the Phuket Pro-
vincial Administration Organiza-
tion (*OrBorJor*) saw former
Phuket Senator Paiboon Upa-
tising defeat incumbent Anchalee
Vanich Tephabuttra by more than
20,000 votes.

An unconfirmed tally re-
leased by the Phuket Election
Committee shows K. Paiboon
with 59,995 votes (60.6%), com-
pared with K. Anchalee's total
of 39,085 (34.4%).

There were only two candi-
dates in the presidential elec-
tion, while 60 candidates ran for
24 regular council seats: 15 in
Muang district; six in Thalang,
and three in Kathu.

Eleven other members of
K. Paiboon's *Khon Baan Rao*
party were also winners, giving
K. Paiboon a solid base of sup-
port in the provincial assembly.

The results come as a sur-
prise given that K. Anchalee and
her party ran under the banner
of the powerful Democrat Party,
which has dominated politics in
Phuket and most of the southern
region for decades.

K. Paiboon, who ran his
campaign vowing for "transpar-
ency and change", won in all
three districts.

In Muang district, he gar-
nered 32,896 votes to K. Anchalee's 24,822.

In Thalang, Phuket's most
rural district, K. Paiboon more
than doubled Anchalee's tally,



PHUKET WINNER: Paiboon Upatising (center) is all smiles as he and his Khon Baan Rao party wai at a press conference on April 21.

pulling in 20,047 votes to K.
Anchalee's 9,535.

In Kathu, Paiboon was also
a clear winner, with almost 60%
of the 11,779 votes cast.

Overall turnout was rela-
tively low, with just over 54% of
the island's 200,717 registered
voters casting ballots.

Of these, 2,253 were
spoiled (2.1%), while 4,287 vot-
ers ticked the "no vote" option
(3.9 %).

The Phuket Election Com-
mittee said it will confirm the re-
sult within 30 days.

On April 21 at 10 am, K.
Paiboon and his *Khon Baan Rao*
team held a press conference to
thank his supporters at his office
at the Morning Star Villa housing
estate in Wichit, one of the many
projects he has developed under
the Phuket Villa trade name.

The *Khon Baan Rao* team
would work hard to fulfill the
campaign promises it made dur-
ing the campaign, he told report-
ers.

"We will coordinate with the
local administration organizations
to give better service to the
people. Today we are really
proud of the trust the Phuket
people have placed in us, espe-
cially given the scale of the op-
position we were up against," he
said.

Under the control of the
Khon Baan Rao team, the
OrBorJor will set up a service
center to accept requests for ac-
tion or complaints from all island
residents, he said.

"We will rush to solve prob-
lems, including water supply, traf-
fic and roadworks, education, and
Continued on page 2

Human trafficking laws redrafted

BANGKOK (TNA): Following
the tragedy in which 54 illegal
Burmese job seekers suffocated
while being transported to Phuket
in the container of a truck, Thai-
land is set to issue a law on June
6 prohibiting human trafficking.

On April 21, senior officials
announced the decision after a
meeting earlier the same day
between six government agen-
cies and NGOs.

Currently, Thailand has a
modest law barring the traffick-
ing of children and women only.
The strict new law will replace
the current one, they said.

Participants at the meet-
ing told a press conference that
the 66 survivors from the April 9
tragedy were charged with ille-
gal entry, given suspended jail
terms and were to be fined 2,000
baht each.

Workers without money to
pay their fine were instead jailed
for 10 days, said Immigration Po-
lice commander Pol Lt Gen
Chatchawal Suksomjit.

The survivors would also be
asked to testify as witnesses
against those who had been ap-
prehended and initially charged
in the case of negligence caus-
ing death to others, he said.

Six Thai nationals—five men
and a woman—have been arrested
as this edition goes to print.

It is believed that several
others, still at large, were the
masterminds behind the smug-
gling ring.

Nattaya Anudit of the
Phuket Provincial Labor Office
was recently quoted as saying
there are 35,116 alien workers
who have been registered in the
province. She estimated the cur-
rent number of illegal workers to
be at about 50,000.



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From page 1

Paiboon pledges change

the teacher shortage," he said.

"We are planning to put the right people into the right jobs and the council will now have to accept it.

"Everyone has to change their outlook, because the new *OrBorJor* members will be the representatives of the people," he said.

In apparent reference to the management style of his defeated opponent, he said, "From now on, the *OrBorJor* president will work for the people – not the other way around."

K. Paiboon also vowed to make *OrBorJor* budget matters fully transparent and open to public review.

When asked about the *OrBorJor*'s plan to redevelop the long-abandoned Phya Thai Hospital in Phuket City and operate it as a public organization under provincial administration, K. Paiboon said the project would first be placed under thorough budgetary review because the former administration had already invested 500 million baht in it.

He promised to continue with worthy projects initiated by the old *OrBorJor* administration, but in a more cost-effective manner.

As for the coordinating efforts with local administrative bodies, such as tambon councils and municipalities, he said, "We will work to support them, not replace them."

K. Paiboon also promised to better coordinate the efforts of local bodies to address pressing issues affecting the entire island, such as the need for better waste-management strategies and a second incinerator to help solve the island's garbage crisis.

Known as a fiscal conservative, K. Paiboon said he would budget and spend next year's fiscal budget of an anticipated 600 million in a way that will best benefit the island's residents.

V/Gov opens Wat Chalong toilets

CHALONG: Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha on April 17 chaired the opening ceremony of Wat Chalong's new three-million-baht public restrooms, which are being hailed as "the first international-standard public toilets" in Thailand by the Office of Tourism Development.

The restrooms, built with the help of industrial manufacturing firm SCG (Thailand) Co Ltd, are to commemorate 100 years since the passing away of revered monk Luang Por Chaem, who helped treat people injured during the Angyee Rebellion of Chinese tin miners during the reign of Rama V.

The facilities comprise a total of 20 toilet stalls, two shower rooms and a toilet stall

especially for disabled people.

Damrong Sangkaweeert, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Office of Tourism Development, wrote in a press statement that the restrooms will be open 24 hours each day and kept clean by two janitors.

Wat Chalong is visited by an average of about 8,000 tourists a day, with as many as 100,000 people visiting temple grounds during special events.

A daily average of 3,000 trips to the temple toilets are made, with the number reaching as high as 8,000 visits per day during the high season, according to the press release.



The new toilet facilities, such as the men's restrooms pictured here, are more akin to those found at five-star resorts than at provincial temples.

Suspect, 21, claims he 'robbed for his baby'

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Following information provided by Phuket police, Maha Sarakham police on April 16 arrested Taweesak Bualad, 21, for the robbery of the Kasem Suwan gold shop in Samkong, Phuket City.

Lt Col Wijak Tarom of Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* that the robbery was recorded on the shop's CCTV system, clearly showing Taweesak brandishing a handgun and demanding money.

After being handed 130,000 baht in cash, Taweesak made his getaway on a motorcycle parked outside the shop.

Police were able to identify Taweesak as he was not wearing a helmet during the robbery, Lt Col Wijak said.

"A warrant was issued on March 4 for his arrest on charges of robbery, using a motorcycle for his getaway and carrying a loaded gun in public.

"He was arrested at his home in Tambon Tha Song Khon in Maha Sarakham Muang district," he added.

When police entered the home, they found Taweesak, carrying his 19-day-old daughter with



Taweesak Bualad, 21, prepares to re-enact the robbery of the Kasem Suwan gold shop in Samkong, Phuket City.

take care of his mother, who is sick, and to give to his father-in-law as a dowry for his wife.

"He cried while he told us this and said that he knew he did wrong," Lt Col Wijak added.

"In Phuket, he delivered drinking water for the Sriwalee company in Rassada. He needed the money... so he decided to rob a gold shop.

"After the robbery, he took a bus with his wife to Bangkok, where his mother took his wife to the family home at Maha Sarakham. But Taweesak went to Rayong, where he hid at a friend's house. He returned home on March 25, the day his daughter was born," Lt Col Wijak said.

"We found the gun used in the robbery in a deserted house behind Phuket Rajabhat University. It was a fake plastic one, so we must change the charge against him to robbery using a fake gun," he added.

Meanwhile, two other high-profile gold-shop robberies in Phuket remain unsolved: that of Srithong Gold Shop and Thongroj Gold Shop, both on Chao Fa East Rd. Police have released sketches of the suspects but have yet to make arrests.

his wife at home. "He had called Maha Sarakham Police many times and talked about giving himself up, but we finally decided to have him arrested at his home," Lt Col Wijak said.

"He confessed to all the charges. He said he did it to pay for the hospital bill for his daughter's birth.

"He also used the money to

Three bodies found in swamp

MAI KHAO: Police believe the bodies of three men recovered from a swamp near the JW Marriott Hotel to be those of Burmese workers. Police were alerted to the gruesome find by villagers living near Pru-Je-San swamp on April 21.

Tah Chat Chai Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Payongsak Petchrod said that officers arrived at the scene about 1:40 pm. "We believe that the bodies were in the swamp for no longer than 48 hours before they were discovered," he said.

"No-one has yet come forward to claim them," he added.

The bodies were all clothed and none had visible wounds, he said.

"It appears that they could have drowned, but we are still waiting for confirmation of the exact causes of the deaths from autopsies being conducted at Thalang Hospital," Col. Payongsak said.

"We should have autopsy results within the next few days," he added.

"We believe it is possible that the bodies are those of Burmese nationals aged between 20 and 30 years old," he said.

Police are questioning residents at workers' camps in the area, but thus far the three bodies remain unidentified, he added.

– Sompratch Saowakhon

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Mai Khao OrBorTor eyes OTOP center

By Janyaporn Morel

MAI KHAO: The Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is considering funding a 14-million-baht One Tambon One Product (OTOP) retail center at the proposed site of the Phuket Sports Complex, hoping the investment will rekindle interest in the stalled project.

Promchote Traivate, head of the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development, said his office is still awaiting 15 million baht for the project's first phase – construction of an administration building.

The multi-phase project carries an entire price tag of 3.5 billion baht. The project site, 238 rai of Treasury Department land in Mai Khao, was approved for the project in March last year.

Like many other mega-projects in Phuket, the sports complex was put on hold after the coup and has remained in limbo under the current administration.

"There has been no progress and not even a reply from the government on this project, even though it is still listed as part of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports development plan," K. Promchote said.

Plans for the project include a 15,000-seat indoor stadium with

surrounding practice fields, parking areas for 5,000 cars, and other facilities on 60 rai near the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

Some 68 rai of the remaining land would be made available to beach resorts and other private sector investment. Many private firms are interested in the project and waiting only for the government to make their investments possible, he said.

In the hope of jump-starting the project, the Mai Khao *OrBorTor* is considering spending 14 million baht on building an OTOP retail center, a tourist information center and a sport medical science facility for local residents at the project site, he said.

However, many similar facilities already exist within walking distance at the little-used Phuket Welcome Gate, opened just a year ago.

The future of that project now seems uncertain, however. At a press conference at his home this morning to celebrate his election win yesterday, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President-elect Paiboon Upatising said he would look for a way to increase the "usefulness" of the Phuket Welcome Gate, the brainchild of Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra.

Tourist Police volunteer found in apparent suicide

PATONG: Kathu Police are treating as "probable suicide" the death of UK national James Alasdair Elliott, 37, who was found hanging by the neck from a ceiling fan in a rented room on Nanai Rd.

Kathu Police Duty Officer Capt Songserm Preecha said police were notified of Mr Elliott's death at 10:30 am on April 15 by Preecha Chormanee, owner of Nanai Apartments on Soi Nanai 1, where Mr Elliott rented a room on the third floor.

Entering the room, police found Mr Elliott hanging by the neck from a nylon rope that was tied to the room's ceiling fan.

There were no signs of

struggle, theft, wounds to the body or other evidence of foul play, Capt Songserm said.

Police estimated Mr Elliott died no fewer than five days before his body was discovered.

'Coral Reef Squadron' arrives for sunken duty

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

MAI KHAO: Amidst great fanfare, a convoy of 15 flatbed trucks loaded with the remains of 10 decommissioned military aircraft arrived at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint at 2 pm on April 20 after a three-day overland journey that began in Lopburi.

The convoy departed from Koke Krathiem Air Force Base in Lopburi with the partly disassembled aircraft on April 18.

The arrival of the four Douglas C-47 Dakota Skytrain military transport aircraft and six Sikorsky S-58T helicopters marks the penultimate leg of their final journey before they are sunk to their final resting place in the waters off Bang Tao.

On May 5, the aircraft skeletons are to be dropped into the sea about a kilometer off Bang Tao Beach to create an artificial reef in the hopes that it will attract marine life and become a popular new dive site.

The aging aircraft, which have been dubbed the "Coral Reef Squadron", are US-built aircraft that served in the Vietnam and Korean Wars, during which Thailand was used as a strategic base for operations during its Cold War fight against communism.

There to see the aircraft arriving in Phuket were Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima, Tourism Authority of Thailand South Region 4 Office Director Suwalai Pinradub and representatives of the various groups that are working together on the project: the Royal Thai Air Force, Phuket provincial government, Thalang District Office, the For Sea Foundation, the Thai Dive



JUST PASSING THROUGH: One of the four Douglas C-47 Dakota Skytrain military transport aircraft arrives at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint on April 20.

Association (TDA), the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization, which provided 4 million baht for the project.

Once safely past the checkpoint, the convoy continued on to the Phuket Deep Sea Port at Ao Makhram, where the aircraft will be cleaned, reassembled and otherwise prepared for their new role, which has been described as providing "apartments for fish".

At a depth of about 20 meters, the aircraft will be in a circle with two helicopters in the center. These will be surrounded by an alternating circle of airplane and helicopter fuselages.

The wings of the aircraft

were clipped at about mid-length and the rotors removed from the helicopters. All dangerous and or toxic components of the mostly-aluminum remains were removed before being transported.

The entire site will cover about 2,500 square meters near an abandoned tin-mining sledge.

Jens Hofacker of Aqua Divers in Nai Thon Beach told the *Gazette* that the sinking operation will be conducted with the help of both the Royal Thai Navy and National Parks Department.

The plan is to fix the aircraft to the seabed using huge concrete blocks. The site will be surrounded by concrete blocks to prevent the structures moving across the sea floor, he said.



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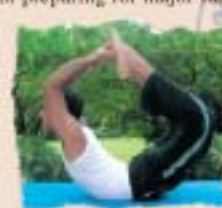


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All along the

To Lamphun Tangnoi, Phuket's lifeguards have come a long way since the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) floated its lifeguard project in 2003. "We started with 10 lifeguards at Patong Beach, with three look-out towers: at Laem Petch, Loma Park and one at the popular southern section of the beach.

"We had about three lifeguards and one driver at each point. Although we were not professionals, even in that first year we could see a decrease in the number of tourists who drowned.

"We later set up lifeguard towers at Kata and Karon, then we expanded to Bang Tao, Surin, Kamala, Nai Yang and Nai Harn. Now we have 64 full-time lifeguards at 19 watchtowers," said K. Lamphun, who leads the *OrBorJor* lifeguard project.

However, K. Lamphun explained that despite the huge rise in the number of lifeguards, being a lifeguard is not a job for just anyone – not even for Phuket's famed "beach boys", who operate jet-skis, parasailing and banana boats at popular beaches.

"Lifeguarding is not hobby; it's a full-time job. Even the beach boys cannot do it. They like hanging out at night, then they wake up late and cannot do the job to the best of their ability.

"I employ people from Phang Nga, Krabi, Satun and Yala to work here as lifeguards and we have a dormitory where they can stay," he explained.

Of the 64 full-time lifeguards, three are stationed at each of the 19 watchtowers each day from about 9 am to about 7 pm, depending on the number of tourists using the beach at the time. As the wet season takes hold and the surf becomes more

As Phuket enters the wet season and the rain rolls in on the northeast monsoon winds, the surf along the west coast rises in places, developing dangerous rips ready to snare inexperienced swimmers.

Here the *Gazette's* Natcha Yuttaworawit looks into the current state of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) lifeguard project, the problems they face and some recent positive developments, including four Phuket lifeguards making the grade to international standard.

dangerous, volunteers will be used so that six lifeguards are stationed at each watchtower.

K. Lamphun explained that it is the volunteers who have taken part in the annual free lifeguard training held by the *OrBorJor* who have swelled the number of lifesavers in Phuket.

Although he admitted some training is better than none, K. Lamphun said, "Training once a year is not enough, so we have to train by ourselves. Sometimes the Navy holds training sessions for us, which improves our discipline, but when an accident happens, we have to help ourselves. This is why the most important thing about being a lifeguard is enthusiasm for doing the job, not just working for a salary."

A recent boon to lifeguard training has been a project by the Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC), from New South Wales in Australia. "In October last year, we met Alistair 'Slim'

Peebles from Avoca Beach SLSC, who was referred to us by the inspector of Phuket Marine Police. I think Australian lifesavers are real heroes and I usually copy their methods and like to use the same equipment they use," K. Lamphun said.

"At first they didn't believe that Phuket even had lifeguards, probably because we don't promote ourselves in the way they do and we don't have a website," he added.

K. Lamphun went on to explain that his company, Chokaree Tour Co Ltd, has tendered and won the contracts to provide Phuket's beach guards for several years, but that does not guarantee that his company – and his lifeguards – will continue to train and serve Phuket's beaches.

"You have to understand that we are just under contract with the *OrBorJor*, so our longevity is not guaranteed," he said.

Looking beyond his own company's interests, he added, "If we help each other and push for lifeguarding to become a recognized occupation regardless of who the contractor is, then lifeguards will still protect Phuket's beaches."

He added that former *OrBorJor* president Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra provided good support for the lifeguard project. Whether new president Paiboon



Upatising will provide the same support remains to be seen.

Slim Peebles and Avoca Beach SLSC on April 12 and 13 brought to Phuket training session held at Kamala Beach by experienced, qualified surf lifesavers.

They also sponsored four Phuket lifeguards to travel to Australia and spend one month there, learning lifesaving skills as well as the administrative and organizational aspects of running a successful surf lifesaving club.

"What these guys have achieved in just a few years is impressive," said Mr Peebles. "And the four who came to Aus-

tralia [in December] have passed their 'bronze', which means they are now international-standard. We are just waiting for the certification to come through to make it official," he said.

A fundamental concept that K. Lamphun wants to bring to Phuket from his time down under is a true beach club, similar to the surf lifesaving clubs in Australia. "Beach clubs give people somewhere to meet and people will swim near the beach club, which will be safer because that's where lifeguards will be hanging out whether they're on duty or not," he explained.

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watchtowers



ABOVE: Lamphun Tangnoi teaches local schoolchildren the dangers of the surf and what it takes to be a Phuket lifeguard.

LEFT: The *OrBorJor* lifeguards now have 19 watchtowers, at Kata and Karon, Bang Tao, Surin, Kamala, Nai Yang and Nai Harn, manned by 64 full-time lifeguards plus more than 150 volunteers.

"In Australia, I saw parents take their children to the beach on holidays, whereas in Phuket, Thai families like going to the shopping centers.

"Also, Australians do not let their children swim alone in the sea," he said, alluding to how Aussies enjoy the surf, yet have a healthy respect for its dangers.

In his first steps in breeding a similar culture of safe surf swimming in Phuket, K. Lumphun is looking to teach local children the dangers of the surf.

He and fellow lifeguards already hold fun days on school holidays for children, similar to the activities held at Kamala Beach on April 12 and 13. "They really liked it and their families came to join in. The feedback from the workshop was good. We taught them how to swim safely in the

sea and how to help themselves and their friends if they get into trouble," he said.

Although he thinks he has a strong start, with more than 150 unpaid volunteers helping out by keeping watch and helping swimmers in difficulty, K. Lamphun concedes, "Avoca Beach Club has a better chance than us; they have a lot of local support.

"They brought some donated equipment for us. I paid the import tax myself, but it's worth it because we cannot afford to buy the equipment. For example, a life board costs 80,000 baht," he said.

"Under the current budget, the *OrBorJor* pays us one million baht a month, which is used to pay for pickup trucks, 19 jet-skis, the lifeguards' salaries and all our other expenses," he added.

There is also the problem of counter culture, K. Lamphun said, especially when a foreigner drowns. "Sometimes it's disheartening when nobody sees when we help people, but when they read in the newspaper that a tourist has drowned, they ask, 'Where was the lifeguard?'"

"Many times, tourists ignore our warnings and go swimming and then we have to go into dangerous surf and fish them out – nobody thinks about this," he said.

Somkid Kuanun, who has been an *OrBorJor* lifeguard since the project began and one of the four Phuket lifeguards to pass his 'bronze medallion', said that the most dangerous beaches in Phuket are Kata, Karon and Patong. "That's because there are many tourists there and the wind and waves change often," he said.

"Safe areas are marked on either side by the red-and-yellow flags – that means you swim between the flags," he explained.

"Crossed red flags mean that the beach is deemed unsafe to swim by the lifeguards and we might not be able to rescue you if you get into trouble," he added.

K. Somkid said that the flags might be moved from day to day, or even during the same day, depending on the conditions at the time and added that it is up to the lifeguards on duty to decide when and where to post the flags.

"Last year, we pulled about 300 people out of the surf and only about four people drowned. I think our standard is okay for now, but we still have some problems about discipline. At least our ability is the same as international lifeguards," he said.

However, K. Somkid said, "Our biggest problem is tourists ignoring our warnings..."

"Please remember that lifeguards are not policemen. We cannot force tourists to not swim. If you see a little lifeguard trying to remind a bigger tourist to not swim where it is dangerous, please try to understand."

However, he conceded that some swimmers will continue to ignore the beach flags posted by lifeguards marking where it is safe to swim. "A serious problem is foreign tourists ignoring lifeguards... They say they have swum with bigger waves, but they do not know the waves and the surf conditions here," he said.

"We have the same problem in Australia," said Slim Peebles.

"We can warn them, but unlike some states in Australia [such as Queensland], in New South Wales we do not have the authority to remove them from the beach.

"We can, however, call the police and ask to have them removed," he said.

But it was the difference in lifestyle, seeing how many Australians enjoy swimming at the beach, that struck K. Lamphun.

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Queer News

Monk's deluded tour ends with dismay

TAK: While impersonating a policeman for personal gain is nothing new in Thailand, one monk in Mae Sot who thought he may have picked the wrong career took it one step further over the Songkran holidays.

The monk not only claimed to be a high-ranking policeman, but also a member of the royal family and a representative of the Bureau of the Royal Household.

Phramahasamat, known as Samat Saengsai before his ordination, marched into Mae Sot Police Station in full uniform on April 15, demanding a police escort car during his participation in a Songkran procession.

Phramahasamat, 29, told officers that he was a police major attached to the Bureau of the Royal Household and also a *mom luang*, a descendant of Thai royalty.

Phramahasamat showed the officers his police ID card, identifying him as Mom Luang Pol Maj Kritaphol Kasemsri.

ML Pol Maj Kritaphol Kasemsri's story was given extra credence by the fact that he drove to the police station in a Toyota Yaris with a *ror yor lor* registration plate, indicating it was a royal vehicle.

Col Phatsawat Tangjui, superintendent of Mae Sot Police Station, was unconvinced by the distinguished guest, however.

He asked to have another look at his police ID card and registration plates for the royal Yaris. On closer examination, both

documents proved to be forgeries.

After a few minutes of awkward questioning, ML Pol Maj Kritaphol admitted that he was neither a police officer nor a royal descendant. In fact, he was actually just a country monk from Wat Srisanga Prachathamm in Roi-Et's Selaphum district.

Phramahasamat told police that he had always dreamed of

becoming a policeman, but had never been able to quite make the grade. With the path to a career in law enforcement closed to him, he opted to become a cleric instead.

As for the "royal car", Phramahasamat said that one of his many followers in Roi-Et had donated it to the temple.

Before his arrest, Phramahasamat had been touring around the countryside, celebrat-

ing Songkran with the locals and claiming to be a representative of the Bureau of the Royal Household out on tour.

Phramahasamat was charged with impersonating a police officer, forging official documents and forging a royal car registration document.

There was no report of what action the Buddhist council of Roi-Et would take.

Source: Khao Sod

Snake wife makes grand eggs-it

UDON THANI (Daily Xpress): The peculiar story of a man who married a python said to be a 600-year-old spirit from his past has taken yet another bizarre twist.

Satien Kenkudlung's python wife (pictured, right, with her husband) slithered away last week, after a short marriage. The volume of curious visitors has dried up, but K. Satien has kept the interest of the public sated with the discovery of an egg, supposedly laid by his now-departed wife.

K. Satien hit the headlines in early April when his marriage ceremony to the python was publicized. It was said the snake had been his soul mate for six centuries.

The egg development seems "well planned", said Udon Thani Governor Supoj Lao-wansiri. Gov Supoj suspects the snake was hidden when the



"charlatans" heard experts were on the way. He suspects a "grand return" at some stage, too. If the snake comes back by the end of the month, the governor and his subordinates will be ready to pounce.

Experts have debunked a

theory that the egg is the fruit of Satien's union with the snake, as the gestation period for a python is 80 days. The marriage was just a fortnight long. Plus, snakes usually lay a nest of up to 50 eggs. A mother never abandons her eggs.

Danish man dies of suspected painkiller overdose

KATHU: A Danish tourist was found dead in his bed on April 16 at the Delight Village bungalow resort, near the Prince of Songkla University in Tung Tong.

Tung Tong District Police Inspector Lt Col Kittipong Klai Kaew identified the deceased as 37-year-old Kenneth Schou Rodnes.

Police suspect Mr Rodnes died around 8 pm on April 15 from an accidental overdose of painkillers taken for a severe headache.

Mr Rodnes and a Thai woman who identified herself as his wife checked into their room at Delight Village about 10 days earlier.

The woman then returned to her native Udon Thani for the Songkran holiday, leaving him to stay there alone, Col Kittipong said.

The woman told police that she called Mr Rodnes at 6 pm on April 14, when Mr Rodnes said he was suffering from a bad headache and needed to sleep. On her return about 1:30 pm April 16, she discovered Mr Rodnes dead in the room, he said.

Mr Rodnes' body was sent to Patong Hospital for examination to determine the exact cause of death. However, police found no evidence suggesting foul play, Col Kittipong added.

He declined to name the woman, but said that she claimed to be legally married abroad to Mr Rodnes.

Danish Honorary Consul in Phuket Kennerth Karlsson said he was unsure how long Mr Rodnes had been in Thailand.

Mr Rodnes' family in Denmark had been notified, he said, adding that they have requested his remains be returned to Denmark.

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Alcohol sales will be banned over long holidays, starting with calendar New Year's 2009, the government says.

The Public Health Ministry is running with Interior Minister Chalermsak Yubamroong's idea to prohibit alcohol sales during long holidays, after 368 people died in 4,243 accidents during the nationwide Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign.

The figures were up slightly compared with last year, when 361 people were killed and 4,805 injured in 4,274 road accidents.

The only provinces with no reported road deaths for the period were Nakhon Nayok, Sing Buri, Yala, Krabi, Srisaket and Yasothorn, according to the national Road Safety Center.

Deputy Prime Minister Sahas Banditkul said that more than four of every 10 accidents were caused by alcohol, which was involved in 80% of all motorcycle accidents.

Public Health Minister Chaiya Sasomsup said his ministry is now drafting regulations that should be in place in time for the long New Year holiday period at the end of this year.

Tougher punishments for drunk driving and breaking alcohol sales laws will also be meted out because people are not cooperating with existing laws and safety campaigns, he said.

Bird 'flu vaccine. A team of researchers is developing a new universal vaccine to prevent the infection of H5N1 in humans.

The new vaccine will be key in preventing infection in humans and an outbreak that could occur from the cross-strain virus, said researcher Kanyarat Teung-inn.

This research is a collaboration of Mahidol University's Siriraj Hospital, Thammasat University's Faculty of Allied Health Science, Kasetsart University and the Thailand Research Fund.

The team developed a vaccine from two genes extracted from a part of a H5N1 virus genome.

In animal studies, mice injected every two weeks with the vaccine produced antibodies.

Long holiday booze ban looms for New Year



DOLLED UP

Two contestants in the recent Cosplay competition at the Bangkok Interactive Game Festival 2008 pose for the cameras. Cosplay is a short definition of 'costume play', dressing up to be the lookalike of a popular Japanese fictional character.

ted more than 681,000 baht from 807 illegal transactions before he was caught.

Special appeal. The Department of Special Investigations (DSI) wants human trafficking classified as a special crime so that it can take over investigation of such cases.

DSI spokesman Pol Col Narat Sawetanant said his agency supports registration of immigrant workers, whereas national security agencies worry only about the implications of immigrant labor on national security.

The DSI has proposed that offenses under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, to come into effect June 8 this year, be treated as special crimes.

This would allow the DSI to deal with these cases and free regular police units to concentrate on preventing illegal entry of alien workers, said Col Narat.

The result shows the potential for development of a human vaccine in the near future, K. Kanyarat said.

Cell technology. Wardens at Klong Prem Central Prison in Nonthaburi will soon begin using x-ray machines to screen incoming mail after a surprise inspection by Justice Minister Sompong Amornwiwat uncovered drug stashes, mobile phones and pornography.

Also uncovered was a bankbook with a 400,000-baht balance belonging to a drug kingpin identified only as "Charan".

K. Sompong was also presented with an intercepted package containing *ya ice*

(crystal methamphetamine) sent to a South Korean inmate from a British woman. Both were charged.

Insisting that the searches were legal, K. Sompong ordered prison officials to start screening all incoming mail and conduct regular cell inspections. He promised to obtain the funds to buy x-ray machines and enact legislation to make guards' jobs easier.

There are currently about 65,000 drug users and dealers serving prison sentences in Thai jails nationwide.

Unhacked. Officers from the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) on April 18 arrested 20-year-old Dusit Pongsuwan at his

apartment in Samut Prakan's Muang district and charged him with Internet banking fraud.

The arrest followed months of investigation by the CSD's Economic and Technical Crimes Section, after a complaint by Krung Thai Bank of several unauthorized online withdrawals from customer accounts.

Dusit confessed to creating a disguised computer-virus program that he posted on the Internet for unsuspecting users to download.

He then used the program to trace the victims' confidential financial information and make online withdrawals.

The suspect, a computer-school dropout, claimed he net-

Dangerous delicacies. Some 140 villagers in Ban Luang district, Nan province, were hospitalized on April 18 after eating puffer-fish dumpling soup at a funeral.

Sixty more victims, with symptoms including vomiting and breathing difficulty, sought treatment the following day.

Ban Luang district was in the news two years ago after some 100 villagers came down with botulism after people dined on fermented bamboo shoots.

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

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Work on the tsunami memorial near Khao Lak Lamru National Park has ground to a halt, while rapid commercial construction continues to flood the coastline.

After more than three years since the devastating tsunami, no progress has been made on installing the planned memorial since the Ministry of Culture postponed its construction on December 25, 2006.

According to the ministry, construction will not resume until a full environmental impact assessment has been carried out.

In comparison, rapid commercial development has continued unabated with almost the entire length of Bang Niang Rd now lined with shophouses, plazas, bars and restaurants.

Just over a year ago, the stretch from Emerald plaza on the east end to the beach road entrance on the west end was mainly undeveloped land, with just a few half-completed developments that had been abandoned.

Closing the gaps. Construction in some instances has been so rapid that entire complexes of single-story shophouses have risen from the ground to completion in just six weeks.

While most Bang Niang

GONE AND FORGOTTEN: Tsunami memorial abandoned



**ANDAMAN
COASTING**
By Franky Gun

residents lived in hope that Khao Lak would be spared from such development, reality points in the

opposite direction. Many predict that Bang Niang Rd will become another nighttime entertainment strip, just like Patong's Soi Bangla.

In the meantime, a tsunami memorial sculpture conceived by Swedish designer Lars Englund has been built near Bang Niang Beach and was officially opened on July 22, 2006.

Lars Englund is considered one of the most adept pioneers of 20th-century Swedish art and has exhibited in Venice, Paris, Warsaw, New York and, of course, Sweden. The funny thing

is hardly anyone in Khao Lak knows anything about this sculpture. Its opening ceremony went virtually unnoticed by most residents and visitors.

"You're kidding me! That's it?", were the words I heard from most tourists and friends who managed to find the Swedish designer's sculpture, which is hidden at Soi Nai Then, near the Intira furniture shop on Petchkasem Rd.

The initial concept for the tsunami memorial was a sculpture and education center near Lamru National Park, the design of which would resemble a temple hidden in the forest that could be visible from the sea.

This was a great concept, but the sculpture that Khao Lak now has to live with is disappointing, to say the least. It is basically a few stainless steel profiles protruding from a concrete foundation and welded together at the top in the form of a teepee. It resembles mikado sticks pointing upwards.

Writer, lecturer and humorist Mark Twain once said, "The public is the only critic whose

opinion is worth anything at all." Given this, I leave it to readers and Khao Lak visitors to decide for themselves whether Mr Englund's memorial sculpture, the chosen site, as well as the landscaping and maintenance efforts provided, significantly compare to the magnitude of destruction that Khao Lak suffered from the tsunami.

Perhaps a sign of the official stance on it is the fact that officials did not even bother to re-erect the road sign directing people to the "monument" after it was removed during roadside construction. Perhaps it does not even matter.

The forgotten ones. It seems that any projects in and around Khao Lak that are to do with the 2004 tsunami are given very little or no attention. As another example, there is the Tsunami Victims Cemetery in Bangsak, on the way to Takuapa, that, sadly, seems to have been neglected and abandoned.

There are many bodies of tsunami victims buried at the cemetery that still remain unidentified. The place appears to receive little maintenance, if any. Most of the international flags that once flew there have been destroyed by the wind or have disintegrated completely. The cemetery itself is a sign of abandonment.

It is a shame. If this is how Thailand

pays tribute to the several-hundred victims who have never been identified, then I'm at a loss for words.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and has since called Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: avalon@loxinfo.co.th



This sculpture created by Swedish artist Lars Englund is so far the only monument to the victims of the killer wave. The official memorial remains in limbo.

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Suspected separatists shot dead and then decapitated the manager of a shrimp farm in Pattani, police said.

Suphawit Mitjan, 26, was ambushed on the night of April 16 while driving to a shrimp farm in Nong Chik, Pattani.

The victim was first shot with an M-16 rifle and then decapitated with an ax, said Col Akara Thiproj, spokesman for the southern region command.

K. Suphawit was the 37th decapitation recorded in the Deep South since the region's long-simmering separatist struggle took a turn for the worse over the past four years, said Col Akara.

When authorities went to inspect the scene of K. Suphawit's death, they triggered an explosion that injured two volunteer militiamen, he added.

Meanwhile, a bomb was detonated in Yala Town the following day, killing one soldier, and another explosion in Than-To district, Yala province, injured one soldier.

Boy found. A 10-year-old boy from Udon Thani who had been missing for more than a month was found selling toys in Chumphon on April 15. The man accompanying him was arrested and charged with abduction.

Chaiyan "On" Uthaisaen disappeared from his village in Udon Thani's Nong Saen district on March 5. Witnesses reported seeing On being led away by a man later identified as Jamren Inthonsombat, 40.

A nationwide search was launched and pictures of On and his suspected kidnapper were circulated to every police station in the country.

On the afternoon of April 15, a resident told police that they had seen a middle-aged man ordering a child to sell toy grasshoppers and threatening him. The resident told police that they suspected the boy may be On.

Police rushed to the scene with a photo of On and a sketch of Jamren and were able to identify the suspect. Jamren attempted to resist arrest and called for help from passers-by, accusing the police of brutality.

Insurgents decapitate Thai shrimp farmer



Villagers in Nakhon Sri Thammarat gather Jatukham Ramathep amulets dumped under a bridge in Phra Phrom district, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, April 19. This is the second time that piles of the holy amulets have been found dumped in the province.

On told police that Jamren had tricked him into going with him by promising to buy him an air gun. Jamren then took him by bus to a series of towns and made him sell toys in the street. If he didn't sell enough, he would be beaten, On added.

Police said that Jamren had confessed to kidnapping On and forcing him to sell in the streets of Udon Thani, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Rachasima, Saraburi, Bangkok, Phetchburi and Chumphon.

Jamren has three previous convictions for kidnapping. He was sentenced to four years and six months in jail for the most recent conviction and was released in February last year, police said.

Maj Gen Patanee Siriwatni, Commander of Chumphon Provincial Police, said after questioning both On and Jamren, that he did not believe there was any sexual motive for the abduction.

The boy's parents, Phairot

Uthaisaen, a member of Nong Saen Tambon Administration Organization, and Phimphon Uthaisaen, Deputy Chief of Nong Saen Village 4, came to collect On from Chumphon Police Station.

K. Phairot said the whole family was very relieved to have On back and thanked Chumphon Police for their work in finding his son.

Bubble burst. Villagers in Nakhon Sri Thammarat found thousands of Jatukham Ramathep amulets dumped under a bridge in Phra Phrom district on April 19. This is the second such incident in as many months.

Many villagers rushed to collect the amulets and cursed the people who dumped them for their disrespect to the holy icons. At the time of writing, it was not clear which temple the amulets were made by.

Jatukham Ramathep amulets, which are believed by some to confer invulnerability on the wearer and bring success in business, were the subject of a surge of interest last year, prompting many temples to commission thousands of the amulets to be made for sale.

However, overproduction and waning interest have seen the bubble burst in recent months and the value of the amulets has plummeted.

Kamnan killed. A former kamnan (tambon chief) of Koh Phangan was shot dead outside his house on April 14.

Relatives of the victim told police that Nakhon Reuangroj, 47, was sitting alone in front of his house about 12:30 am when they heard three shots fired.

They rushed outside to find K. Nakhon bleeding heavily. They rushed him to hospital, but doctors couldn't save him. He had been shot in the chest, stomach and leg.

Police said that they are investigating two potential motives for the killing: local politics and a personal dispute.

Motorcycle mania. A motorcycle mechanic was shot following an argument with a customer on April 17 about whether to buy a new or secondhand bike.

Somchok Rotsesen, 30, an employee at a Yamaha showroom in Thung Song district, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was shot in the right arm as he was riding his motorcycle through Tambon Khuan Krot on his way home.

K. Somchok reported the

incident to Thung Song Police, who ordered all units to be on the lookout for two men on a pink-and-black Honda Wave motorcycle.

The men were later apprehended at a checkpoint on the Thung Song-Surat Thani highway. Police released the names of the two suspects as Wisanu Phromdontree, 31, and Suksawat Ratnaburi, 30, a Na Bon district Civilian Defense volunteer.

Police said that during questioning Wisanu admitted that he had shot K. Somchok in revenge after they had an argument over whether he should buy a new or secondhand motorcycle.

Wisanu told police that on April 15 he had been to the showroom where K. Somchok worked to ask about buying a secondhand bike to use to transport latex, police said.

K. Somchok told him that the garage sold only new bikes, but if he came back in two days he had a secondhand bike he could sell him. When he returned on April 17, however, K. Somchok said that he no longer had the secondhand bike and tried to persuade Wisanu to buy a new one. When Wisanu refused, saying that he couldn't afford it, K. Somchok insulted him, Wisanu told police.

Wisanu admitted that he went home and told his friend Suksawat what happened and the pair decided to take revenge on K. Somchok by trying to kill him.

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

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By Stephen Fein

The leather man

In a small shophouse along Yaowarat Road is a new shop that might make passers-by do a double-take. Decked out with all sorts of leather cowboy gear and related paraphernalia, Tam Leather shop looks like a window on the Wild West with wagon wheels, old metal lanterns, toolboxes, whisky bottles, burlap bags and real bales of hay adorning the shopfront. There's even a cactus growing out of an old boot so stiff that looks like it was recovered during an archaeological dig.

The Tam Leather shop definitely stands out among the beauty parlors and flower shops that line the road side. Tam Leather is the workplace of proprietor Sakesun Srichoo, a self-styled Thai cowboy who hails from Songkhla's Ranode District, which is more famous for shrimp farms than cattle ranches – and I should know, it is my wife's home town.

With a full beard and broad-rimmed cowboy hat, 49-year-old Sakesun has been crafting leather goods by hand for decades. He says he was the first to set up a leather shop in Patong, about ten years ago, after years of producing leather goods in both Bangkok and Songkhla Town. He also had a shop along the bypass road before his latest move to the wide open spaces of Samkong.

As Tan Leather shop is within stumbling distance of the *Gazette* offices, I stopped by recently with one of the few leather goods I happen to own – an old Italian-style belt, badly in need of repair because the loop holding on the buckle was almost completely worn away.

"Why shell out 1,000 baht for a new belt if the cowboy can fix this one?" I said to myself.

"Have a seat," said the very amiable K. Sakesun, "and I'll fix it for you while we talk!" As he got started I checked out the shop, in front of which was parked Sakesun's ride, an old but very well maintained Chevy C/10 pickup with a side step – just like the one I used to drive around Cape Cod as a teenager. The BeeGee's *Nights on Broadway*



With a full beard and broad-rimmed cowboy hat, 49-year-old Sakesun has been crafting leather goods by hand for decades.



ABOVE: An old Chevy completes the leatherman look. LEFT: K. Sakesun's handmade leather belts.

and *Stayin' Alive* played from a very old stereo in the background. Hank Williams may have been more appropriate but, although weird, the Brothers Gibb seemed to work.

Watching K. Sakesun work at his little wooden table reminded me of what a throw-away society we now live in. Of

course I am as guilty as the next guy – I was all but resigned to throwing away that belt until K. Sakesun opened up his shop and presented the opportunity to have it mended.

Within 15 minutes at his little table he had deftly disassembled my old belt, cut a replacement loop from matching black leather,

painted and glued it, and was sewing the loop together on an ancient sewing machine.

In fact, the sewing machine looked so old that I had mistakenly thought it was just part of the décor until he actually started using it.

He also used the sewing machine to sew up and repair

other parts of the belt where it had become frayed along the edges.

"Good as new!" I thought to myself when he'd finished. The repair-job cost me 100 baht and looks set to last me another two or three years.

Not much of the gear on display appeals to a non-cowboy New Englander like myself, but K. Sakesun can make just about any leather gear you like – you only have to ask him.

He has a whole catalog of leather goods to choose from: a handmade pair of sandals is about 1,000 baht, which is a real find for someone like myself with size 15 feet who can't buy shoes off the rack.

Although most of his items are made of thick ox and buffalo hide, he also makes more exotic accoutrements such as crocodile-skin handbags and waistcoats and python-skin belts (1,300 baht).

Handcrafted cowboy hats go for about 2,500 baht, while a made-to-order cowhide wallet that will last a decade is 1,200 baht.

There is even a real cheetah pelt hanging on the wall as decoration, which he is willing to part with for 10,000 baht. I decided to leave that one for someone else's karma collection.

K. Sakesun can also make a pair of real cowboy boots, saddle bags and a lot of other gear that might be of interest to biker-types – probably the closest thing Phuket has at the moment to real cowboys – except, of course, for K. Sakesun.

Tam Leather is located at 367/36 Yaowarat Rd northbound between Wongsada Clinic and Steak Samkong restaurant.

Tam Leather also has a branch open Saturday and Sunday at the Phuket Variety Weekend Market on Wirat Hongyok Rd, near the intersection of Chao Fa West Rd. For more information call K. Sakesun at 089-6502799 or 076-355728.

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It's a... STEAK OUT!

What do you get when you unashamedly mix restaurant design, décor and opulent fittings from Tibet, Switzerland and Thailand with a few visual jokes on the side? Well, something that looks a lot like Norbu's Steakhouse, next to Wat Rawai – that's what.

Norbu's isn't exactly a withering wallflower on the distant regions of Phuket's culinary ballroom.

The restaurant features towering ceilings, sparkling chandeliers and regent-green walls with royal red-and-gold braiding fittings, along with toilets that seem to have been built with landed gentry more in mind than the venerable pensioned farangs of Rawai.

This all adds up to make an eclectic chunk of exotica more in the zeitgeist and scope of Baron Haussmann's Paris than in little old Rawai.

Norbu's is not the first place that husband-and-wife-team Namphung and Thomas have created culinary opulence in an unusual backdrop. Over in Nai Harn, Mimmi's Restaurant is another of their creations and is just as flash, albeit with a more modern feel.

Thomas hails from Tibet, by way of Switzerland, and Nam Phung is Thai – hence the unforgettable combination of culture.

Where else in Phuket could you order traditional Thai dishes alongside coquilles St Jacques and a plate of zuerigeschaetztes with Swiss rosties? More to the point, where else would you want to?

If wackiness lends depth to food, then Norbu's has an advantage over its more sober-minded competition.

It's all the more wacky considering that Thomas, despite his Oriental features, has his own quota of Swiss-German gravitas. You could say that he represents that rarest of mountain birds – a Swiss-German with a sense of humor.

It's hard not to feel like royalty, once sat at one of the ornate tables in this regal-looking eatery.

Norbu's becomes busy on Saturday nights and it's certainly not hard to picture the imaginary minor dukes and duchesses of the parish coming out in their powdered wigs to strut their stuff under these glittering lights.

I wouldn't put it past them to perform quadrilles on the front steps while their cocktails are being mixed over at the humongous bar, much to the amuse-

On the menu

WITH
Sam Wilko
Norbu's



Norbu's Steakhouse isn't exactly a withering wallflower on the distant regions of Phuket's culinary ballroom.

ment of the monks in the temple next door.

Norbu's is well ventilated with lots of space. All this regal "normality" is instantly set off by some madcap touches on the walls, such as a plate of plastic egg-and-chips next to a portrait of a pre-Raphaelite angel – "And we don't even serve sausage and egg," mutters Namphung.

If there is any hidden message in such combinations, then it's lost on me, but it's agreeable madness – something that goes down well with a spot of duck à l'orange (310 baht), which we order along with a Chateaubriand steak (590 baht).

There's a decent list of cocktails (190 baht each) and a 14-label list of whites and reds (all reasonably priced at 1,100 baht a bottle).

We order an Australian Cabernet Merlot and the restaurant's main chandelier comes in handy as a light source to test the claret's clarity.

Before the main dishes, we

sample some homemade Tibetan ravioli as well as a plate of coquilles St Jacques, juicy and bursting with flavor.

The Tibetan ravioli is agreeably spicy with a rough texture.

But come on; one's at a loss to know if Norbu's takes itself

seriously. A restaurant with plastic sausage-and-egg on the wall, yet featuring clasped metal chilies as serviette holders, is definitely sending out ambiguous signals. But does it really matter? Frankly, not really... at least not to me.

So see you down at Norbu's. I'll be the one in pink platforms, smoked-glass monocle and a Clockwork Orange bowler hat. That ought to do it.

Nothing like eclectic style, is there?

Norbu's Steakhouse is at the entrance of Wat Rawai. Closed Wednesdays during low season. Tel: 076-289098, 081-3675416. Email: norbusteahouse@gmail.com Website: www.norbusteahouse.com

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Nuchjinda Jinongkaew and Ekapol Mintana celebrated their wedding at The Metropole Hotel recently.



Saranya Suewanichsakul and Wisanu Udomwittayanont were recently married at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

Dr Rattana is best known for running the SIPA Phuket branch – a center in charge of developing and executing the myriad government ICT initiatives, such as E-government, software development and IT training.

At Prince of Songkla University (PSU), however, she is simply called *Ajahn*, or teacher.

Walking around campus, she is greeted with respectful bows by many students. Working at PSU for nearly a decade, Dr Rattana has trained hundreds of students.

In a time when demand for IT know-how far exceeds supply, many of these graduates have gone on to find lucrative jobs – many earning more than their former teacher.

The Bangkok native and mother of one has spent much of her life on campus, both in Thailand and abroad. She completed her bachelor's degree in marine science at Chulalongkorn University.

She went on to earn a master's degree in computer science from the National Institute of Development Administration, then joined PSU Phuket as a lecturer in the business computer faculty.

Four years later, she won a scholarship to Griffith University

in Australia, then returned to PSU after five years of study, wielding a doctorate in computer technology.

But the quiet life of an academic was not to be. In 1999, the Phuket Provincial Administration Office (*OrBorJor*) launched its "international city" policy, with IT among the five initiatives for transforming Phuket into a global player. It was around this time that the "cyber paradise" concept came into being – the vision of Phuket as a high-tech center where IT individuals and companies would flock to work and invest.

SIPA Phuket was established in 2004, at the PSU Saphan Hin campus. From the beginning, Dr Rattana and her faculty were heavily involved, especially in the areas of research and human resource development.

Also from the start, SIPA became the eye in the storm of grand pronouncements and subsequent confusion.

One of the biggest complaints received by SIPA, said Dr Rattana, has been about visas and work permits.

The November 2004 announcement of fast-track visas and work permits for foreigners with IT credentials was followed by a torrent of inquiries and complaints that SIPA was helpless to assist with.

It soon became clear that the idea had not been implemented by those in charge of immigration and labor, leaving SIPA to deal with the fallout. Though Dr Rattana said SIPA is still pushing this initiative and progress has been made, the process remains confusing.

She has also been involved with the evolution of the island's

Internet resources, another sticking point that has led some in the industry to call it "cyber hell".

"The Internet has been a problem for such a long time," she explained, "but I have lived in Phuket for a while and have seen it grow from no Internet to expensive Internet to a system that every house can afford."

But it's been too much of a good thing, she noted. "At first, it was very fast, but when more users came onto the system, it started to slow down. We have tried and consulted about this a lot, the last time in a meeting with CAT and TOT."

It's a problem that she says must be solved before the latest government plan, "Phuket Innovation Paradise", can be put into place.

Though worried about the hurdles it faces, Dr Rattana is optimistic about this new vision. "It's a good project that suits Phuket because the island doesn't have a big population," she said. "I think this project will be a success because the director of SIPA in

Bangkok is really pushing to support these ideas for SIPA."

Her biggest challenge, she says, is in developing IT professionals. "I think Thailand is lacking the human resources in this area. Smart people are easy to find, but it's hard to find people who have the dedication and the skills to work in this area."

"Some have a lot of expertise or have a good GPA in school, but when they face the real world, they lack responsibility and patience, so no organizations want them."

Though she's modest about her cyber paradise accomplishments, her work is admired by many in the industry. *Gazette* col-

Phuket's cyber wizard

In the push to make Phuket an information communications technology (ICT) center, Dr Rattana Wetprasit, in her role as manager of the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) Phuket branch, has served as the bridge between the public and private sector – and the indispensable go-to woman for ICT on the island.

Stepping down from SIPA at the end of this month, Dr Rattana gives *Gazette* reporter Pathomporn Kaenkrachang her views about Phuket's ICT development.



Chef Ronnie Macuja and his award winning dishes

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Dr Rattana poses with six trainers and 40 trainees who have just completed SIPA's 'Pre-professional 3D animation' course, one of dozens of workshops she's led over the years.

umnist Woody Leonhard, a well-known IT professional based in Phuket and author of several IT books, said, "Dr Rattana has drawn on her extensive university experience to help hundreds of local software developers make the leap from student to experienced professional.

"She's brought together many diverse groups of computer industry professionals on the island, improved the lines of communication and opened up a lot of opportunities for individuals and companies.

"At the same time, she's exposed thousands of youngsters to the importance of computing in their daily lives and given them the means and inspiration to use technology in a positive way."

Though Dr Rattana will continue her work as PSU professor, it will be another person at the helm of SIPA, steering the course of the Phuket Innovation Paradise plan.

Her tenure with SIPA ends

on April 30.

Dr Rattana's typical workday involves teaching in the morning and early afternoon at PSU, then going to SIPA for another five hours of work.

The long days have taken a toll on her health, leading her to rethink her life's priorities.

"I need to think of my family first," she said. "I am not alone in my life anymore.

"People say that I'm smart, that I should go to work somewhere with more growth opportunities.

"But what if I have these great achievements with no-one to love me or cheer me up at my side - why would I do that?"

"I have been happy, I have chosen my family, I choose to live with people that I love, I cannot think of only myself."

With her passion and desperately needed expertise, however, it is certain that the island's ICT community has not seen the last of her yet.

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This week



TEDDY CARE: Director of Radio Thailand Phuket Jirada Deechaiya (right) presents a basket of animal dolls and OTO candy to welcome Prime Minister's Office Inspector Changthong Opassiriwit (left) at Phuket Provincial Hall on April 9. He was in Phuket to help generate awareness of the government's "Seven Days of Danger" road-safety campaign during the Songkran holiday period.



TAG TEAM: Kan Eang@Pier Executive Director Wallee Pachantabutr (back row, 3rd from right) welcomes Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva (back row, 4th from right) and Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra (right), former president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, with their team at Kan Eang@Pier restaurant during K. Abhisit's visit to Phuket with his family last month.



THE 10-YEAR ITCH: The editorial team of the *Phuket Gazette*, led by Managing Editor Chris Husted (middle row, blue shirt) say farewell to former *Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhae "Oy" Leelanaporn (front row, white shirt) at Thainaan restaurant on April 10. K. Oy called it a day after being with the *Gazette* for just over a decade.



CHECK IT OUT: Lt Col Apiwat Chaisrisut (4th from left) of Kamala Police Station recently accepted a donation of three police checkpoint signs from Pierre Louis Desjoux (5th from left), managing director of swimming pool company Desjoux (Phuket) Co Ltd. Present for the handover were Thai Diving Association President Ronachai Jindaphol (3rd from left) and Desjoux staff.



AFTER-SALE SMILES: from left Joanna Swain, sales and marketing manager of Lersuang Group Holdings Co Ltd, Errol Salih, director of Lersuang Group Holdings; and Phil Marmara, managing director of UPL Real Estate on April 3 after the announcement that Lersuang Group Holdings' Turtle Cove project has been sold to David Lloyd Asia in conjunction with UPL Real Estate.



TURTLE POWER: Michelle Mouille (left), co-ordinator of Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, joins John Webb (red shirt), JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa general manager, Manote Saithong (center), village chief of Mai Khao Village 4, and children to release turtles into the sea during the village's annual Songkran turtle-release ceremony on April 13 at Mai Khao Beach.

There are many training options for fitness enthusiasts and other potential gym users on Phuket. Here you can find everything from large scale, fully equipped gymnasiums, personal training studios to health spas and basic facilities at resorts. There is something to cater for every budget and taste.

There are many factors to consider when deciding which one is best suited to you. The first is location; getting to the gym must be convenient. If you have to drive through congested streets in peak traffic hours to get to the gym, chances are that your enthusiasm will plummet after a few weeks.

Before signing up, do some research and locate every potential training facility close to your home or place of work.

The next step is to drive to these facilities at the same time as you would if you were going to the gym to work out. This will give you a feel for how long it takes to get there. Also, ask the gym staff for a free trial workout session – many will be happy to oblige.

When you have decided which gym works the best for you, the next step is to set yourself some fitness goals. Line these up along with your budget and the facilities required to achieve these goals.

If you don't have pressing budget restrictions you may want to consider getting a personal trainer. Though having your own trainer will cost you more, you will achieve your goals both quickly and safely.

Your trainer will do all the thinking for you, keeping you motivated and enthusiastic about the goals you have set.

Finding room for fitness



Key in choosing where to work out is finding a venue with the equipment you want to use. Ask for a free workout, you'd be surprised how many gym managers will say yes.

There are trainers working out of many gymnasiums and spas around Phuket. Good examples are Sukko Spa, Twin Palms Resort, Hilton Arcadia Resort and the RPM Health Club at Royal Phuket Marina.

Personal training has come a long way since I started my own business in Melbourne, Australia in 1989. Back then people would look at me in wonder when I told them that I was a trainer, thinking

that I trained horses...

Back then it was thought of as an exclusive service for only the mega rich, celebrities and movie stars. Today, personal training services are used by a diverse variety of people.

With the introduction of personal training studios, personal training has evolved into a new stage. The advantages are obvious. You get to train in your own gym with your own trainer in total privacy at a time of your choice.

If you are considering personal train-

ing as an option I recommend that you talk to your prospective trainer and ask a few questions as to his or her qualifications, experience, where he or she has worked and why he or she chose personal training as a career.

You want someone who is passionate and enthusiastic about fitness and someone who will commit to helping you achieve your goals.

Don't forget, you will be employing them so don't be afraid to tell them exactly what your expectations are.

If you decide that you prefer to go with the option of the classic gym membership, visit the facility at the same time of day as you expect to train in order to find out how busy it is. There is no point in joining a gym if it is full to capacity at your designated training time.

Also, check out what services your membership will include, such as fitness testing, training programs, follow ups, re-appraisals and nutritional advice.

If you are looking for a health club that offers a full range of services, such as massage, spa treatments, swimming pool and steam room/sauna, make sure its all included in the membership package.

Be thorough, do your research and get fit.

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

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By Nick Dobyn

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ABOVE: The Tawan-Tawanwan 72's master stateroom and saloon simply ooze stylish luxury. Each room is equipped with LCD TVs and independent audio-visual control panels.

LEFT: Sunnav's new 38 S can slice through the water at 38 knots.

By Nick Davies

A trip to Phang Nga Bay or one of the local islands aboard a flash boat is a stylish way to experience the high life on the water.

Sunnay yacht charter has three luxury yachts of varying sizes stationed at Yacht Haven Marina and the Boat Lagoon Marina, offering day trips and overnight cruises, complete with captain, cabin crew and hostesses, to Phang Nga bay James Bond Island and other islands near Phuket, including Koh Yao

Noi, Koh Yao Yai, Koh Phi Phi Don, Koh Phi Phi Le, Koh Racha and Koh Lanta Yai.

Day trips on these upmarket yachts suit corporate events and outings for groups of up to 25 people, while the overnight cruises can make for intimate excursions for couples and families.

While the captain takes care of navigating and the galley staff look after the food and drink, you can admire the tropical blue-green views.

Catering is provided by deck hands plying you with food and drinks throughout the day, leaving you free to enjoy activities, such as diving and game fishing.



CUTE CREW: Attentive hostesses supply guests with food and drink throughout the trips.

Stepping inside the air-conditioned yachts is like walking into the carpeted suite of a five-star

hotel. Curvaceous polished hardwood is featured throughout.

Steps lead up to the fly deck or down to the galley and cabins. The cabins, or "staterooms", are cozy. Each master cabin has a hatch in the ceiling for stargazing, while lighting and the onboard entertainment systems can be independently controlled.

One of the latest additions to the Sunnav fleet is the *Santawan* Sunnav 38 S. Built last year, the racy "Italian" design combines speed and style.

She is the most compact and fastest of Sunnav's fleet, measuring 38 feet long with a maximum speed of 38 knots, meaning a trip

from Phuket to James Bond Island can take less than an hour.

With two staterooms, one bathroom and saloon, *Santawan* can carry eight people for a day trip or four people on an overnight cruise. Each room is air-conditioned and equipped with an LCD TV connected to a CD/DVD player.

The *Tawanwan* Sunseeker Manhattan 58 can accommodate groups of up to 15 and is ideal for a two-family trip. At 58 feet in length with a maximum speed of 30 knots, *Tawanwan* has three staterooms, two bathrooms, a saloon and two LCD TVs connected to DVD and CD players.

The largest of the three yachts is *Tawan Tawanwan* Sunway FB 72 (2007). Also built last year, she measures 72 feet long and has a maximum speed of 28 knots.

With four staterooms, three bathrooms and a large saloon, plus the fly bridge complete with a Jacuzzi and plenty of space, *Tawan Tawanwan* can take up to 25 people on a day cruise and will comfortably sleep up to 10 people on an overnight cruise. Each room has an LCD TV and a Bose sound system with CD and DVD.

Daily charter rates between May 1 and October 31 (low season) range from 58,000 baht for *Santawan* to 106,000 baht for *Tawanwan* and 193,000 baht for *Tawan Tawanwan*. High season (November 1 to April 30) charter rates range from 70,000 baht to 214,000 baht per day.

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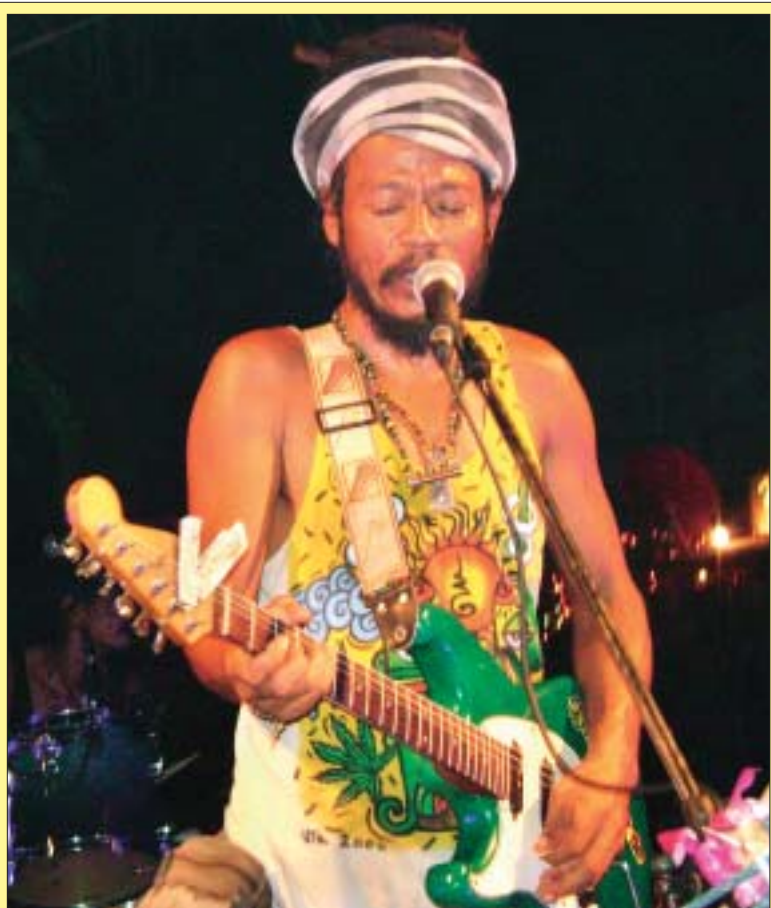
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Getting the Job done



NICE JOB: Kingkan "King" Chanapat (right) celebrates her 23rd birthday and the opening of Tamarind Bar 2 near Chalong Pier on April 18 with her mom and family and Thai reggae artist Bunjob 'Job' Polain of Job 2 Do. K. Job and his band performed a free concert to a street packed with fans for the occasion.



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Thirty-four years after it made its debut at the Geneva motor show, the Volkswagen Scirocco is back. Its makers, Europe's largest automotive group, claim the car is a "sports car fit for everyday use". Volkswagen further claims the new Scirocco combines "high-class technologies with low cost of ownership". While the original Scirocco was built by Germany's Karmann, this one is all-Volkswagen.

Volkswagen chief Martin Winterkorn said, "In the Scirocco, we will be bringing the kind of sports car into the showroom that people dream of. Yet it is a dream that an exceptionally large number of drivers will be able to afford, despite all the high-end technologies we have implemented."

The new Scirocco is available with one of four turbo-charged engines – three gasoline direct-injection and one common-rail diesel. The top-of-the-range gasoline model delivers 197bhp (147kW), while the diesel produces 138bhp. All the motors are mated to an innovative seven-speed DSG gearbox, VW's award-winning manual direct-shift transmission.

Despite its attractive coupé styling, the Scirocco is a full four-seater, with ample space in the rear for two adults. Passengers seated in the rear are treated to individual contoured seats with headrests.

The front seats feature VW's "easy-entry" design and automatically slide forward when tipped forward to permit unhindered access to the back seats. The backs of the rear seats can be folded to increase trunk space.

Standard equipment on all models includes adjustable height on the driver and front-passenger seats, leather parking-brake grip, power windows, electronic stability program, brake assist, six airbags and a panorama glass roof that, says VW, reflects 99% of UV radiation, 97% of infrared radiation and 80% of visible light.

The TDI engine, which will be undoubtedly the most popular – certainly in Europe and, if it arrives here, in Thailand – develops strong power as well as an amazing amount of torque: 320Nm at just 1,750rpm.

The Scirocco's 0-100kmh sprint time for this diesel is an impressive 9.3 seconds, taking the coupé on to a maximum of



Let them drive Sports

Volkswagen chief Martin Winterkorn said the new Scirocco is an affordable dream car within reach of a large number of drivers.

207kmh. The TDI is also available with an optional six-speed DSG dual-clutch transmission.

The most powerful engine, the turbocharged, direct-injection gasoline motor, offers a top speed of 235kmh and a sprint time in the region of 7.2 seconds. With an engine identical to the Golf GTI, this Volkswagen claims remarkable economy at 7.6 liters of gas per 1,000 kilometers.

Tailored to the Scirocco's sporting aspirations is the newly developed adaptive chassis control, which exercises direct control, not only over the suspension characteristics, but also over the variable-speed electro-mechanical

power steering.

Offering three programs – normal, sport and comfort – selected by a button in front of the shift lever, the system adapts to driving and road conditions. It also reacts to acceleration, braking and steering inputs. This resolves the conflict in goals between a stiff sporty suspension and a comfortable one.

In "sport" mode, the suspension becomes significantly stiffer and steering becomes



By Jeff Heselwood

more direct. The opposite occurs in "comfort" mode.

The styling of the new car is distinctive, with short overhangs front and rear. There are historical design cues, including the front grille and air dam, but strong horizontal lines, such as a narrow air inlet between the twin headlamps, finished in black, emphasizing the sporting aspect of the Scirocco.

The side profile, over one headlamp and over the fender

and door, offers profile curves that alternate in direction. Depending on the perspective and lighting, these transitions on the sides of the car give it an aggressive appearance in keeping with VW's stated aims.

Prices for the Scirocco have yet to be released, but expect them to be marginally above the GTI, which is imported. There are rumors that Volkswagen will establish a manufacturing plant in Thailand in the near future, but you can be sure it will not be to build the Scirocco or the GTI.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

April 26. Special BBQ Buffet Diner at Wine Connection Chalong.

A special BBQ Buffet dinner with a huge array of cheeses and dry specialties, such as Parma ham and coppa.

All-in-one for a perfect Saturday evening, including a live band. Only 650+ baht per head.

Contact Pascal for more details. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

April 26-May 17. Soldiers – Art Exhibition.

In his 20 paintings, Tha-weesak 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 and Mac Group Therapy – Chalong.

Join *Windows for Dummies...* author Woody Leonhard and his band of techie irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics.

If you can't get your Windows to work right, if you need to find a decent Internet connection, if you're going to buy a computer in Thailand or if you need to get one fixed, this is the place to be. 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

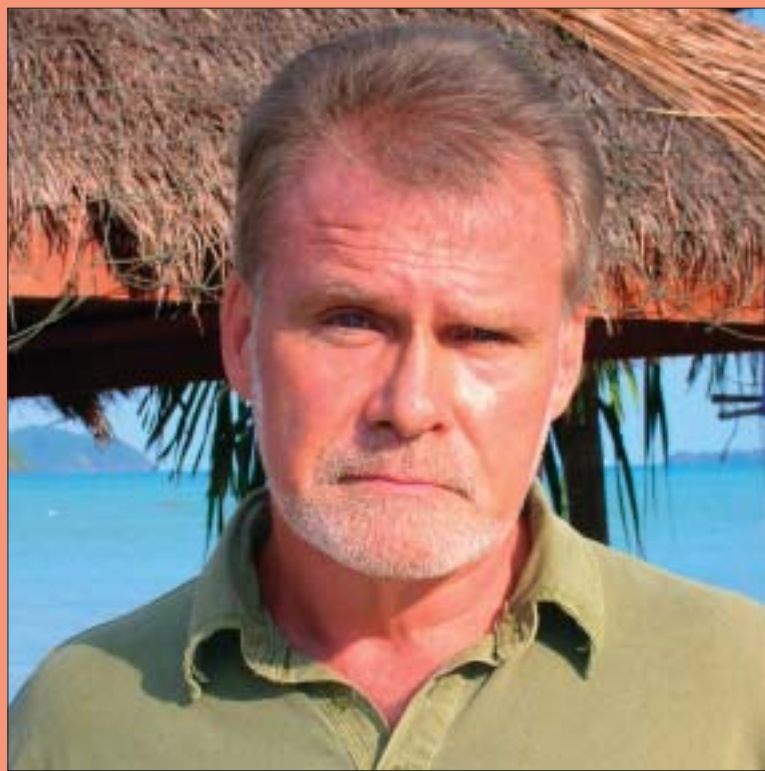
Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

May 1. Labor Day (Public Holiday).

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

May 3. Special BBQ Buffet Dinner at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

Contact Pascal for more information at Tel: 087-8896074 or by email at: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th



THE FACE BEHIND THE BOOKS: Collin Piprell will be on hand to show that anyone who wants to write, should write.

Boathouse Writers' Night with Collin Piprell

May 13

Collin on "Seducing the Muse": "Half the people I know say that, someday, they want to write something. Most people never do. This talk aims to encourage those who'd like to write," says Collin.

Collin will focus on where ideas come from, psychological hurdles for new (and veteran) writers, and a strange phenomenon he calls the "muse effect".

Collin Piprell (www.collinpiprell.com) is a novelist, feature writer, journalist and editor. His books include adventure, thrillers, humor and science fiction. He's Canadian, educated in the UK, resident in Bangkok and well traveled in Southeast Asia.

Mom Tri's Boathouse, 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Contact Lisa Sol for details. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

May 5. Coronation Day (Public Holiday).

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

May 8-30. Boathouse Gallery presents 'Islands' by Laura Baum.

Mom Tri's Boathouse at Kata Beach presents "Islands" by Laura Baum, accomplished American painter of ethereal landscapes.

Laura was a student of Chinese artist Diane Kan, disciple of the revered master Chang Dai Chien (1899-1983). The materi-

als Laura uses lend depth and light to her paintings.

The gold- or silver-leaf boards with a thin layer of rice paper from Japan and the stone and mineral colors, such as malachite and lapis lazuli, bring a surprising power to the images.

The opening cocktail reception is from 7 pm-8:30 pm on May 8, and the exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 9 pm until May 30.

Contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015, 081-9152668. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

May 11. Barefoot Bowling Soi**Dog Foundation Fundraiser.**

Soi Dog Foundation together with Kamala Lawn Bowls Club presents Barefoot Bowling from 3 pm to 6 pm. Beginners welcome. 400 baht per person including bowls and tuition. Buffet at 150 baht per person. Booking essential.

First prize for the winning team is dinner for four at The Chedi and a one-year free membership to the bowls club (worth 6,000 baht). There will also be a raffle.

For more info and tickets contact Cristy. Tel: 084-0544367. Email: cristy@soidog-foundation.org Website: www.soidog-foundation.org

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 Wrigglesworth 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 17. BIS Dinner & Dance at Laguna Beach Resort.

The British International School PTA is having its maiden Dinner and Dance in Year 2008. Dance the night away at Laguna Beach Resort on May 17, from 6:30pm. Dress code: Smart.

Tickets: 2,500 baht per per-

son, including Welcome Drinks, Wine & Open Bar, Live Band, and Raffle & Auction Prizes for Charity. And watch the FA Cup Final on our big screen.

Tickets available at Flints-One Bakery at BIS from 8 am-8:30 am, Monday to Friday, or through the Primary and Secondary Offices at BIS. Or call Annie Peters at 087-2730786 or Carole Hillsmith at 084-4477221.

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, although years apart, these events fell on the same date in the same month on the Buddhist calendar.

May 24 -25. BIS Flying Fish Tawan Cruises Challenge Phuket 2008.

The BIS Flying Fish Swim Club Phuket, together with Tawan Cruises, will be hosting the inaugural Tawan Cruises Challenge Phuket 2008.

This international meet will bring together about 500 swimmers aged up to 18 from around Asia. This event is by invitation only and will be held over two days at BIS Phuket.

Contact Denise Goetz. Tel: 089-8687248. Email: denise@flyingfishphuket.com Website: www.flyingfishphuket.com

May 26-29. Phuket Celebrity Golf Tour.

Play golf with top football, snooker and entertainment celebrities from the UK.

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

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Puzzles

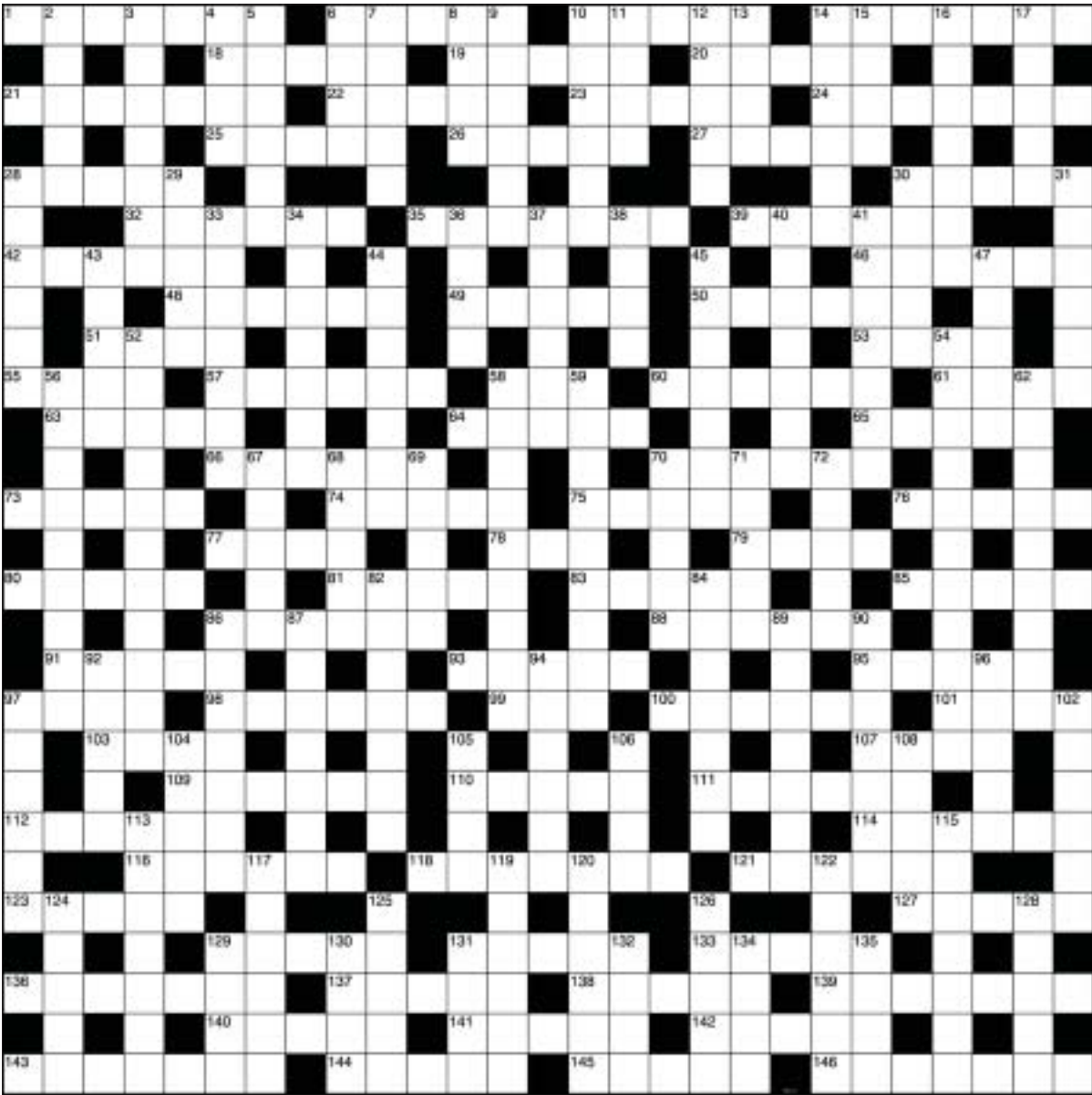
The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?
Solution on the next page.





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- Across
1. Put into words

6. Ghost

10. Male duck

14. Plead with

18. Ultra-virile

19. Actor, Dudley...

20. Eyrie dweller

21. Reeled in (fishing line) (5,2)

22. ...Presley

23. Twelve-months

24. Pantries

25. Screen from sun

26. Robber

27. Started

28. Steak cut (1-4)

30. Wobbly dessert

32. Merriment

35. Infective agents

39. Fried veal dish, ...schnitzel

42. Winches up

46. Flag

48. Debonair

49. Kid

50. Infuriate

51. Insect stage

53. Colored (hair)

55. Naming word

57. Eradicated

58. Haul with effort

60. Available for duty

61. Measure (out)

63. Stable compartment

64. S African Dutch settlers

65. Resin glue

66. Bug

70. Bravery decorations

73. Sectors

74. Social misfits

75. Grumpy

76. Dimensions

77. Chopped

78. Record label (1,1,1)

79. Bread block

80. Rough-skinned

81. Singer, ... John

83. Martial arts expert

85. Ancient Indians

86. Positive electrodes

88. Double bike

91. Paintbrush hair

93. Acute anxiety

95. Unconcealed

97. Cry piteously

98. Harvested

99. Vapour

100. Scanned (credit card)

101. Waist ribbon

103. Greek cheese

107. Soviet Union

109. Dress

110. Bid

111. Obligated

112. Luxurious (2,4)

114. Meal course

116. Nit-picker

118. Surrounded

121. Movie examiner

123. The Yorkshire...

127. Storms

129. Better (weather)

131. Tree-snake

133. Tired & bored

136. Dirtied

137. WWII German fascists

138. Join up

139. Nappies

140. Performed again

141. Pilfered

142. Cawing bird

143. Blind alley (4,3)

144. Dimples

145. Cobs or pens

146. River Jordan lake (4,3)
- Down
2. Atomic device (1-4)

3. Window shelters

4. Large birds

5. Fragrant pink flower

6. Hut

7. Warsaw natives

8. Exclude

9. Acceptable to Jews

10. Laundry machines

11. Coral bank

12. Pavement edges

13. Uncomfortable, ill at...

14. Mistreat (3-3)

15. Intend

16. Borders

17. Rustic

28. Iranian capital

29. Consume (3,2)

30. Female donkey

31. ...Doodle Dandy

33. From Tel Aviv

34. Drink sachets (3,4)

36. Craving

37. Special

38. Small whirlpool

40. Indianapolis state

41. Syringes

43. Data for computer

44. Fortification

45. Removed errors from

47. Look-up guide

52. Unobtainable

54. Without feelings

56. Cold-shoulder

58. Unfastening

59. Filthiness

62. Restricts to role

67. Disgraced US president

68. Became,... up

69. Jogs

70. Get up on (horse)

71. Actor,... McDermott

72. Tenancy agreement

82. Young hare

84. Cross road recklessly

86. Charged with bubbles

87. Acclaim

89. Corrupt morally

90. Self-contained units

92. Appalling

94. Blundered

96. Not as common

97. Took care of

102. Refuges

104. Puts strain on

105. Mongolian desert

106. Authentic

108. Spanish Mr

113. Turned upside-down

115. Snared

117. Complied,... by the rules

119. Cooks in oven

120. Defames

122. Required

124. Regale

125. Rank

126. Tennis great,... Borg

128. Uncanny

129. Shade plant

130. Writer,... Blyton

131. Fog

132. Once more

134. Regrettably

135. Wine &...

Answers on next page

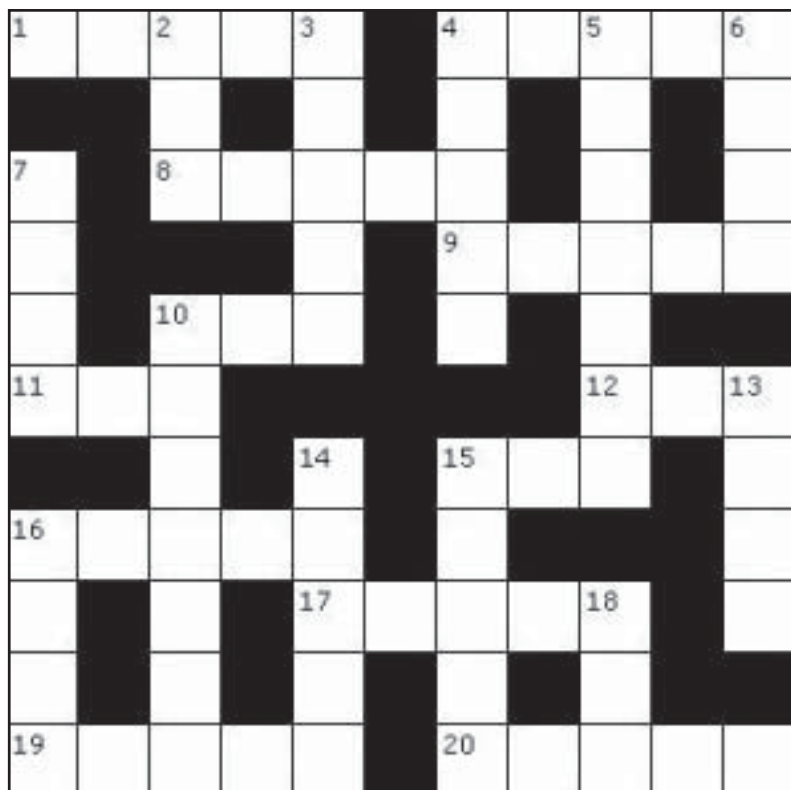
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Undefined
4. Consume liquid
8. Subject
9. Down on your knees
10. Prise
11. Chinese drink
12. Basketball league
15. Which person?
16. Not from around here
17. Denim trousers
19. Diversion
20. Madonna movie

Down

2. Belly
3. Nothing there
4. Place for boats
5. Hell
6. Take a life
7. Used in fishing
10. Ocean
13. Bullets and shells
14. Have fun
15. Large sea creature
16. Old
18. Nakhon... Thammarat

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Which is the only letter of the alphabet not to appear in the names of any of the periodic elements?
2. What is the largest country in the world with only one time zone?
3. What is the world's northernmost capital city?
4. In which Clint Eastwood film was the catchphrase "Go ahead, make my day" first used?
5. Which country's flag is the oldest in the world?
6. How many different scoring areas are there on a traditional dart board?
7. Who is the only dwarf not to speak in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"?
8. Where is the Olympus Mons volcano?
9. What is the largest internal human organ?
10. The phrase "green-eyed monster" originated in which Shakespeare play?
11. Which two European capital cities are closest together?
12. Which football team has its ground closest to the River Mersey?
13. Mount Everest is located on the border between which two countries?
14. Who was the first person to sail around the world?
15. Which European Queen was a widow by age 18?
16. Who is the current UFC heavyweight champion?
17. Which bird lays the biggest eggs?
18. Which international superstar singer starred in the 1997 movie *Ghosts*?
19. Steveland Judkins is the birth name of which acclaimed music legend?
20. In which US state is the city of Albuquerque?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. J; 2. China; 3. Reykjavik; 4. *Sudden Impact*; 5. Denmark's; 6. 82; 7. Dopey; 8. Mars; 9. The liver; 10. *Othello*; 11. Vienna and Bratislava; 12. Stockholm; 13. Nepal and Tibet; 14. Ferdinand Magellan; 15. Mary Queen of Scots; 16. Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira; 17. The ostrich; 18. Michael Jackson; 19. Stevie Wonder; 20. New Mexico.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



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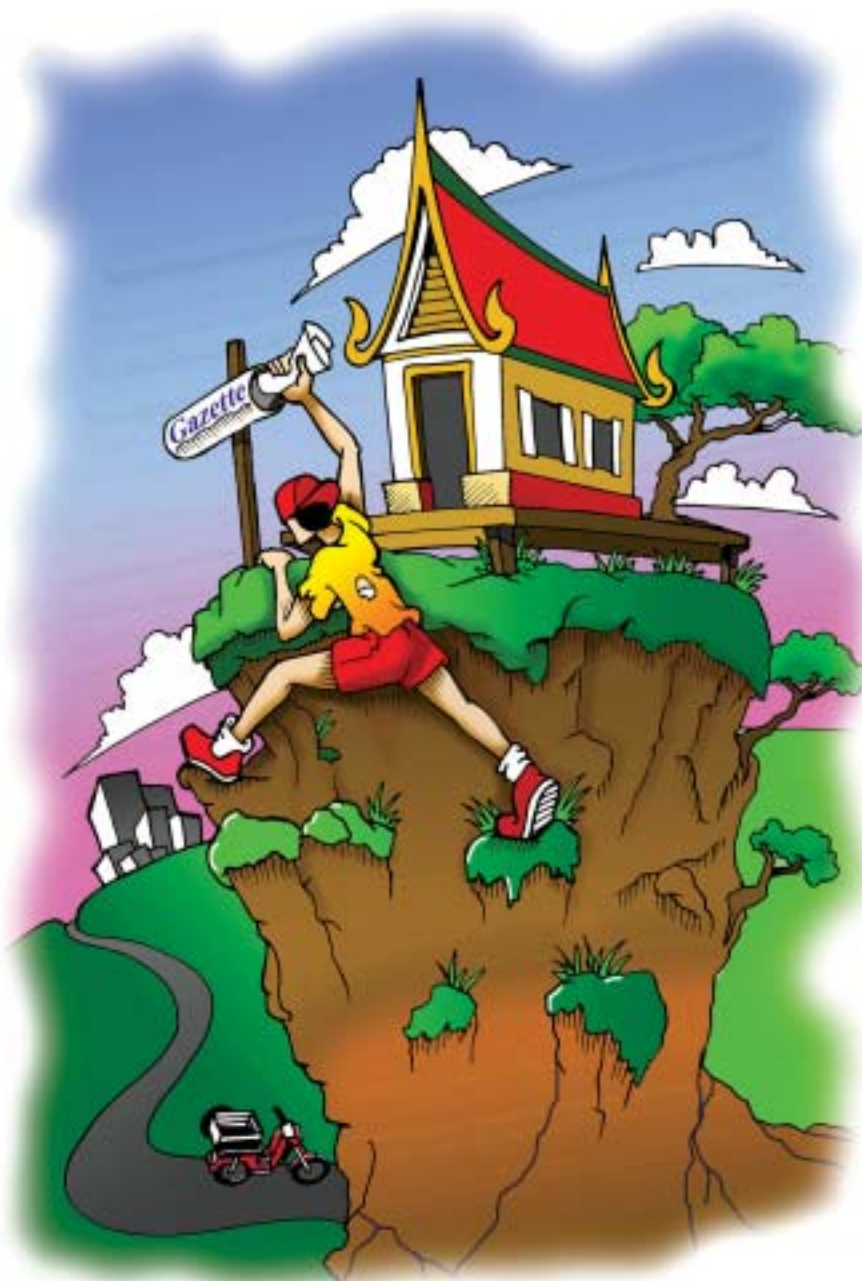
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There's something about Songkran

One Songkran, when my mom was 14 years old, a fortuneteller told her, "You will marry an engineer from an island far away from Thailand"

My mom, as most Thais are, is superstitious and believes in a lot of this kind of stuff.

"I've never forgotten that day," she recalls, any time I ask her something about her life. "I was with some friends enjoying Songkran one day in Bangkok. We were near a restaurant by the Chao Praya River. A fortuneteller wearing colorful clothes caught our attention and we decided to have a little peek into our futures.

"When it came to my turn, the fortuneteller told me that my future will be bright, full of money, health and so on. Before leaving, she told me that my love will be an engineer born on an island far away from Thailand."

My mother was so impressed with this that from that day forth, whenever a boy approached her, she would ask him

if he was born on an island and what his job was. It was almost 15 years later, at a restaurant in the Narai Hotel in Silom, Bangkok, when she eventually met my father.

Thousands of miles away from Thailand, an engineer born on a Mediterranean island was constructing roads in Nigeria. The man, who would eventually become my father, worked in Africa after he had finished university. He liked Africa so much he decided to stay.

One day, an Italian foreman went to work at the same company as my father. The foreman arrived in Africa after having worked a stint in Thailand. He told my father stories about life in Thailand.

My father to be was captivated by these stories. Little by little, my he learned about the Land of Smiles: the temples, gentle people, massages, flowers, festivals – it sounded too good to be true.

After my father had been back in his native Italy for a few

years, he happened to find a job that would see him based in Asia. He was amazed that an Italian company would ask him to go and work in Asia. Not long after that, he was on an airplane destined for Bangkok.

During celebrations for a Hindu festival, on Silom Rd in Bangkok, my father saw a magician with two swords protruding from his mouth and heavy iron balls hanging from his flesh.

My father was so terrified that he turned his gaze away from the man and chanced upon a small lady nearby. She understood my father's fear and told him not be scared and that the magician was protected by a god.

My father became friends with the woman, whose name is Coon – a friend of my mother's. At the time, my mother was working as the manageress of a jewelry store on Suriwong Rd, just 200 meters from the Narai Hotel, where my father was staying.

Coon had some difficulties with her English, so one time when she was speaking to my father, Coon phoned my mother-to-be for help with translation.

My father heard my mother's voice and something clicked – he liked her right away.

From then on, my mother spoke regularly on the phone with the "Italian farang", and three months later they had their first date. They had lunch together at the Narai Hotel.

They already knew each other quite well from their lengthy phone conversations but what was most important to my mother was that my father was

born on an island – Sicily – and that he was an engineer. They fell in love and two years later, I was born.

I adore this story so much that one time, I made my father take me to all of the places in Bangkok where my parents used to go when they first met.

In a world of broken hearts and broken marriages, I am lucky to have a united family and I hope that one day, a fortuneteller will predict a romantic future for me.

Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giuletta

On the prowl for Siamized Expats

In response to my recent column on Siamized Expats, alert reader Brian Davis has sent me a few criteria that anthropologist Dr Antoinette Anthropolopoulos overlooked.

Brian maintains that a Semi-Siamized Expat ought to be able to tell the difference between a ladyboy and a real woman. This is true. When trying to identify ladyboys, a completely Siamized Expat ought to guess the gender-at-birth correctly 100% of the time. A Semi-Siamized Expat will get it right at least 50% of the time. But an Utterly Un-Siamized Expat will get it wrong every time, and babble, "Huh? But she's so beautiful! She can't be a man!"

Un-Siamized Expats sometimes react to ladyboys with horror and disgust. Even Semi-Siamized Expats may feel uneasy around them. But Thai society accepts them and I believe that this is the proper attitude. After all, they are human and they have a tough life. It can't be much fun for a man who feels that he is really a woman to be trapped in a man's body. The result is bound to be unhappiness and confusion. So let's treat these ladies with sympathy and let he who is without sin cast the first stone.

Moving to another topic, Brian notes that a Semi-Siamized Expat won't believe a bar girl when she tells him she loves him. This is true, but there's an exception. It's okay to believe a bar girl if she tells you, "I love you same-same monkey love banana."

Brian also claims that a Semi-Siamized Expat won't believe that a Buddha amulet can protect him from a 10-wheeled truck speeding past another vehicle on a blind bend. But I think that's just because he's only Semi-Siamized. A truly Siamized Expat will place complete faith in his amulet, especially if it's of the

powerful Jatukam Ramathep variety. He'll also believe in ghosts and think he can get the winning lottery numbers from famous monks.

Brian adds that a Semi-Siamized Expat won't take his mat to a *mor lam* performance and sit at the front or sides, where he'll have drunks falling all over him or find himself in the middle of an interschool fight and risk getting hearing damage from the speakers or the screams of teenage girls.

Well, a Semi-Siamized Expat probably won't. But I believe that the truly hard-core Siamized Expat will rejoice in all this and regard it as an indispensable part of the Thai Experience.

In fact, the typical Siamized Expat has attended so many *mor lam* performances that he's stone deaf. Unfortunately, when it comes to *mor lam* performances, I have to confess that I am Utterly Un-Siamized. I once attended a housewarming party in Srisaket where the amplifiers were as big as cathedrals and the music thundered all night long.

The house shook and swayed from the vibrations; the earth trembled, small animals keeled over and birds fell dead from the skies. It was impossible to sleep and I suffered permanent brain damage which my editor assures me is largely to blame for the content of these columns.

A completely Siamized Expat on the other hand would have joined in the revelry with wild abandon. Never mind that his brain would have been imploding and blood would have been gushing out of his ears.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's fleeing *mor lam* performances with blood gushing out of his ears.


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By S. TSOW



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A great new Phuket guide

You might think that we need another guidebook to Phuket like we need another novel about bar girls. But you'd be wrong. Oliver Hargreave's *Exploring Phuket & Phi Phi* (Odyssey Books & Guides, Hong Kong, 2008, 257pp) is the product of prodigious research, tireless legwork and a fine critical mind. He packs a huge amount of information into a small handbook.

His methodology is to divide the island into five parts and take the reader carefully from the quiet northwest beaches down through the big west coast beaches of Patong, Karon and Kata and up around the bottom of the island through Phuket City to the east coast.

Along the way, he presents pockets of undeveloped beauty: Nai Yang and Nai Thon, Ao Saen, Freedom Beach, Koh Racha Yai and Coral Island. He then moves further afield, to the beaches of Krabi, Phi Phi and Phang Nga. Each area is meticulously mapped out.

The heart of the book, though, are its extensive historical sections, set off with old photos and fascinating sidebars. Beginning with Neolithic hunter-gatherers and moving up to smalltime tin miners and pirates and occasional traders from Persia, India and China, Hargreave

points out that Phuket has always been on the edge of history, unlike, say, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, which flourished for 2,000 years since the time of the Funan Empire.

"Prior to the 16th century, Phuket and the Andaman Coast of Thailand had long been part of a pirate-infested coast, on the periphery of greater powers, whether the Burmese and Mon to the north, the Khmer Empire to the east, the Malay of Srivijaya to the south or the Cholas of South India to the west. Only when Ayudhaya joined the struggle with Malacca for control of the Straits and when the Portuguese came east, does the history of Phuket become a matter of public record."

Hargreave devotes an extensive section to the tin industry in Phuket, which grew in importance as immigrant Chinese brought in gravel-pump technology. The Chinese flourished, always looking south to Penang as the place to smuggle tin and educate their children.

British and Australian engineers introduced bucket dredgers in the 1920s, giving rise to Phuket's boom days. Able administration followed by the Na Ranong family, especially the great governor Khaw Simbee, who mandated that the big tin companies develop the infrastructure of the island.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

The Chinese tycoon families left behind their unique architecture: Chinese, Sino-Portuguese, Art Deco. Hargreave provides detailed cut-away interior designs of these houses with their narrow frontages and concealed atria.

He provides a map and postage stamp photos of 20 of these architectural gems. One sprawling mustard-yellow mansion I've often admired I learned belongs to the Tantavanitj family. What's the history behind it?

"According to Khun Pracha Tantavanitj, his family's history in Phuket began when General Tan U Yee fled China from Fujian Province with 5000-6000 men

in seven or eight junks to escape the political troubles after the Tongzhi restoration in 1862. Arriving in Phuket, he sought out his friend, Luang Aram Sakhonkhet, and went into business with him."

Now you know. There are hundreds of fascinating historical nuggets scattered through this book, including the stories behind the great Baba Chinese families, ancient temples, the Vegetarian Festival, sea gypsies, Phuket noodles, cultured pearls and turtle eggs. The detail is immense. Eighteen pages are devoted to the Vegetarian Festival alone.

Toward the end of the book, the author turns to Koh Phi Phi and the horrendous destruction wrecked upon it by the tsunami. Ironically, here and on other beaches in Phuket and Phang Nga, the monster waves had the effect of clearing out decades of tacky haphazard commercialization.

The author doesn't hold out much hope for more rational development in the future.

He quotes a former president of Krabi's Chamber of Commerce on the question of virgin beaches: "Krabi is like a young virgin. She will get old anyway. So we might as well marry her off or do something to benefit from it."

Are you finished with that, lav?

Before I am finished eating in restaurants, waiters and waitresses frequently ask, "Are you still working on that?" Are they trained to ask this question? Can't they see I am not yet finished? What does "working on that" mean?

Jo McDonald
Auburn Hills, Michigan

Barbara replies:

I think it's intended to be facetious – or anyway, that's what's intended by people who pay any attention to the words that come out of such people's mouths. Note to restaurant employees: Nobody likes this phrase.

Saying "May I take your plate?" would be better.

While we're on the subject of things that are annoying to hear from restaurant personnel, a few others are as follows: "Enjoy!" when the waiter puts a dish on the table. Grammatically,

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 stops clear understanding – all by answering reader's questions.

that's a command – which suggests what's wrong with it. Don't tell me what to do. I'd rather hear, "I hope you enjoy your meal."

Another irritant is "you guys" used in reference to a mixed-sex group, as in "How are you guys doing?" It's true that we have just one pronoun, "you", for the second person, whether it's singular or plural.

Well, "you" is what we have to work with, so let's everybody go ahead and use it: "How are you today?"

Finally, there's "No problem," "Not a problem" or (this one takes the booby prize) "No

worries" when, for instance, a diner asks for a glass of water. The implication is that a lesser person or establishment might indeed have a problem fulfilling the request – which is absurd.

"No problem" should be reserved for situations such as, "I don't like the \$400 bottle of wine I ordered, and I want you to take it back" or "Excuse me, waiter, I seem to have set the table on fire."

Our local elementary school has signs on two doors outside the teachers' lounge reading "Men's Staff" and "Women's Staff". But upon entering each room, one finds a lavatory, not a staff. Do you find those signs acceptable?"

Steve Holtzman
Madison, Wisconsin

Barbara replies:

No. In fact, I find it scary that people who educate children haven't objected and had them changed.

The only reason they haven't, I imagine, is that "staff" starts with "S," and the sound of it blurs the sound of the possessive "S," so it isn't as blindingly obvious that the phrases are just

as wrong as if the signs read "Men's Teachers" and "Women's Teachers".

What should the signs be changed to, though? "Men Staff" and "Women Staff" seem a bit peculiar. "Male Staff" and "Female Staff" might be better. But can the intent really be to keep out adult visitors as well as students? If not – and assuming that the students' bathrooms are labeled "Boys" and "Girls" – "Men" and "Women" might be best of all.

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



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As reef is sunk, questions rise up

The planned sinking on May 5 of 10 military aircraft in Bang Tao Bay at first glance seems to be a “win-win” situation [see News pages].

The donated aircraft have been stripped of materials that could harm marine life and the new site should help take some pressure off existing dive sites, such as those inside the Similan and Surin Marine National Parks.

Deeper consideration raises several concerns, however. For a start, Bang Tao Bay seems a somewhat odd choice for the placement of an artificial reef. Under the best circumstances, Bangtao Bay is a rather long boat ride from Chalong Bay, the center of Phuket’s dive tourism industry.

While the few dive shops in Chong Talay will no doubt benefit, choppy conditions off the west coast tend to make diving there difficult if not impossible for much of the year.

Perhaps the greatest concern, however, is how the 10 aircraft will be fixed securely to the seabed to prevent subsurface drift.

The *Gazette* hopes that all of the many parties involved in the operation have studied this issue carefully, as there are numerous examples of well-intentioned artificial reef projects failing on this point.

The plan is to use large concrete blocks to fix the aircraft securely in place and surround the entire 2,500-square-meter site with more concrete blocks to serve as a kind of barrier.

It is essential that this is done properly from the outset; if the aircraft drift, they could scrape across living reefs and cause other environmental damage, just as poorly-conceived used-tire artificial reefs dropped off the coast of Florida in the early 1970s did – and still do to this day.

There are several other examples of offshore wrecks used as dive sites migrating across the seabed. In the 1990s, one shipwreck drifted from deep water up onto a beach in front of the Ela Beach Hotel in Port Moresby, while in Hawaii one popular 25-meter-deep plane wreck drifted into deeper water, making it inaccessible for recreational diving.

These aircraft, used in the Korean and Vietnam wars, seem like an odd choice for an artificial reef because they are mostly aluminum, which does not host new coral growth nearly as well as the concrete, steel, and iron found in many purpose-built artificial reefs.

As a tourist attraction, we wonder whether the artificial reef could have been better sited or whether airplane parts scattered over 2,500 square meters will be more attractive than the tin mining sledge there now – but only time will tell.

– The Editor

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

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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.

Drive hard with a vengeance

Has anyone seen the small, new billboards all over Patong that read “Drive fast be careful”?

Maybe they are meant to read “If you drive fast, be careful”. Yes, that makes more sense. No wonder tourists can’t cross the road in Patong for the unrelenting, speeding traffic.

At least if you get maimed by a fast-but-careful driver, it’s good to know that Patong Hospital’s emergency ward is sponsored by Singha beer, as their large sign says.

The *Gazette* ran a story a few weeks ago saying that in Phuket, we have 20% more extra cars on the road each year.

That’s an extra 15,000 to 20,000 cars on an island 40 kilometers by 80km.

The government minister you interviewed said this was a good thing. Everyone better drink and drive as fast as they can now, before the gridlock sets in.

Wok
Patong

Thanks is not enough

Your editorial in the April 19-25 issue rightly denounces the mistreatment of Burmese workers, yet your counterpoint strikes me as weak. You say the Burmese “deserve our thanks” for their hard work. Gratitude is nice, I suppose, but it’s far short of what these people really deserve.

How about safe working and living conditions? What about some compassion if and when they do get caught for simply trying to earn a living? How about

protection and education for their children, who get dragged along with them in their search for a better life?

I hope the *Gazette* does its part in “thanking” the Burmese by continuing to investigate and expose this tragic yet essential part of Phuket’s economic miracle, and embarrass the powers that be into taking some real action against their exploitation.

Their blood is on our hands if we continue to ignore them.

Susan
Chalong

Stand up for your farang rights

I am outraged at the number of foreigners who live in Phuket and complain about every single thing under the sun. Although I join their fray by writing this letter, this has been bugging me so much that I’ve set up a group to raise awareness of “dislike crimes” committed by foreigners in Phuket.

If anyone would like to become involved, we will be meeting in bikinis outside City Hall to trade minor insults with each other in the hope of drawing some media attention to our plight.

In the firing line will be people who seem incapable of finding somewhere to eat on the island. Are people unaware that there are, in fact, hundreds of restaurants in Phuket? Sure, maybe you had a bad experience at Bob’s Barn or The Pink Lady, but so what? Why not go and eat somewhere else?

Also in our sights are those people who think that Tesco exists in Phuket for the sole purpose of satisfying the needs of the island’s British contingent. Oh,

how outraged you were that a tin of baked beans should cost you two feathers and a hen’s egg more than it would in the UK.

Oh yes, we the British made Tesco what it is, so let them roll out the red carpets whenever Old Bill makes his way there to shell out some loose change on a cabbage and a box of cornflakes.

Jaded Jack
Surin Beach

Ignore the warnings at your own peril

It was sad but not surprising to hear about a man swimming off Nai Yang Beach being struck by lightning.

Although beach safety has improved with the addition of *OrBorJor* lifeguards on duty at popular beaches, I’ve heard stories from tourism workers who have seen tourists swept away during storms, even after they’ve been warned of the dangers.

If the locals don’t do something, it’s usually for a good reason.

John Baptismo
Chong Talay

In Jeff we trust

What made Jeff Heselwood’s article [“Tata closes deal on Jaguar, Land Rover buyout”, April 12-18 *Gazette*] about the Tata takeover of Jaguar and Land Rover interesting was the mention of the final “deals” of things I would never usually think about, such as pensions, unions and governments.

Thanks again for a great insight.

Michael
By email

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

Phuket's Wonder Woman looks back on a decade

I never wanted to be a journalist. I studied communication arts at Siam University in Bangkok, majoring in public relations.

My dream was to do public relations for a hotel and then find a high-paying job in an air-conditioned office, talking with friendly people.

After working at a hotel for a short time, I heard that 89FM radio needed a reporter.

I was an announcer, but I had to find and report the news myself. After that, I never wanted to do PR anymore.

As a reporter, you gain a lot of experience and you learn many things.

Your world is bigger than most people. That's why I love being a reporter. I have seen many things I never had the chance to learn about before.

One of the biggest challenges in this job is earning respect. I feel bad whenever I see people giving money in an envelope to a reporter – that's the way it's done. It's as if they're saying they don't respect our job.

You have to be strong and stand up against this practice so we don't have people asking, "Why did you write about this when I gave you money?"

If you accept money then you have to write 100% positive news.

As a reporter, you will have those who hate you and those who like you.

I was the second reporter

FIRST PERSON

After 10 years with the *Phuket Gazette*, Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanaporn is stepping down to pursue a freelance career, which will include being a *Gazette* contributor.

Here, the Phuket native describes the highs and lows of her decade on the Phuket beat and what drives her to be a journalist.



hired by the *Gazette*, in 1998.

I had never spoken English before and on the first day of work I was terrified. I had to study English every day and I would stay up until midnight every night watching English movies so I could pick up the language. I tried to learn 20 words a day.

Now, though my English is still not so good, I am brave enough to talk to foreigners. You have to speak English, otherwise if you go out and you don't speak you look silly.

I've written hundreds of stories over the years. One of the most memorable involved a *ya bah* (methamphetamine) bust in Tab Lamu, Phang Nga, where police seized seven million pills.

At 7 am, a navy officer called me and said, "Hey Oy,

come with us, we have a big story," but he wouldn't tell me what it was about or where.

He said that if I wanted to cover it I would have to meet him at Phuket Provincial Hall in 15 minutes.

We drove all the way up to Phang Nga and until we arrived, I had no idea what was happening. They caught some of the Burmese men delivering the drugs, but the big guys got away.

It is still the biggest drug bust on record in Thailand. I can remember the smell of the pills and the marijuana.

Another memorable story involved a raid on a brothel suspected of housing underage prostitutes, also in Tab Lamu.

It was another situation where I was asked to come along without being told what for. In this

case, former MP Pavena Hongsakul was leading the raid, bringing with her two girls who said they had run away from the brothel.

No arrests were made, but I'll never forget the sight of those small, dirty rooms at the back of the karaoke bar. I had never seen such a place before. I realized then why it is called the "sex trade".

The tsunami was our biggest story. I went to Khao Lak one day after the tsunami and felt like I'd entered World War II. There were helicopters flying around and large cranes clearing out the debris. There were still a lot of bodies.

The reporter team was under a lot of pressure for three or four months after. It was only bad and sad news every day. There

were so many people calling for information about their relatives. People were in shock.

But it became easier as time passed, after people were able to contact their relatives, build new houses and rebuild their lives.

One of the best things about being a reporter is the chance to talk with people from all walks of life. I've been in contact with soldiers, *ya bah* dealers, policemen, politicians. I've interviewed everyone from a poor, legless man to a top government official.

Being a reporter can be dangerous, but I've never been threatened. I take precautions, however.

There have been a couple of times when I kept a knife in my car, just in case. I always tell friends or relatives where I'm going and how long I will be there. Sometimes, if I'm at a remote location, I'll take a lot of pictures of the scene.

Maybe I watch too many movies, but I think that if I have a lot of pictures, then if I am killed, the police will have some evidence.

It's mostly just about using common sense. One time, I was at a pineapple farm and the man I was interviewing asked me to follow him into the jungle because he wanted to show me something, but I refused. Another time, I was interviewing a man and he locked the door of the room we were in. I was nervous but I didn't show it. Nothing happened, but I was scared.

Many times, I'm the only woman on the scene covering a story. I've been out walking over mountains in five-inch heels covering news, but I wrote my story as well as any man.

Though being a woman hasn't hindered my career, it has created some interesting situations.

After the tsunami, I went to Koh Lanta with the navy and I was the only woman. I had to use the toilet and I asked them where I could go.

They just looked at me in shock. "A woman wants to go to the toilet! What toilet?"

They had to open the commander's toilet for me and for security reasons an officer had to follow me and wait for me outside. I felt very strange using the toilet with the navy waiting outside.

Whatever you do, you have to love it. If you work just for money or because you have nothing better to do, you'll just do it day by day. But if you work at what you love, it will always be interesting; you will always be looking ahead to see how it will develop.

People who are in journalism do it for love. Reporters always want to know "why?"

How much will I be charged for a blessing?

I am opening a new marketing company above Baansan market and I would like to have a blessing from monks. What should I pay the temple for this service?

I think it is a nice thing to have a blessing and good for the temple, too. What would be an appropriate donation?

Stephen Keen
Phuket

Pra Kru Watorn Suwankij, deputy abbot of Wat Suwankiriwong, Patong, replies:

For a new business, you would normally choose to invite

Issues & ANSWERS

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five, seven or nine monks for a blessing ceremony in the morning, or you can just invite one monk to bless and make an auspicious marking at your shop's door.

You may also invite the monks to stay on after the ceremony for breakfast or lunch at your shop.

There is no cost involved, but you are welcome to donate

to the temple as you wish.

It's best to come to the temple in person to invite the monks and take a Thai with you who can communicate with the monk.

Wat Suwankiriwong is located at the base of Patong hill, at the intersection of Phrabamee Rd and Phisit Karani Rd. Tel: 076-344281.

Thai passport service in Phuket

Does anyone know when the Thai Passport Office will be back in Phuket? I heard that they were at Central Phuket Festival last year.

This is for issuing first-time passports, not renewals.

Gary Gilbert
Chalong

Kannika Klinchan, passport mobile service unit officer of Thai Consul Department, replies:

The service will be offered from May 12 to May 23 at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) meeting room, from 8 am until 4:30 pm daily, except on Sunday, May 18.

Taking pets overseas

The announcement that Phuket had been declared rabies free has brought a flurry of calls as to whether pets could be exported to other countries without restrictions. The short answer is "no", and this is unlikely to change until all of Thailand is recognized as being free of rabies by the World Health Organization.

Exporting pets overseas, and calls from tourists asking how they can take a dog they have found on the beach home with them, is by far my biggest postbag item.

Only last week I had a panic call from the airport. A Russian couple had arrived to check in on a flight to Germany with a dog they had found in Karon. The dog had no paperwork and was in a plastic bin with holes roughly cut out to allow it to breathe.

After speaking on the phone with the tourist, who fortunately spoke English, the dog was sent back to their hotel, where the tourist's mother was staying on a couple of days. As she could speak only German and Russian, I asked a German volunteer to visit her and explain the position and to check on the dog.

As soon as the volunteer saw the dog, she recognized it as one she had seen a few weeks earlier and which had a very devoted Thai owner. The bemused dog was returned to its delighted family.

This week I've had big problems shipping two dogs to France after the agent told me Air France no longer carried live animals. This was nonsense and after calls to the airline the matter was resolved.

It is impossible to go into the requirements for every country in this article, and such information is available on the Internet. Requirements vary considerably from very simple (North America) to very difficult (Australasia).

However, four requirements apply to every country. 1) Any dog or cat being exported MUST have a microchip inserted. 2) Any dog or cat being exported MUST have a valid up-to-date rabies vaccination record. 3) The animal MUST be taken to the veterinary department at the cargo depot at the airport, preferably three working days before departure, along with all health check documentation and the export license. 4) The animal MUST be shipped in an IATA-approved cage, in most cases, fitted with an automatic water feeder.

Animals can generally be shipped either as cargo or accompanied baggage, but check with the airline well in advance. German airline LTU will carry accompanied pets very cheaply, but all other airlines are likely to charge as much, if not more, than a regular passenger ticket.

European countries, except the UK and Sweden, require a blood sample from the animal be tested for rabies antibody levels by an approved EU laboratory at least 30 days after a rabies vaccination has been given.

The test cannot be done in Thailand. The only veterinary practice offering this service is the Phuket Animal Hospital on Chao Fa West Rd.

An EU health certificate, which is available in English, French and German, must be completed. For Switzerland you must also apply for an import license from the Swiss Veterinary Office. These can be obtained on the Internet or directly from myself.

Dogs going to the UK either can be sent immediately with only a microchip number but will be subject to six months' quarantine. A popular alternative, the one which the two dogs I sent this week are following, is to ship them to France where the pets live with an English family while the animals qualify for an EU pet passport. Similarly, to export pets to Sweden, most Swedes elect to ship animals to Denmark first.

North America is very accommodating to Thai dogs and cats, though you would need to check whether the particular state you are sending the animal to has any additional requirements.

Generally, all that is required, in addition to the four "musts" above, is a valid rabies vaccination certificate showing that the dog or cat has been vaccinated at least 30 days before transit and a letter from a vet certifying that the animal does not have hookworm.

Australasia is the opposite. To import a pet there, the animal must spend six months in an approved country (the nearest is Singapore), before being allowed

entry – and even then all animals must spend one month in quarantine.

While it is obvious that governments find it necessary to apply regulations protect their citizens from rabies, the measures applied by some countries are over the top and have no basis in medical fact. If an animal has been vaccinated against rabies and a blood test shows that it has the correct level of antibodies, then there is no way that animal has the disease. However, until regulations change we are bound by them and they must be followed.

I receive many calls from people telling me they have been told that they can shortcut the regulations. You do so at your animal's peril. I have now lost count of the number of dogs and cats I have shipped overseas to the above countries and others as diverse as Mexico, Dubai and Japan.

In all that time I have had one only problem, which was a dog going to France having to be flown back to Phuket from Bangkok, after Air France declared that English documents were not acceptable and they wanted everything in French, which had never happened before.

The dog eventually flew five days later.

To contact the Soi Dog Foundation, visit their website at www.soidog.org, email john@soidog.org, or call 087-0508688.



By Top Dog

by Isla Star

In The Stars

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your flair for design is appreciated by an uninspired friend this weekend. You could soon be considering branching out in new directions, particularly if the routine of work is becoming unbearable. Wednesday is best for taking a chance on love; Cupid is set to provide helpful support and your charisma should be irresistible.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A missed deadline can be blamed on nobody but yourself this week. If you can usually find a scapegoat for your own lack of

efficiency, it's time to start facing facts. Another wake-up call comes in the area of romance when someone you've been taking for granted comes up with a surprising ultimatum this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A rocky relationship ride this weekend could mean that you begin May single again. However, as business is forecast to boom, your attention probably won't be focused on personal matters during the coming weeks.

LEO (July 24-August 22): In-

dulge in your need for relaxation this weekend as the pace of life is forecast to speed up as May gets underway. A money related error works out in your favor on Monday, but don't expect the same thing to happen twice. Turn the tables on a free-loading Arian friend by asking for help next week.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A puzzling week may lie ahead for you. This weekend, you can't understand the out-of-character behavior of a Capricorn friend. Early next week, a mystery begins to unravel at

work. Answers to both these situations won't be forthcoming until the second week of May.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): If you're ready for some adventure, you will welcome an invitation from Scorpio this week. Travel to a new land is set to become reality within the coming weeks. This weekend, you have the gem of an idea that could develop into a money-spinning venture.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Others will find it hard to understand where you're coming from this week. Impatient Scorpions are advised to take some steps backwards where emotions are concerned, and certainly avoid mixing business with pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You should be pleased with developments so far this year and April will prove to be your most successful month. As May begins, start pri-

oritizing as you have already wasted some energy on fruitless business schemes.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your bad mood of last week should be washed away by a tide of positive feelings. Attention to detail guarantees success in business as May begins and a bout of spring cleaning at home ensures that your energy is cleansed.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Help is on the way if you don't know which way to turn financially. A much-needed boost to your bank balance is forecast to arrive early May, but don't splash out on items that you don't really need.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your ability to see the lighter side of life will be very handy this week and certain friends will appreciate this talent. One matter that requires serious attention comes to light early next week; the direction you choose will have longstanding effects.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You learn that you are not the only fish in the sea this week. Your dreams of romance with Libra are dashed, but Scorpio is about to pounce. A rebound relationship is not recommended, so let this person down lightly. If you are tiring of too many responsibilities at work, start searching for other employment.

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This week, the “S” in S-Files stands for “sweet ways to tweak your Wi-Fi”. If your Wi-Fi antenna is finger-sized and plugs into your USB port, or if it has a finger-sized antenna that screws into it, there are a few simple things you can do to radically enhance its effectiveness.

I recommend the Edimax USB WiFi adapter with screw-on antenna. They’re available at most computer shops. I bought mine for 1,500 baht from P&P IT House (Tel: 076-282-059 pranit_t@ppithouse.com), near Chalong Circle, on Chao Fa East Rd.

Pity those whose Wi-Fi antennae are built into their laptops; unless they buy a plug-in Wi-Fi adapter, they’re doomed to waving the whole laptop around and trying to type with it raised above their heads or dangling out a window.

The first enhancement to make is using a USB extension cord. These come in two-to-15-meter lengths and can be daisy-chained together, but quality varies.

The distance the signal will travel along the cable depends on the quality of the cable and the signal strength output by the PC and USB Wi-Fi adapter. Unless you use a cable with a signal booster fitted to it (unavailable in Phuket, but available in Singapore, in Bangkok and at cablestogo.com), the maximum distance is likely to be only about five meters.

Almost any brand of cable will do, but if it’s one of the clear-blue cables available from many vendors in the basement of Big C, test it in the store before you leave. Have shop staff plug one end into a PC and the other into your USB Wi-Fi adapter or a USB memory stick at the other. If the laptop can’t read the memory stick, don’t buy the cable. Phillips is a trustworthy brand.

If your antenna is the kind that unscrews from the Wi-Fi device, for about 500 baht from P&P you can buy a two- or three-meter coaxial extension cable that stretches between the Wi-Fi adapter and its antenna. Longer than about three meters will not work.

Tech heads will want to know that the coax cable has SMA adapters at either end and 50-ohm impedance; the rest of us will only want to know that this cable is more expensive than a longer USB cable.

With your antenna on one or both of these leashes, you can search for a “sweet spot” where the signal is strongest. A Wi-Fi

Just spread your wings and Wi-Fi



The S-Files would like to inform readers that no cats were harmed in the making of this cantenna, although one box of Potae chips was eaten.

signal is only as wide as your hand and may be easier to receive if the antenna is horizontal or vertical, so test every 10 centimeters or thereabouts.

The signal will not penetrate metal mesh, foil or bars closer together than the width of your hand. For more about this, read en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faraday_cage

Even heavy vegetation can inhibit the signal. If possible, search for a line-of-sight placement outdoors, but in shade and out of the weather.

To measure signal strength while you’re connected, right-

click on the Wi-Fi icon in your Windows taskbar at the bottom of the screen and choose “status” from the pop-up menu.

The five white-or-green bars show signal strength, while the numbers above them show transfer speed in megabits per second.

Both are good measures of your Wi-Fi connection. If the antenna is moved out of range, the connection will cease and you’ll have to choose “repair” from that earlier pop-up menu to see the status display again.

Once you’ve found the “sweet spot” for your antenna, it’s time to build a better antenna.

Sure, you could buy one, but you can build a good one free – and making one is almost foolproof.

A pencil-shaped antenna is omni-directional, meaning it receives signals from all directions except directly above or below. By placing a simple metal can around it, it becomes directional.

If you are within range of two Wi-Fi signals on the same channel, a simple can or metal plate may be enough to receive through one while erasing the interference of the other – which simply means a clearer, stronger reception.

This principle has been refined into the “cantenna”, a tricky and muddled piece of engineering (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantenna).

These are a little tricky to build, so if you want one, it might be best to buy one from eBay. If you’re handy with homebuilt electronics, see: www.turnpoint.net/wireless/cantenna/howto.html

More likely, your Wi-Fi problems are related to distance and signal strength. Just like cupping a hand around your ear, a parabolic curve of metal around your antenna focuses the waves, makes the antenna extremely directional and improves reception enormously.

You can make one in an hour. Start with pliers, scissors and a big smooth-walled foil-lined container, such as those used for

the 40-baht Potae potato snacks or for the caramel-coated Party yam crisps. For plans see www.freeantennas.com/projects/template2 and for a photo of the finished result see www.usbwifi.orcon.net.nz/alfawind.jpg

Once you have made your antenna booster, point the wings to the right of the signal source. Twist left. Retest reception every two or three degrees. Try aiming the wings a little up or down and bending the antenna forward or back just a little. At some point, reception and speed will skyrocket. But twist away too far and the signal will drop to zero.

My Wi-Fi wings immediately boosted a 1-to-2Mbps signal to 11 to 12Mbps. Putting the same kind of wings on the signal-source’s antenna would make the link even stronger.

Seth Bareiss has been an IT professional in Asia and the Pacific for two decades. If you’d like to meet him, Woody and the rest of the gang to chat about computer issues in Phuket, come on down to one of the PC Group Therapy meetings at Woody’s Sandwich Shoppes each Sunday from 10 am to midday. Seth’s the joker with the whiteboard. Alternatively, visit the club’s website at www.KhunWoody.com

THE S FILES

By Seth Bareiss

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There's a storm brewing over the United States

Earlier this decade a book titled *The Perfect Storm* was published. It was based on a true event, in which the elements all collided at exactly the wrong time to create the "perfect storm".

It was not the result of just one strong wind.

Similarly, an overheated economy heavily reliant on debt led to the 1929 stock market crash in the US. The reaction from the US government was to rein in the issuance of credit.

The theory behind this move was basic: if people and business had to rely on savings to generate expenditure it would lead to a prosperous society based on sound moral values.

Theory and reality often differ and this was no exception – the US economy fell through recession into a full blown depression.

The policy coincided with the delusion of an isolationist economic policy, where America stood apart from the rest of the world, politically and to a large degree economically.

Europe exploded into war in 1939 and still the US believed it

could remain neutral and stay mainly uninvolved.

This idea was shattered on December 7, 1941 with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

By then, it had taken from October 1929 to December 1941 for all the elements to come together and create a "perfect storm".

The US isolationist policy was literally bombed out of existence.

Some say that the situation then is totally different from the situation today.

Others swear by the old saying, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Neither are entirely correct. History seldom repeats itself exactly, but there is no denying that similarities between now

and then can be identified – and they are disturbing, as are the financial clouds building on the horizon.

Today, we have a crisis that was sparked by an overextension of credit. The "bubble" did not appear in stock market valuations, but in debt in the consumer sector and related residential housing prices.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

This so far has led to a rapid decline – but not a "crash" – in stock market prices.

When considering today's financial climate, it is important to bear in mind that the market in 1929 hit bottom only after several years of rising and falling share prices.

Another similarity between then and now is the desire for protectionism in the US. Sadly, in an election year, all three presidential candidates seem to be only too prepared to discuss almost any issue but the economy.

Both Democrat candidates have declared their opposition to more free trade agreements and have even shown enthusiasm for breaking some existing agreements, including those with South American countries.

Current President George Bush seems to have conveniently forgotten entirely that there is such a thing as "the economy".

One of the clouds gathering above, which may or may not contribute to a new perfect storm, comes from an unexpected source: China.

The demonstrations and reporting, mainly from the CNN and the BBC, is agitating the government and the people of China. Naturally, as the latter are under a dictatorship, they are not in possession of the full historical facts of the situation in Tibet.

The Olympics were to be China's "coming out party" and the government is less than impressed with the turn of events so far.

It is definitely not a coinci-

dence that by mid-April the largest Chinese bank, the Industrial Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), announced that months ago it was approached by several large US banks suggesting that China invest capital to assist them after the significant losses suffered in the sub-prime market.

ICBC refused, saying that America's credit problems were going to become worse and last much longer.

ICBC is now by market capitalization (the value of its shares) the most highly valued bank in the world at around US\$248 billion. Its profits soared 65% to US\$11.6 billion in 2007.

ICBC Chairman Jiang Jianguo is wary of acquiring US assets. "It appears that the risk is still great," he said. "In China's capital markets, people always say we should buy at the bottom of the market. But we don't know whether we are already at foot level. We may be only at the waist level," he added.

ICBC has very limited exposure to sub prime. According to its latest financial reports, the bank's total investments in this area are just US\$1.2 billion. Other Chinese banks also appear to have escaped the sub-prime damage virtually unscathed.

Jiang is frustrated with US regulators. The bank applied some time ago to upgrade its rep-

resentative office in New York to branch status – and is still awaiting a decision. As Mr Jiang said, "As the largest bank in the world, setting up in the US should be of some good to the US."

John Makin, visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, published a simple but chilling article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

On the housing crisis in the US, he wrote, "If [instead] we let housing prices fall another 25%-30% as predicted by the Case-Schiller Home Price Index – it's almost certain that Washington will end up nationalizing the mortgage business."

Mr Makin's suggested simply letting the Fed (US Federal Reserve) reflate, or simply print more money.

Not in any normal manner, such as when "sanitized" bonds are issued to cover the increase, just a simple, old-fashioned, straight-forward "let the printing presses loose".

Sounds like another Zimbabwe in the making, if Mr Makin's analysis is anywhere near correct.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Fax: 076-383185, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com

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ON THE MOVE



Estonian **Airika Sirak**, from Tallinn, has been appointed Revenue Manager at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. Ms Sirak has a diploma in hotel management and more than 10 years' experience in hotels and the customer-contact centers.

Ms Sirak has more than six years' experience in Hilton call centers. Before moving to Phuket, she was Reservations Sales Manager at the Hilton Reservations & Customer Care contact center in Tallinn.



Prasertsak Theerakij, from Ayudhya, has been promoted to Director of Human Resources at Renaissance Koh Samui Resort & Spa. K. Prasertsak joined Marriott in 1997 as Assistant Personnel Manager at JW Marriott Hotel Bangkok.

In his new role, he will oversee human resources and look after a team of 190 associates. Before his promotion, K. Prasertsak was Human Resources Manager at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.



Trang native **Wanthana Suksiangjaeo** has been appointed Front Office Manager at La Flora Resort Patong. A holder of two bachelor's degrees and one master's degree, K. Wanthana has 16 years' experience hotels, starting in 1992 at the Thavorn Palm Beach Resort. She has also worked at the Karon Villa & Karon Royal Wing, Kamala Bay Garden Resort and the Burasari Resort. Before joining La Flora, K. Wanthana was Front Office Manager at Twinpalms Phuket.

By Alin Boonkrungthong

PHUKET: DTAC, Thailand's second-largest mobile operator, is preparing to introduce high-speed packet access (HSPA) commercial services in Phuket as part of its 5-billion-baht third-generation (3G) investment plan.

The new HSPA services are expected to be introduced by the end of the year and will mean improved mobile services for mobile phones, laptop computers and data cards.

DTAC Chief Executive Officer Sigve Brekke said that DTAC plans to introduce HSPA services on a development platform focusing on upgraded network, content and handsets. Data-communications services would be designed for laptop users, while music, television and video streaming would be for handset customers.

Mr Brekke added that DTAC submitted a letter on April 1 to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) requesting approval to upgrade its analogue 850MHz frequency to HSPA.

DTAC has been in talks

DTAC to launch 3G in Phuket

with CAT Telecom to form a joint-venture firm to provide 3G services on the 850MHz frequency.

The NTC has also given approval to DTAC's larger rival, Advanced Info Service (AIS), to upgrade 30 base stations to HSPA in a project expected to cost US\$20 million (about 628.6 million baht).

"If the NTC gives us approval shortly, we can start providing HSPA commercial services by the end of this year," said Mr Brekke, adding that Phuket and Chonburi will be the first two commercial provinces for HSPA.

"We are definitely moving into HSPA, where the technology doesn't need a new license as it can be operated under the existing concession," he said.

Mr Brekke said that DTAC selected Phuket and Chonburi as they are small areas with high data-communication usage and potential demand. Target customers in Phuket would be foreigners and in Chonburi they would

be factory owners and workers.

He added that DTAC would provide customers a simple package concept with a possible monthly fee of 450 baht and no limit on data volume usage.


DTAC will need to install additional 1,800 HSPA base stations for nationwide services. The company currently has 9,000 2G base stations.

He said the 850MHz frequency offered a great advantage over others, including 900MHz, due to its wider coverage and ability to work with a variety of devices.

In comparison, Mr Brekke said, WiMax on top of the 900MHz frequency would not work with handsets, but only laptop computers.

"I don't understand why other operators are moving to WiMax instead of HSPA, even though it can provide services on both laptops and the popular handsets," he said.

Meanwhile, Thailand's largest mobile operator AIS, is expected to launch its 3G service in Chiang Mai on May 6 before rolling out the service nationwide.




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PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With high season now past and the current darts season winding down, only Queen Mary and Piccadilly, separated by a single point, remain in contention for the title.

Playing a man short, Shaker's managed a three-point win over Dog's Bollocks, knocking that team out of contention.

Dogs Bollocks captain drew Shaun to double up as the sixth player for Shakers.

Shakers went down 4-0, but continued to fight back as Oli, Greg and Shaun all won their singles and doubles games to give Shakers a 5-4 victory.

In the game between Queen Mary and Market Bar, Steen of Queen Mary had a 180 in the singles, but teammate Billy matched him in the beer leg to force a split. The best finish of the night was from Queen Mary's Halvor, whose quick thinking allowed him to check out on 58 in unusual fashion: X18, X11.

Send match reports to: darts@phuketgazette.net

April 15 results: Queen Mary* 7 Market Bar 2; Dogs Bollocks 4 Shakers* 5; Piccadilly* 5 Sick Buffalo 4; Offshore* 6 Beach House 3; Simply Red 3 Valhalla* 6; (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (37 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (36); 3. Offshore (23); 4. Dogs Bollocks (21); 5. Shakers (20); 6. Valhalla (17); 7. Market bar, Sick Buffalo (16); 9. Beach House (14); 10. Simply Red (10).

April 29 match-ups: Queen Mary v Offshore; Dogs Bollocks v Piccadilly; Simply Red v Shakers; Sick Buffalo v Market Bar; Valhalla v Beach House; (home team first).

The curse of the tomato can

By Scott Mallon

For as long as boxing has been around, there have been setups, also known as fights against tomato cans. Some fights are between decent fighters and hapless wannabes with no chance of winning, while others are between good fighters and fighters seemingly on the payroll.

Thai fighters are regularly criticized for the caliber of their opponents, often justifiably so. Thailand isn't the only country in which this happens. Mexico, the Philippines, Japan and Korea all have fighters who take tuneups against mediocre opposition.

In March 2003, the Philippines' beloved Manny Pacquiao faced Serikzhan Yeshmangbetov (5-5-1, 3 KOs) in Manila. Never heard of Serikzhan Yeshmangbetov? Not many have, but the Kazakhstani fighter actually scored a knockdown in the fourth round. Pacman dispatched Yeshmangbetov in the next round.

Korean champion In Jin Chi faced Thongcharoen Mahasap Condo of Thailand in Korea around the same time.

Chi was 26-2 and the bout was a tuneup for his shot at the vacant WBC featherweight championship, in a fight against Michael Brodie. Chi took the Thai out in four.

Thongcharoen Mahasap Condo was also the opponent for Japan's Takashi Koshimoto. Koshimoto was 34-1-2 when he fought Thongcharoen, who was 2-6.

The bout before this, Koshimoto faced Ratanasak Saktawee (3-3) of Thailand.

Back in 1999, the great Marco Antonio Barrera, who was 49-2 at the time, squared off against Cesar Najera (2-1).

The bout was declared a non-contest after Najera was discovered to be Barrera's sparring



Even one of boxing's pound-for-pound greats, Manny Pacquiao, has fought his share of tomato cans.

partner.

Thailand isn't the only place you see ridiculous mismatches; the fight scene is not the same as in North America or Europe.

The most notable difference is that most fights in Thailand are free to spectators, both live and on TV.

Aside from the occasional soccer or cricket match, there are no pay-per-view events in Thailand.

Pay-per-view fights are shown on Thai TV or cable channels and the old USA Tuesday Night Fights are shown on various cable channels. Boxing in Thailand is still shown on regular Thai TV.

In the past, the only sports in Thailand were boxing, Muay Thai and soccer. Now, with sports such as snooker, tennis, weightlifting, bodybuilding and badminton taking a share of the market, promoters need to be more creative and work harder to make a profit.

The free shows and televised events keep boxing fans in touch with the fight scene and their favorite fighters, allowing promoters to build the names of their fighters as well as their own.

Revenue is generated from sponsors, such as Red Bull, M-150, Twins, 3K Battery and a few others. These sponsors donate their products and envelopes of cash to the fighters in exchange for publicity.

Boxing is a business. Promoters know they need more than just one or two fights out of a fighter in order to make money. Promoters need to milk their cash cows.

Fighters have a limited period of earning potential, which can end at any time. Promoters have no guarantee how long that period will be, so they need to protect their investment and maximize profits.

While boxers in North America and Europe fight up to

three times a year, most Thai fighters box an average of about six. One or two of the opponents will be worthy adversaries, with the rest being tuneups.

Unfortunately, what is deemed acceptable by promoters and what is deemed acceptable by fans is not always the same. In between their big fights or title defenses, Thais are repeatedly given opponents whom have little chance of defeating them.

This helps generate rounds of work with minimal risk of blowing the bigger and better paydays that may lie ahead. Fighters acquire experience while remaining in the public eye and making money for the promoter.

The downside is that the experience is gained from within the confines of Thailand and against fighters "on the payroll". Promoters know they can use certain fighters repeatedly without worrying about disrupting future plans.

There are plenty of fighters who lose far more than they win and who are willing to fight against a Thai they know is far better than them.

Thais have a habit of losing when outside of Asia and this approach is one reason why.

Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based boxing writer and photojournalist.

Phuket fighters win gold in Singapore

RAWAI: A group of fighters from Phuket, led by professional MMA competitor "Magical" Ray Elbe, recently burst onto the submission grappling scene in Southeast Asia with authority. Elbe, who trained in Brazilian jiu jitsu under Juliano Prado, coached the team that secured the "Top Nogi Team" award during the last SEA Grappling Games held at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

To win this award, the Phuket group, who were representing Tiger Muay Thai, beat fighters from around the region. A total of 22 gold medals were won by the team, including a gold won by female Thai student Ann Wongkhamma and a silver won by Bangla Boxing veteran Ngoo.

On March 20, the Lordz of Pain grappling tournament was held at the Fight Works Asia gym in Singapore. Five Phuket fighters – Andreas Hesselback, Michael St. Claire, Jeremy Hassan, Mike "Hutch" Hutchison and Johnny Kunstaeter – won four medals between them. Each fighter was representing Tiger Muay Thai.

Next up for the Phuket contingent is the Pan Asian Games being held in Manila on May 3 and 4. Combatants from all over the world will compete in the event.

Plans are in the works for Phuket's first ever submission grappling tournament, while several MMA fights have been held at Patong and Bangla stadiums during Muay Thai events.

For further information about Tiger Muay Thai and MMA in Phuket visit: www.tigermuaythai.com

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Calcutta outclass Etihad in Sixes final

By Mark Burns

KARON: The Calcutta Cricket & Football Club (CCFC) produced a Sixes masterclass at Karon Stadium yesterday, sweeping aside all opposition in their quest for the Cup on the final day of the Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

First in the Calcutta firing line were the Liquid Lounge Lizards from Phuket, with each team vying for a place in the semi-finals.

Needing a win and at least 82 runs to qualify for the semis on run rate, a Calcutta batting blitz ensued as the Lizards' bowlers were blasted to all parts of the ground. The CCFC posted 112 runs, the highest total of the tournament at that time.

The Lizards gave good chase, but eventually fell well short of the target.

Finalists last year, the Leeming Spartans, under inspirational captain Brad Mant, were next to suffer the brunt of the Calcutta batting lineup.

The Spartans posted a reasonable 74 runs in their innings, but Calcutta topped that tally with five balls to spare and Aman Sodhi retiring for Calcutta on 35 not out.

In the other semi-final, Etihad, following a superb performance on Saturday, continued their good form by beating the Bahrain Camels. Bahrain has scored 71 runs in their innings, with Sanjay and Sreekanth showing good form with the bat with both retiring.

But again the Etihad opening batsmen fired, with Azam hitting a breezy 21 and Sanket, who was later voted Player of the Tournament, retiring on 33. The opening partnership set Etihad up to easily reach their target with more than an over to spare.

In the final, Calcutta amassed the highest total of the tournament; a massive 116 runs from their allotted five overs.

Both Sourav "Dolly" Chatterjee and Aman Sodhi retired. Dolly hit 32 not out off just eight balls, with the Etihad bowlers finding no answer to the



Former Aussie international Trevor Chappell lets one rip during a twenty20 charity match on March 18, in which the Trevor Chappell XI were victorious against Kenny Jackson's World XI.

onslaught. Rajiv Seth chipped in with 25 runs from six balls.

In reply, Etihad scored a respectable 84 runs. Sanket again retired not out, but the total was well short of the huge target required and the CCFC returned to the pavilion champions in front of an appreciative crowd.

To much applause at the awards dinner at the Hilton Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, CFCC captain Dolly said, "As we've seen with this tournament, the Sixes brings together teams from all over world."

"And here I get to play against my best friends from Australia, South Africa and Pakistan – let's keep it that way."

In other action earlier in the day, Toorak Prahan CC of Melbourne won the Plate trophy in their first appearance in Phuket with a tight victory over a lively Uni Wanderers, also making their debut at the Phuket Sixes.

The Wanderers had put on a challenging 81 in their innings, but Toorak were equal to the task, winning the match with the last ball.

The Bowl final saw two Phuket Sixes regulars, the Bounty Buccaneers from Malaysia versus those Wild Men From Borneo.

The Buccs put on an impressive 97 runs, helped by a big innings from Dave Nightingale,

but also an enormous haul of wides sent down wildly by the Borneo men.

The Buccs won convincingly as the Wildmen fell for just 55 runs in reply, before heading to the solace of their jungle juice stash.

Guwahati Town from Assam, India, won the Spoon final with a victory over newcomers the Black Swans, from Australia. Guwahati posted 88 runs in their innings.

The Swans fell well short in reply with 49 runs.

An entertaining twenty20 match was won on the night of April 18 by the Trevor Chappell XI over Kenny Jackson's World XI.

A raucous crowd applauded and barracked for three hours as 22 of the best players in the tournament battled for pride and charity under floodlights in what was an atmospheric evening.

Island Furniture League 2008

Island Cricket Club continue winning streak

PHUKET: The Island Cricket Club (ICC) found some solid form midway through the Island Furniture Cricket League season, with back-to-back wins over the Village Cricket Team (VCT) and Patong Cricket Club (PCC) in matches played at Cherg Talay Wittayakom School March 16 and 23.

On March 16, in their first match against the Villagers, ICC captain A Chand won the toss and elected to bat. Despite some early setbacks, ICC managed to put on a modest 189 runs from some improved bowling by VCT.

Pick of the day with the bat was S Khan, who scored 53 runs and kept the ICC innings together.

At one stage, ICC were 93 for seven in the 13th over. All four Village bowlers picked up wickets, but K Quilty and A Windybank stood out with bowling figures of 9-1-49-4 and 7-0-40-3, respectively.

After lunch, VCT took on the task of chasing down 190 runs for what would be their first win of the season.

Unfortunately, their batting was not as impressive as their bowling, and they managed to notch up 129 runs.

Quilty, later named man of the match, followed up his fine bowling performance to score 29 runs with the bat, while J Walker scored a handy 22.

For the ICC bowlers, K Tannu was impressive with figures of 7-0-18-3, as was S Sharma with 5-0-26-4.

A win for ICC saw the side walk away with 18 points, while the Villagers doubled their tally to 14.

In their match against PCC

on March 23, ICC again won the toss and Chand put his side out to bat.

A depleted PCC bowling lineup saw ICC put together 286 runs in their 35 overs.

Chand chalked up 82 runs, ably supported by S Khan, who scored 65, and K Dimple, who scored 21. K Kamlesh retired at 38 not out.

S Raju picked up three wickets for PCC, while L Coburn and M Foster collected two wickets apiece.

Although tiring from 35 overs on the field, PCC opening batsmen M Foster and J Essex played well.

Foster scored a quick 50, while Essex, a new addition to the side, chipped in with a handy 32 before being bowled.

Two more quick wickets saw PCC on shaky ground, but some middle-order resistance from J Phillips (23) and M Whetton (33) settled the side.

Despite the good start, PCC fell short of the target and were bowled out for 200. Wickets were shared among the ICC bowlers: Dimple took three while Khan and Tannu claimed two each.

The win was the fourth in a row for ICC, who took 19 points from the match. A scrappy PCC side had to suffice with seven points.

Chand was man of the match.

The next match will be played at Cherg Talay Wittayakom School on April 27.

For more information email Mark Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th

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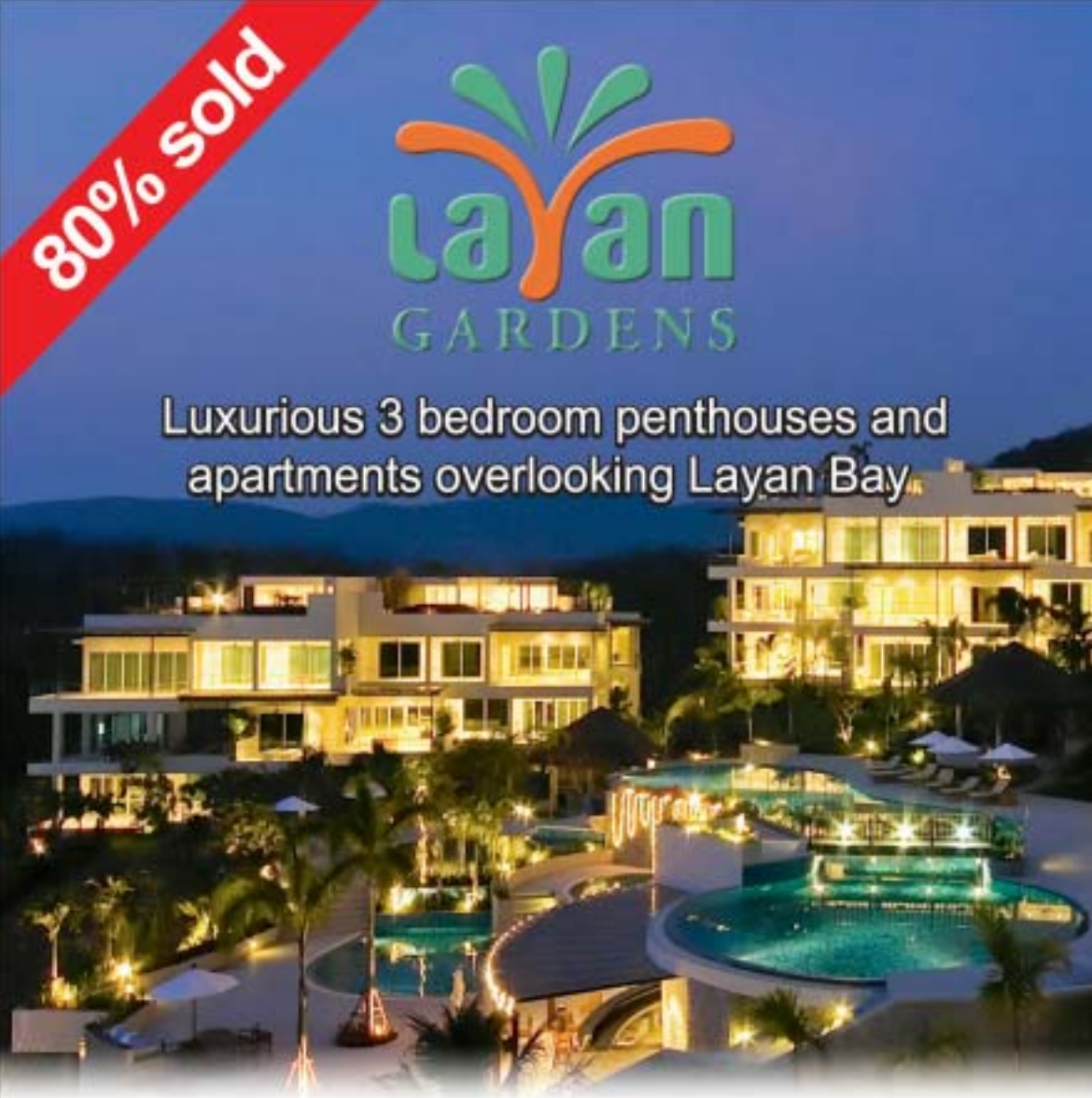
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A day without Burmese Phuket's silent minority

Each and every day on my way to work, or wherever I travel on the island, one of the most common sights is truckloads of Burmese workers. The recent tragedy of 54 Burmese suffocating in a container truck while being transported to work in Phuket is a stark reminder of the high price paid for economic prosperity.

Both domestic and international media highlighted the issue, showing gruesome pictures and calling for investigation by the government and for action to be taken.

Unfortunately, after a few more days – in the age of instant media and our thirsty appetite for the next event – new tragedies in other far-off places occurred, the Songkran holidays came and went and the deaths of the Burmese workers quickly became old news.

Go anywhere in the developed world where prosperity grows, economies skyrocket and the life of the middle and upper classes becomes focused on possessions and consumption of material goods, and there is always the common denominator of cheap migrant labor.

I'm reminded of Director Sergio Arau's cutting-edge cinematic social statement *A Day Without a Mexican*, where citizens in California wake one day to find all the Latinos gone. It's a poignant, commentary on the subject of migrant labor.

Imagine how Phuket's landscape would be altered if all the Burmese workers who work in Phuket were suddenly not part of the workforce.



CAUGHT: The picture you'll never see on a glossy property brochure. Illegal workers from Burma were rounded up in Rawai on April 18 and deported.

Photo by
Yongyot
Preurksarak

Although there are many arguments concerning the pros and cons of illegal migrant labor, the fact remains that the Burmese population in Phuket contributes considerably to the island's construction industry and economy.

The money they are paid, for the most part, re-enters the local economy and benefits local businesses much quicker than money from Thais and expats.

We are not talking about staff who put money into savings accounts, but subsistence workers who spend most of their daily earnings on food, housing and clothing themselves and their families. They buy food from local markets and clothes from our shops.

The Burmese look destined

to be the face of a silent minority robbed of its voice. The global community continues to remain on the fence regarding solutions and it is far beyond my scope as a property writer to enter into such a political debate.

What is needed locally is a wake-up call on the application of simple safety standards for low-cost labor in our construction industry, be it for Thai or foreign laborers.

Minimum sanitary conditions such as toilets and water for workers needs to be provided, along with safety gear such as hard hats

and the setting of standards to minimize injury and loss of life.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Although Thailand's Ministry of Labor has comprehensive occupational health and safety guidelines, enforcement of them is minimal and the application of on-site safety standards depends primarily on individual businesses and their management.

In real life, we cannot expect this to become a burning issue on the political agenda. It is one that will have to be effected by the collective conscience and social responsibility of the private sector.

I remember coming to Phuket about seven years ago and seeing hotel staff transported to work at international hotels and luxury resorts in the same trucks as used for transporting livestock.

Today, however, thanks to the pioneering efforts of Laguna Phuket and the Marriott, which were the first to offer bus transportation for their staff, you now see buses ferrying hotel staff around the island.

An economic boom is a double-edged sword. People become rich but migrant laborers often become an easy target for exploitation.

In a perfect world the island's prosperity over the past few years would filter down to the ones who build our homes, hotels, luxury villas, shops, restaurants and offices, but in the real world it's all too easy for employers to find ways of cutting costs and lowering overheads to ensure bigger profits.

What is not reasonable to expect is the high risk of injury or loss of lives as a result of companies trying to save a few baht.

Perhaps the message will grow and the next time you see a truckload of Burmese workers you will have a new-found appreciation for what they provide us here in boomtown Phuket.

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

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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

Bangkok Hospital aims for the sky

PHUKET CITY: Bangkok Hospital Phuket will spend 200 million baht adding three floors to an existing patient building in order to handle the increasing number of patients.

Dr Kongkiat Kespechara, hospital director, told the *Gazette* that construction work on an existing five-story wing has been underway since February and is about 10% complete, with the entire project expected to be finished by the end of 2009.

"The patient building we are working on was the hospital's first building. It was originally intended to be an eight-story building when it was built 13 years ago, but at that time, based on the population and level of tourism on the island, only a five-story building was constructed.

"Business is growing for the hospital so we have decided to increase the number of rooms from 200 to 350," Dr Kongkiat said.

"Details of the original plans have been updated, including plans for the interior decor and safety features, as well as air conditioning that protects against the spread of airborne viruses. We will work to improve the ex-



Bangkok Hospital Phuket's first patient building will have three extra floors by the end of next year.

isting five floors, along with building the three new floors," he added.

Established in 1995 on 14 rai next to Yaowarat Rd, Bangkok Hospital Phuket comprises three

patient buildings and one building for staff accommodation, all of which cover about half of the total land area.

"The first to fourth floors of the building are open for normal

service, but we use a buffer zone to minimize the noise disturbance caused by the construction. We have closed the fifth floor for the moment. We have done everything possible to protect our pa-

tients from being disturbed by the work, although there will naturally be some noise," said Dr Kongkiat.

Patient numbers at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, which increase about 10% each year, comprise 80% Thais from Phuket or nearby provinces, the remainder are expats and tourists, he added.

"We must always have about 30% of our beds vacant in case there is an emergency. Our capacity usually reaches a maximum of about 80% during high season," he said.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket employs about 750 staff, including 73 doctors and 250 nurses. An extra 60 nurses will be brought in to staff the extra patient rooms.

"We employ more nurses than we need because we want them to develop their skills first, so they aren't just doing regular work. We will eventually need to increase the number of other doctors and specialists," he said.

The construction contractor for this project is Thai Industrial and Engineering Service PCL. For information about Bangkok Hospital Phuket visit www.phukethospital.com

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Nautical but nice

Maritime decor ideas for the home

Those with a passion for all things marine would do well to sail over to Rua Bai Thai (Thai sail boats) at Central Festival and browse over some of the nautical-themed hand made ornaments for a boat-lover's home or a nautical-themed restaurant.

A plethora of boating paraphernalia crams the shelves and is hung around the stall, including a ship's bell, ship-shape book stands, lifebuoy clocks with semaphore symbols and beautifully crafted glass ships in bottles. Various hand-crafted miniature wooden sail boats complete with adjustable cloth sails and rigging are delightfully eye-catching, painted and varnished in bold colors.

Shop owner Chare Thipsuk says he established the shop about a year ago with the main items, hand crafted wooden sail boats, later adding to the collection with other decor items of a nautical theme.

These pretty yet practical maritime decor items are ideal for kitting out a cosy abode by the sea and they are the perfect decorative additions to a bar with a marine theme or a seafood restaurant. Clocks that double as key cupboards are practical and pretty. The front can be opened on hinges and there is a secret key hook on the inside.



Hand-crafted boats are where it all started for Khun Chare, owner of Rua Bai Thai.

“The clocks are popular because they look nice and they are useful. Nobody will know that your keys are hidden inside the

clock,” said Khun Chare.

The decorative barometers, brass telescopes and compasses are not only endearing, they are

fun to play with. Items of a purely decorative nature include a series of ship-shaped resin figurines and three dimensional paintings de-



picturing colorful scenes of Mediterranean-looking fishing villages.

Decorating your home or business with these items won't cost you a trunk of sunken treasure. The smallest items sell for just 100 baht a piece and even the larger model ships cost no more than 1,000 baht.

Rua Bai Thai stall is a booth located on the third floor of Central Festival. For more information, call Khun Chare at Tel: 081-8589345.

[illegible]

Home of the Week

Bang Tao

Bang Tao villa back on the market

This single-story, three-bedroom pool villa in The Residence gated community at Bang Tao is on the market as a resale property. The 584-square-meter villa is a few minutes' walk from Bang Tao Beach and is available leasehold.

Designed by Fredo Taffin, the villa's contemporary Thai style is intended to compliment the surrounding area and ensure the villa's residents can make the most of the tropical climate.

The villa receives plenty of natural light and the outdoor living space includes a roof-terrace sala and an outdoor barbecue and dining area next to a pool that can be accessed from the living room.

Inside, the villa is fully furnished – the furniture is made from natural materials – and kitted out with state-of-the-art entertainment and home-security technology, including an audio system that can pipe music into every room, wireless Internet access, Sony flat-screen TVs, plus a washing machine and dryer.

Rooms include an open-plan lounge area and two en-suite bathrooms. All bedrooms have air conditioning and built-in wardrobes. The master bedroom has



Designed by architect Fredo Taffin, the contemporary Thai style of the villa is intended to complement the surrounding area and ensure the villa's residents can make the most of the tropical climate.

access to a private garden, which has an outdoor rainwater shower surrounded by shrubbery.

Safety and security features include three-phase electricity with earth wiring to all outlets and an anti-burglary security system.

Other facilities include two water heaters with a water filtra-

tion unit, plus a large storage room, a laundry room and a garage.

The current owner has also added many custom features, including air conditioning in the bathrooms, an extra pond in the garden and extended landscaping with mature trees to ensure privacy in the garden. All walls have been recently repainted.

Phuket International Airport is about 20 minutes' drive from the villa and about the same distance from the British International School. Three golf courses are also located nearby: Banyan

Tree, Mission Hills and Blue Canyon. The new owner will be entitled to free membership for the Richmond Privilege Club.

The villa is on the market for 26.5 million baht.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com The villa can be viewed at www.siamrealestate.com under reference number: HSIL3057.



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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

SAFE AND SECURE

House for sale, 3 bedrooms, 2 en suite, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/dining, study, laundry room, garage, ADSL and UBC fitted. Verandas, klong along back, fenced garden in secure Choafa Thani compound. Price 6.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

PATONG BEACH CONDO

Rare 14th floor location. Great ocean views. 50sqm. Freehold or leasehold. 3.5 million baht. Call Daly. Tel: 087-0312154.

HOUSE FOR SALE

in Chalong. Bargain. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 081-7475293.

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

KRABI, NEAR AO NANG

New luxury pool villa. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air con, European kitchen, 7.25 million baht. Tel: 084-3224044. Email: info@siamsol.com For details visit our website at: www.siamsol.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: swettybee2000@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

NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING

for sale. 3 stories near Loch Palm Golf Club. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 084-3081853, 087-2799500.

THE HEIGHTS, PHUKET

Unit C-8, 195sqm, 1 story, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Beautiful pool on your doorstep. 21 million baht ono. Tel: 081-6144799.

LAST SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



This is the last seaview land available in Layan with big potential for a 5-star development. Land has Chanote and the size is 13 rai, 3 ngan. The owner has reduced the price to 5 million baht per rai. Great opportunity. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-2726508.

SAI YUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



Two-story house with additional living space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. A few minutes to Nai Ham Beach. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-8475700, 087-8987642. Email: mom_48@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Priced from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@kamalaparadise.com

LUXURY PROPERTY

for sale and rent in Phuket, Phang Nga. For further details see our website at: www.janepropertyphuket.com

NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA

400sqm. 3-4 bed. 300m from Rawai Pier. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms in Kathu. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8940468, 081-8954112.

TWIN HOUSE RESORT 1.9 MILLION BAHT

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. Call Tel: 076-245966, 085-7842004. Fax: 076-245962. Email us at: info@thailandpropertygroup.com. Please visit: www.thailandpropertygroup.com/development_detail.php?idc=184

SUPER POOL VILLAS



4 unique 3-bedroom homes available in a tranquil part of Chalong. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7862869. Email: info@tharapropertyphuket.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket Airport, close to the beach. 9.5 rai, 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

PATONG PRIME LAND

6 rai of prime land near Kris condo project. Please contact Ae on Tel: 086-2861952 between 11 am and 7 pm. Email: patongland@gmail.com For details see www.patongland.coolpage.biz

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, air con, 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

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. Priced from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2642308 or Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

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

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in North Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

KHAO LAK: INVESTING PROPERTY

Land beside Sofitel Magic Lagoon Khao Lak. 5¹/₂ rai (66mx136m), Chanote. 40 million baht total. Call Krit. Tel: 081-9804641.

LAND FOR SALE

10 mins drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80 rai. Road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. 300m from beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condo in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

BAAN BENJAMAS

2-bedroom townhouse refurbished in 2006. Walking distance to Jungceylon and the beach. 5.3 million baht. Tel: 083-3941397.

TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sqm. Located near Khao Khad viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

4 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 1,606 sqm of land with more than 400sqm of living area. Price: 25 million baht. Special rate for short-term rental. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1 rai up to 5.5 rai. Good road & electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

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

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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

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.

KOH SAMUI LAND FOR SALE

2 rai 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: 087-2709093. Email: anut samantamit@gmail.com

PHANG NGA BAY VILLAS

Two boutique seaview villas for sale near Cape Yamu. Each with 4 bedrooms, gym, study, games room, 10-meter pool, lounge, Western kitchens, dining room, two rooms for maids. Tel: 076-283288, 081-2737326. Fax: 076-283288. Email: info@kykinternational.com For further information visit www.kykinternational.com

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



Phase I 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

NEW HOUSE IN RAWAI

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 425sqm of land with Chanote title. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8887676.

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

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.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

And rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit our website 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.

KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote. Can be divided. All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Price from 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE

59/9. 3 Bedrooms, golf course and lake view. Ready to move in, only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

2 BED TOWN-HOUSE IN KATHU

Brand new development opposite Loch Palm golf course. 80 sqm, 2 bed, 2 bath, private parking. 10 minutes to Tesco, Central and Patong. 2 million baht. Tel: 086-2738978, 081-8959568. Email: philipmason69@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL SITE

4 rai in the peaceful northeastern part of Phuket island looking out at Phang Nga Bay. Located off Route 4027, eight minutes from Ao Po Bay and Phuket Private Island. 15 mins from glorious Nai Yang Beach and only five mins from Mission Hills golf club. Perfect site for a single grand residence, for a seaview condominium development or whatever you fancy. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Tel: 087-2675376. Email: w.gabrie@gmail.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.

SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

On the main road to Cherngtalay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85 sq wah. Selling by the owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

NEW KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New 2 story, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse in Phuket. Golden view, close to markets, Big C, Central etc. Lock up gates with car space and security at project entrance. Great location. Some furniture included. A bargain at 1.8 million baht. No bargaining please. Tel: 080-7197147. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com

HOTEL ROOM FOR SALE

Kamala beach. 2 pools. Lease hold. 2 million baht. Sat-TV, Jacuzzi. Tel: 085-7945411. Email: bkeenan@shaw.ca

REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE

Smart, modern, 1 bedroom condo. Furnished, parking, tennis court, 40m pool, lush tropical garden. Reduced from 3.8m to 3.3m baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

THE BEST VIEW



on the island. New 80sqm contemporary apartment in Chalong with swimming pool. 180 degrees unrestricted sea view overlooking beautiful Chalong bay. Best located unit in the project. Contact Ms Nathalie. Tel: 085-111-1155. Email: alexanderkbh@gmail.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Boudha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

LAND LAYAN 2 RAI

Lake view, road, electricity. 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-7874383 or 084-0977383.

LAND FOR SALE

Manik-Bang Jo 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

SEAVIEW LAND IN YAMU

For sale: 1,360sqm of land, good for development. Close to luxury residence projects. Tel: 081-9580373. Email: mammimg@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.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

for sale. Former clinic on 4 rai in Nai Yang. 44 rooms, 38 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

SEA VIEW POOLHOUSE

in Rawai. 11 million baht. More info visit: www.phuketdir.com/poolseahouse;col or call Tel: 085-7839062.

PATONG SEAVIEW LAND

5 rai with Chanote. 3 minutes from Patong Beach. Near Sea Pearl Projects. Please call Tel: 085-7839062.

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Property Gazette

GOLF VILLA, 8.7 MILLION BAHT



Loch Palm, Kathu. Modern style. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms with en suite, Jacuzzi, TV, Wi-Fi and landscaped garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: seeyaagain@gmail.com



Detached House for Sale

- In Chalung
- 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

WELL-BUILT VILLA



2 years old. Rawai-Nai Harn. Large pool and sala, 400 sqm plot, nice garden, 3 bathrooms, 2 large bedrooms with en suite, spacious lounge, Western kitchen, True TV, solar panel, security-fitted windows and door. 7.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0860521.

NEW HOME FOR SALE
2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Close to Boat Lagoon and British International School. Tel: 081-9580373.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Firesale price. Tel: 081-8941994. Email: tomkat@phuket.ksc.co.th Visit: www.fairway15.com for full details.

NEW KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New 2-story, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse in Phuket. Golden view, close to markets, Big C, Central etc. Lock-up gates with car space and security at project entrance. Great location. Some furniture included. A bargain at 1.8 million baht. No offers please. Tel: 080-7197147. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com

SHOPHOUSE/ HOUSE, KATA

2 stories, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, TV, Internet, telephone, furniture. Tel: 087-8907561. Please visit: www.katahouseforsale.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Ao Bang Tao. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, parking, fully furnished. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

NEW APARTMENT FOR SALE

Includes 28 rooms with 6 shophouses in Phuket City. 36.5 million baht. Installment payment is acceptable. Interested? Please contact. Tel: 081-6072489.

SHOPHOUSE

3-story shophouse next to Chevrolet on the bypass road. Contact me for details. Email: jkgk24@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: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large swimming pool, European spec. 6.2 million baht, More photos available. Tel: 089-6666726. Email: lasonth@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE, KATHU

3-bedroom house at end of quiet cul de sac. 10 mins from BIS, Central, Patong. 6.8m baht ono. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: mailpete@hotmail.com For further details, please visit our website at www.kathu-property.com

LAND FOR SALE

2.9 rai in a quiet part of Rawai, partly divided and can be sold in small plots. Price: 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-6666726. Email: lasonth@gmail.com

KAMALA LAND: 2,200SQM + HOUSE

Electricity, water. 400m main road, 900m from the beach. 11 million baht. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.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, 086-588-8383. Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW LAND

14 rai of seaview land located on a hillside in Rawai. Hill views. 6 million baht per rai. Contact Tip. Tel: 086-949-6480. Email: thipseee84@hotmail.com

BEACH FRONT 5.9 MILLION BAHT



Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with over 180 meters of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

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

HOT LUXURY SALE

Apartment. 140sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, seaview pool. Good Patong location. 10 million baht. Buy before May: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-8984338.

2-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU

Brand new development opposite Loch Palm golf course. 80 sqm, 2 beds, 2 baths, private parking. 10 minutes to Tesco, Central and Patong. 2 million baht. Tel: 081-8959568, 0862738978. Email: philipmason69@hotmail.com

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.

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. Please contact at Tel: 081-5399269 or Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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.

PEACEFUL LAND

20 rai on the east side of Phuket. Perfect for a residential project. Only 30 mins to airport, very good connection, located in Bangrong. Only 2.45 million/rai. Call Lenny. Tel: 085-7852035. Website: www.thisisunreal-estate.com

HOUSE IN PATONG

1-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

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 en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and en-suite bathroom and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property has a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast, comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle carport. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call 081-7191705.

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.

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.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162-sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 air cons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

RAWAI RENTAL W. BAAN SUAN POOL

1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. From 9,000 baht/month. 300 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. UBC and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardening service. Monthly rental 75,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com For further details, please visit our website: www.phuket-island-homes.com

ABSOLUTE BEACH FRONT VILLA

Rawai. 260sqm. 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Pool, sala, Jacuzzi, ADSL, cable TV. Short-term rental from 6,700-8,400 baht per day. Tel: 081-2596052. Email: phuket-beachfrontvilla-rawai@gmx.de

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4 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms houses with pool, 4 km to BIS. Lake-hill view, quiet, on top of private hill. Furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV. Long-term 75,000 baht per month. Contact K. Noi. Tel: 087-2698492.

3-STORY SHOP HOUSE FOR RENT

New 3 story shop house in Phuket City opposite Fantasia. 25,000 baht per month. Minimum 1 year. Tel: 081-6463895, 089-6493096.

HOUSE FOR RENT

in Srisuchart Grand Ville 3 Project. 3 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. Some furniture. 1 car park. Garden area. Good location. Tel: 081-7372595.

PHUKET VILLA, DAORUNG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2709093.

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2 story, front/back garden w/carport, fully furnished, air cons, TVs, washing machine and much more. Tel: 02-5731421, 084-849-1500. Email: timvongswang@yahoo.com

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On the hill. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen, balcony. Quiet, fully furnished. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-3670991.

BIG HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



1.5 km from Central Festival. Attached to Suan Luang park. 300sq wah. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 9 aircons. Garden pond. Fully furnished. Fitness facilities. European kitchen. 2 living rooms. Contact Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

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CONDO FOR RENT

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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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Position available at our Phuket (Chalong) head office:

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- Thai national, aged 25 +
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We are expanding and need to fill this position immediately

To apply please send your CV to gm@divesupply.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

SITE-BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Development and construction company seeks foreigner to fill position of site-building supervisor. Minimum experience required. For more info. Call Tel: 086-0626210 or Email: patrick@oceanicglobal.com

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SALES STAFF FOR CONDO

Following a huge sales success on our current project, we are launching a new project, Seaview 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

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Thai or foreigner with good English, computer skills and 2-3 years experience in the property industry. Please contact for further information. Tel: 087-3877182.

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Tel: 087-0778454,
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Thai nationality, must have at least a bachelor's degree in hotel management or business administration, excellent command of spoken and written English. Have at least 3 or 4 years experience in the hotel industry. must be service minded, must have good leadership skills, must have good organizational skills, willing to take initiative, must have a good command of computers and programs.

Waiters / Waitresses

Thai nationality, must have a good command of English, must have service experience in 4-or 5-star resorts, must be self motivated, with a positive attitude.

Head Chef / Cooks

Thai nationality, must speak English, must have experience in 4-or 5-star resorts. Must be a good leader, and a team player, self motivated, must have experience cooking Western cuisine, good with computers.

Bartender

Thai Nationality, male/female, must have good command of spoken English, should have at least 2 year's experience bartending in a 4-or 5-star resort, must be self motivated, service minded, have a positive attitude and be a team player.

Hostess

Thai nationality, female, must have good command of spoken English, should have a professional appearance, have excellent communication skills (people person), have a positive attitude, self motivated.

Personal Assistant

Will work directly for the Managing Director, must have an excellent command of spoken and written English. Must have excellent knowledge of computers and programs. Positive attitude, good organizational skills.

Good compensation package for all employees, including competitive salary, accommodation, bonuses, insurance, meals, uniforms. Opportunities for advancement.

Interested applicants please email resumé / CV to: adam@luckanawadee.com or call to set up an appointment: Tel: 089-5886402 (Khun Adam)



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All positions are based in Phuket at various location including Patong, Surin, Kamala and Mai Khao and require self-motivated, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills and pro-active. An intermediate degree and good 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@marriotthotels.com or fax 076 348 354 or mail to:

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Must have experience with Windows OS + some understanding of Adobe and MS Office software suites (Dreamweaver, Photoshop, InDesign, Word, Outlook). Optional experience: PHP, MySQL, Flash, css. Some English language. Tel: 081-3970905. Please email samples (pdf or html link), resume and brief cover. Email: phil@asiawebworks.com Tel: 081-3970905, 081-3970905.

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A small foreign-run company is looking for an experienced accountant. Duties include: payroll, management accounts, invoicing, VAT claim preparation, etc. QuickBooks knowledge would be an advantage. Email: potter.ian@gmail.com For further details, please visit our website at www.andamanlighting.com

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Electronic Security Sales Executive required. Thai nationals, degree in a related field, 2 or more years' sales experience. Please contact for more information Tel: 076-376557, 081-9586879. Fax: 076-376560. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

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Good Luck with your application!

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- Good interpersonal relationship skills, hardworking, a team player and service-minded

Receptionist

- Bachelor's degree in any related fields
- Good command of written & spoken English
- Service-minded

Office Clerk

- Higher vocational school in any related field
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2005

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