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Maj Gen Apirak returns to Phuket

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Police on June 8 held a ceremony bidding farewell to Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth on his last day of duty as Phuket Provincial Police Commander and welcoming back his replacement, Pol Maj Apirak Hongthong.

Gen Decha has been promoted to commander of general staff at Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani.

Among those attending the ceremony were Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasilpin, Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Maitree Narukatpichai and the superintendents of all district police stations on the island.

Gen Decha was promoted to Phuket Provincial Police Commander on October 3, 2005, following his assignment as Phang Nga Provincial Police Deputy Commander. He served as Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander before that.

Gen Apirak returns to Phuket from his previous posting as Ranong Provincial Police Commander.



Former Phuket Immigration Superintendent Gen Apirak Hongthong (pictured) has returned to Phuket to replace Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, who is now commander of general staff at Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani.

An expert on immigration matters, Gen Apirak has served as Phuket Immigration Superintendent.

In 2004, he took a leave of absence in an unsuccessful bid to win a seat on the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) under the banner of the now-defunct Thai Rak Thai party.

On his way to take up his new post on June 7, he stopped at the Heroines' Monument to pay tribute to Thao Thepkrasattri and Thao Sri Soonthorn.

During the handover ceremony, Gen Decha said he would continue to use his new position at the Region 8 headquarters to assist law enforcement efforts in Phuket "in every way possible".

4 cars destroyed in Toyota Pearl blaze

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: Owners of three vehicles waiting for them to be repaired will have to wait a little longer following a fire at the Toyota Pearl Phuket showroom and garage on Thepkrasattri Rd on June 7.

Initial estimates put the damage caused by the fire at about 4 million baht after the fire damaged seven vehicles awaiting repairs, completely destroying four of them.

Police said they have not found any evidence indicating arson. Police believe that old car batter-

ies stored at the garage may have caused the fire, which started at about 3:20 am and engulfed the row of parked cars.

"We are trying to assess the condition of the batteries that were stored at the garage. If they were very dry or leaking, it is possible that a spark from one of the batteries could have started the fire," said Maj Pitakpol Somphong of Phuket City Police.

The security guard on duty on the night of the fire said that there was strong wind and rain just before he heard an explosion in the maintenance area.

Tsunami drill set for Bang Tao

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: A tsunami evacuation drill will be held at Bang Tao Beach on June 17, Chotenarin Kerdson, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), has announced.

"All the commanding officers involved in the drill will meet at Laguna Beach Resort on June 16," K. Chotenarin told the Gazette.

"Then, from 9 am to mid-day on June 17, we will have a tsunami evacuation drill," he said.

"I have asked the National Disaster Warning Center [NDWC] to sound the tsunami alarms on June 17, but we are still waiting for their answer," he added.

However, K. Chotenarin explained that the June 17 evacuation drill will go ahead regardless of whether or not the tsunami warning towers sound the alarm.

He asked the media to announce the drill so that locals and tourists in the area can take part and will not be alarmed people evacuating the beach.

K. Chotenarin added that the NDWC will hold a simultaneous test of all its tsunami-warning towers throughout the six Andaman provinces - Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong, Trang and Satun - on July 7.

On July 25 last year, a regional tsunami evacuation drill was hailed "hit and miss" as a number of Phuket's warning towers failed to sound. There was also concern that the sirens would not be loud enough to alert people in busy nightspots in areas such as Patong.

Tawee still Karon Mayor

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

KARON: In the Karon municipal council election on June 8, incumbent Mayor Tawee Tongcham, running unopposed, received 20% of the votes to reclaim the mayoral seat.

Voter turnout was just over 60% of the 4,601 eligible voters – 2,269 voted for Tawee.

Eleven of the 12 regular council seats went to members of Tawee's "Tong Thin Kao Nah" (Local Progress) team.

In Karon Voting District 1, the winners were Sompote Muktieb, Sawat Pattakor, Pornchai Fai-ngam, Jaran Srisawat and Anurak Yamklai, all from Local Progress. Pratum Yodkaew also won a seat.

District 1 turnout was 62.9% of 2,112 eligible voters. There were 36 spoiled ballots and 21 "no votes".

District 2 winners were Jorranat Sa-nguanporn, Setthawut Tammawat, Meechai Nawin, Kane Chulak, Kobkoo Pattakor and Pairote Sangkaew – all from Local Progress.

Voter turnout was 57.9% of 2,489 eligible voters, with 57 spoiled ballots and 34 "no votes".

Prisoners hold products fair

SAPHAN HIN: A wide variety of handmade products are on display at Sapan Hin at the 5th Annual Prison Products Exhibition for Southern Thailand, which runs until June 21.

Phuket Prison Head Warden Paisal Suwanraksa said the exhibition, open daily from 9 am to 10 pm, features wood and rattan products, including tables, wardrobes, beds and baskets.

Most of the items, made by Thai prisoners as part of their vocational-skills training, on sale at reasonable prices.

4 nabbed, 1,500 pills seized in ya bah raids

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: Following a three-day investigation, the Muang District drug suppression unit on June 8 arrested four men and seized a total of 1,572 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills in a series of sting operations.

Officers identified the suspects as Nonthawat Intawanti, 19; Soontorn Boonjungkong, 24; Wannachai Kongsonpet, 24, and a minor aged 17.

Muang District Palad Teerapon Sittaboot told the press that undercover officers arranged to buy a single *ya bah* pill from

Nonthawat for 500 baht. After his arrest, they had Nonthawat call Soontorn and arrange to buy 50 pills for 10,000 baht at a home in Moo Baan Irawadee Ketho, in Kathu, he said.

Also taken into custody in the subsequent arrest was a 17-year-old boy found in possession of 210 pills.

Soontorn confessed that the rest of his *ya bah* stash was at a home on Chao Fa East Rd Soi 10 in Wichit, where officers seized 1,300 pills.

Soonthorn then arranged to buy 11 more pills from Wannachai in front of the 7-Eleven

near Villa Dowrung, also in Wichit, where the fourth suspect was arrested.

All four of the suspects were taken to Phuket City Police Station for questioning and to be charged. None of them are Phuket natives.

The three adult suspects are now at Phuket Provincial Prison, while the minor was sent to the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center.

Also seized by police during the arrests were an unlicensed shotgun with two cartridges, two mobile phones and a Honda motorcycle.

PMBC fights to save marine life

By Sompratch Saowakhon & Semacote Suganya

CAPE PANWA: A green sea turtle rescued from a fishing net in Satun had a badly infected flipper amputated at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) on June 6.

PMBC veterinarians led by Sontaya Manawattana said that the "flipperectomy" was the only way to save the animal, an otherwise healthy 20-year-old female.

The turtle was found off Koh Rayatot Yai, in Satun, where she had been pierced with five fishhooks and tightly ensnared by netting that had cut off circulation to her front-right flipper, allowing infection to set in.

At 75 kilos, she is the largest of 15 rescued sea turtles sent to the PMBC for treatment this year. The center treated a total of 30 sea turtles of various species throughout 2007.

K. Sontaya said the turtle will need up to six months of close, post-surgery care.

"The green turtle population is very worrying because it falls lower and lower each year," K. Sontaya said.

Two days earlier, on June 4,



PMBC biologists said that amputating the badly infected front-right flipper of the turtle, pictured here before surgery, was the only way to save the reptile.

a dwarf sperm whale that had washed up on Patong Beach died from ingesting a wide variety of man-made items, PMBC researchers told the *Gazette*.

The whale was discovered by local residents on the beach near Soi Bangla about 6 am.

The whale was pushed back into the water, but it beached itself again soon after.

Arriving about 7:30 am, PMBC biologists led by K. Sontaya, rushed the whale by truck to the PMBC for treatment.

PMBC staff administered tranquilizers and other drugs to

the whale for the trip to the center at Cape Panwa, but the animal went into shock and is believed to have died just before reaching the facility.

Efforts to revive the two-meter-long, 98-kilogram female in a pool at the PMBC failed.

Kanjana Adulaynukosol, Head of the PMBC's Marine Endangered Species Unit, said that an examination of the whale's carcass found what appeared to have been a chronic infection in its uterus.

However, the main cause of death was likely bleeding and inflammation of the whale's stomach, which was densely packed with 1.6 kilograms of man-made debris, including rope, bottle caps and plastic bags, which rendered digestion impossible.

Megaaquarium site still not chosen

BANGKOK: Plans by Minor International Plc to build a 2.1-billion-baht aquarium in Phuket are still in the land-acquisition and design phase, and the company does not expect to finalize plans or announce the project site until some time later this year at the earliest.

In July 2007, Minor International Plc announced its intention to build Southeast Asia's largest aquarium as part of its plan to expand its entertainment and retail property holdings in Phuket.

According to initial reports, Minor International would enter into a joint venture with Ripley Entertainment to build the aquarium, encompassing 10,000 to 12,000 square meters.

Minor International already runs the Ripley's Museum in Pattaya under a franchise agreement with Ripley International.

At the end of last year, Minor International founder and CEO William Heinecke said the aquarium project was set to be completed in 2010.

Minor International Senior Finance Director Prapharat Tangkawattana told the *Gazette* on June 4 that the project was not yet "solid" and that the two sides were still in the discussion phase.

"The construction site and design are not yet finalized. The current status remains on land surveys, proposing construction designs and so on," she said.

"I believe we will be able to provide more updated information about the project in the second half of this year," she added.

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PIH 'bypass turnoff' to be closed for 1 month

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: A provincial committee on traffic safety has decided to block the dangerous turnoff to Phuket International Hospital (PIH) from the bypass road southbound lanes for a trial period of one month.

The committee, chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai, came to a unanimous decision on the issue at a meeting held on June 5.

Signs warning motorists that U-turns are forbidden at the crossover are routinely ignored by motorists wanting to reverse directions without going all the way to the designated U-turn near Central Festival, committee members said.

The turnoff has been the site of at least seven accidents between February and May, traffic police reported.

Because the turnoff allows motorists to cut across a downhill section of the bypass road where northbound traffic flows at high speed, collisions tend to be disastrous.

Rather than accept the dangerous turnoff as a source of business right on its doorstep, the management at PIH sent a complaint to the Governor explaining the dangerous situation there.



The break in the median strip on the bypass road that allows southbound motorists to change directions or enter Phuket International Hospital easily will be closed within the next seven days for a one-month trial period.

Saroj Suwinchai, director of the Phuket Provincial Highways Office, said his staff will soon erect a sign informing motorists that the turnoff will close within seven to 10 days.

After that, concrete barriers will block entry to all vehicles for one month.

A similar turnoff in front of Index Living Mall, just a few hundred meters north of the PIH turnoff, was closed at the end of

last year for the same reason.

A total of 440 people have been charged with traffic violations on the bypass road from November 2007 to May 2008, the committee was told.

Meanwhile, across town, the one-way system on the access road to Phuket Rajabhat University has been declared a success after a three-month trial period and will remain indefinitely.

National Ombudsman hears Phuket complaints

PHUKET CITY: Phuket people's top source of grief were problems stemming from land, Chief Ombudsman Gen Theeradej Meepien told reporters after two days of hearing people's complaints at Phuket Merlin Hotel on June 3 and 4.

During the two days, Gen Theeradej and his staff heard complaints from local people and held public information sessions explaining the role of the Ombudsman's Office.

"Each year, we visit every region in the country. Most of the complaints we have received are about land problems, such problems with land title deeds. Other common complaints have been about police officers and government officers," said Gen Theeradej.

Pramot Chotmongkol, of the Ombudsman's Office in Bangkok, said, "During this session in Phuket, 10 complaints have been filed with us. Three of those involve land: one is about encroachment, another about the Land Office issuing a title deed late and the other is about unfair compensation for land used by the government."

— Sompratch Saowakhon

BIS calls for donations to help mugging victim

PHUKET CITY: British International School Phuket (BIS) is asking for donations to help pay medical bills for Jake Carey, one of two BIS community members seriously injured in a motorbike crash that resulted from a violent mugging in Patong early morning on June 1.

The other victim was Carly Moorhouse, who graduated from BIS last week and is the daughter of well known local property developer Paul Moorhouse.

Dean Smart, a close friend of the couple who was out celebrating with them on Saturday night, told the *Gazette* that Jake, 21, and Carly, 17, were riding a motorbike in Patong about 3 am, after having eaten at Burger King.

As they were riding along the beach road, two men on a motorbike pulled up from behind and pulled on Carly's handbag in an attempt to steal it, he said.

The force of the pull caused the motorbike to crash into a wall opposite the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa, leaving Jake unconscious.

The thieves made off with the handbag, said Dean, who parted with the couple about 90 minutes before the attack.

Carly and Jake were found

by Tourist Police officers and taken to Patong Hospital for initial treatment. They were later transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Jake, who works for the BIS Flying Fish Swim Club as an instructor, suffered multiple injuries, including a concussion, a compound fracture of the leg requiring surgical implantation of a metal plate, a broken collar bone and bruised ribs.

Carly suffered liver damage and internal bleeding that required surgical removal of her spleen, as well injuries to her tongue, jaw and knee.

The plea for financial assistance from BIS arises from the fact that Jake is uninsured, Dean said.

In a letter to BIS parents and guardians, BIS Head of Secondary Nick Botting wrote, "Although Jake is making an excellent recovery, the extent of his treatment, including operations, means that a large hospital bill has now been amassed. In order to offset these significant costs, the Flying Fish Swim Club has agreed to make a large donation.

"Students can help out by attending Jake's Football Bash, which will take place on June 21."

US Navy servicewoman dies in Patong

PATONG: A US servicewoman accidentally fell to her death from a seventh-floor hotel room in Patong on June 4, the *Gazette* has been told.

In a news release posted on its website on June 4, *Manager Online* quoted Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonark as identifying the woman as 25-year-old Ebony Cooper.

There were few other details in the report, except that police were notified of the death that morning.

Citing US Military policy, Scott Bernat, chief of the US Naval Security Force Detection Detachment, told the *Gazette* that he could neither confirm nor deny

any information about Ms Cooper's death.

As a result of the death, some 2,000 US Marine and Navy personnel on R&R leave in Phuket were called back to their vessels at Ao Makham for a security briefing, a source in Patong said.

Three US military vessels — USS *Pearl Harbor*, USS *Dubouque* and USS *Benfold*, two of which are large amphibious craft — anchored off Ao Makham on June 2 and personnel began to arrive in Patong about 6 pm the next day.

After the briefing, the crews were to continue their leave for three more days, the source said.

The US resumed using

Phuket as a port of call for rest and relaxation after Thailand's military-installed government was replaced by the elected government of Samak Sundaravej in January.

Although news service AP on June 4 reported that the US Navy had aborted its Myanmar aid mission, the *Gazette* was informed that these and other US naval ships were to remain in the region to assist cyclone victims should the junta begin to allow aid into the affected areas.



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Some 100 representatives of government agencies and private groups on May 29 attended an open public hearing on the Ao Phuket development project. The hearing began with a 20-minute video presentation developed several years ago by the Department of Public Works at Town and Country Planning (DPT), showing with impressive computer graphics how the project would transform Phuket Bay from its current, degraded state following a century of tin mining operations into a world-class tourist destination.

Representing Dasta were its director Worasit Rojanapanich and committee member Rajatin Syamananda, who initiated the project several years ago when he was the head of the DPT (see First Person on page 29). The day before, the two men met the leaders of Wichit and Rassada Municipalities, areas that, as with Phuket City, would be directly affected by the project.

Although many attendees supported Dasta's plan to move forward with the project, most also felt that Dasta should list all of Phuket as a designated area to fast-track sustainable development, especially considering that the scale of the project would certainly affect the entire island.

Another concern was the lack of public awareness about

Public hearing opens

The Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta) is a public organization under the Ministry of Tourism that answers directly to the Prime Minister.

Keen to fast-track a 100-billion-baht project to build a large marina and convention center complex on 3,000 rai of reclaimed in Phuket Bay, two Dasta representatives held a public hearing on the issue at the Phuket Merlin Hotel in Phuket City on May 29.

Gazette Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel reports.

the project. Speaking as a Phuket native, an officer with the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) said he thought public relations was lacking and that typical Phuket residents didn't know much about the project or how it would affect their lives. "If a conclusion is reached from this hearing, will it really reflect what all Phuket people want? The public hearing should be much broader than this because there are only about 100 people here, most of them representing government agencies.

"We should have a much wider forum to let everyone voice

their opinions. I think it would be wrong if we concluded here today by saying that all Phuket people are in favor or this project," he said.

Dasta's K. Worasit said many public hearings had already been conducted, but only in the communities to be directly affected by the project. He agreed that the public hearing process would have to be expanded if all of Phuket were to come under Dasta's scope.

K. Rajatin added that the current hearing was only preliminary, to sound out public opinion as to whether the people wanted



all of Phuket to be listed under Dasta or just the Phuket Bay project. If the Ao Phuket scheme eventually is approved, many more hearings would ensue on various aspects of the construction, he said.

The big benefit of being listed under Dasta was that the agency could help the province cut through red tape in implementing projects needed for sustainable tourism development, he said.

Despite these assurances, Banyat Jariyalrpong of the Phuket Culture Council expressed concern about the public hearing process and seemed wary of any central-government initiatives to develop the province.


"Phuket has already suffered from two mistakes in the past, first from the tin-mining business and now from tourism. In both cases the central government has made a lot of money from the province, using our natural resources to make money but giving very little back," said K. Banyat.

Despite these reservations, he still supports the Ao Phuket plan.

"I am not a big fan of Prime Minister Samak, but I agree completely when he says that Phuket needs a new form of administration given its importance to the national economy. Phuket being named a special administrative zone is long overdue. This project is a good case in point. Under the central government control it has been talked about for 20 years, with no real progress," he said.

Dasta's K. Rajatin pointed out that for the Ao Phuket project to move forward under Dasta it would have to be financed by the private sector through the Joint Investment Act. Numerous studies relating to management, infrastructure and other factors would need to be conducted and public hearing held before construction could actually begin, he said.


Mitr Singhasajjakul, a Sikh businessman representing the Sri Kuru Singha Sabha Association, said he agreed with all of Phuket being a "special zone", but he



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Pandora's box to Ao Phuket

The 100-billion-baht Ao Phuket project in Phuket Bay came under fire at a recent public hearing.



'The project will not happen if the people don't agree with it. That's for sure,' said Dasta Director Worasit Rojanapanich

solving existing problems gradually – without this project," she said.

"If we agree to have all of Phuket listed under Dasta, does that mean we are obliged to accept the Ao Phuket project?" she asked.

"The project will not happen if the people don't agree with it. That's for sure," K. Worasit replied.

K. Nalinee also questioned the effect on the ability of elected local administrative bodies and whether conflicts of interest would arise.

K. Worasit explained that Dasta's role is that of a coordinating body that helps local councils. "We do not interfere in the local administration organizations. Being designated under Dasta means they will get our help in fast-tracking projects and won't have to wait as long as they would working through the normal government procedures," he said.

Another concern put forward by K. Nalinee was the effect the project would have on

local people's lifestyle, especially given Saphan Hin's current role as the city's main recreational area. "I worry that pollution from yachts and other activities in the bay could affect Saphan Hin," she said.

K. Rajatin replied that Saphan Hin would continue to play its role as the prime recreational area and that the Ao Phuket project would improve the area, planting more trees and adding more facilities there. The public would be kept informed every step of the way, he said.

Chalermlak Kebsup, a party-list MP for Phuket and Democrat Party member who has served on the House Committee on Tourism, said she once held out hope that listing Phuket under Dasta could benefit the province.

However, Dasta's projects in Koh Chang, Chiang Mai, the Phi Phi Islands and Koh Lanta has led her to believe the agency lacks sufficient public relations skills to allow it to work effectively with local people.

"We can see the same thing

happening in Phuket now. Your organization stands in a great position to take on this project, but you need to convince the people that you are the 'hero' coming to help them. If your organization gives the Phuket people a clear understanding, you will win their support," she said.

"On the other hand, if you just hold a meeting for 100 people and say, 'Let us list Phuket as a special zone under Dasta and after we'll come back and tell you what we are actually going to do', then I don't think the people will understand.

"From the presentation I have seen, I understand your aim is to push one private project...

When you then say that you will announce Phuket as special zone and help us deal with water supply, transport and other problems, all we are getting is a verbal promise. How do you expect us to have confidence that you will really do what you say?"

"Today we are uncertain about this project. I would like you slow down and explain to everyone first in order to win public support. Everyone appreciates the benefits of tourism, but you have to involve the public in decision-making from the beginning. We have already seen what can happen when central government forces projects on people here with the burning down of the tantalum factory [in 1986]," she said.

"I was called to attend this meeting at the last minute. I didn't know anything about it before and there were no signs

posted encouraging people to attend, even though this is a major project that would affect everyone's lives. There were only a few mentions of it in certain newspapers," she said.

"The project you have presented is a good one, so you don't have to worry about lack of support, but the feeling I get today is that there are still some things we have not been told. If you are more open, you will win public trust. I think you need to open the public hearing process to a much wider audience and explain it more clearly," she said.

To this, K. Worasit said Dasta had tried inform the public through the normal channel, the provincial public relations office.

'This project is good because it will help Phuket develop, but I want to see development across the island,' said Kraingsak Suksomboon, Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

"However, we can't deny that we have failed so far in terms getting information to the public. We note all the comments made here and will try to improve our efforts in the future. I'd like to state at this point

that Dasta is an organization that listens to local people every step of the way and will not move forward with anything without public support. We also accept more public input into the project just presented, the plans for which are not finalized," he said.

Kraingsak Suksomboon, Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC), agreed with the plan, but also agreed with MP Chalermlak that much more planning and better public relations were needed. "The most important thing is to have a real public hearing. I want every organization to know and

Continued on page 6



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Seafood prices ready to soar?

PHUKET: Royal Thai Navy Chief Adm Narong Yutthawong, who once served as Supreme Commander of the Thai Armed Forces, on June 4 met leading local fishing industry figures as part of his senatorial fact-finding tour into the impact of rising fuel prices on the nation's fishing industry.

At a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall, Adm Narong told reporters that his tour had taken him to many other key fishing centers, including Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkram, Songkhla, Pattani, Ranong, Krabi and Maha Sarakam.

Committee chairman Adm Narong said, "Our fishing industry is suffering from many problems, such as the price of fuel, depleted fishing grounds and foreign competition. We need to know exactly which problems our fishing industry is facing and we need to collect information to find ways to solve them."

"We will report our findings to the Senate first and pass on what we have learned to the government," he added.

Chief of Phuket Provincial Fishery Office, Pairon Sutthakorn, reported to the committee, "We have the same problem as other provinces: the high price of fuel, depleted fishing areas, foreign labor and low market prices."

"Another important effect, and this one stems from tourism, is polluted water, a factor that is now affecting more and more fishing grounds."



'Our fishing industry is suffering from many problems, such as the price of fuel, depleted fishing grounds and foreign competition,' said Committee chairman Adm Narong said.

Phuket Fishermen Association Chairman Somyot Wongboonyakul said that he had asked the director-general of the Department of Fishery Office for suggestions in how to cope with the impact of rising fuel prices, and even suggested that Phuket's fishing fleet convert to bio-diesel.

Sutha Prateep-Na-Thalang, representing the Ao Chalong Fishermen's Association, said, "We have problems with the negative impact on the environment, especially polluted water, brought on from coastal development, which is being driven by tourism."

AO PHUKET UNDER SCRUTINY

From page 5

understand this project, otherwise there will be opposition when construction starts.

"This project is good because it will help Phuket develop, but I want to see development across the island," he said.

Suta Preteep Na Thalang, from the Ao Chalong Local Fisherman's Network, said Phuket being a special zone under Dasta could improve city planning and help bring about more sustainable tourism development. A well-known opponent of the Chalong Marina, she said she had long favored a single large marina in Phuket Bay as a way of limiting environmental damage along the west coast.

However, she said she fears the megaproject would cause another large influx of Burmese workers in the province. "We now have about 100,000 Burmese workers here already, both legal and illegal. They put a great deal of stress on our natural resources, such as by catching immature fish and other marine animals. We report them to the police, but so far no-one has been able to solve the problem," she said.

Doubting Dasta's assertion that the project would not pollute the environment, K. Suta said she is now basically opposed to any new marina projects on the island. "Now we are facing rising fuel and food prices. I think in the near future we will no longer be able to count on the sea as a reliable source of food."

"Industrial development in the Gulf of Thailand has already ruined the fishing industry there. The Andaman Sea is still relatively productive, but there are plans to expand industry here as well. I will oppose these, as industry threatens the marine environment on which we rely for food," she said.

K. Suta also doubts the project would really create jobs for local people. "This is an extravagant project for rich people. I'm sure that there will not be any jobs available there for the poor people without fancy degrees. If this project happens, it will affect

poor people. They won't be able to keep up with the rising costs of living and we'll see an increase in crime and other social problems," she said.

"Many areas in Phuket that were once open to the public have now been sealed off. There are now whole islands that belong to private parties – local people can't go there to find food as they once did. Encroachment is a major issue that Phuket can't solve. We still see people with title deeds granted on protected mangrove forest," she said.

"You say you will find ways to solve all the problems, but I am not convinced. Right now we can't even solve the problem of all the garbage from the tourism industry that piles up around Chalong Pier, where I live. We hold one clean-up event after another, but it seems like a never-ending task and we are getting tired of it," she said.

Sutian Singhsetthi of the Phuket Real Estate Club said Phuket's listing under Dasta should not be contingent on the Ao Phuket project being accepted as the main development priority.

"We should work on making Phuket tourism as it is now more sustainable. If we don't accept the Ao Phuket project, would you still be willing to list all of Phuket under Dasta?"

"I agree with making Phuket a special Dasta zone, but it should not depend on making this megaproject. Phuket already generates a lot of money for the government and we deserve better returns than we get," he said.

One speaker, who did not introduce himself, said he was in favor of the Ao Phuket project because it was a way of cleaning up Phuket Bay from the tin mining era. However, he also said he feared the project because it would attract more foreigners to the island.

"Thao Thepkrasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn [the two heroines] saved the Phuket from a Burmese invasion, but look at the island today – it's full of Burmese. We are losing our sovereignty. There are some housing estates

that belong to foreigners now that do not allow Thais to enter. I think these are very important things to consider when awarding concessions under this project," he said.

Thiti Sawisai, Chairman of Phuket Environment Protection Society (PEPS), said he found it difficult to see how the Ao Phuket project would benefit local people. One obvious problem that Dasta had not clearly addressed was that of road access – as it is currently accessible only through the narrow and often congested streets of Phuket City.

He also questioned plans to benefit locals by training them to work. "Opening schools to train people to become mechanics really only teaches people how to be employees. Real sustainability involves giving people a stake in ownership and decision-making processes," he said.

I think that if Phuket does not take advantage of the project, some other province might.'
– Surachai Chaiwat of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

Surachai Chaiwat of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce said, "The Ao Phuket project is a good opportunity for Phuket, but the people must decide. I think that if Phuket does not take advantage of the project, some other province might."

"Dasta should consider tax issues carefully. We know that some foreign companies invest in real estate here, but make sales in their own countries to avoid paying taxes due to Thailand. I would like to see these issues dealt with from the outset to ensure that foreigners don't come here, use our natural resources and then leave local people to deal with all the problems," he said.

K. Surachai also expressed concern that local people would be denied access to the project once it was built and that action had to be taken to ensure this would not happen.

After everyone had spoken, K. Worasit and K. Rajathin thanked everyone for their input and promised to "take a step back", giving careful consideration to the many concerns people expressed and trying to Dasta's public relations.

See related story on page 29, First Person.

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News of the release of a Ranong woman facing charges of organizing the slaying of her Canadian husband has angered the victim's family.

Maneerat Nee, 27, was charged with hiring a hitman to kill her husband Dale Henry, shot dead in his Ranong home on February 3, so she could collect a 32-million-baht insurance policy on his life.

Henry, 48, was lying in his bed when he was shot in the head.

Henry's sister, Mary-Jane Matheson, expressed dismay after Maneerat was bailed recently for about 650,000 baht.

Two men stand accused of the murder: Amornsak Keskaew, allegedly Maneerat's lover, and Jinda Sae Tae, who was allegedly hired to kill Henry.

Both are believed to be still in custody.

Ms Matheson said court hearings had gone ahead without her receiving notice and thus she was unable to organize a representative to attend.

It was unclear if this was caused by miscommunication from court officials, legal representatives or the Canadian embassy, she said.

Ms Matheson said she had written to Thailand's Human Rights Commission to look into the case, because of fears efforts have been made to undermine justice.

Virtue-al reality. A lecturer at Rangsit University had developed a video game designed to teach children Buddhist morality.

The game "Buddhist Novice Versus Five Devils" is based on the five Buddhist precepts: no killing, lying, stealing, sexual misconduct or intoxication.

The main character is a novice called Sikha, whose mission is to help people to overcome the temptations offered by corrupting devils.

The game is aimed at children aged between six and 12, who are put in everyday situations, from the playground to supermarkets, where they are tempted to commit sin.

The game, which takes between 30 minutes to an hour to play, can be downloaded for free at www.rsu.ac.th

Occupational hazards. Almost 200,000 workplace accidents were reported to the Labor Pro-

Slain Canadian: alleged 'killer wife' gets bail

tection and Welfare Department last year, with most work-related fatalities resulting from road accidents.

Department chief Padungsak Thephasdin na Ayudhya said that 741 workers were killed in 198,652 on-the-job mishaps that left another 3,271 workers disabled and 50,525 forced to take time off.

Of the fatalities, 349 died in motor accidents. The second biggest killer was falls (105) followed by electrocution (89).

The transport industry recorded the greatest number of workplace fatalities with 135, followed by construction (126).

K. Padungsak said most accidents are caused by poor work practices, poor supervision and dangerous worksites.

The department has fewer than 2,000 inspectors to check more than 400,000 workplaces nationwide, he said.

Campus confusion. Universities that have agreed to provide separate dorms and bathrooms for cross-dressing and transgender students are now assessing the number they will need to cater to.

The schools will change current rules to allow male students to attend classes in women's clothing, Deputy Education Minister Boonlue Prasert-sopha said.

Male cross-dressers have long had problems using lavatories: fellow students do not welcome them in men's or women's facilities.

Higher Education Commission Secretary-General Sumet Yaemnun said it is important to determine whether male cross-dressers intend to remain cross-dressers, otherwise there will be difficulties in allowing them to stay in women's dorms.

Until new lavatories are provided, transgender students will be allowed to use women's facilities while pre-op students should use the men's, he said.



BELLE OF THE BALL

Kangsadarn "Nonk" Wongdusadeekul, 19, broke into tears after being named Miss Tiffany 2008 at the annual pageant for Thai transvestites and transgender held in Pattaya.

The winner of 100,000 baht and a Honda car, K. Nonk will now advance to the global competition, Miss International Queen, to be held in Pattaya in October.

A ministry study revealed that more cross-dressing and transgender students are attending universities than ever.

The largest enrollments are

at Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Prince of Songkla Universities.

Miss you. Women, married and divorced, have been flocking to

District Offices across the country to register changes to their name titles from "Mrs" to "Miss".

The Female Title Act, which became effective June 4, has been described as a "declaration of independence" for women.

Proponents of the legislation say it reduces social pressure on women and "makes them feel young".

Making the alteration is not easy, as many documents and records are required.

Many of those applying to change their titles are divorcees.

Proud to pack. The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria's new 3.2-billion-baht HIV-prevention campaign for Thailand is called *Yeud Ouk Poktoong*, or "Proud to Carry Condoms".

All television stations are running the safe-sex campaign, said Bangkok office director Dr Anupong Chitawarakorn.

"The campaign explains how you can estimate HIV/Aids risk factors and others' sexual behavior as well as showing you how you can prevent yourself and your partners from becoming infected," he said.

Yeud Ouk Poktoong is a three-phase campaign.

The first encourages people to be proud of carrying condoms wherever they go. The second educates people in estimating the risk of contracting HIV/Aids. The last is post-infection care.

The campaign, which began in May, is being broadcast day and night until the end of June.

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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Koh Samui's marine life in jeopardy

Koh Samui's coral reef is disappearing at an alarming rate, posing a serious threat to the island's marine ecosystem.

The 65 square kilometers of reef surrounding the island makes up one of the largest of its kind in Thailand and its rapid degeneration is of grave concern to scientists.

Researchers from Kasetsart University have been studying the reef systems that surround Koh Samui for more than 10 years.

Dr Thorn Thamrongnavasawat, deputy dean of the Faculty of Fisheries at the university, said that some of the major damage is due to the effects of global warming, with the warmer waters and the greater frequency of storms causing damage to the reefs.

He also blamed the tourist industry for exploiting the reef. Boats ferrying tourists to places such as Koh Pha-ngan are causing a massive disturbance to aquatic life.

Scientists believe that the

large amount of waste being found in the water is another problem.

Over the past 10 years, Dr Thorn has seen a huge decline in the number of fish in the area. In some cases the fish population surrounding the reefs has decreased more than 80%, with numbers falling dramatically in the past year.

"The reefs are simply disappearing and so are the fish that surrounded them. There is a lack of care and concern for the coral colonies that surround the island and therefore the reefs lack sufficient recovery," he said.

Many tour operators in the area now take customers to Anthong Marine Park or other neighboring islands to observe

the underwater wildlife that used to be in abundance around Koh Samui.

Shots to the heart. A love triangle turned sour and left one man in critical condition after he was shot five times by his girlfriend's former lover.

Prasartporn Jantrapichit, 39,



PLAIN SAILING

Ray Roberts and his Quantum Racing crew, who won the Racing class in the 7th Samui International Yacht Regatta, take a break from the action by taking local kids sailing.

Some 300 sailors from more than 10 countries took part in the regatta, which closed with an awards ceremony and gala dinner party at the Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui on June 7.

Neil Pryde from Hong Kong and his crew on *Hi Fi* finished second in the class, followed by Bill Bremner's *Foxy Lady IV*.

Photo by Marty Rujikis



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

a Forest Department officer, turned himself in to the police and confessed to shooting Ekkachai Thongchon, 32, after discovering that the woman he'd been having an affair with was in a relationship with Ekkachai.

Prasartporn told police he had been having an affair with a 23-year-old woman and had been financially supporting her for a number of years until she graduated from university, at which time she ended the relationship, claiming she hadn't known that Prasartporn was already married.

Prasartporn later found out that the woman was in a relationship with Ekkachai and claims to have followed the couple, eventually approaching them and shooting Ekkachai before making off in a car.

Ekkachai had to be resus-

citated by doctors and is still in critical condition while Prasartporn remains in police custody while the investigation continues.

Foreigner busted for selling drugs. Police have arrested an Icelandic national for allegedly selling drugs from a bar on Koh Samui.

Long-term Samui resident Cari Daniel, 43, was arrested after a tip-off led police to raid his house, where an undisclosed amount of cocaine was reportedly found.

Daniel is alleged to have sold drugs from the Champ Rock Pub, where he had been working as manager. Police said he was dealing mostly to tourists.

Police questioned the suspect, who has denied all charges and claimed that he had been set

up. The case is under investigation and a court date has yet to be set.

Police are cracking down on the island's drug trade in an attempt to stop the flow of narcotics making their way to the monthly full moon parties.

Drugs are thought to have played a large part in the rise of violent crime on Koh Samui.

Road blocks have been set up on Koh Samui and Koh Pha-ngan in an attempt to catch people with illegal drugs and weapons. Police claim such efforts have been successful.

Dodgy duo nabbed. Two men have been arrested for making counterfeit bank notes at a local computer shop where they worked.

Meesak Suphanthanakit, 25, and a man identified only as "Suttiporn", 19, were arrested after police received reports that fake notes were being circulated.

Investigations led police to Samui Com Centre, where the two men were working. The pair later confessed to making counterfeit currency, police said.

Suthiporn told police that he had installed a computer program that allowed the duo to make fake bank notes through a process of repeated photocopying.

However, he spent the dud notes only at night to avoid detection, he told police.

Meesak, who began working at the shop a month ago, said he started making the bills while the shop's owner was away.

Two fake 500-baht notes were found next to a laser printer in the shop at the time of the raid while another was found in Meesak's wallet.

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Southern security forces have launched a huge manhunt for a militant bomb-making cell responsible for an attack on the annual Red Cross Fair in Yala province on June 3, killing one person and injuring four others.

Yala Vice-Governor Grisada Boonrach said the insurgents were unable to penetrate to the heart of the fair and were forced to set off their bomb in the parking lot.

Authorities believe the same militant cell was behind an explosion at Narathiwat's Red Cross Fair in early May that injured 12 people, V/Gov Grisada said.

On the evening of June 3, two Muslim men and a woman were killed when gunmen sprayed their house with bullets as they were conducting evening prayers.

V/Gov Grisada said that the latest bomb attack does not overshadow the fact that more young men are joining Yala's Peace Outreach Center.

"It is understood that these types of attacks are aimed at discrediting the authorities and that is part of the insurgents' strategy," he said.

The following morning, in Tambon Tanyong Dalor in Narathiwat, two police officers were critically injured when a roadside bomb exploded.

Police said Private 1st Class Laemthong Boochaphan, 35, and Private Pathompong Pipat-rachai, 33, were among six soldiers on a security detail for public school teachers. Both suffered numerous shrapnel wounds to their faces and bodies.

Government spokesman Wichianchot Sukchotrat on June 3 said the Cabinet had instructed various agencies, including the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center, to study what lessons could be learned from how Indonesia has tackled separatist unrest in Aceh province.

Aceh pro-independence rebels signed a peace pact with the Indonesian government in 2005.

Chesty or tickly? A woman was arrested at Haad Yai bus station

Manhunt launched for Red Cross Fair bombers



SMOKED OUT

Prison officers, police and local government officials conduct a drugs search of the cells of all 1,218 inmates at Surat Thani Prison on June 6, but find only cigarettes and rolling tobacco.

on June 2 for smuggling 250 bottles of cough medicine to allegedly be used for making "4 x 100".

Police, led by Lt Col Thirak Chaiyotho, deputy superintendent of Haad Yai Police Station, asked to search the bags of Arathai Phanthuchok, 33, from Krabi, after they spotted her acting suspiciously near the platform for buses to Pattani.

In the bags, they found 250 60-milliliter bottles of cough medicine used to make "4 x 100", a popular concoction in the Deep South made from *krathom* (an indigenous plant with stimulant properties), mosquito repellent coils and cola.

Police said that Arathai claimed that the medicine did not belong to her and a friend who

she knew only as Nat had asked her to take it to Pattani for her.

Prison break. Trang police have stepped up a manhunt for a rape suspect who escaped from prison last month after he allegedly threatened to kill one of his victims.

Maj Gen Prasert Jansawang, commander of Trang Provincial Police, on June 3 said that he had formed a task force to find Suphat "Kik" Srithep, 32, who escaped from Trang Prison at the beginning of May.

Suphat was awaiting trial for the rape and attempted murder of a young woman in a rubber plantation in Tambon Ban Pho, Muang district, on April 16.

He was arrested two days after the incident and had con-

fessed to the crime and a number of other attacks on women in the province, Gen Prasert said.

Gen Prasert explained that he had recently received a report from Muang District Police that the mother of the victim had reported that Suphat had called her daughter and threatened to kill her.

He also instructed officers

to keep a close watch on the house of the victim. He urged the public to assist in the search and warned that anyone found to be harboring a suspect will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Trang prison authorities have launched an investigation into how Suphat managed to escape and any officer found to have aided him in his breakout will be prosecuted, Gen Prasert said.

Dirty diesel. Two men were on June 4 arrested for smuggling diesel in Satun.

Acting on information from an informant, police stopped Winai Taepuyu and Ropanee Puyang at a checkpoint outside Wat Satunsantayaram. In the suspects' white Ford sedan, police found 18 gas tanks containing a total of 540 liters of diesel.

The men were taken to Satun Muang District Police Station and charged under the Customs Act.

Police said the diesel was likely to have been smuggled into Thailand by fishing boat from Perlis in Malaysia, where, until a recent decision by the Malaysian government to cut fuel subsidies, diesel was 15 to 16 baht per liter.

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

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By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Take a walk through Khao Pra Taew Park in Pa Khlok and if you're lucky you'll see splashes of color among the lush vegetation. About 1,000 butterflies were released in the park last weekend as part of a butterfly-conservation project by Phuket Butterfly Garden & Insect World.

Parents and their excited children turned up to help release the rabble of butterflies from several specially adapted bird cages, creating a colorful display as more than 15 species of butterfly took to the air to explore their new home in the park.

The butterflies included varieties with fantastic-sounding names, such as leopard lacewings, dark blue tigers, yellow Helen, autumn leaf and orange oakleaf.

Knowing that having discovered freedom the butterflies would also need food provided by particular trees and shrubs, participants rolled up their sleeves, got on their hands and knees and

Young butterflies spread their wings

planted 100 young trees in the area to feed the forest's additions to the insect population.

The seedlings included *jum pi* (white champaka), *jum pa, som jeed* and *manao kwai* (buffalo lime), chosen to provide food for the butterflies and digestible habitat for caterpillars.

The man in charge of this second annual release of butterflies into the park, Wasin Koy-siripong, managing director of Phuket Butterfly Garden & Insect World, explained that releasing the butterflies will increase the variety of insects in the park.

"Not only are butterflies beautiful to look at, but they also play a very important role in the ecosystem," said K. Wasin. She explained that the main aim of releasing the butterflies is to boost the butterfly population in the park as continued development around the island has reduced the available natural habitat for Phuket's butterflies.

K. Wasin also has plans for the park to become a learning center for children and adults and aims to have information about the butterfly species on display in time for next year's butterfly release.





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Noodle junkie shares the love

Phuket native Kwanruthai "Kai" Korsuwong loves cooking. After a decade of helping her sister run her tour business, K. Gai left to open her own noodle restaurant about five years ago.

Since then, her noodle recipes have proved so popular with Phuket City locals that she has just opened her second restaurant next door, a Vietnamese restaurant simply named Ho Chi Minh.

"I helped my sister with her tour business for more than 10 years, but as the industry went through changes, up and down with one thing after another, I started looking for something else that I really liked to do.

"I love to eat noodles very much and later I found someone – actually, it was my friend's cousin – to teach me how to cook noodles.

"All I wanted to do was to cook noodles and to have people enjoy what I had cooked for them," K. Gai said.

"About five years ago there were no restaurants in Phuket City selling 'boat noodles', or what we call *guaytieow reua* in



Thai," she explained, adding that boat noodles are a special style of noodles that include pig's blood

in the broth.

"So I opened my own restaurant – called Boat Noodles –

K. Gai (inset) knows a thing or two about Vietnamese food. Her *goeun soi thit nuong* after is one of her most popular dishes.

After 10 years helping her sister run her tour company, K. Gai decided to open her own noodle restaurant in Phuket City.

She uses only authentic ingredients, sourced from Thabor district, Nongkhai province.

selling this style of noodles in Samkong.

"I do this because I love it – it's not just a job or because I have nothing better to do," she said.

Those who go in search of her Boat Noodles restaurant should have little trouble finding it on Yaowarat Rd – the serving counter looks like one side of the hull of a boat.

After running Boat Noodles for five years, it dawned on her that very few restaurants in Phuket serve Vietnamese food, so K. Gai started planning with a friend and opened Ho Chi Minh next door to Boat Noodles in June.

"Last October, I looked everywhere – Udon Thani, Ubon Ratchathani, Khon Kaen, Vientiane – for ingredients such as noodles and the types of pork sausage that are used in making Vietnamese food.

"On the Mekong there is a village called Begayor, which is in Thabor district, Nongkhai province. This village is popular for ingredients for Vietnamese food.

"There are about 50 homes in Begayor that make Vietnamese-style white noodles, so I collected packs from each of the homes and wrote down their addresses so I could get in touch with them if I wanted to place an order with them.

"I tested each and every sample, putting them in water and stretching them to see which one was the best.

"Of course, all of my suppliers live in the same village, but the ingredients and the methods they use are all different, such as in simply making a pork sausage.

"I order direct from them; I don't buy in Phuket. I believe that if you want to create the same taste as where the food originated from, then for the best quality, the ingredients must come from the same place," K. Kai said.

"Similarly, people in Udon Thani and Ubon Ratchathani often eat *pho thang* (Vietnamese noodle soup) for breakfast.

When I was traveling through there, I saw that most people were eating *pho thang*, fried Vietnamese sausage and sticky rice for breakfast – so I have put that on my menu," she said.

Goeun soi thit nuong
(Charcoal-grilled pork
brochettes served
with fried sticky rice)
Serves 1

Sticky rice balls

Ingredients

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sticky rice | ½ cup of rice (to make 3 sticky rice balls) |
| Coriander | ½ tablespoon |
| Salt | ½ teaspoon |
| Sugar | ½ teaspoon |
| Egg | 1 |

Method

Soak the rice in water for two to three hours in order to soften the grain, then bring it to the boil on soft heat while keeping a close watch on the rice – when the grains start moving, remove the rice from the pot and set it aside to cool.

Chop the coriander and mix it into the cold sticky rice, which you can also season to taste with salt and sugar – and then roll it into balls. Steam the rice balls for about five minutes then paint the surface with egg yolk and fry the balls until they are light golden brown.

Charcoal-grilled pork

Ingredients

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Pork | 300g steak |
| Chili | 3 pieces |
| Garlic | 1 clove |
| White sauce | 1 teaspoon |
| Salt | ½ teaspoon |
| Pork stock | ½ cube |

Method

Tenderize the pork steak then baste it with the white sauce and let it sit overnight so the sauce soaks in. Bring the grill to medium heat and cook the steak for five minutes on each side.

Pho thang
(Vietnamese noodle
soup with Vietnamese
sausage, spare ribs
and mushrooms)
(serves 20 bowls)

Ingredients

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Pork bone | 1 (usually a joint) |
| Water | 1 liter |
| Salt | 1 teaspoon |
| White sugar | 1 tablespoon |

Method

Put the pork bone in a pot with the water, then add the salt and the sugar and boil for about two to three hours.

In a single-serving bowl, put 50g of Vietnamese white noodles, fill with broth then garnish with fried onion and coriander.

Dipping sauce

For the pork steak, mix together dried chili, garlic, seasoning, sugar and vinegar to taste.

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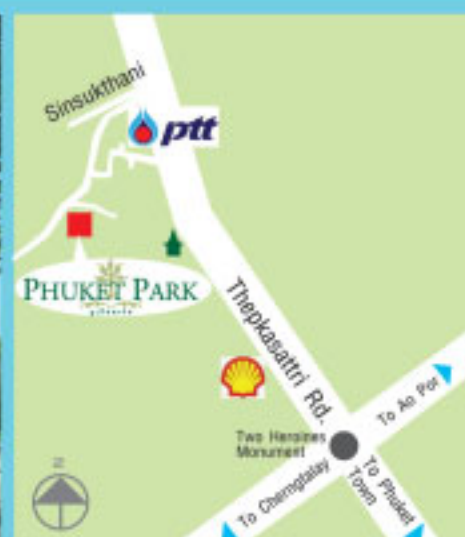
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Phuket is an island full of seekers. Those seeking love, wealth, revelry, escape from reality – the full range of human experience – come here in droves. Some find what they're looking for. Many do not, as the tales of woe threading their way from Patong barstools to Internet forums to the ears of anyone who will listen can attest to. Tropical dreams, it seems, do not always bring happy endings.

Don and Inge McMahon are seekers, too. It was a quest for beads, silver and jewelry pieces that first brought them to Phuket 15 years ago. They stopped and stayed at Kamala Beach after searching for hilltribe silver in Northern Thailand, in what was to be a short break before continuing their journey down to Indonesia to find contemporary gold beads.

They loved Kamala and "forgot to leave", Don said, and never did make it down to Indonesia.

A host of less tangible things – a sense of adventure being one of them – convinced them to stay on and settle in Kamala after spending the winters there for three years.

The couple did, indeed, find what they sought. Over the course of their stay here, they acquired a number of rare, antique beads and other decorative items from Thailand, Afghanistan, Italy and beyond, and added them to their collection.

The collection was not only a source of pride, but a historical record – the stones being tiny encapsulations of history of the Earth and its evolution, as well as a living history of Don and Inge's travels and the relationships they'd formed along the way. Each bead, and the way it was acquired, radiated a memory for the couple.

Bead collecting is an interest the couple have shared and built upon since they first met in Greece in 1973. Their relationship

The Treasure Hunters

The quest by long-term Kamala residents Don and Inge McMahon for unique and antique beads has taken them around the world, and eventually led them to make Thailand their home. Speaking with Lana Willocks, they reveal that what they found in some dramatic life events, including a brush with death in the tsunami, was something far more valuable than the jewelry pieces they cherish.



LOVE BEADS: Don and Inge were told by a coconut farmer that they are 'two people, one heart' (a Thai saying).

was sparked during their travels and has continued to be defined by movement across the globe. "Each [of us] was going somewhere when we met," said Don, "but didn't know where that was."

Don is from Limerick, Ireland, while Inge is a Danish national. Within months of their Mediterranean romance they'd left their home countries, married and moved to Vancouver, Canada, where Don pursued a career in tax consulting and as a venture capitalist while Inge did pottery, interior design and jewelry design.

They spent 25 years in Canada, but always had a vision of moving to another country later in life, possibly in Central America, where they had traveled in search of beads.

"We just didn't want to be tied down," said Don. "We never wanted a fixed pattern of life or a fixed pattern of work. For us, for some strange reason, it's cleansing and healthy to move. I don't know why that is."

Kamala in the mid- to late-1990s was not the hotel-laden, expat enclave that it is today. Don explained that much of the infrastructure that is taken for granted

now, including a road to Patong, did not exist at that time.

Only a few other foreigners were living in the area then, he said. One man, named Mel, was often seen riding around the village on his motorbike with a gibbon on the back. Upon seeing that, Don said, "We decided this is a perfectly crazy place to settle in."

In the early days they spent their time "starting from scratch", trying to set up basic facilities such as a telephone line in their home. Don described how they ran a line from a nearby restaurant, and would have his Internet connection interrupted when someone called into the restaurant to place an order.

Other things, such as sorting out visas and buying a car, required a lot of time and work since the bureaucracy involved was not widely understood at that time. "We had to basically learn everything all over again," Don said, "which probably made us a lot stronger."

As the years passed, the bead collection grew and formed the raw ingredients for Inge's creative pursuits. She created several necklaces, earrings and other pieces. Some items were sold, but many she kept as part of their collection. She began thinking about setting up a shop at a luxury resort, since there had been a great deal of interest in her works.

Enter December 26, 2004: a day that changed everything for the couple and the community in which they lived. The tsunami washed through their beachfront home and both Don and Inge were caught in it. They survived. Though badly damaged, their

home survived. Their four so-called dogs also survived. And the bead collection, which had been on the upper floor, miraculously survived as well.

But the creative spirit in which the collection had been built "died with the tsunami", Don said. Since the wave hit, Inge has suffered severe back pain as a result of the physical and mental trauma. She has not created a single piece of jewelry since.

The couple spent their days after the tsunami helping rebuild the homes and livelihoods of their friends and neighbors in the stricken community. But even as the structures went back up, the couple began to feel that the sense of community that had first drawn them to the village had somehow been lost.

"What we loved back then was that the local people, everybody, would get out and sweep the streets or go out and pick up the bottles on the beach," said Don. "Now, nobody cares. The attitude is, 'The government should do it' or, 'It's not my land.'"

They were also reluctant to return to the home in which they'd nearly lost their lives. After the tsunami, they never went back to live there, instead renting a home further inland, where they began to plot their next move.

Soon enough, the travels of this gypsy couple continued, this time taking them across Thailand to the Gulf Coast, where they found a quiet seaside village, Khanom Beach, in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Far off the tourist map, Khanom, Don said, has much of what attracted them to Kamala a decade ago: unspoiled nature, very little development, very little greed. Living in a three-bedroom house on the beach, the couple brought everything, including their bead collection, to their new home. Inge's creative spark was returning and she planned to begin designing again.

With few foreigners in the area, many were curious about this Irish-Danish couple and the colorful pieces of jewelry they wore. Don said, "People would touch you and look at your beads, and because we're real bead lovers we would explain that it was a million years old and it had come from a tree that had cried and that's why it was called amber..."

"They'd ask if it was expensive, and we'd say 'yes'.

"That was our lack of caution."

In early May, Don and Inge went to stay at a friend's house not far from where they lived. A few days later, they returned home to find that their bead collection – along with a lot of other valuables – had been stolen.

In continuing with the "life is a journey" metaphor, this is where the term "crossroads" comes into play.

The bead theft was deliberate and well organized, Don said. "There were beads left that were worth a tenth of the ones that were taken; they knew what they were doing."

Don tries to be philosophical about the loss, but it's clear

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Inge's creations are a colorful blend of cultures and design motifs. For example, the necklace and earrings set (top right) is a mix of Karen hilltribe silver, a Afghan Pashtun tribal silver centrepiece and old Italian trade beads. All of the jewelry pictured was stolen from their home in May.

that the theft has shaken and angered the couple. The collection can never be replaced, as the scale of the expense and effort involved in rebuilding what they had is insurmountable. And Inge has lost the foundation for her favored medium in which to channel her now-fragile creative energies.

"We're trying to grapple with accepting the loss of something physical," Don said. "Our whole attitude is that it shouldn't matter, and it's quite a test to not get angry at the lack of action by the Thai authorities and by the attitudes locally [about publicizing the theft]."

He added, "We're in a quandary about whether to publicize the theft within the bead community and try to recover our losses, which makes it harder to accept the loss, or do we give up. It's easy to hang on and be regretful."

External forces have stripped away so many of the things that they'd built up together,

yet what remains is something that American author and mythology professor Joseph Campbell described aptly when he said, "It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure."

And this treasure, of course, is their extraordinary marriage. "We found our happiness when we found each other in Greece," said Don.

In their seeking, Don and Inge found a home, lost a home, found their treasure and lost their treasure. But they haven't lost that reservoir of collective strength that has sustained them through their losses, pain and hardships.

This couple's tropical dreams continue. Another chapter turns.

Find out more about Inge's jewelry collection by emailing her at ingemcmahon@gmail.com, or contacting her through Facebook.

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Anchalee Wettayawong and Chetthaprin Tantipoolwinai were married at The Metropole Hotel on May 13.



Wiwannak Boonya and Wisit Wittayapiyanont celebrated their wedding at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on May 11.



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This week



DUSIT DIPLOMATS: Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket General Manager Peter Komposch (2nd from right) welcomes British Ambassador Quinton Quayle (3rd from right) and Paul Reid (3rd from the left), Deputy Director of Trade & Investment from the British Embassy in Bangkok, during their recent visit to Phuket.



SWITCHED ON: ICT Minister Dr Man Pattanothai (4th from right) arrives at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa for the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the "Development for Phuket ICT Innovation Paradise Project" on May 23. Welcoming him are Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit (3rd from right), Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising (center) and the Hilton management team, led by the hotel's Operations Director Roger Branstma.



ALL ABOARD: Vice-Admiral Supot Pruksa, Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Command, on June 4 hands a commemorative plaque to Capt Bruce Lindsey of the *USS Dubuque*, one of the three US Navy ships to port in Phuket from June 3 to 7 to allow their crews some R&R. The ships were in the region to provide aid to Cyclone Nargis victims in Myanmar, if the Burmese military junta granted permission – to date, it has not.



STUB IT: Phuket Vice-Governor Woratpoj Ratthasima (3rd from right) joins staff and management at Bangkok Hospital Phuket in handing out free chewing gum to smokers to mark World No Tobacco Day on May 31.



TALES FOR TOYS: In the lead-up to the opening of the Toy Library at the Wichit Childcare Center at Wat Thepnimit later this year, Toy Library founding sponsors Phuket International Hospital (PIH), Phuket Community Foundation and Central Festival Phuket held a Kid's Story Telling Day at Central Festival on May 31. At the event, PIH Marketing Manager Piyarat Kulvanich (back, 4th from left) joins popular kids' story writer and gifted storyteller Cheewan Visasa (back, 4th from right), who gave some tips on storytelling.



RAMADA FIESTA: Jung Jiri, Acting General Manager at the Ramada Resort Karon Beach Phuket, joins his staff at their recent Fancy Night staff party at the Jamjuree Ballroom at the Phuket Merlin Hotel.



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Do you still love me?

Yesterday morning I woke feeling guilty for having started a to tally pointless argument with my partner, at 3am, after a party that began at 8pm. (Are you getting the picture?)

But it's okay, because new research shows that couples who argue live longer... yeah right.

Apparently, it's much more healthy to rant about something that happened two years ago (I can't be more specific, it's just too embarrassing – okay, it's to do with how much he danced with me at a friend's wedding), than it is to lie there in the dark, harboring murderous thoughts.

But then, women have always known that arguments are relationship detoxers that have nothing to do with the argument itself. For example:

The Feeling Fat Argument

This one starts brewing because your hair is playing dead, and crystallizes when you are getting dressed and realize you look like Miss Piggy's mother.

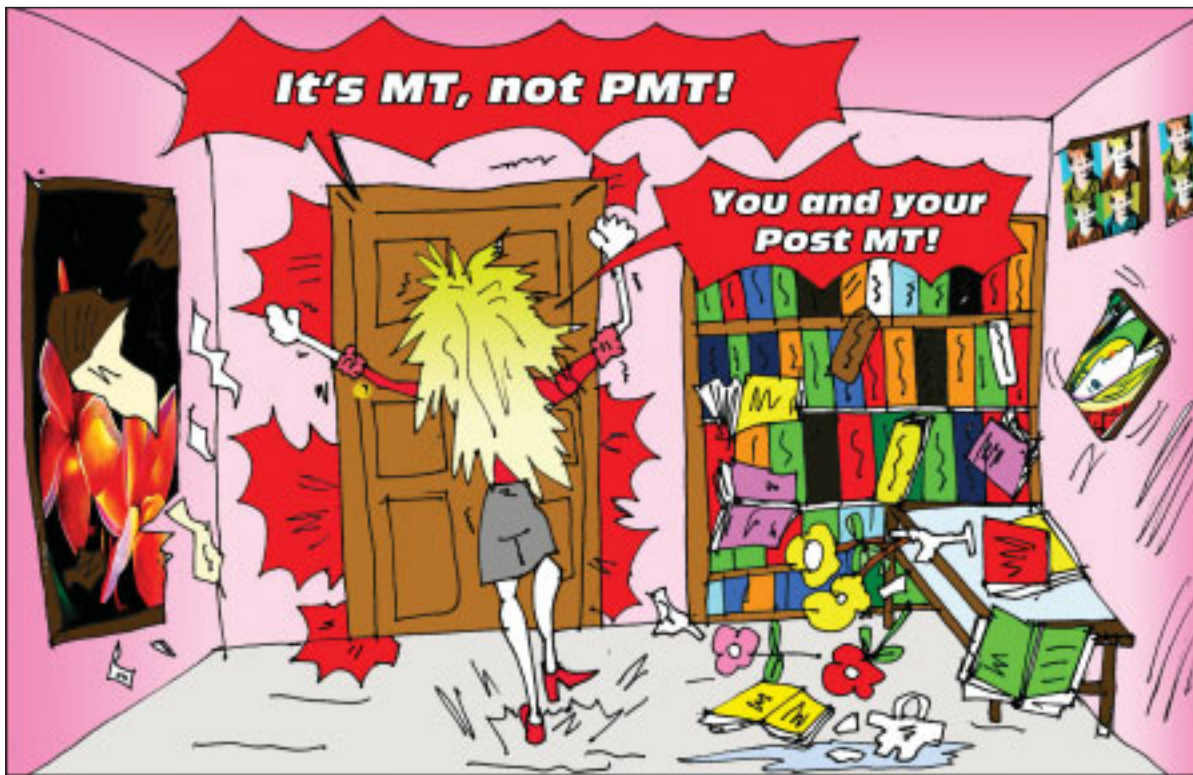
By then you are full of self-loathing and need to find an excuse for a worthlessness-confirming fight.

Your partner will sense this coming, so you may have to work hard at provoking it. Eventually, he will say, "You are being a nightmare," and then you're off.

The "You Don't Love Me Enough" Argument

This one is fairly straightforward. It starts with a bit of self-flagellation and you comparing yourself negatively to his glamorous ex, but it's actually about wanting all-round reassurance.

It could also be the actual, proper "you don't love me enough" argument, in which case he is in trouble, because no proof is enough when you're in this mood.



The Boundaries Argument

This is an occasional spat that involves you pushing your luck and him drawing the line.

It is always alcohol-fuelled, and how far you take it will depend on your choice and volume of tipple. Typical opening gambits include: "Do you think your brother is gay?" and "Is your boss much younger than you?"

The Getting Serious Argument

This one, which is almost always "about politics", is triggered by PMT, alcohol and/or a mild feeling of frustration.

Often, you will think it genuinely is about politics, but, as the argument progresses and you are more or less having it on your own, it becomes obvious that this is about you wanting him to get more serious and him demonstrating he will not be bullied.

The Fear of Ridicule Argument

He said he would pick up the dry

cleaning.

You texted him to remind him. He forgot to pick up the dry cleaning.

This looks like an argument about unreliability, but, actually, it is about you having to wear your number-three dress to a number-one party where everyone will think that it's your number-one dress...

...And on the subject of partners/husbands/boyfriends, I have devised a good-partner guide for the rest of this year:

The Good Guy

- Recognises the clinically proven need for us to sleep longer than teenage boys.

- Is willing to discuss current affairs, such as who is out on The Apprentice, and is prepared to talk about Mad Men, even though the series has finished (and would be prepared to go to the *Sex and the City* movie if you let him have two martinis first).

- Shows no interest in experimenting with late-onset jewellery-wearing and thinks

Harrison Ford looks a prat with his earring.

- Deals with own stain removal and attempts own ironing.

- Is diet aware: will cook without a pint of cream and pound of cheddar, and doesn't mind the occasional lentil.

- Is fashion literate. Knows the difference between Marni and Jacobs, and is up to speed with Kate Moss's latest collection (what we love, what we hate).

- Has a good changing-room manner: always patient and upbeat. Knows not to make wheezing noises whenever catches sight of a price tag or to say, "Is that meant to be that way round/how much longer is this going to take?"

- Is size aware. Knows partners knicker size, so can pick

some up from M&S in an emergency.

- Is emotionally aware. Understands the need for wife to talk about things for at least half an hour before going to sleep, including Scheherazade Goldsmith's bedroom fireplace (could it work for us?).

- Is surgery aware. Can't understand why they would do it. What can they think they look like?

The Bad Guy

- Splashes fat all over the kitchen from cooking with the gas on full.

- Plays football all the time, even when it's hailing, but can't, when quite sunny, go to check out what is new in on the high street.

- When shopping, buys everything organic, including pasta (look at the bill!) and buys a bag for life every time.

- Fails to ask wife's opinion on important purchases such as 10ft painting featuring a lot of red or a fridge for the bedroom.

- Still does not get the difference between PMT, MT and post-MT. Implies there isn't much to choose between them.

- Pretends is only interested in Grand Theft Auto because of the graphics.

- Expresses a view on weight-loss-to-cost ratio of Power Plate, MBT trainers and other essentials that do not concern him.

- Orders stuff on the Internet, then leaves it at the post office.

- Doesn't think you need Botox, but thinks everyone who has had it looks fantastic.

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By Nick Davies

You can't see it, but it's everywhere. The more convenient our lives become, the more we are bombarded with electromagnetic radiation (EMR), which pulsates from the machines, power lines and wireless communication technologies that surround us. Does the solution lie in tinfoil hats or are their answers a little less radical?

Electromagnetic radiation is the generic term for frequencies ranging from tens of Hertz (cycles per second) to billions of Hertz. They range from radio waves to infrared, visible and ultraviolet light, microwaves and X-rays, each marking a point on the electromagnetic spectrum.

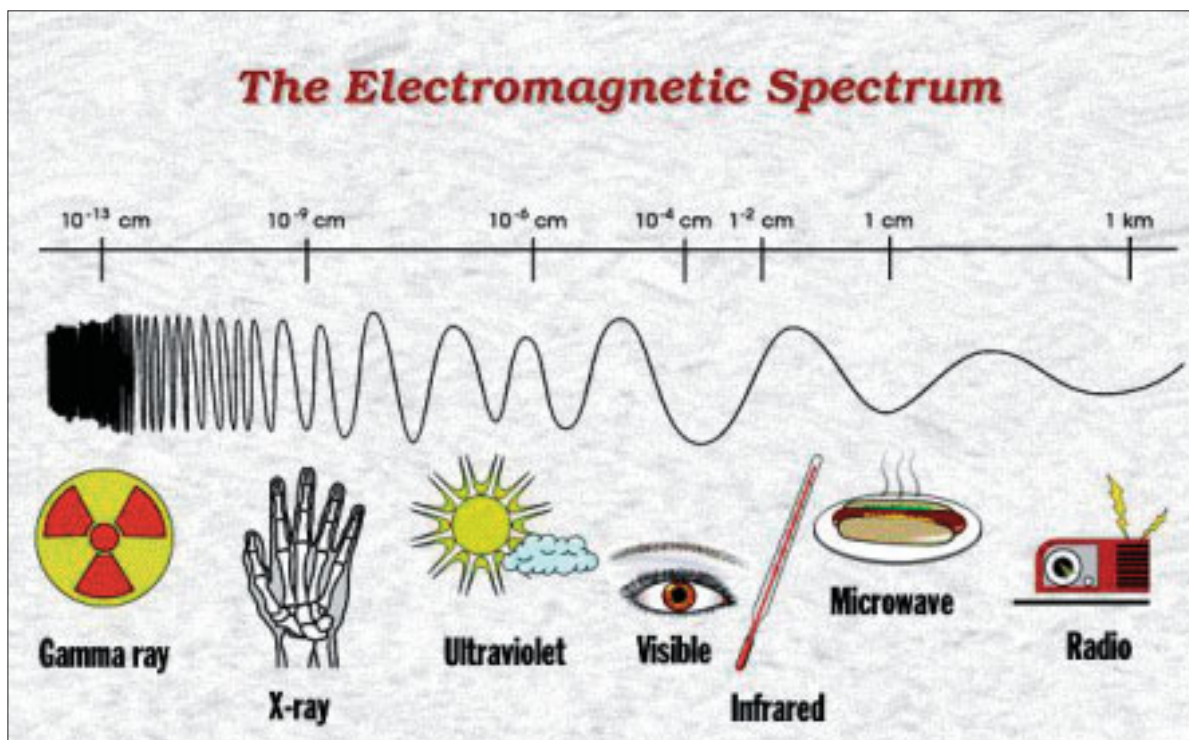
Visible light makes up a fraction of the frequencies in the electromagnetic spectrum, which we use instruments to see, otherwise we wouldn't know they were there – or would we?

Although we can't see, hear or feel most of the electromagnetic frequencies (EMFs) around us, people are often hypersensitive to EMR, experiencing symptoms ranging from fatigue and weakness to nausea and headaches, without being able to pinpoint the cause.

If we examine our lifestyles at work and in the home, we soon realize that our bodies receive very little respite from the constant intrusion of electromagnetic radiation.

It's common knowledge that exposure to high-frequency waves such as X-rays and gamma rays is very dangerous. Rather than turning green and becoming immensely strong, you are more likely to bake like a Looney Tunes cake if you are exposed to these for a long time.

Even so, lower-frequency waves emitted by everyday appliances are still a cause for concern. EMR is a naturally occurring phenomenon that we are constantly exposed to even in a



Electromagnetic radiation is all around us, in cellphones, radios, televisions and computers.

Feeling those frequencies

technology-free environment. These background levels, however, are different to the frequency of waves put out by the man-made machines around us.

The earth's own electromagnetic field oscillates, or pulses, at a resonant frequency of seven to 10 beats per second – identical to the frequency emitted by human brainwaves at their most functional.

The natural resonant frequency of an adult's body when "grounded" is generally about 35MHz, going up to about 70MHz if the body is insulated from the ground.

Just as we can hear and see

disturbances on the radio or television when another appliance such as a blender is turned on nearby, the more powerful the EMF, the more disruptive and detrimental the waves are to the frequencies of living things.

EMR occurs when electricity flows through a wire or the device it is powering, such as a blender or a television. When appliances are plugged in but not switched on, an electric field is generated. Turning them on produces a magnetic field. Hence, the two fields combined are called an electromagnetic field.

If you own, or are often in close proximity to, any of the following, then you are being exposed to electromagnetic radiation:

Cellphones, power lines, microwave ovens, computer screens, televisions, wireless Internet access points and routers, electric blankets, hairdryers, cordless phones, Wi-Fi hotspots, video-game consoles and controllers, Bluetooth devices, motor vehicles, blenders, refrigerators,

air conditioners, vacuum cleaners, digital alarm clocks, electrical wiring, PDAs, fluorescent lights, GPS devices, electrical motors and MP3 players.

Numerous studies have linked EMR exposure to conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, brain tumors, fatigue and depression, immune-system disorders, learning disabilities, sleep disorders, increased blood pressure, increased stress and decreased fertility, depression, and memory loss.

So what is the connection between exposure to high levels of EMR and disease? Exposure to electromagnetic waves reduces the pineal gland's ability to produce serotonin and melatonin when we sleep. These chemicals are the stuff that dreams are made of and melatonin's job is to clean the blood of free radicals (DNA and cell-damaging agents of a toxic lifestyle) when our bodies are at rest. Without a regular dose of these sleep-induced chemicals, damaged cells and DNA lead to even more toxicity

and an increased risk of succumbing to disease.

Concerns over the damaging effects to the body from EMR have prompted extensive research by the World Health Organization (WHO) with an aim to establish whether certain EMFs are harmful to humans.

Even though overhead power lines are considered harmful, frequencies used for communication are considered more dangerous because they have to be powerful enough to cover great distances.

Cellular communications, for example, operate at frequencies millions of Hertz higher than EMR from electric power lines, while X-rays and cosmic rays are millions of times higher still.

Microwave frequencies used for radar fall in the range from 3,000 to 30,000MHz (3-30GHz). Microwave ovens heat food with waves at a frequency of about 2,450MHz. Mobile phones communicate with frequencies between 850MHz and 1,900MHz – not as intense as microwaves, but strong enough for many to be concerned that they slowly bake the brain when placed near the head. Televisions also put out about the same amount of EMR as microwave ovens.

The medical journal *The Lancet* has reported that radiation from mobile phones causes an increase of blood pressure to levels that would be more than enough to trigger a stroke or heart attack in someone at severe risk.

Avoiding exposure

Exposure to EMR is virtually unavoidable, but precautions can be taken by keeping as much distance between you and suspect devices. Depending on the device, the strength of EMR can drop considerably over a short distance, so take your mum's advice and don't sit too close to the TV. Taking regular breaks from the computer and minimizing time spent chatting on a mobile phone are obvious ones.

If you live near power lines or mobile network and television transmitters, there's little you can do about it short of moving house.

If you want to find out the levels of EMR around you, there are many kinds of EMF measurement devices on the market or you can even make your own (see this week's S-Files on page 31). EMF meters usually measure radiation in milligauss. Normal background EMF is at 2 to 3 milligauss. Wave one of these around in your home or office and you'll be surprised at the artificially generated frequencies around us.

Most EMF meters are calibrated to measure EMR at the alternating frequency of 50-60Hz, the standard for US and European mains electricity.

For an all-natural approach to combating the ill effects of overexposure to EMR, you can bring your body's frequencies back to their natural balance with activities such as meditation, yoga, chi gung and tai chi.

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Comfortable cruising



The master stateroom of the Cranchi 47



By Nick Davies

The recent sales of three new Cranchi yachts to customers in Phuket prompted Hong Kong boat charter and Cranchi dealer Starship Yachts to set up shop at Boat Lagoon marina about eight months ago, operating luxury charters on Cranchi 41 and 47 yachts from the Yacht Haven.

The Cranchi yachts can take groups of more than a dozen people on day trips around the bay and comfortably take two families on overnight excursions on these floating-boutique accommodations conceived by fourth-generation boat-builder Aldo Cranchi.

Mr Cranchi had a passion for style, precision and speed.

His boats resemble luxury sports cars on water. the Mediterranean 47 has a pleasant sheerline with a steeply-raked windshield that really makes the boat look like one designed with speed in mind.

The sleek cockpit full of instruments

in a burled pod has an adjustable seat that allows the captain to sit or stand to handle the Nardi wheel, known to car enthusiasts as the ultimate in steering wheels.

Many other features included in the design make the Mediterranean 47 much more than just a speedboat. The sun pad is amply sized and there is plenty of space for friends to gather round the cockpit, with the barbecue and wet bar close by.

With leisure in mind, there are refrigerators dotted all around the yacht, making it easy for those sunning themselves on deck or chilling in the cockpit to reach for a cool drink.

Curvaceous panels of high-gloss cherry wood and leather upholstery line the lower decks, which have been designed in a modern-classic automotive racing look that shows off the luxury yacht's built-in technology with a panel of pale blue lights and a television tucked underneath.

When the ride gets rough for those

trying to sidle along the walkway with a Martini in hand, there are plenty of handgrips in all the right places. The lockers are beautifully finished inside and a cleverly engineered pantry rack unfolds when the door opens, making full use of the space under the Corian counters.

The master stateroom is comfortable, to say the least, with an oversized cedar-lined hanging locker and direct entry to the private head with circular Lucite shower.

The aft mid cabin is also far from cramped as it is under the raised helm, giving cabin occupants plenty of headroom.

The designers say they understand that boats can bring out the best, and worst, in people. Privacy is important so mid-cabin occupants have private access to the day head, which has another circular Lucite shower.

A spacious garage is hidden under the after-sun pad that tilts up hydraulically.

Tucked inside is ample space for a jet-ski, that launches on flip-out rollers and

is retrieved with a built-in electric winch.

Sailing this graceful monster has been described as tightly coiled and solid. Even banging into quartering seas at high speed doesn't produce any rattles or creaks.

The comfort factor was obviously just as important to the designer as the yacht's handling. A 30,000 BTU air-conditioning system keeps things comfortably cool below deck.

Bedtimes are a treat with hot water showers at the bow and stern, lighted coat racks in the hanging lockers and trendy faucets at the vanity basin.

Just like other luxury vehicles, Cranchi also has its own line of stylishly engraved dishes and glassware.

For more information on yacht charter or sales, contact Paul Vockler. Tel: 076-273378. Email: thailand@starshipyachts.com

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**Spa
MAGIC**

By Janyaporn Morel
Escentika

The Escentika guide to caviar

We women can't deny that we are always searching for ways to look eternally young and pretty. Even though I'm not a cosmetics fanatic, I can't deny that when I heard about the caviar facial treatment at the Millennium Resort's Escentika spa, I just had to try such a luxurious-sounding treatment.

Difficult to pronounce at first, Escentika is not some far-off land, but the word is made from the first letters of healing plants dominant in the spa's 14 different treatments: eucalyptus, sunflower, chamomile, everlasting, narcissus, tulip, iris, kannika, acacia.

The treatment menu has something for everyone. There's an Indian head massage, a Jetlag Eliminator massage and hydrotherapy treatments. There are even massages for mothers to be and for kids.

Escentika's manager, Stephanie Arrive, confirms the concept of aiming to cater to whoever walks through the spa's doors, no matter what kind of treatment they want. "We know that everyone has their own preferences, so we've tried to consider every kind of person in our treatment menu.

"Some people are shy, some don't like oily treatments. We



The four-hands massage followed by the caviar facial treatment may take three hours, but seems to be over far too soon.

have specially designed treatments for Muslims, too," says Stephanie.

The Velvet Skin body scrub sounds most tempting, but Stephanie

offers me three hours of bliss with Escentika's signature treatment, a 90-minute four-hands massage, followed by another 90 minutes of the caviar facial, "the only one available in Phuket," Stephanie assures me.

All together, this is 8,000 baht worth of indulgence. The four-hands massage, also a 90-minute treatment, costs 3,500 baht, but the caviar in my treatment puts the price up to 4,500 baht.

Stephanie is an expert in selecting luxury products as treatment ingredients thanks to her

time as a spa and beauty specialist in France. For my treatment, she chooses Pevonia caviar and tells me that there would be a noticeable difference in my skin after the treatment because of its "molecule technology" with anti-aging, moisturizing, anti-wrinkle and whitening properties.

Escentika is a modern spa. My treatment room was stylishly minimalist, contemporary Asian. Soft lighting and soothing music enhanced the relaxing mood.

My feet are scrubbed and I'm dressed in a robe. My two therapists get to work.

Two hands kneed my back and another pair massages my legs. The therapists seem to be working in tandem, lulling me into a wonderful state of relaxation.

"I'm already in heaven when it's time for my caviar facial, which begins with a scrub, followed by some pimple removing and finished off with a revitalizing mask. It's all over far too

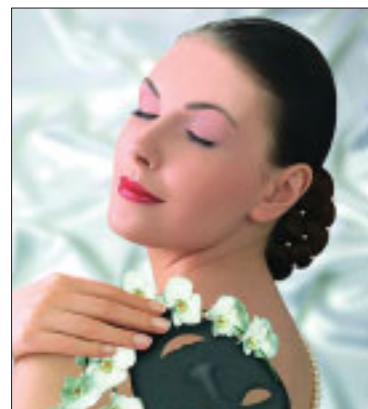
soon, despite already spending three hours in the care of Escentika's dedicated therapists, I'm left longing for more of their undivided attention.

They bring me down gently, though. I am served a hot tea on a balcony overlooking the swimming pool and given

time to get used to the idea of leaving such luxury.

A look in the mirror and I see that Stephanie was right. I'm surprised by the younger-looking me staring back.

Escentika Spa at Millennium Resort, Patong, Open daily from 10 am to 9 pm. They are currently offering a 50% discount on any massage and 30% off any other treatments until the end of July. Reservations by phone or email. Tel: 076-601944. Email: escentikaspa@millenniumpatong.com Website: www.millenniumpatong.com



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until June 30. 'Islands' by Laura Baum.

The much talked-about exhibition "Islands" by Laura Baum, at Mom Tri's Boathouse Art Gallery, has been extended for another month.

Laura Baum, accomplished American painter of ethereal landscapes, was a student of Diane Kan, disciple of revered Master Chang Dai Chien (1899-1983). The powerful watercolors, with stone and mineral colors mixed by the artist, are painted on Japanese gold- or silver-leaf boards covered with rice paper.

The exhibition is open daily, from 9 am to 9 pm.

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

June 14. South African Wine Tasting and Barbecue.

Enjoy a delightful tasting of superb South African wines from Wine Connection at the Mövenpick's Centre Stage restaurant before a traditional South African braai.

Tickets available at the resort on the night. Tickets are 799 baht with two glasses of wine, 599 without.

Contact Andrew Johnstone for more details or to make a reservation. Tel: 076-396139-787. Email: andrew.johnstone@moevenpick.com Website: www.moevenpick-phuket.com

June 15. The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another success this year with more than 3,000 participants in the 42km marathon, 21km half-marathon, 10km run, and 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' run.

Registration is now closed but that doesn't mean that you can't go and cheer the athletes on.

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

June 15. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.

This year's Phuket Raceweek is set to be the best yet, with international TV coverage and an impressive lineup of boats all looking to steal the limelight.

Photo by Guy Nowell (www.guynowell.com)

Six Senses Phuket Raceweek

July 23-27

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

This unique regatta attracts international participation and widespread international media coverage in print, on the web and - in 2008 - on TV.

This is one of Thailand's top on-the-water events for participants and sponsors alike.

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

Is your Internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the, uh, window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired? Join *For Dummies*... author Woody Leonhard for his weekly Group Therapy sessions from 10 am to midday. They're free.

Novices most welcome - no experience necessary. Bring your questions, bring your computer, bring your mother-in-law and your worry beads, and let's see if we can sort things out.

For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

From 10 am until midday at the Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

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

June 22. TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon.

Race three of four in the TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon series will be held at Indigo Pearl Resort on June 22. Registration will be at 6 am, with the first race beginning at 7 am.

There are three race classes: Adult sprint (swim 750m, ride 20km, run 5km)

Splash 'n' dash (swim 50m, ride 3km, run 750m)

Junior (swim 200m, ride 6km, run 1.5km)

Medals will be awarded to all finishers.

Registration is available

online at www.triballisticclub.com or contact Shaun Boulter for more information. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: tri@triballisticclub.com Alternatively email jittima@indigo-pearl.com

June 22. PC Group Therapy - Patong.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

June 29. Mac Group Therapy - Chalong.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

July 2. PR Guru A. Carthew Seminar at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

A get-together for Public Relations and Communications Managers of hotels and businesses on Phuket Island. Informal and informative.

New Zealand PR Guru Alastair Carthew, working in the PR business worldwide for decades, well-known lecturer at New Zealand universities and TV personality, will conduct a PR seminar at the Boathouse on Wednesday, July 2.

Presentation from 10 am to 12:30 pm in The Boathouse Island Lounge. Optional lunch @ 500 baht per guest. Mr Carthew's morning seminar is given free of charge.

For reservations contact Lisa Sol at the Boathouse. Tel: 076-330-015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

July 17. Asarnha Bucha Day (Public Holiday).

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

Evening candlelit proces-

sions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 18-20. Kalim Surfing Contest 2008.

The fourth annual Kalim Surfing Contest, by Phuket Boardriders Club, will be held July 18 to 20.

This contest aims to promote the sport of surfing to the general public as well as promote tourism in Phuket.

Foreign contestants will come from a variety of countries, such as the US, Australia, the UK, South Africa, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

Entry forms can be found at www.phuketboardriders.com

Contact K. Joob for details. Tel: 081-9565854. Email: joob@phuketboardriders.com

July 18. Buddhist Lent Day (Public Holiday).

Occurs one day after the full-moon day of the eighth lunar month. Khao Pansa marks the beginning of the annual three-month Rains Retreat, during which, Buddhist monks customarily stay at a particular temple to study and meditate.

A candle festival is held annually on this day.

July 26. ESPN Star Sports Charity Golf & Dinner at Laguna.

Fifteen members of the ESPN Star Sports football broadcasting team and Peter Withe, former English football legend and coach of the Thai national football team, will visit Laguna Phuket to support Laguna's initiative to improve conditions at underprivileged schools in Phang Nga.

The celebrities will play a charity golf tournament followed by a dinner at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

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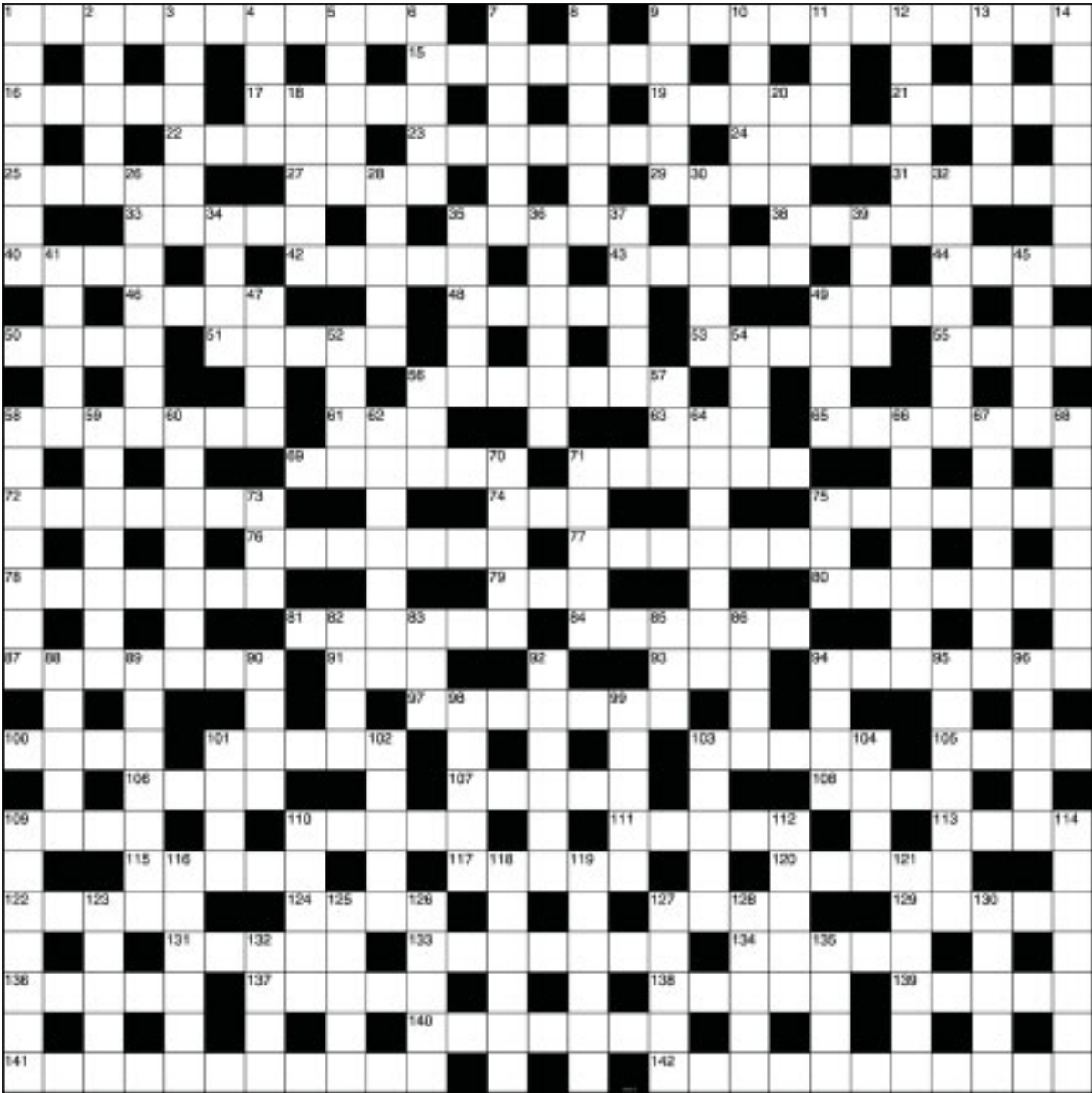


The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words related to types of drink. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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



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- Across

1. Dance sequences

9. Made lawful

15. Show of courage

16. Raises

17. Brazilian city, Sao...

19. Body-search

21. Keep score

22. Callous opportunists

23. Jordan/Kuwait re-
gion

24. US naval port,
San...

25. Back tooth

27. Belgrade native

29. ...Saint Laurent

31. Proportion

33. Basil sauce for pasta

35. Approaches

38. Twitch

40. Long narrative

42. Honorably

43. Filthy

44. Deride

46. Seaside crustacean

48. Florida resort

49. Floor covering

50. OK (informal)

51. Mausoleum, Taj...

53. Glossy bird

55. Tidy

56. Put into words

58. Hoards

61. Neither

63. Aries zodiac symbol

65. Thick syrup

69. Extreme limit

71. Nevertheless

72. Stroll

74. Wane

75. Voting

76. Duty-bound

77. In name only
- Down

78. Crossly

79. Female deer

80. Barking

81. Ill-tempered

84. Actor, ...Redford

87. Cast out

91. Pose (question)

93. Commotion

94. Smoothed the way,
...the wheels

97. Chattering

100. Hit sharply

101. Mimicking

103. Prized fur

105. Jar tops

106. Up hill & down...

107. Corn

108. Sensible

109. Navy or azure

110. Hang

111. Theatrical perfor-
mance

113. Current units

115. On top of

117. Study tables

120. Javelin

122. US state, ...Island

124. Perfumed powder

127. Singlet

129. Charity (1,1,1,1,1)

131. Financial holding

133. Sooner

134. The Press

136. Aside (from)

137. Royal headwear

138. Reproductive organ

139. Spree

140. Submarine missile

141. Disappoints

142. Tunelessly
2. Entrails

3. Guarantee

4. Stare open-mouthed

5. Regale

6. Nuclear weapon

7. Row canoe

8. Oriental market

9. Tall

10. Direct

11. Confiscate

12. Drives

13. Dessert, banana...

14. Ship repair bay (3,4)

18. Criminal fire-setting

20. Cowardly

26. Geronimo's people

28. Resist openly

30. Parish minister

32. Pungent bleach

34. Bogus

35. Sprite

36. Palestinian hero,
Yasser...

37. Happy face

39. Alike

41. Spy

45. Move on hands &
knees

47. Prohibits

49. Temporarily supplied

52. Relative

54. Your school,
...mater

56. Expert

57. Dehydrated

58. Michelangelo's...
Chapel

59. Fawn upon

60. Warmest

62. Passenger vehicle

64. Expected

66. Egg shape

67. Fault-finders

68. Involved (in)

70. Child's toy, ...bear

71. Dogpatch cartoon
strip, Li'l...

73. Singer, ...Orbison

75. Thin layer

82. Wet weather

83. Fanciful wish, pie in
the...

85. Carry-case

86. Staff roster

88. Precious stone

89. Socially rebuffed
(3,4)

90. Drug (horse)

92. Lengths of yarn

94. Hair-setting lotions

95. Very attentive (3,4)

96. Finally land (3,2)

98. Equipped

99. Requires

101. Type of saxophone

102. Holy vessel

103. Aussie Cricketer,
...Warne

104. Edgy, ill at...

109. Dog, St...

110. Dissuade

112. Michaelmas daisy

114. Charmingly

116. John, Paul, Ringo or
George

118. Slips

119. German emperor

121. Saudi language

123. Iridescent gems

125. Make amends

126. Dollar divisions

127. Revving engine's
roar

128. Undersized

130. Of prison

132. Disfigure

135. Altered color of

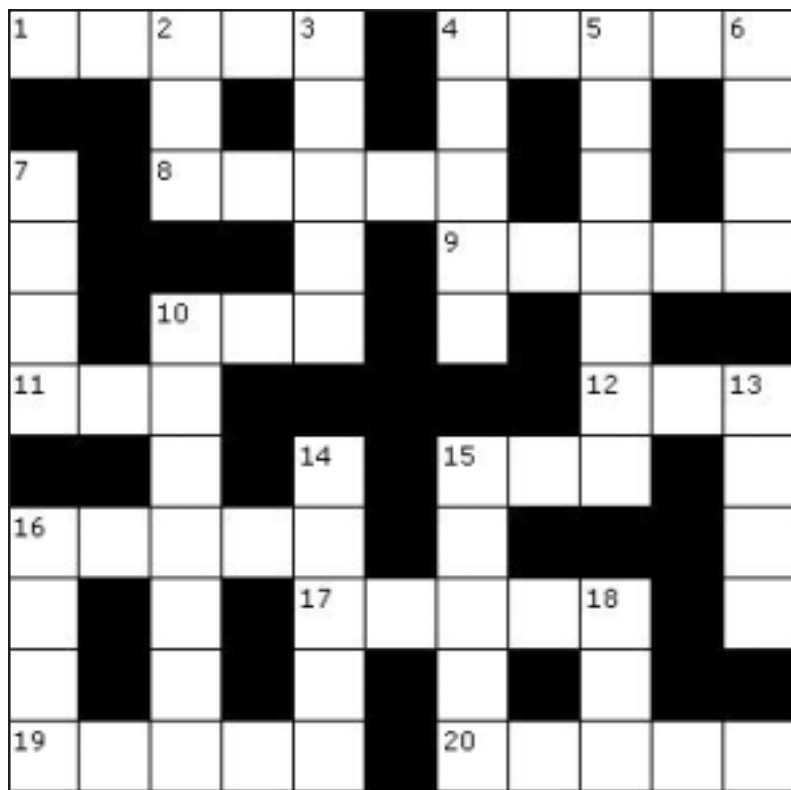
Solution on next page

su|do|ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

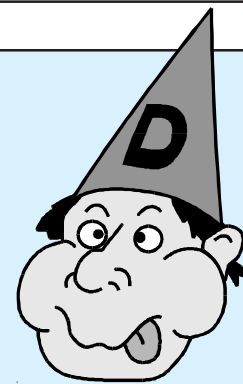
1. Camera company
4. Dead Princess of Wales
8. Skilled fighter
9. Area of grass
10. Plaything
11. Boxer, Muhammad...
12. Catch a fish with this
15. Vegetable
16. Planet
17. Where cars drive
19. The Holy...
20. Non-permanent tattoo

Down

2. Hideout
3. Oh my God, they killed...
4. Breeze
5. Aerial
6. Cut
7. Comfy seating
10. Mexican city
13. Useful implement
14. Marine organisms
15. Fruit
16. Stop water running out
18. Our light

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. What car did Steve McQueen drive in <i>Bullit</i> ? | 8. In what year was it released? | 14. Where will Miss World 2008 be held? |
| 2. When did Steve McQueen die? | 9. Who had a Billboard No. 1 hit Christmas 2007 with her version of the song? | 15. Who is the current Miss World? |
| 3. What car does Keanu Reeves drive in the <i>Street Kings</i> ? | 10. Which fellow plus-size model was the first larger-size model to win America's Next Top Model? | 16. When was the first official table tennis world championship? |
| 4. What is Hulk Hogan's real name? | 11. Which plus-size model this year made the Miss England finals? | 17. When was table tennis made an Olympic sport? |
| 5. Paintings by which artists were stolen last year from the Museum of Fine Arts in Nice? | 12. What "standard size" is she? | 18. How old is Gene Wilder? |
| 6. When and where were they recovered? | 13. When will the Miss England 2008 finals be held? | 19. In which years did Tom Hanks win back-to-back oscars? |
| 7. Who wrote the song Frosty the Snowman? | 20. For which movies did he win them? | |

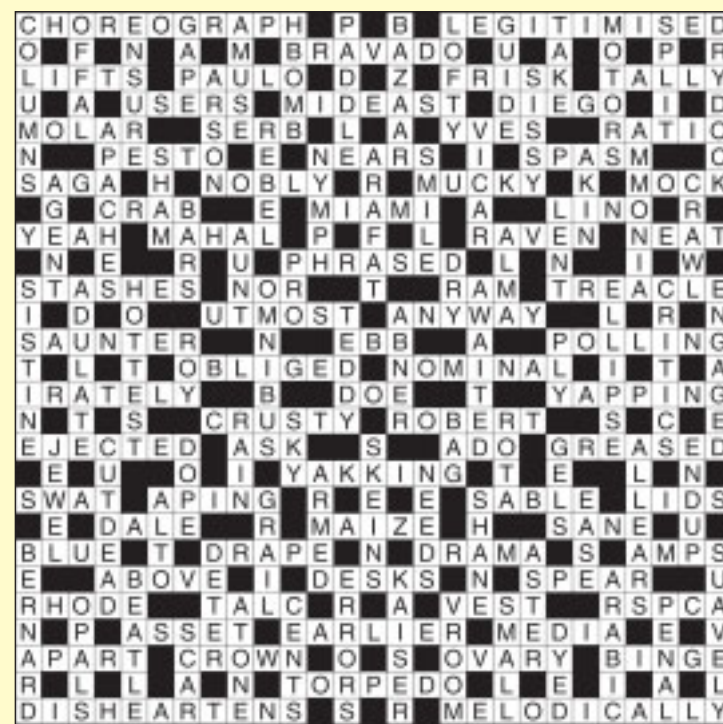
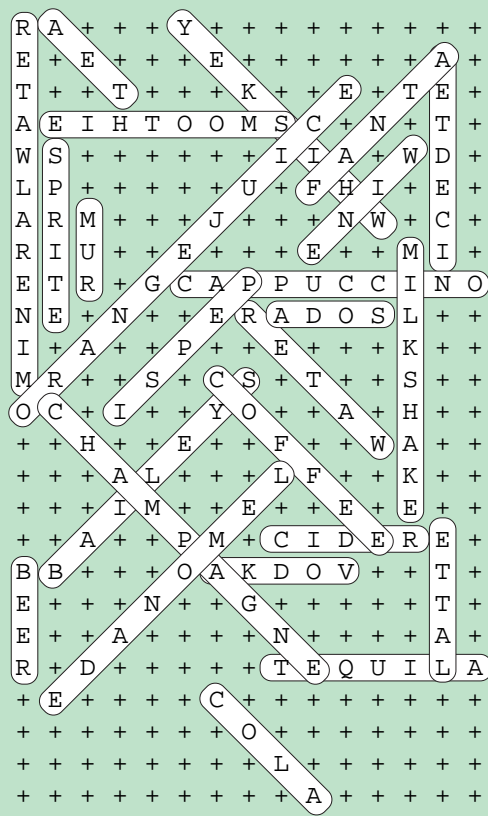
Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Monster Quiz Answers

1. 1968 Ford Mustang; 2. 1980; 3. Dodge Charger SRT8; 4. Terry Bollea; 5. Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley and Jan Brueghel; 6. Marseilles, June 4, 2008; 7. Walter "Jack" Rollins and Steve Nelson; 8. In 1950; 9. Kimberley Locke; 10. Whitney Thompson; 11. Chloe Marshall; 12. 16; 13. July 18; 14. Kiev, Ukraine; 15. Zhang Zilin, of China; 16. 1927; 17. 1988; 18. 74; 19. 1993 and 1994; 20. *Philadelphia* and *Forrest Gump*.



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Spider has the legs for longevity



By Jeff Heselwood

The Geneva Motor Show always throws up some thing exciting. This year's show was no exception. Sure, there were plenty of hybrids and alternative fuel motors (to pacify the greenies), but for real passion, it was difficult to look any further than the stunning Alfa Romeo 8C Spider.

The 8C will be built in a limited production run of 500 cars.

The body has evolved thanks to computer technology. The surfaces, the profiles of the uprights and windows, the rear-view mirrors – everything has been optimized using computer models and tests in wind tunnels and out in the real world.

The result is that air flows naturally around the car, unhampered by corners and irregularities. Creating negative lift, similar to modern competition cars, the 8C is endowed with remarkable stability at high speeds.



The Alfa Romeo 8C Spider is no slouch on the road with a 0-100kmh time of just over four seconds.

The body is a mix of strength and lightness, with a steel frame and carbon-fiber body. As well as achieving a lower overall weight, the center of gravity is optimized for greater agility and driver comfort.

The hooded top of the 8C comprises two overlapping sheets. The external sheet is made from a multi-thread textile that is resistant to the elements; the interior one has sound-proof-

ing qualities. The roof is operated by an automatic electro-hydraulic system, controlled by a button on the dash.

Composite materials are used throughout the interior, while the twin seats are carbon fiber, upholstered with Frau leather.

Powering the 8C is a 450bhp (331kW) 4.7-liter V8 engine mated to a six-speed auto transmission, with paddle operation behind the steering wheel.

The engine is derived from the Maserati Quattroporte, as is the transmission. Acceleration from stationary to 100kmh takes a shade over four seconds, while top speed is about 290kmh. To ensure the best weight distribution, front to rear, there is a rear-mounted transaxle linked to the transmission by a horizontal tube.

Carbon-ceramic Brembo brakes help rein in the immense power available. The significant

reduction in weight is offset by a curious lack of feel with ceramic discs. Monobloc calipers guarantee maximum rigidity and minimal deformation.

Ultra-low-profile tires are mounted on lightweight, perforated, fluid-molded aluminum wheels that also contribute to brake cooling. To maintain control, the 8C Spider is equipped with Alfa Romeo's advanced traction-and-stability control, evolved from its sister machine, the Maserati MC12. Suspension is predominantly made from forged aluminum.

The original Alfa Romeo 8C, which was introduced in the mid-30s, achieved success in the Mille Miglia ("1,000 Miles") race, back and forth from Rome to Brescia.

First run in 1927, the classic race came to an end in 1957 after a serious accident in which Marquis Alfonso de Portago, his co-driver Eddie Nelson and eleven spectators were killed in the village of Guidizzolo.

It is unlikely that many Alfa Romeo 8C Spiders will make their way to Southeast Asia, but should you spy one, take a close look. It is certainly something exceptional.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

I know of a restaurant in Bangkok where you can get a steak for 50 baht. Actually, the steak comes with French fries and vegetables.

This is not, mind you, an actual beef steak. It's a pork steak and it's not quite as big as a T-bone.

There may be other places in Bangkok where you can get a steak for 50 baht, but this is the only one in my neighborhood.

I call the restaurant Mon's, because that's the name of the lady who runs it. To mark her as a woman of maturity and sensibility, she wears a cap with the visor pointing forward, which is where the visor of a baseball cap

is supposed to point – not backward, where the drooling adolescent masses point it.

Mon's husband is also named Mon. He's a tall, gangly guy with a goofy sense of humor. One day I asked his name. "Mon," he answered.

"But I thought your wife was named Mon," I said.

He nodded. "Wife Mon, husband Mon *duay*," he informed me.

The restaurant of the two Mons is not actually called

Mon's. It has an official name written in Thai on a large placard near the entrance: *Jaan Dieow*. That means "one plate", which is odd, because the restaurant actually has many plates, some with actual food on them. It's an unusual name for a restaurant in English, and maybe even in Thai, so I've given it a more elegant translation. I call it the Lonely Plate.

Ordering the steak can be an iffy proposition, because sometimes they run out. Once

they ran out of French fries, too. But the next time they gave me a double order to compensate, and I didn't even have to ask.

The shortage of French fries can be a problem. One day I counted four on my plate. I summoned Mr Mon and gazed at him reproachfully. "Four French fries, Mr Mon," I chided him. "Only four!"

"Yas," he agreed. "Today French fry *mot* [ran out]."

On that day, I formulated Mon's Law: If you want to be sure of getting French fries at Mon's, bring your own potato.

One night, an English friend of mine, named Tony, ordered a pizza, which is advertised in English on a large sign.

When the pizza arrived, it turned out to be a large yellow omelet, covering the entire plate and curled around the edges like an alien growth. Tony stared at it, frowned and summoned Mr Mon.

"This is not a pizza," Tony announced. "This is an omelet, Mr Mon!"

Mr Mon nodded gravely. "Is pizza," he intoned.

"No," Tony thundered, his British sense of propriety mortally offended. "I am an Englishman. I know pizzas. This is not a pizza. This does not bear the faintest resemblance to a pizza. This is an omelet."

Mr Mon smiled serenely. "Is pizza," he reiterated. "Egg yolk pizza."

So if you ever want an egg yolk pizza, Mon's is the place to go.

Mon's has an extensive menu, but it's all in Thai. When I offered to have it translated into English, both Mons declined. The restaurant is popular with Thais and foreigners and doesn't need any

more customers. It's a very small place; it's always packed out at mealtimes and Mrs Mon is the only cook. But if you avoid the mealtime rush hours, it's easy to get a seat.

Don't forget to bring your own potato.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stow@yahoo.com, except when he's grieving the closure of the restaurant shortly after this column was written. He still carries his potato, though.

Stepping up to the Lonely Plate

The Phuket Gazette is now available at all **FamilyMart** outlets in Phuket

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- Mae Luan Rd (diagonally opp. 7-Eleven), Phuket City

- Yaowarat Soi 2 Rd, Phuket City
- Chao Fa East Rd (opp. Big One Supermarket), Phuket City
- Klong Pak Lak, Patong
- Club Andaman, Patong
- Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong
- Monthana Rd, Patong
- Colisiem Mutiplex, Phuket City
- Soi Paneang, Samkong
- Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong



The great Las Vegas novel?

Hunter Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* is a classic work of journalism, but I can't think of a novel set entirely in Las Vegas.

Thus I picked up *Beautiful Children* (Random House, New York, 2008, 417pp). This is the debut novel by a young native of Las Vegas named Charles Bock.

The subject is runaway teenagers. As one character notes, Las Vegas is a pretty good town for runaways: plenty of dumpsters to rummage through and tourists to beg from.

The novel opens with a narrative hook that immediately grabs you. A young couple, Lincoln and Lorraine Ewing, are watching a video of a Little League team chowing down at a McDonald's. There is their son Newell, a scowling, clumsy, hyperactive, foul-mouthed 12-year-old into heavy metal and comic books. Newell has been missing for months. He disappeared during a rock concert in the desert.

The novel focuses on a group of teenage runaways who are a nasty-looking lot. Ponyboy is covered with tattoos and metal studs, his hair in stiff black Mohawk spikes. He's living with a stripper named Cherie Blossom, whose gimmick is to set off sparklers in her revamped nipples.

His own gig is to make bicycle deliveries to porno shops. Lestat is a big fan of



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Anne Rice and looks like a vampire. His pregnant girlfriend is Disaster Prone Daphney, who's into hard drugs. There is a potential runaway in "the girl with the shaved head", an advanced lit high school student with a ditzy single mom. For some arcane literary reason the author refuses to give her a name.

But Bock is chock full of youthful literary energy. The girl with the shaved head is first seen in an ancient ice cream truck where rebel high school students gather to drink beer and smoke dope. Here's a sampler of a page-long bravura paragraph:

"They were hanging in the back – the girl plus Francesca plus a few others back there, seven or so. Self-proclaimed misfits whose indignation had at some point attracted hers. Like-minded think-

ers whose interests extended into different subjects... Who played tag in graveyards and haunted the matinee shows at two-dollar theaters and made out with one

another at random when there was nothing else to do, cutting classes and sitting on top of their cars in the school parking lot, sneering at anyone who dared walk by, and loudly championing obscure bands because they were obscure... The latest incarnation of suburban anarchists, their appearance painstakingly vandalized to reflect not an opinion of themselves but of the world; their respective

and collective existence devoted to the embrace and celebration and exaltation of any fad, fashion, font, diet, drug, gossip, glyph, golden calf, black magic, method of self-mutilation, chat room signature pic, necromicon, erotic Universal Resources Locator, and/or generalized lifestyle choice that beyond the shadow of a doubt proved they were not in league with this fucked-up world."

As good as he is with kids, Bock is similarly good with his adults – and

Lincoln's and Lorraine's agony is sympathetically rendered. What happened to their son? They put up posters and hire private detectives and have Newell's face printed

on milk cartons. Lorraine joins a group to help runaways and eventually plans a lavish banquet to fund a shelter for them. The irony isn't lost on her.

The plot is complex, veering from the present to the past and the day of Newell's disappearance and then off to a wildly conjectural future. In the end, there is no resolution and the reader feels cheated. But there are glorious set pieces to be savored

I leave you with one of them:

"Downtown was upon them, hotels and towers packed into that dense square district, tour buses parked like gigantic, end-to-end dominoes along the right-side of the street. A bombastic patriotic jingle blared through the overhead speakers.... A few other miscreants were out there, too, swerving and staggering, the drunken dregs, the losers and the lost and those who knew they would keep on losing, yet were powerless to stop themselves."



Anyone who has spent time in Thailand knows that Thai, like many other languages, has a generous helping of English words mixed into the vernacular. English also figures significantly in the technical and academic vocabulary of Thai, where frequently an imported version of an English term catches on more than the native equivalent.

Examples include everything from "Internet" (in-ter-net in Thai, with a low final syllable) to "ultrasound" (อัลตราซาวด์, pronounced more like ultrasaaw, as the "nd" invariably gets the chop in Thai).

Like many other nations, most notably France, Thailand has a governmental body charged with regulating the language. Thailand's is the Royal Institute (RI), which is modeled after its French counterpart. One of the RI's jobs is to come up with Thai equivalents for English jargon, though this prescribed vocabulary is subject to public approval.

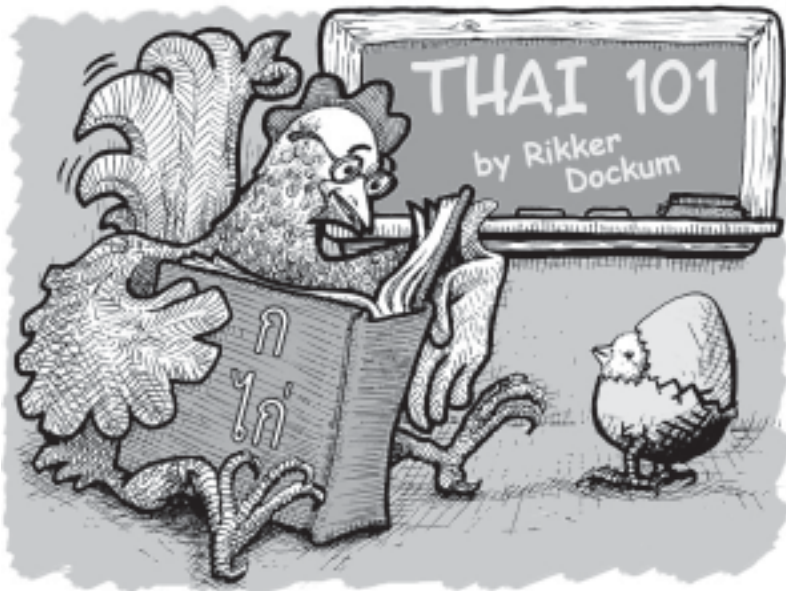
But "loanwords" often take on a life of their own. They are subject to change, shortening, compounding and so on – just like any other word in the language. In any case, learning to recognize loanwords from your own native language is a good way to get a feel for Thai pronunciation in general.

Here are some English loanwords in Thai that I find interesting:

เก็ท = pronounced "gét" with a high tone

Meaning: to get, to understand, to comprehend. As commonly happens, the borrowing language has taken just one

Thanks for the loan, we'll keep our word



meaning of the word and adopted it. As we know, in English get can also mean "fetch", "receive" and "become", but as a Thai loanword it usually means "understand".

Example: The phrase ไม่เก็ท (pronounced "mâi gét") corresponds to "I don't get it".

เวอร์ [เวอ] = pronounced "wêr", with a falling tone.

Meaning: to be over the top, extreme, pushing the boundaries of believability or propriety. Shortened from โอเวอร์ ("over", with the stress on the second syllable) this word comes from

"over the top".

Example: เขาชอบเล่าเรื่องเวอร์มาก ฟังแล้วไม่น่าจะจริง (kao chop lao reuang wer maak fang laew mai naa ja jing)

Meaning: He always tells over-the-top stories. They probably aren't true.

This one comes up a lot in beer bars.

โอ (oh) = (1) overtime work; (2) okay, acceptable.

Sense (1) is from โอที "OT", which is also commonly used. I've most often heard it as part of the phrase ทำโอ, (tham oo) but not

exclusively.

Sense (2) comes from "okay", but this snippet specifically means "acceptable, tolerable, not terrible."

Example:

Khun A: สอบเป็นไงบ้าง (sop bpen ngai baang)

Khun B: "โอ" (gor oh)

Meaning:

Khun A: How did the exam go? Khun B: It went okay.

I could list English loanwords all day, but are there any that you find interesting or wonder how they've come to mean what they do in Thai? I'll come back to loanwords, and I appreciate any suggestions or questions.

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at thai101.blogspot.com and can be contacted by email at: rdockum@gmail.com

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Allaying the sins of our mega-project forefathers

Regular onlookers to bureaucratic stumblings in Phuket must feel a certain measure of pity for the two Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta) officials who on May 29 held a public hearing for the proposed Ao Phuket mega-project (see Inside Story, pages 4-6, and First Person, facing page).

Dasta director Worasit Rojanapanich and committee member Rajatin Syamananda asked for honest, genuine feedback – and they got it in spades. All groups with a vested interest in the project were there to give their point of view, most roundly criticizing Dasta for not better publicizing the event.

As the hours passed, it seemed that the Ao Phuket project was tested from every conceivable angle – some even expressing concern that the project might somehow jeopardize Thai sovereignty.

The lively reaction from the people highlights that if there ever were an acid test for the success of an initial public hearing, this one definitely passed it – almost to the point of being comical.

It is perhaps ironic that the hearing took place during the same week that the national ombudsman happened to be in Phuket for two days as part of his nationwide roadshow to gather complaints from the public and to educate them about his less-than-enviable role in government.

After hours of being lambasted with the accumulated sins of every other mega-project any government department has ever tried to float on or off Phuket, K. Worasit and K. Rajathin were remarkably patient and polite, admitting that Dasta was still experiencing some growing pains and promising to improve in terms of public relations.

If they are, indeed, trying to “sneak” the 100-billion-baht project through quietly and quickly, they are doing a very poor job of it – and all the more glory to them for it.

Although much more study is needed, the fact is that decades of tin mining have left Ao Phuket’s once sandy seabed covered in two meters of mud that has killed off all the coral and seagrass that once thrived there.

Scraping off this layer of muck and using it to help build a world-class marina and exhibition center is a bold idea, but the technology behind it appears sound. Phuket already has the perfect example of how the environmental sins of the tin-mining era can be rectified with a good plan and a budget to back it up – just look at Laguna Phuket.

– The Editor

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

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Letters

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

Tourists need a safer transport alternative

His Excellency the British Ambassador (Quayle calls for better tourist safety, *Phuket Gazette*, June 7-13), rightly pointed out that better provision needs to be made to deter deadly attacks against foreigners here in Phuket. An enhanced police presence and fewer guns in private hands would also help to make the island safer for the locals.

However, there is another aspect of tourist safety that needs attention. I am thinking of the large numbers of visitors who end up being killed, maimed or otherwise injured as a direct result of riding too fast on scooters or motorbikes on the island’s twisting and hilly roads. In 2007, in Thailand as a whole, more than 750,000 people were injured in traffic accidents.

A major reason why visitors hire such risky means of transport is that the public transport facilities in Phuket are abysmal. At the moment, public transport remains at the shocking level of a third-world nation – and that, in one of the wealthiest parts of the whole of Thailand.

The island has developed in many ways in recent years, but the public transport provision has been neglected. The Phuket authorities need to plan a wide-ranging series of public bus routes, with decent vehicles, and to encourage more taxis.

No tourist should ever face the almost total lack of decent public transport, which years of official neglect have resulted in being the present lamentable situation.

Paul Surtees
Phuket

The ‘real Phuket’ now lost to violence

What true efforts, if any, are being made by the police to step up patrol frequencies? Perhaps a protest should be launched by all foreigners. If all foreigners handed in their rented motorbikes and refused to patronize any bars for three days, perhaps the locals would feel it in their pockets.

This might inspire effective action to be taken by the authorities and local business owners to address and minimize this escalation of violent crime and thievery targeting foreigners.

Phuket used to be so beautiful and the people so trustworthy and caring; what a terrible shame this has become. The “real” Phuket people must feel embarrassed about what is going on.

On a positive note, my youngest son was riding back from Patong, on a motorbike, a few weeks ago. He was trying to keep to the main roads, but he got a little confused as to which way to go and stopped to ask a Thai woman for directions to get back to Rawai. She insisted on getting her own car and having him follow her.

She drove 15 minutes to make sure he got on the right road and closer to safety. We just need to find more local Thais who still care.

Safety Net
Langkawi, Malaysia

Protests are not an excuse to rock out

In reply to Bob Badger of Chalong’s recent letter [‘Stand up for your concert rights’, *Gazette*, Letters, June 7-13], I think it is one of the worst excuses I have

heard for getting a free concert and picnic.

Protests are serious ordeals and affect the mood of the entire country. Thailand is already unstable, so why would you suggest more protests just so you can get free concerts?

If you want to go to a concert or be in a social gathering, go out and meet some people. Go to a concert in Bangkok where the mood of the people is happy and fun; not angry at the government demanding change.

Voicing your opinion is a good thing because it suggests options to the government so they know what the general public is thinking, but please think before you write a letter like this.

Annoyed Reader
Chalong

No winners with high-priced games

For the most part, I find that the cost of living in Phuket is about the same as in Bangkok. One area where everything seems dramatically overpriced in Phuket, however, is video games.

My console of choice is a Nintendo DS. Every shop I have been to in Phuket prices its games about 500 baht higher than the equivalent in Bangkok.

I fail to understand how shops in Phuket selling video games can stay afloat when it would actually be cheaper to order the games from the US and have them shipped to the island, which is mad because most of the games come from Asia.

This is perhaps a trivial topic, but it’s one that has been bothering me for a while.

Ted Eastnose
Phuket

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

Ao Phuket project will benefit 'all of Thailand'

I initiated this project when I was director general of the DPT in 2002 because I saw it as a good chance to develop the degraded Ao Phuket into a world-class destination.

The original plan to develop Phuket Bay was put forward by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) in 1989.

It called for dredging up sediment from the bottom of the bay, where it had accumulated to a great thickness over 100 years of tin mining, and using it to create an island on which a government center would be built.

When the idea was put before me as head of the DPT, I saw the potential for something greater and started drawing up the plans.

When the plans were completed, I realized it would be expensive.

In 2003, we estimated the cost at 60 to 70 billion baht, but at today's prices it would probably reach 100 billion baht. This is far too high a price tag for the local administrative bodies involved to fund, but they can play key supporting roles in moving the project forward.

When I was named to the board of Dasta, I presented the committee with the plans that had already been drawn up.

Dasta, a public organization under the control of the prime minister, is authorized to co-ordinate work with any of the various ministries it needs to carry out its projects.

The prime minister appointed Deputy Prime Minister

FIRST PERSON

Rajatin Syamananda, a 62-year-old Bangkok native, is a former deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Interior (Moi).

The holder of a master's degree in engineering from the University of Illinois, he was director general of the Moi's Department of Public Works and Country & Town Planning (DPT) when that agency drew up plans for the Phuket Bay (Ao Phuket) mega-project in 2002.

K. Rajatin is currently on the board of the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta), which wants to turn Ao Phuket as a world-class, sustainable-tourism destination.



Sanan Khajornprasart to head the agency.

Dasta was established in mid-2003 to administer large government projects, but its previous projects were not very well managed.

When I joined the board about a year ago, I realized that Dasta was the type of organization that needed to develop a large-scale project like the redevelopment of Ao Phuket, so I presented the existing plans to my fellow board members.

The new idea was to use reclaimed land to develop a world-class marina, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, with 7- and 8-star hotels and resorts, in a

once-degraded bay.

If the area hadn't already been so degraded, I wouldn't touch it, but this project is a way of turning a degraded area into a very valuable one.

We have studied the environmental impacts involved many times, starting in 1990 when a team of researchers from Chulalongkorn University did the initial study.

When I studied the master plan in 2002 and 2003, I did another initial environmental evaluation. All sides agreed that there wouldn't be any problems. In relaunching the project we need to conduct more studies, but the current state of the bay is such

that few people are going there or using it anyway – so I don't think this will be a major hurdle.

This project will truly benefit Phuket people. We might grant the concessions to qualified private firms and a part of income from those concessions will pass directly to Phuket people, especially those living near Saphan Hin and other parts of the waterfront.

They needn't worry about being displaced. Instead, they can look forward to better employment opportunities and other local improvements, such as in the areas of wastewater disposal.

A key issue is employment. We will reserve jobs for local people and they will get first priority and free training in such fields as yacht repair and maintenance, hotel service work, and the high-technology disciplines that will be needed to support the project.

Building the islands involves dredging up muddy sediment some two meters thick. Doing this will re-expose the bay's natural sandy bottom that has been covered in sediment from tin mining.

The two islands would be built on new concrete structures. We will not use the reclaimed sediment as the main base of the islands as that would be too expensive and difficult. Instead, the mud will be used in landscaping the 3,000-rai area. As a result, this project will have a very small environmental impact. We will maintain the nearby mangrove areas in their current state or even improve them and plant more.

Constructing the concrete base of the islands would not be very difficult because Phuket Bay consists of 2m of mud to a

distance of three or four kilometers offshore. Beneath that is a sandy layer about 10 m thick, underlain by bedrock. This means piling of no longer than 15m can support the structures. This is actually easier than constructing buildings in Bangkok.

We have studied the channels that drain water from the main island. These channels are already being maintained by the Marine Office, which dredges them to ensure they remain navigable for fishing boats.

We will not block these channels, but might enlarge them to allow large vessels to use them.

There are no longer any coral reefs in the bay due to the buildup of sediment, but when we dredge up this sediment and complete the project, we hope the area will once again sustain coral reefs – perhaps we will plant some.

We will provide all the utilities needed for the project, including electricity supply. We will install a reverse-osmosis plant to desalinate seawater so that we won't have to use supplies from the main island.

However, we will also push to develop other water-supply sources, such as piping water to Phuket from Chieo Lan Reservoir in Surat Thani and developing more old tin mines to serve as supply sources. In this way we won't be wresting water supplies away from Phuket, but increasing them.

The transport system will also be enhanced and we will push for a monorail system. If this project moves forward, Phuket's infrastructure will improve.

The island's waste-treatment system will also improve as the new incinerator will be built. All the island's waste-management systems will be integrated with this project.

I think we can start this project within the next year, but it will take many years to complete.

After two or three years, we might have the first phase of the marina project ready for small yachts.

I think that under Dasta, this project will not fail again as it did under the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), which didn't really understand the project and eventually dropped it when the Council for National Security took control of the country. This project will be a great benefit, not just to Phuket, but all of Thailand.

Compiled by Gazette Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel and edited by News Editor Stephen Fein.

Can I refuse to pay hidden charges?

What is the law in Thailand regarding restaurants having to state clearly that customers will have to pay a surcharge for service and VAT?

Does this information have to be displayed on the menus? If it isn't, can I refuse to pay?

David Kirk
By email

Sirilak Urawan, officer of Phuket Provincial Internal Trade Office, replies:

The Goods and Services Prices Act BE 2542 says that vendors who levy extra charges,

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

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such as VAT or a service charge, in addition to normal prices for their goods or services must display the cost of such extra charges clearly beside the list of normal prices or post a notice in plain view for customers explaining that such extra charges will be levied.

The punishment for not do-

ing so is a fine of up to 10,000 baht.

If the vendor has not done this, you have the right to refuse to pay it.

To report a vendor who does not clearly display hidden charges, call us at 076-219586 or 1569. Tell us the name of the shop and its location, and our team will investigate it.

The ranter's guide to life

Something has to be done about Soapbox Sid and Soapbox Sid is just the man to do it. The idea of Soapbox Sid having a go at ranters and ranting may smack a little of the pot calling the kettle black or even of Sid biting the hand that feeds him... well not exactly "feeds" him, but buys him the occasional pint of succor to help him cope with this cruel, uncaring world.

Let it be said, however, that Sid is nothing if not cutting edge, fearless and daring in his writing endeavors, so let us take this ranting issue by the horns.

Let me clarify. Sid's rants are always written, if not read, with a furry tongue placed firmly in his mottled cheek and fingers crossed. The rants are designed to bring a warm chuckle of amusement to the throat of the reader. The serious ranter is a genuinely antisocial creature deserving of our censure at best or our brickbats and pillorying at worst.

So what is a ranter and where did ranting originate? There were plenty of expert ranters in the Bible. Solomon and Abraham spring readily to mind and, of course, Moses was a granddaddy ranter par excellence once he got hold of those stone tablets.

Modern literature has thrown up some wonderfully unreasonable charac-

ters, such as Yossarian in Joseph Heller's *Catch 22* and the eponymous Alexander Portnoy in Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint*. Moreover, Shakespeare really wouldn't have had an oeuvre at all, were it not for the tendency of most of his characters to sound off in endless soliloquy at the drop of a broadsword.

Since the advent of television and now the Internet, we seem to live in an age in which dictatorial bombast has been raised to a high art. Where would we be today without the likes of Hitler, Margaret Thatcher, Fidel Castro, Ayatollah Khomeini, Osama bin Laden and "Dubya" waving their fingers in our faces and telling us how we should conduct our lives?

While ranting maybe on the rise, it is by no means new. However, there is a distinct qualitative difference between making a valid and well-reasoned complaint and letting fly with a barrage of emotionally charged abuse. The former is acceptable human behavior known to us all, while the latter is the preserve of a lunatic fringe of ranters. And in Sid's opinion the lunatic fringe seems to be gaining the upper ranting hand.

John Cleese portrayed Basil Fawlty as a ranter extraordinaire in *Fawlty Towers*. We laughed at his monstrous character, but probably did so because we rec-

ognized him as an extension of our own socially acceptable complaining behavior taken to a ludicrous and highly comedic extreme.

When Basil attempted to beat his Austin 1300 car to death with a tree branch because it would not start, Sid experienced an embarrassing little shock of recognition. I'd been there, or not far off... "Listen to me you stupid computer, either you save this document or you're toast, partner... it's on the rubbish tip with you, matey boy. This is your last chance... That's it! Your mother's a calculator!"

It was only when I compared notes with several pals and discovered that they too had seen themselves in Cleese's maniacal character that I felt a little better.

We all have limits to our tolerance and in today's crowded and frenetic world, those limits are continuously challenged. When we have had "just about enough", what do we do? Either we make a reasoned and well-presented case for change to the annoying circumstances or behavior that is trying our patience, or we ex-

plode and rail maniacally against them. Which pattern of behavior produces the better results?

Which happily brings us to Thailand and the Thai way of ranting. Well, what the average Thai puts up with in going about his daily business would drive most Westerners to the brink of suicide.

But do they rant? No sir, they do not. It's all wais, bows, smiles, deference, graciousness, flowers and merit making, at least on the surface of things. OK, they do tend to go off the rails once they are anonymously ensconced behind the wheel of their hurting pickup trucks, but with all that social constraint on the out-

side, it's hardly surprising is it?

Not for the first time, Sid finds himself in awe of the Thai way of handling life's little frustrations. It is confusing and contradictory like so many other things in this country, but it's that very incomprehensibility that keeps so many of us farang living here.

As Rudyard Kipling said, "East is east and west is west."



ANDAMAN
BY SOAPBOX SID
RANT

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Add some zip to your life, Gemini

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Where business is concerned, you will be seen as a rising star during the second half of June. If you are celebrating a birthday this week, expect the year ahead to be filled with challenges. Get a head start by creating a more energetic lifestyle; Leo is prepared to introduce you to a new sport that could become a healthy addiction. The best day for a hot date is Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you are newly single, you will have no choice about making a splash on the social scene this week. Friends are determined

that you get out and about once more and Sagittarius is ready to take your mind away from recent memories. Thursday is the best day for negotiating property deals; if you're planning to relocate, resist accepting the first offer made. The number 4 can bring some good fortune this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You should be feeling pretty lively from now until the end of this month. This is the ideal time to investigate possibilities of branching out in business – an Aquarian could be interested in collaboration. Family members are hard to

please this weekend and you may have to meet them further than halfway. Those who are single will meet an attractive water sign.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Sleep problems are indicated this week. One work-related problem will be solved on Monday with the help of Aries, but personal affairs are forecast to remain confusing until the end of the month. In the meantime, keep life simple by concentrating on one day at a time. The scent of lavender can encourage more tranquility.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A romantic relationship becomes turbulent this weekend when you learn of someone else's interference. It will be important to listen to your partner's point of view before jumping off at the deep end. The stars are ready to support your efforts at self-improvement. You could consider broadening your creative skills and this may involve travel to a new place. The number 7 can bring some surprise luck on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The ball is in your court where business is concerned. Those of you who haven't thought your strategy through may have to make spur of the moment decisions this week. Commitments are best made after Wednesday when the stars will be ready to support your efforts. Affairs of the heart are still sub-

ject to uncertain conditions, but you will notice the atmosphere lighten before the end of the month.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A financial problem that you presumed was solved comes back into the spotlight. You are advised to seek a second opinion before agreeing to others' demands. As luck is generally on your side where finances are concerned, there are indications that the outcome of this problem will be favorable. Romance provides a welcome diversion from worries when Leo starts to look in your direction. The number 8 can be lucky this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): There is brighter light shining at the end of the tunnel for those who have been attempting to embark on a new venture. However, you should listen to someone with the necessary experience before committing to long-term agreements. A dream you have this weekend helps you to see a personal problem more realistically. Wear the color sandstone to encourage a more optimistic outlook.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): It will be tempting to sweep an awkward situation under the coconut mat this week, but you ought to face up to what is really going on. A conversation with Gemini helps to put things in perspective on Sunday. Monday

is the right day to talk to people in authority. During the second half of June, you will surprise people with a decision to relocate.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You might regret making wishes earlier in the year. One of these was probably for more responsibility in the world of work and this is about to become a reality. Taurus would like to pass on challenges that they can't meet, but these could prove too demanding for you as well. Tuesday is the best day for making your voice heard.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Financial rewards are forecast to arrive just in time for a getaway. A trip that you had to put on hold earlier in the year is forecast to become reality, but it is likely that a potential traveling companion won't be joining you. Virgo is grateful for your intervention early next week when a business matter becomes too hot for them to handle.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Fair-weather friends are taking advantage of your generous nature. A romantic interlude with another earth sign comes as a welcome breath of fresh air, but can only progress as a long-distance relationship. Those already committed could be disappointed by their partner's irresponsible attitude towards finances this month; Wednesday is the best day for a calm discussion.



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This week, the S in S-Files stands for “submarine”. Here is a list of must-haves that fulfill a real need or just make a nerd’s heart beat faster.

Homebuilt Magnetometer. In the Lifestyle section (see pages 18-19), Nick Davies explores the potential health risks of household magnetic radiation. Yet, in the cinemas, Ironman is using magnetic radiation more than Songkran revelers use water.

But how can you measure magnetic radiation? Easy. Build your own magnetometer for 200 baht¹ – tinfoil hat and a degree in electrical engineering not included. Best built while watching *K19*, a Harrison Ford movie about seagoing nerds battling radiation while fixing a submarine.

Water, water, everywhere. Got kids training to be U-boat captains? Tired of discovering too late that your cellphone, camera, MP3 player and watch were in your bathing suit pocket? Drove to Patong on a scooter in the rain, only to find that your cellphone started drinking early? Hey, “ship” happens, we live on an island and this is the rainy season, so you need to have water-resistant toys.

Watches. Call me controversial, but I’ve been diving for 18 years and the only wristwatch I recommend is the G-Shock Classic². On a recent tour of the Japanese prison system (Don’t ask. It involved beer, wasabi, odorigui and a cultural misunderstanding.), I noticed that almost every prison guard was wearing a G-Shock. That’s a heck of an endorsement.

These babies run forever, light up at the press of a button, take incredible abuse, don’t cost an arm and a leg and survive at depths 10 times greater than your arms and legs can handle.

They come in womens’, kids’ and gorillas’ sizes. For scuba divers, I recommend the slim, flat, Classic model in bright yellow, rather than the Navy Seal look of chunky black models. The color won’t be lost in the dark depths and the slim profile won’t catch on a BCD vest armhole when you don your tank. They’re available all over Thailand and cost about 2,000 baht.

MP3 players. Dive, dive, dive! The 6,000 baht SwiMP3^{3 & 4} claims it works 3m beneath the waves. I’ve heard from one diver that it’s good 7m below the surface; 10m if you don’t mind rising each time you want to fiddle with the buttons.

Cameras. Let’s go cheap here, because all waterproof camera cases will eventually leak. They rely on user maintenance and thin, immaculately clean rubber seals. In a sandy, salty environment with tired hands, eventually

The geeks’ gadget guide to water toys



Casio's G'zOne mobile phone is water resistant up to one meter.

your rubber seal will become crimped, sandy or broken. Avoid the teary moment when a hyper-expensive digital camera becomes Nemo’s new home.

So, I’m recommending the 400-baht Fuji Quicksnap Marine⁵ 27-photo disposable snorkeling camera. They’re cheap, and yet these boxes are more durable than a pair of hiking boots and more rugged than a mother-in-law. For a decade, the box said “good to 5m”, but I’ve encouraged scuba clients to take them to 10m. Now, finally, Fuji admits its design is good to 10m.

The lens is fixed-focus, which means that above water the subject should be 1m away; underwater, 1m to 3m away. In shallow, sunny, clear water the ISO 800 film gives great results.

Cellphone. Although the original Bluetooth was a Viking king, most cellphones react badly to water.

What can you do? Go cheap, if you can. 99% of cellphone water damage can be prevented if you stick that box in a plastic bag. If your budget is large and your contact with water is daily, consider a G'zOne⁶ mobile phone from Casio, water resistant to 1m deep. Yes, that’s the G-Shock watch guys, now making the world safe for your cellphone.

These phones come in two models. First, there’s a basic Type-S (I have fans everywhere!). It’s a basic Bluetooth phone, but water resistant to 1m for 30 minutes. The S stands for “soggy”.

There’s also the V-Type, which apparently stands for “victorious in any sea adventure, bar brawl, Muay Thai camp, nuclear war, early morning scoot through Rawai and most summer superhero movies”.

This puppy is built for Indiana Jones action adventures. It has GPS tracking, a stopwatch, Bluetooth, and a 2.0 megapixel camera. Its swimming ability is equal to its baby brother’s.

However, while those

phones are great in a shallow pool or a few yards offshore, they don’t float. Fall off a boat without an inflated bag tied around them and they’ll be history in seconds. If you don’t need a mobile phone, but want a bright yellow cordless phone that floats, check out the 2,000-baht floating phone from Hammacher⁷.

While you’re shopping, pick up a 300-baht Bluetooth hands-free cellphone headset in the basement of Big C. They reduce cellphone theft and get around the new laws banning cellphone use while driving.

Underwater communications. Sure, you could buy a Buddyphone⁸ scuba regulator and mask for chatting underwater. But why would you when you could use your braincells for something other than beersponges and make new friends in the process: learn sign language.

Books and lessons are cheap. It’s not only for the deaf and the divers: it’s a good idea to have a secret, silent code when it’s 3 am in a loud Patong bar and your buddy is unaware that he’s playing *The Crying Game*.

Sign language comes in Thai⁹, Japanese and American¹⁰ flavors, which are so closely related that learning one makes you fairly proficient in the others. Want a Thai girlfriend, but you can’t climb over the language barrier? Start signing, today.

The son of an engineer and an artist, Seth Bareiss has been an IT professional for two decades and a geek since birth. Chat with him at the PC Group Therapy meetings at Woody’s Sandwich Shoppes, Sundays, 10 am to midday or go online at the club’s website www.khunwoody.com

LINKS

- 1) www.web-ee.com/schematics/instrumentation/build-gaussmeter/
- 2) www.gshock.com/products/g-shock_classic/
- 3) www.finisinc.com/products-swimp3.shtml
- 4) www.waterproofmusic.com/mp3player.html
- 5) www.fujifilm.com/products/quicksnap/lineup/marine/index.html
- 6) www.casiogzone.com and <http://www.andybrain.com/extras/gzone-review.htm>
- 7) www.techfresh.net/gadgets/wireless/the-waterproof-floating-phone/
- 8) www.oceantechnology.com/systems.com/
- 9) www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thai_Sign_Language
- 10) www.lifeprint.com/

THE S FILES

By Seth Bareiss

PC GROUP THERAPY

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

On June 15, we’ll have a session, at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

On June 22, we’ll be back at Woody’s Sandwich Shoppe in Patong (near Andaman Beach Suites).

And on June 29, Mac group Therapy will be held at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

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Vietnamese economy takes a serious pounding

Economic booms can reverse themselves rapidly, as the current situation in Vietnam so aptly demonstrates.

Vietnam enjoyed growth in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that averaged 7.5% a year between 2000 and 2007.

This was, in part, due to substantial new foreign investment in the country. However, booms are dangerous as Asia found out in 1997 with the outbreak of the regional financial crisis.

Vietnam is also now finding that its economy has overheated and the situation is aggravated by increases in food and energy prices.

Inflation was officially 25.2% in May compared with a year ago. This has led to a series of strikes by workers, most notably at foreign companies operating in the country.

In the first quarter of 2008, according to government statistics, there were around 300 strikes compared with just over 100 in the first quarter of 2007.

This is despite legislation making strikers responsible for losses caused to companies.

The current-account deficit, which is the broadest measurement of a country's total financial position in international terms, has reached worrying levels.

The Central Bank is expecting it to be 7.8% this year. By comparison, Thailand's deficit in 1997 was 6.6% when the Bank



City Hall in Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam is finding that its economy has overheated and the situation is aggravated by increases in food and energy prices.

of Thailand was forced to devalue the baht

The Vietnamese currency, the dong, is under severe pressure.

Futures markets indicate that the dong will fall 30% in value against the US dollar this year. However, when economic problems become this severe, there is a tendency for "overshoots" to occur.

Stock market performance is a prime indication of the severity of the problems and by early

June, the market had fallen by almost 60% this year alone.

The credit rating agencies are now circling the Vietnamese wagons.

In late May, Fitch ratings downgraded Vietnamese sovereign debt to "negative" from "stable".

There is widespread criticism of the government's handling of the economy and concern that the banking system could be severely damaged by non-performing loans.

Obviously, after such a massive crash in Vietnam's stock market, some investors will be seeking to move in at the bottom. However, it is unclear whether this is the bottom and there is still that 30% fall in the currency predicted to hit this year.

The construction and real estate sectors were major beneficiaries of the boom and there is a widespread belief that the real estate sector is now trapped

in a speculative bubble that not only threatens the financial sector, but the economy and its competitiveness in coming years. Foreigners are not allowed to own landed property in Vietnam.

Unfortunately, Vietnam is a one-party communist state. In reality, it is a one-party state; the "communist" part has long since been abandoned as unworkable. In this type of environment widespread corruption is inevitable.

A scandal has erupted over the discovery that transportation ministry officials were using money allocated for infrastructure development to bet on the outcome of European soccer matches.

The government response was to arrest the two journalists who exposed the problem.

The old story of a good workforce saddled with a bad government.

There is little doubt that Vietnam will reassert itself as a growing economy in the medium term. However, in the short term it is going to be subjected to some painful but necessary adjustments.

This is an excellent example of the reasons to invest in the "cocktail" approach when dealing with emerging markets, where use is made of a fund that invests in a number of countries rather than a single country. It simply spreads the risk.

One of the legendary names on Wall Street is Barton Biggs, previously global chief investment strategist at Morgan Stanley and since 2003 managing partner at Traxis Partners hedge fund.

Now aged 75, he has been on Wall Street for five decades. In a recent interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, he outlined his belief that the stock market is likely to move sideways for the rest of 2008, but there will be no recession in the US.

He believes that 2009 will see resurgence in the stock market, but if oil ends up at US\$175 a barrel over the next two to three months, "all bets are off".

He does temper his rosy view with: "one problem is you can be right, but too

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

early".

Barton Biggs does point out that historically it is always darkest just before dawn breaks. He gives two examples, both dating back to the Second World War.

The UK stock market hit bottom in June 1940 as the "Battle of Britain" was about to begin. In the US, the market hit bottom in the spring of 1942 during the Battle of Midway.

It is amazing that markets often have the ability to "see" into the future.

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



Singaporean **Praisie Huang** has been appointed Event Sales Manager of Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach.

Ms Praisie graduated from the National University of Singapore with a major in arts and social science.

She has been in Phuket for four years, working with the Laguna Holiday Club before moving to the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket as a Sales Executive in 2006 and then being promoted to Assistant Sales Manager earlier this year.



Bangkok native **Phoomphun Mingkwan** has been appointed Project Manager of Manathai Hotels & Resorts for branches in Surin Beach and Chiang Mai. He will also be in charge of The Playhouse in Patong.

K. Phoomphun has a master's degree in tourism and hospitality management from the University of Angers, France.

He has a wealth of knowledge about tourism, having worked for such companies as Disney, the Shangri-La hotel chain and Tourism Authority of Thailand.



Dr. Rushapol Sdawat has been appointed as a full-time Plastic Surgeon at Phuket International Aesthetic Center, Phuket International Hospital.

Dr. Rushapol graduated from Siriraj Medical School, Mahidol University, Bangkok. He has been a Plastic Surgery Instructor for Mahidol and Naresuan universities and was a resident surgeon at King Mongkutklao Hospital, Mahidol University. He gained much experience while at Sawanpracharak Hospital in Nakhon Sawan.

Sushi seller dives into property

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: After three booming years in Phuket, the Andaman Food Group (AFG) is now diversifying its food operations to off-site catering and launching a mid-range real estate project of six condominiums in Kamala.

The Andaman Group comprises all Oishi franchise outlets in Phuket, including Oishi Ramen, Oishi Express and Oishi Shabu, as well as all Pizza Company and In & Out Bakery outlets on the island.

AFG General Manager of Marketing Peerachsak Chunharatchapan and Managing Director Thanaseth Kulveeraaree told a press conference on June 5 that the move was a natural progression for the company. "Andaman Food Group is still growing. Our profit [for the period January to May] is already more than 5% higher than for the same period last year," K. Thanaseth explained.

However, AFG is not looking to simply open more outlets for its franchises. In some areas, such as Patong, costs including ground rents are prohibitive for new ventures, K. Thanaseth explained. In light of this, AFG is looking into new markets such as off-site catering, he said.

"In July, AFG will start fulfilling its contract with Phuket International Hospital to provide catering for staff and patients there," he said.

"We will continue to expand through the food catering business, with a keen interest in catering to functions and grand openings," he added.

"We have spoken with many hotels around the island and presented samples of our variety of food. I think 80% of the hotels we have spoken to are interested in our catering. But right now it is the low season, so hotels are



SPEC-TACULAR NEWS: Andaman Group Managing Director Thanaseth Kulveeraaree (left) and General Manager of Marketing Peerachsak Chunharatchapan tell reporters about the Andaman Food Group's plans to expand into off-site catering and real estate.

not placing orders [with AFG] at this time. We must wait for the next high season," K. Thanaseth said.

"Also, our new restaurant, Simply Bla bar, next to Farang restaurant [on the bypass road], is doing well. We are considering opening another new restaurant like this, but are waiting for a suitable location," he added.

K. Thanaseth said that rising prices of ingredients have recently started eating into the food outlets' profit margins. "Lately, we have been affected by rising prices of ingredients. All of them have risen, but we have not increased our prices," he said.

"We are expecting income for 2008 to be around 120 to 125 million baht. At this Oishi Express [at Index mall] alone, we expect to generate about 50 to 60 million baht in income," he said.

K. Thanaseth said that about 50% of AFG's customers were Thai, while the other 50% was mainly made up of Asian tour groups from places including China, Japan, Hong Kong and Korea.

"In our latest move, we are promoting our brand to Russian tour groups," he said. "They normally make up about 20% of all our foreign guests during the high season, of which 80% are Asians," he said.

Regarding the property development, K. Thanaseth explained, "The name is Kamala Mews. It's on about one rai of land about 100 meters behind Phuket FantaSea. It is six units selling at prices starting from 8 million baht each and is aimed at the mid-range market.

"Construction is not yet complete, but we expect to open the project by the end of the year," he said.

"It's difficult moving from the food industry to the real estate business. We have done very well in the food business, growing slowly but steadily. But we wanted to try real estate, which is a much quicker and much more lucrative industry. Also, it adds some security as it is different from our sole traditional, business of food," he added.

Bangkok Bank launches condo loans for foreigners

BANGKOK (*Nation*): While many foreigners choose to own condominiums in Phuket, securing a mortgage on a property usually comes up against a brick wall. All that could be about to change with Bangkok Bank's new mortgage program for foreigners in Thailand buying condominiums.

Expats who want to own condominiums in Thailand can now ask for mortgages through Bangkok Bank's Singapore branch, although the initial process can be done at branches in Thailand so that borrowers do not need to travel to Singapore.

Under the current law, foreigners can own a condominium if not more than 49% of the total units in a building are foreign owned.

However, the Bank of Thailand does not allow banks in Thailand to lend directly to foreigners. Expats wanting to own a condominium usually have to transfer money from overseas.

Bangkok Bank (BBL) requires borrowers to buy homes priced at least US\$300,000 (9.6 million baht), while offering a credit line of around 70% of the price, but not lower than US\$200,000 (3.2 million baht).

Loans will be given in one of three currencies: US dollars, Singapore dollars or euros, with mortgage rates depending on the currency.

The maximum term of a loan is 20 years, but the term plus a borrower's age cannot be more than 65 years.

The bank quotes floating interest rates, while the property asset will be pledged as loan collateral.

Loans will be dealt with in Thailand through BBL's co-operation with its branch in Singapore. If all required documents are submitted correctly, the approval process can take as little as two weeks.

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End in sight for Island Furniture cricket season

CHERNG TALAY: This season's Island Furniture cricket league is drawing to a close, with the top two teams set to clash on June 22 at Cherng Talay Wittayakom School.

The Liquid Lounge Lizards will come up against the Island Cricket Club in a Phuket cricket showdown.

The Village Cricket Team (VCT) were on the field at Cherng Talay Wittayakom School for match 14 of the league at the beginning of April.

This time they were up against the Patong Cricket Club (PCC).

VCT skipper K Quilty won the toss and elected to bat. VCT went on to make a commendable 177 before being bowled out in the 32nd over.

PCC replied with 179 runs for a convincing win in the 17th over.

In match 15 of the league, played at the end of April, the Liquid Lounge Lizards secured their place in the league final by destroying the Phuket Cricket Association (PCA).

Only PCA skipper F Khan made any inroads with the bat by top-scoring for his side with 19 runs.

The lads soon found themselves all out for 86 runs in just the 24th over. All the LLL bowlers picked up wickets.

Daniels also made the most of his turn with the bat by making 25 not out. B Whitehead picked up 24. The Lizards soon reached the winning total of 87 runs in the 12th over for the loss of just three wickets.

All that's now left for this season is final on June 22.

Poonsawat retains title

By Scott Mallon

WBA number-one ranked Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym (34-1, 24 KOs) on May 23 did exactly what was expected of him while making the eighth defense of his Pan Asian Boxing Association (PABA) superbantamweight title. He destroyed unknown Indonesian fighter Ifan Bone in just two rounds.

Poonsawat, who previously challenged for the world bantamweight title, losing a unanimous decision to current champion Vladimir Sidorenko, is now scheduled to fight WBA champion Celestino Caballero of Panama later this year. He has won his past 10 fights since his loss to Sidorenko.

Also on May 23, another former world champion, Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (55-6-1, 44 KOs), was in action in Kalasin province against Indonesian fighter Juharum Siliban.

Sor Vorapin (7-10-1, 1 KO), the former IBF minimumweight champion, needed just two rounds to obliterate Siliban.

After winning the title in 1992 and defending it for five years straight, Sor Vorapin moved up a weight category, lost four fights in a three-year period and then took a six-year hiatus from the ring before returning late-2005.

He's moved up in weight class again, this time to the talent-packed flyweight division, where he hopes to fight for a world title some time in the coming year.

Also on the cards, PABA light flyweight champion Wisanu Kokietgym defeated Jack Amiza for the second time in a row, this time via TKO in round four, to



Former IBF minimumweight champion of the world Ratanapol Sor Vorapin prepares for battle against Indonesia's Alex Boki.

retain his PABA title.

In women's boxing, the politics of boxing may delay Samson Sor Siriporn's defense of her world title against the mandatory challenger.

Sor Siriporn, the WBC womens' light flyweight champion, has a mandatory defense against the WBC's number-one ranked fighter, Julia Sahin of Germany.

Sahin, however, is the current IBF world champion, making the title defense more tricky as two organizations need to be involved.

For now, it looks as if Sor Siriporn is tentatively scheduled to face Nanako Kikuchi of Japan in mid-August. Sor Siriporn challenged Kikuchi unsuccessfully for the world title in May 2006.

In Australia on May 24, in what was supposed to be a showcase for self-proclaimed badboy and hometown fighter Chad Bennett of New South Wales,

Australia, the star of the show found out the hard way that there's a huge difference between a club fighter and a world champion.

Former WBC bantamweight and super featherweight champion Sirimongkol Singwangcha (59-2, 34 KOs) made quick work of Bennett (21-3-3, 14 KOs), stopping the fighter in just 45 seconds.

Before the fight, Bennett declared that he would show the boxing world that he was the real deal and would soundly defeat Singwangcha. For his sake, it's a good thing he wasn't being paid by the round.

The bout was scheduled for 11 rounds and was for Singwangcha's PABA light welterweight title. Singwangcha is currently ranked ninth in the world by the World Boxing Council and 10th by the World Boxing Association.

He has been training diligently in the solitude of Koh Chang, away from the distractions of Bangkok.

Singwangcha is one of the most talented fighters to come out of Thailand. He has fought and won K-1 tournaments and is a Muay Thai and boxing champion. With the correct focus he is certainly capable of winning his third world boxing championship.

In Mexico on May 24, no-one gave Devid Lookmahanak (18-2, 9 KOs) much of a chance

at defeating two-time world champion and home favorite Jorge Arce (49-4-1, 37 KOs). Before Arce was soundly defeated by current champion Christian Mijares, he was considered the cream of the crop of the flyweight division and a fighter feared for his considerable knockout power. But that was then and the loss to Mijares proved Arce was mortal.

Lookmahanak traveled to the lion's den, Aguascalientes, Mexico, and fought in front of 18,000 pro-Arce fans.

He very nearly pulled off the upset. Arce is immensely popular in Mexico and the crowd wanted to see him score yet another dramatic knockout.

The Thai southpaw showed up in top shape, however, and was looking for a win. Lookmahanak was considered a top Thai prospect before suffering a stunning knockout at the hands of Filipino fighter Richard Olisa, but he is largely unknown outside of Thailand.

The bout was close throughout, with Lookmahanak winning the early rounds and Arce coming on strong down the stretch. The Mexican fighter scored a flash knockdown in round seven.

Although Lookmahanak was unhurt, it was the difference between winning and losing. Final scores: 115-113, 115-114 and 114-114. A majority-decision win for Jorge Arce.

The victory earned Arce a rematch with Cristian Mijares, who now holds the WBC and WBA belts. Most boxing pundits view Mijares as the best in the division and give Arce little chance in the rematch.

At the rumor mill there is talk that long-time OPBF super bantamweight champion Wethya Sakmuangklaeng (79-4, 44 KOs) will defend his championship against Jun Talape (17-5-1, 7 KOs) of the Philippines sometime in July.

Sakmuangklaeng is one of Thailand's most underrated fighters. He has won 33 straight fights and not lost in more than seven years. His last loss was to current WBC super featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao (46-3-2, 35 KOs) of the Philippines.

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Local anglers score in fishing tourney

PA KHLOK: More than 20 teams had their tackle on display at this year's Ao Por Fishing Tournament.

Each team comprised three members who set out on a longtail boat at 5 pm on May 28, returning to Ao Por at 9 am the following day.

Teams were allowed one fishing rod per member.

The top prize of 10,000 baht and a trophy, presented by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, went to Nipon Dujpayak and his team, who caught a total of 16.2 kilograms of fish.

Runners-up were a trio led by Lersak Wisutthisiri, whose 16.1kg of fish won them 8,000 baht and a trophy.

With fish weighing 14.6kg was the team led by Somporn Chergsamuth, who won 5,000 baht for their effort.

In the individual competition, the troop of fisher-folk went out together on a single longtail boat from 7 am until 9 am on May 29.

Taking top honors was Badin Thongchu, who reeled in 3.1kg of catches to win 10,000 baht and a trophy.



A man weighs his catches at this year's Ao Por Fishing Tournament

A fisherwoman, Sirirat Saeheng, netted 1.8kg of marine life to take second place and the 8,000-baht prize.

In third place was Weerayuth Supparak, whose 1.7kg of fish saw him walk away with 5,000 baht.

The tournament was orga-

nized by master's degree students from Phuket Rajabhat University to promote the skills of local fishermen and also to raise money for charity.

Fish caught in the competition were auctioned off on May 29, with 18,000 baht raised for schools in the Ao Por area.

New Multihull regatta to launch in Phuket

AO CHALONG: The Inaugural SEA Properties Phuket Multihull Championships 2008 is set to take place July 11 to 13 with some top yachtsies from around the region expected to make the trip to Phuket.

Subject to entries received, the regatta will feature three racing classes: Racing Multihulls with valid OMR ratings, Firefly 850 Sports One Design Class and Cruising Multihulls without OMR ratings.

The deadline for entries is 9 pm, July 11, with forms available from the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC).

All competitors are expected to be present at the ACYC clubhouse for a briefing and the opening party on July 11, registration day.

Racing will start July 12, across a course that has yet to be set. Racers will set off at 11 am, with a party scheduled for 6:30 pm – venue to be confirmed.

July 13 will be the second day of racing before the closing finale and prize giving at 6 pm, again, venue to be confirmed.

A book of courses will be issued along with sailing instructions to all teams on July 11. There will be a number of island and inshore courses chosen to take into account weather conditions at the time.

There are two races scheduled for each day.

For more information contact the ACYC. Tel: 076-381488. Website: www.acycphuket.com

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

June 3 results: Hilltop 4 Queen Mary* 5; Piccadilly* 4 Celtic 5; Beach House 1 Offshore* 8; Simply Red 4 Sick Buffalo* 5; Shakers 3 - Dogs Bollocks* 6; Market Bar = bye (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1.= Queen Mary, Sick Buffalo (15 pts.) 3. Dogs Bollocks (13); 4. Piccadilly (11); 5.= Offshore, Celtic (9); 7. Shakers (7); 8. Market Bar (6); 9.= Hilltop, Beach House, Simply Red (5).

June 17 match-ups: Shakers v Queen Mary; Hilltop v Piccadilly; Celtic v Offshore; Market Bar v Simply Red; Beach House v Sick Buffalo; Dogs Bollocks = bye (home team first).

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Lighting is one of the most important aspects of decorating any property. With the rainy season now upon us, you need lighting that can illuminate your life and elevate your mood during these occasionally gloomy times.

Warm light can help you relax and rest, while bright light can incite productivity, said Patanavadee Samud, the managing director of Artisan Lighting Products, a lighting shop that has all the right glows.

The shop stocks a range of lamps that are supplied by its own factory in Bangkok, as well as a workshop in Phuket that deals with smaller items and modifications.

There are two types of lighting available at the shop. The first is "special lighting", which is the main focus of Artisan. These products can't be found in any catalog as they are tailor-made to the specifications of clients. The lamps are designed and built from scratch.

The second type of product on offer are the standard lamps, which are available in the shop's catalog and are pre-made.

Vogue styles of lamp on the island sport plain, simple colors, such as black, brown and white. Lamps made of stainless steel or natural materials are also popular and are crafted by Artisan to radiate warm light.

Other styles of lighting available include chandeliers and lamps for floors and walls.

"Our decorative lights are made of various materials. Many of our products are handmade. We provide assistance for installing all lamps and we also give after-sale maintenance, as well as offering suggestions and advice to help customers," said Khun Patanavadee.

"We have been in Phuket for seven years," she said, adding that the products at Artisan are



There are two types of lighting available. The first is 'special lighting'. These products can't be found in any catalog as they are tailor-made to the specifications of a client. The second type of product on offer are the standard lamps, which are pre-made

Shine a little light

popular with a large cross-section of the island's residents.

"I love decorating and I think that lamps are totally different to other types of aesthetic features you might use in a house. Light can instill feelings. Even if you're house is fully fur-

nished, you still need light," she added.

"Most people living in Phuket have a good sense of style when it comes to decor. People like to spruce up their houses and experiment with lighting," she said.

The shop also stocks blinds and other decorative items, which they will deliver to anywhere in Thailand.

Artisan Lighting is open from 8 am to 5:30 pm, Monday to Saturday. The shop is located on Pracha Uthit Rd. Driving from Yaowarat Rd, it's on the left-hand side, 50 meters before the fresh market. For further information call 076-376101-2 or visit www.artisanlighting.net

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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

Escapist living in Nai Harn

Aesthetics, quality and practicality define this three-bedroom house in Sai Yuan, Nai Harn. Based on a "residential resort environment" concept, the home's fluid landscaping blends with its contemporary Thai-Balinese architecture and the common swimming pool of the housing estate.

Designed as a peaceful sanctuary, extensive green areas have been created by combining mature trees with carefully landscaped plants and bushes. The floor plan of the single-story, 180-square-meter home combines functionality and convenience. Clean lines for both the exterior and interior result in a simple, yet understated, appearance.

Interior features include two en-suite bathrooms, a Western-style kitchen, built-in wardrobes in the bedrooms, a maid's room and an outdoor shower.

The property is considered a suitable investment property, as finding tenants for houses in this estate has never been a problem.

Demand exceeds supply for high-end properties and rental demand continues to be robust in

Set on a 400sqm plot with a Chanote title, this three-bedroom house in Nai Harn is on the market for 11.5 million baht freehold.



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Set on a 400sqm plot with a Chanote title, the house is available for freehold sale at 11.5 mil-

lion baht. As part of Royal Estate the Park, owners are also provided with the estate's maintenance service for a fee of 5,000 baht a month.

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During a recent trip to the US, I spoke with several players in the domestic property and tourism industry. The reality of the current US market is a stark reminder of how quickly tides can turn.

According to analysts, as much as 60% of investment in second homes and vacation properties bought from 2006 is now in negative equity.

The market value of that new holiday house you bought is now lower than when you invested in it.

While these remain paper losses until such time as a property is sold, it's a strong indicator of a recession. Retail brokers are reporting that transactions involving such properties are now flat with no expectation of uplift in the near future.

Turning to world financial markets, petrol futures trading for 2016 is now in excess of US\$160 a barrel, with today's prices now over US\$130.

The significance of this is that long-term futures are now higher than the current price of the commodity. Petrol prices are affecting airlines, with direct flights to Los Angeles and New York by Thai Airways and Singapore Airlines now rescheduled due to higher fuel consumption for the long-range Airbus A340.

On the supply side, levels of fuel production have been underestimated by the production giants and growth in emerging economic tigers – Russia, Brazil, India, China – is not forecast. Everything points to oil prices breaching US\$200 a barrel in the not-too-distant future.

As we move through the second quarter of 2008, the fate of the US dollar remains uncertain. While the upcoming presidential election will create a change in US international policy, effects from the disastrous "Bushonomics" era will take several years to reverse.

Historically, there are some

US woes cloud property horizon



Investors in Phuket continue to act with confidence, selling projects and reinvesting in more-expensive properties.
Photo: Millennium Resort, Patong.

erty markets of Vietnam, China and Thailand. From afar, Phuket is perceived as a marketable brand with a considerable upside while capturing significant market share in the Asia-Pacific leisure-property sector.

Looking at recorded property transactions, the numbers don't quite gel with the consensus of a total market slowdown. However, oversaturation of the market along with corresponding incremental transactions and a growing resale market are cause for disparity.

While the overall sales volume is there, the number of projects is rising. Most long-term investors are on the lookout for when a market peaks, which may be about to happen in Phuket.

One key indicator is when initial investors start to cash out of the market. Analyzing Land Department transactions shows that this is happening with many medium to higher-end properties.

The good news is that the people selling up in Phuket are reinvesting in more-expensive properties on the island. Market sentiment is important. Investors in Phuket continue to act with confidence without knee-jerk reactions to troubles elsewhere in the world.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

benchmarks, with parallels between the current sub-prime debacle and previous savings-and-loans crises during the Reagan era. It's going to be a long and arduous journey for the world's leading economy; uncertainty continues to grip most investors' minds.

In Thailand, the knock-on effect for fuel and commodities, such as rice and seafood, is seeing prices rise at hyperinflationary levels. Labor costs continue to skyrocket as a result. For the man

on the street this equals a rapidly diminishing paycheck, barely keeping ahead of the cost of liv-

ing.

The Samak-led government was quick off the mark with rapid economic reform, which was welcomed by overseas investors, but the current mud slinging and uncertainty over political factions is causing concerns.

Another event having a large-scale impact is the recent earthquake in China's Sichuan province, which will require enormous rebuilding in the area, hence the region's steel prices are soaring.

This column is supposed to be about property. While it is important to give thought to key economic indicators and look at the bigger picture, you may be wondering how all this affects Phuket.

While I was in the US, I met a number of institutional investors who are looking to Asia

as a ray of hope. These are firms that continue to have liquidity and need to invest money in high-yielding markets.

There has been a shift and redeployment of resources by overseas firms specializing in leisure and mixed-use projects. They see potential growth in the prop-

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.

CORRECTION: Bill Barnett's previous column included the sentence, "With Patong having 33,000 hotel rooms and attracting regular visitors from across half the island, it's difficult to understand why Patong is not the government's choice for the location of a convention center."

The sentence should have read, "With a catchment area of over 50% of the island's 33,000 hotel rooms, it's hard to understand why Patong is not the government's choice for a convention center given the need for proximity to accommodation."

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Pet tomfoolery is no laughing matter

What's the point of performing animals? What sane, rational person would consider a parrot on a bicycle to be a form of entertainment? Are we really supposed to be impressed? That's probably what the owners of these hapless creatures have in mind.

One of my jobs back in my youth was a circus usher for the Moscow State Circus as it toured Australia.

Apart from having to usher people, whatever that means, I had to kneel down at the edge of the ring facing the audience during the dancing bears' act.

This wasn't to protect the punters from angry, crowd-mauling bears; it was actually the opposite.

The idea was to prevent over-enthusiastic members of the audience rushing into the ring in the middle of the act to stroke and pet what many of them considered adorable, cuddly creatures. These things would have had their arms off in seconds, I was told.

Strange that the nearest thing to these animals at the time they were doing their thing was my backside.

This alarming thought never occurred to then.

Just as pointless as dancing bears, the other day I saw a poodle wearing poodle jeans and a poodle jacket. What was its owner thinking? Aside from the fact that it's a poodle and doesn't really count as a proper dog, does the owner really think that the outfit she picked out for Fifi is cute? Sorry, love – it's ludicrous.

I'd like to see a fewer animals exploited for our selfish pleasure. I have a dog at home – a white mongrel. Well, Ginge is more of a soi dog. I know what



Put one of these on your balcony if you need some privacy. The *alocasia macrorrhiza*, also known as the giant taro, doesn't do much apart from growing and looking big.

would happen if I started the give-me-a-paw or roll-over routines. She'd be off like a shot.

There was an elephant that went on a rampage a few years ago. In the middle of its usual circus routine, it decided that it had had enough and gave its trainer a bit of a stomping.

The elephant then went out onto the street and threw a hissy fit, charging into parked cars and generally venting years of frustration at being forced to produce party tricks.

I can't really blame the elephant for throwing its teddy out

of bed; the animal's untimely demise at the hands of dozens of policemen with big guns was hardly fair.

Elephants deserve more. At least they seem to have some respect in Thailand, with the obvious exception of those planks who parade their baby elephants through the streets, inviting tourists to make 100-baht donations for a bit of sugar cane to feed the animals with.

The biggest land animal on the planet is a common sight in Phuket. It's quite apt, then, that one of the most dramatic plants in Thailand is called the elephant's ear, or *alocasia macrorrhiza*. Thais refer to it as the *bon yak bon yai*.

Blooms in Thailand can be seasonal and there are often periods when blossoms are absent. That's when the foliage plants step up to take over. The *alocasia macrorrhiza* does this exceptionally well.

Also known as the giant

taro, it's an amazing plant that doesn't do much apart from growing and looking big. The leaves, which can be as long as two meters, grow out of a thick central trunk.

That's all it is for the majority of its life – a cluster of massive leaves. It's even a record holder, having the largest undivided leaf of any plant. A specimen found in 1966 was 3.02m long, 1.92m wide and had a surface area of 3.17 square meters. I wouldn't be surprised if there was an example in Phuket that was close – these things are monsters.

The flowers don't look like flowers. The stem that protrudes from the main plant is more correctly known as an inflorescence. In the lower bulging end of the inflorescence is a small spadix (a fleshy club-like spike) containing hundreds of minute flowers, which can be male, female or bisexual.

If the flowers pollinate, they will produce a whole stem of orange seeds.

The *alocasia macrorrhiza* is native to Asia and grows with voracious speed wherever planted. They grow by the thou-

sand without any assistance. It's just as content in a damp, well-shaded garden, but not much good on a balcony, unless you want to completely obliterate any kind of view. It also needs plenty of water to stay healthy.

I had a monster *alocasia* in my back garden that was perfectly relaxed under the overhang of a tree originating from next door. That was until my neighbors thought it would be a good idea to hack the tree down – even the *alocasia* was a bit miffed. The leaves turned brown and withered and the whole thing changed personality.

The *alocasia* is poisonous. The tuber contains oxalic acid crystals, giving it an irritating and acrid taste, though apparently it can be eaten if it's prepared properly; I'm not sure how desperate you'd need to be to put that to the test, though.

Interestingly, there are cultivated forms that do not have this mouth-itching property and the leaves, stalks and black rhizome are fed to animals in some parts of the world.

It multiplies by offshoots that appear from the single-parent plant. These new plantlets are not mature enough to produce a flower early on, but when they are separated from the mother plant and produce a tuber of their own, they will grow and produce an inflorescence.

For this to happen, the tuber needs to be about two inches in diameter.

These things aren't stupid – their leaves even turn towards the light.

I'm not sure they'd be too happy if this was turned into some form of party trick, though. Perhaps they can console themselves with the fact that they're unlikely to be dressed up in little jeans and jackets.

That kind of thing would just be silly. Elephant ears are just good at... being big.

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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

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4,884sqm of filled flat land. 2.5km from airport road. Laguna turnoff in Ton Sai area. Chanote, electricity, water, paved road around land. 1.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-2734212.

URGENT REPOSSESSION SALE

New property in Rawai. Approx 350sqm of living space, plus swimming pool. Could be used as 3-bedroom house, two 2-bedroom houses or even four 1-bedroom suites. Includes Thai limited company if required. Some finance may be available. 7 million baht ono. Contact Dave. Tel: 084-0639223, 084-6722725 (Scandinavian).

ABSOLUTE WATERFRONT

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fractional ownership of 2 of Phuket's finest villas. 80 meters of waterfront, land plots over 2 rai. Each 4-bedroom villa has a 20m swimming pool, a fully loaded pool sala, games room, wine room and walk-in freezers. All bedrooms are en suite and kitchens are Italian design with Viking appliances. These villas will be finished to the highest international standards of quality. Both have more than 1,200sqm of indoor/outdoor living space. No brokers. Only savvy investors who appreciate the finer things in life need reply. Leave your contact details and I will be in touch. Email: mlwphuket@mac.com

BANG TAO LAND

4 rai, 1 ngan, 18sq wah in Baan Don at 2.2 million baht per rai. Contact Bruno. Tel: 080-7193785.

THAI-STYLE HOME

near Laguna. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room and kitchen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

BANG TAO 3-BEDRM PENTHOUSE

Rare freehold. Located in the prestigious Tamarind Hills development (completion late-2008) near Laguna Phuket. This luxury unit has commanding sea views, own swimming pool and generous living space. 23 million baht, including furniture package. Email: hk2112@gmail.com for details. Download specs from www.tamarindhills.com

STUDIO APARTMENT

for sale. Poolside studio apartment, Ya Nui 2. Good rental return, near beach. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8528096.

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Property Gazette

BOUTIQUE RESORT - NAI HARN

14 bungalows. 2 rai landscaped with tropical gardens + pool. 3 bedrooms, manager's residence. Includes 38 motorbikes for rent. Excellent cash flow business. Unlimited potential. 35 million baht ono.

Contact Warren Crowe at 081-2704291.
Email: thailandmls@gmail.com

KARON SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



Located between Centara Karon Resort and Secret Cliff Resort. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Very good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking price 250 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093 or email: a.pueng@gmail.com

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

This immaculate 2-bedroom home on an excellent estate is priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

LAND: 13 RAI

20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Between hills with river. 1 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

HARMONY HOMES

4 unique executive townhomes by 3rd fairway of Phuket Country Club. From 17 million baht. Tel: 081-9583571. Email: sweetiebee2000@yahoo.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

2.4 million baht. Townhouse in Happy Home village. Two bedrooms, living room, European kitchen, terrace front and back. 3 aircons, fully furnished, True TV, DVD, microwave, water tank. Motorbike also included. Rebuilt just 10 months ago, everything as new. Nice, quiet and safe area. Tel: 083-3939622 (English), 086-9414113 (Thai). Email: jerker@sandstorm.as

HOUSE IN PATONG

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 4 toilets, kitchen. 5.5 million baht. Business opportunities on 1st floor. Tel: 081-6936099.

SMALL PLOT

1,832sqm in Palai, Chalong. 5.2 million baht. Chanote, good road. Tel: 089-7298365.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai, Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. From 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

SEA AND WATERFALL VIEW PLOT

Hillside plot, Chanote, 1,400sqm, creek frontage, utilities, private road. One of a kind plot. 6 million baht. Tel: 086-2670157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

1 RAI IN RAWAI

Ready to build on, very quiet and attractive area, concrete road. Chanote. 8.9 million baht. Tel: 085-7852035.

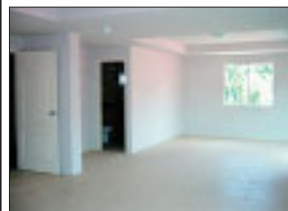
2 TOWNHOUSES

Thai-style in Bangjo. 1 corner unit: 1.7 million baht. 1 center unit: 1.5 million baht. Buy both at 3 million baht. Contact Ya. Tel: 087-3863388. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW LAND

Chanote plots from 1 to 8.3 rai. Best Chalong location. 300m from new 9-hole golf course. Wichit area. Tel: 081-8913740.

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach

- * 4 stories
- * 8 apartments on floor 2, 3, 4
- * Chanote title
- * Electricity, water
- * 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price: 52 million baht.
Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

LAND FOR SALE

Chok Thip Villa in Chalong. 81sqm. Chanote, water and electricity. Call or mail for details. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: stafsulaiman@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms, pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar power, hot water, sala, BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate. Tropical garden set on 1,600sqm 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

TROPICAL POOLVILLA
in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

10 RAI IN RAWAI

Heart of Rawai for villa project, or can be split into 1-rai plots. Very quiet and attractive area. Tel: 085-7852035.

LAST PLOT BYPASS RD

11 rai next to Leelawadee Resort Project. 16 million baht per rai. Email for details. Agencies are welcome. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

PATONG HOUSE

Urgent sale! 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 sitting rooms and kitchen. 24sq wah. Chanote. 4 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-3083262.

HOUSE IN TOPLAND



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, kitchen, living room. Price: 3.7 million baht. Tel: 081-0803414.

SAIYUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



2-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 Harn Beach. Tel: 084-8475700, 087-898-7642. Email: morn_48@yahoo.com

PATONG STUDIO

fully renovated and furnished 1,950,000 baht freehold. Tel: 089-9715664.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDO

Luxury, fully furnished, one bedroom, ground floor, pool-side condo. Located at the end of a quiet street in the heart of Patong. Within easy walking distance of restaurants, pubs, clubs, beach and Jungceylon shopping center. 65sqm. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8879070.

LAND IN NAI HARN

with Chanote. Fully developed, 1,250sqm, 40m above sea level, top view, construction permit. Tel: 087-2980200. Email: rvberger00@hotmail.com

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please contact www.phuketproperties.com. If you are a real estate developer or owner you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

DETACHED HOUSE

in Patong area. Fully furnished home with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, aircon and automatic gate. Tel: 081-5366732. Email: shoppingspeedy@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Western kitchen, pool, furnished, Chalong. 6.7 million baht. Tel: 089-6468374, 086-5742815.

EXECUTIVE LIVING



Modern, 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom home in secure upscale development. Over 395sqm of living area with 25sqm enclosed sala and 13x4m salt-water pool, big maid's room. Only 800m from BIS. Too many upgrades to mention. For sale at 27 million baht or for rent at 150,000 per month. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-4077403.

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

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 2.95 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 080-0300439.

LUXURY DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE

Exceptional designed, Property size 540 sq.m. 3 beds, 4 baths, fully furnished. Western kitchen, Open plan living & dining. 50sqm T-shaped swimming pool, Jacuzzi & water fall, sala. Landscaped gardens, office. Solar cell water systems. 2 carports, Automatic gateway. Near Rawai Beach. Price: 13.5 Million baht. Contact Komkrich at Tel: 081-6913029 or by Email: Kris_silanachai@yahoo.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 hagglers. Tel: 080-7197147. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° panoramic views of the sea, hills and town. Large outdoor patio and wraparound balcony. Comes completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from June 26. Tel: 011-86-13816344147. Email: txxtt@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.patongtowerrental.com

HOUSE IN KATHU



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, garden with fence, large store room. Only 25,000 baht a month. Contact Bancha. Tel: 084-1896700. Website: www.andamanhome.hi5.com

POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big livingroom, sat TV, ADSL. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

HOUSE IN PHANG-NGA

for rent. A traditional Thai house situated near Phang-nga town. It has a very beautiful view, natural surroundings, on the way to Sranangmanora National Park. 2 bedrooms. Monthly rent: 20,000 baht. Includes water and electricity. Please contact K. Poo. Email: rukwith@yahoo.com

KAMALA COMPLEX

Two 2-storey villas for long-term rental. Ideal for expats working and sharing one monthly rental payment. Individual villa or both. Consists of villa 1: 2 large 2-bed apartments, 2 1-bedroom apartments. Villa 2: 3 studio rooms and 1 large 2-bedroom apartment. Swimming pool, Jacuzzi, landscaped gardens, private road. Tel: 084-8375985. Email: kamalarob@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and True TV included. 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Tel: 081-0021364. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.chalongparadise.com

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT, SEA VIEW

Quiet location, Patong sea view, TV, DVD, True TV, ADSL, Western kitchen, high-spec furniture and swimming pool. Call or email for details. Tel: 081-5397353. Email: simon@coppingerproperties.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room. Safe and quiet area, 5 mins to Laguna. Tel: 084-0511955, 084-1908555. Email: sornin_s@yahoo.com

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

You want to rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

LUXURY HOUSE

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, beautifully furnished, pool, garden. Pool cleaning and gardening included. 5 minutes from Mission Hills golf course. Contact K. So. Tel: 081-3444473.

FOR RENT, RAWAI

2-bedroom house, safe area, aircon, cable TV, Internet, furnished, walled garden, 18,000 baht in low season. Tel: 085-7873046.

LUXURY CONDO

2 levels, 2 bedrooms. Swimming pool, sea view, Internet, phone, well furnished. Minimum 6 months' rental, no young children. 27,000 baht per month. Contact for further information. Tel: 081-270-5374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th Website: www.orcella.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT

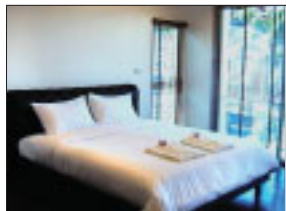
1 bedroom, living room, kitchenette, fully furnished, cable TV, wireless Internet. 500m to the beach. Tel: 081-891-4381. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

PATONG BIG YARD



Located in a quiet area of Patong, this house can have either 2 or 3 bedrooms. Also has 1 bathroom and enclosed yard and is partly furnished and freshly painted. A must see. Long term rental; up to 20 years. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for rent or sale (B27.5 million). The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.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. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardening service. Monthly rental: 75,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com For details, visit: www.phuket-island-homes.com

CHERNG TALAY RENTALS

3 bedrooms, furnished: 22,000 baht/month. Unfurnished: 17,000 baht/month. New shophouse: 35,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-7839062.

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

BEACH HOUSE

for rent at Fisherman Way. 1-4 bedrooms. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189. Website: www.fishermanway.com

RAWAI RENTAL: BAAN SUAN POOL



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. From 15,000 baht/month. 300m from Rawai Pier. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE



800m from Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, nice garden at corner. Fully fitted kitchen, 2 TVs with cable TV installed, 3 aircons, telephone line with ADSL. 21,000 baht/month for 2-year contract or 23,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Tel: 081-8512280. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE NEAR BIS

2-story townhouse opposite Boat Lagoon. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms. Furnished: 18,000 baht/month. Unfurnished: 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-9793369. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

PALAI GREEN

2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, fully furnished, free cable TV, ADSL Internet. Near Chalong. 12,000 baht/month. For more information call K. Nee. Tel: 081-8924311.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

for rent near British International School. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-9241447.

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NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

BEACHFRONT, CHALONG

2- and 4-bedroom furnished houses. Bay views, swimming pools. 10,000 and 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-4706104.

HOUSE NEAR SARASIN BRIDGE

for rent. 40 meters from beach. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 4 aircons, some furniture. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8167875.

PATONG BEACH TOWNHOUSE

for rent. Fair price, long or short term. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

PATONG STUDIO

fully renovated and furnished, 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9715664.

NICE HOUSE FOR RENT



A large family home with 3 bedrooms. All en-suite bathrooms. Aircon in 2 master bedrooms, furnished with great swimming pool in surrounding walls, carport. Ideal for family or couple, very safe area, 5 minutes from Bang Tao Beach. Ready to move in immediately. Please call K. Gai at 081-7344324. Great value. Email: ian.taylor.woodward@hotmail.com

KATHU GOLF-VIEW VILLA

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS, lake, hill and valley view. Quiet, on top of private hill, furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV, Long term: 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

HOUSE IN THALANG
near Neramit Villa. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 60sq wah. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-283 9181. Email: paeam@gmail.com

STUDIO APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Private kitchen aircon, True TV, ADSL, pool. 4,000 baht per week; 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

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BUSINESS FOR SALE
52-foot charter yacht, successfully run by couple in Phuket for 10 years. Price: US\$95,000. Call for more details. Tel: 081-6771641.

POWER CATAMARAN
Price: 3.9 million baht. LOA 19m, BEAM 7m. 4 cabins, 2 with toilet and shower, 1 separate head, 1 separate shower, saloon, galley, flight bridge, 2 crew berths. 80% finished. Boat is in Pattaya. Tel: 02-3308592, 081-3061150. Fax: 02-3308593. Email: rm2@foodcomthailand.com

SPEETBOAT HULL

37-foot wooden hull, 2 years old, perfect condition. 275,000 baht. Contact Nicolas at Tel: 081-7286188 or Kat at Tel: 084-7463032. Email: nicolaswinckler@hotmail.fr

TRIMARAN

for sale: 51 foot, 8-berth sailboat. Thai registered and in good running order. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

33-foot wooden hull, perfect condition, 1 1/2 years old. 2 engines: Yamaha v6 200hp. Fully equipped for diving. 900,000 baht. Contact Nicolas at Tel: 081-7286188 or Jano at Tel: 083-5905464. Email: nicolaswinckler@hotmail.fr

FIBERGLASS RUNABOUT

Small fiberglass speedboat with 15hp Yamaha outboard in good condition. 14ft long, newly restored and painted. 120,000 baht, including launch trailer. Can be viewed at Boat Lagoon. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 076-321203, 081-9681975. Email: leonbowles@gmail.com

CENTER CONSOLE, 6-METER IMPORT

Our best bargain! Quick sale for cash. Contact Andrew. Tel: 081-8941530, 083-3927150. Email: vunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

LIVE-ABOARD

Good for overnight fishing, dinner cruise and diving. 22m/6m. 7 cabins, 3 toilets, 3 showers. 330hp engine, 20-megawatt generator. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7874690.

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| 38' Front catamaran - 1999: 180,000 euro | 38' Mustang 3800LE - 2006: \$325,000 USD |
| 35' Custom Sloop - 1999: 50,000 euro | 35' Bertram 35 - 1982: 4,000,000 THB |
| 33' Seawind 1000 cat - 1998: 90,000 euro | 30' Jeanneau cosmos - 2006: 3,900,000 THB |

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
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email: yacht@leemarine.com

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SALES EXECUTIVE

Established real estate agency is seeking motivated individuals for the position of Sales Executive. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai and have good computer skills. Excellent salary plus commission. Driving license essential. Tel: 076-527565. Fax: 076-527564. Apply by email to: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

THAILAND JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Job seekers and employers sign up for free! Email: aadams007@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.thaijobseeker.com

POSITION: RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:

- Diploma or bachelor's degree in any related field
- Minimum 1 year of experience. We also welcome new graduates.

- Knowledge of Microsoft Office, Excel and email correspondence.

- Good written and spoken English communication skills.

- Pleasant personality, service minded with excellent interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications together with a resume of career to date, present salary, expected salary, references and a recent photo to the address shown below.

PK International Law Office Company Limited.

18/9, 17 Moo 8, Chao Fa East Road, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130.

Tel: 076-384014, 076-381055. Fax: 076-381252
Email: rung@pk-phuket-law.com

SUMMER CAMP TEACHERS

BIS Phuket is seeking well-qualified teachers to work at the July English Summer Camp. Please forward a two-page resume with references to the Director of Summer Camps. Email: ppreez@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

BAKERY & PASTRY

Looking for a manager, Thai. May need to serve; can be female. Qualified in bakery and pastry-making experience preferred. Good salary. In Chalong. Tel: 086-946-9375. Email: frenchbakery@yahoo.com



Island Pools Construction Co., Ltd. (Phuket)

Phuket's Leading SWIMMING POOL Installation, Consultants, System design company is SEEKING professionals to join with us.

M&E ENGINEER TEAM LEADER: 5 POSITIONS

- * Male, age 25 years up, Thai nationality
- * Diploma or Bachelor's degree in M&E engineering or related field
- * Minimum 2 years' experience (in swimming pool industry would be an advantage)
- * Good command of spoken and written English, computer skills, AutoCAD program is essential
- * Strong leadership, people management skills and problem-solving abilities
- * Must have current driver's license

We offer excellent salaries and potential for bonuses along with the opportunity for career growth. Qualified candidates, please send full resume with recent photo to info@islandpools.co.th

53/83-84 Moo 5, Thepkasattri Rd.,
T. Srisoontorn, A. Talang, Phuket 83110

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEACHER

required. Full and part time, Thai nationals and native English speakers. Must have a high level of spoken and written English and appropriate qualifications. Contact Michael. Tel: 076-222679.

SALES REPS REQUIRED

to work in Patong. No experience or degrees necessary. Full training and work permits given. Help obtaining work visa given. For more info, call Alex. Tel: 085-4998656.

TEACHERS REQUIRED

ECC requires teachers to work in local government schools and kindergartens. Must be TEFL qualified. Email: neilg@ecc.ac.th

SALES STAFF WANTED

English speaker. Experience in sales would be an advantage. We offer excellent benefits and commissions. Contact for more information. Call K. Kuno at 081-9685963 or email us at salesteam@bayproject.com Visit our website at www.bayproject.com

HOUSEKEEPER/ COOK

for private house in Kathu. Experience, English speaker. Good salary, use of motorbike. For female, aged 23+ Contact K. Ning. Tel: 076-304073, 081-0803414.

MASSAGE THERAPIST

A female massage therapist is required to work in a luxurious spa in Abu Dhabi/UAE. Must be certified, speak good English and have at least 5 years' experience. Tel: 02-4437375, 050-446-4426. Fax: 02-6655764. Email: footprint_spa@yahoo.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.footprint-spa.com

AJAX PHP PROGRAMMERS

Freelancers welcome for large Internet project. Tel: 084-664-4050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

PART-TIME VACANCY

Sunset Plaza is a property development in Karon. Requirements:

- Thai or foreign nationality
- Excellent English, especially writing skills
- Basic computer knowledge: email, etc
- Preferably experienced in real estate

Contact Ms Nathalie. Tel: 085-1111155. Email: alexanderkbh@gmail.com

NIGHTSHIFT FRONT OFFICER

8,000 baht salary, age 22+, female, good education record. Tel: 076-261940, 081-2963413. Fax: 076-261944. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com



Phuket Branch.

We are looking for open-minded people seeking a challenging career. Join our extensive international team and work for one of the world's market leaders in real estate. Our Overseas Chain of Estate Agents Network gives you the chance to enjoy both a successful career and a dynamic lifestyle. You will be working with our worldwide officers and global property exhibitions programme.

Opportunities Available:

► Accounts

Thai nationality with experience, enthusiastic and well-organized. Office skills including accounting, computer database and good command of spoken and written English. You must have interpersonal skills, be a team player and be able to work under pressure.

► Junior Sales Executive

Thai nationality, responsible for one-on-one selling to multi-national clients. You need to possess excellent communication skills and be willing to go the extra mile for our clients. Excellent earning potential for dedicated and enthusiastic sales people. Basic salary + commission.

► Listing Executive

Thai nationality. Excellent negotiating and communication skills, good team player. Having your own car will be an advantage. Must know Phuket's geography very well. And be able to work under pressure.

Email your CV with photo to adminphuket@oceanestates.com

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GOOD COMMISSION

for Thai or foreigner with good English, computer skills and 2-3 years' experience in the property industry. Tel: 087-3877182.

SPEECH, LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Regular 1-1 sessions required with a 4/5-year-old English child with delayed speech. Specialist experience essential. Email: mark_higson@hotmail.com

MASSAGE AND SPA

We are looking for a manager, cashier and massage lady. Must be service-minded. Call K. Pui for more information. Tel: 085-7859239.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING

lady for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

THAI STAFF

for Black and White restaurant, Kathu. Opened on June 12. Please contact Nat for additional information at Tel: 086-9432976.

SECRETARY TO GM

Need female native English speaker to serve as secretary to GM of Pornthip Seastore. Email: donnong@gmail.com

WORK DATA & DREAMWEAVER

Do you have one year of experience in data entry and Dreamweaver? Are you a Thai national with good English? Tel: 080-0402918. Email: gstephenkay@yahoo.com Visit our website at: www.holyclothing.com/workdata.html

CALL CENTER OPERATOR

Requirements: good command of spoken and written English, computer skills, able to work in shifts. Tel: 076-257020. Fax: 076-257008. Email: info@easylinkphuket.com

JAPANESE GUEST RELATIONS

Marketing/tour leader required by resort. Degree in tourism or marketing required. Accommodation, basic salary plus performance bonus offered. Please email resume, photo and date you can start work. Email: bob@elephant-hills.com

HOTEL STAFF

Patong hotel needs 1 receptionist with good English skills. Tel: 081-8921621.

Island Job Mart

Admin & Account Officer

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or related fields
- English communication skills are an advantage
- Proficient in Microsoft applications, Quickbooks program
- Be responsible for maintaining effective accounting system, monitor voucher payment, taxation, accounts payable (AP) and accounts receivable (AR) cost control and knowledge of accounting programs

Please send a letter of application and updated resume, references, expected salary and recent photo to: Works.Com (International) Co., Ltd.

393/7-8 Moo1 Cherngthalay Thalang Phuket 83110
Website: www.works-international.com
Email: ruthaisaechouw@gmail.com, Tel: 076-271728-9

Phuket Realty and Associates

We are seeking two new team members to join us. You need to have an outgoing personality and good knowledge of written and spoken English. We will support and introduce you to the property market in Phuket, no prior experience necessary. We offer a great salary, bonus and benefit package.

Positions Vacant:

- Sales and Rentals Assistant
- Office Manager

Qualifications:

- Thai nationality
- Car and driving license
- Computer skills (Microsoft Office)
- Organised and punctual

Please send your CV to info@phuketrealty.net or call 076 325 411 for an appointment

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Tel: 076-325411 Fax: 076-325413
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Phuket - Thailand

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Watermark is currently offering opportunities in these positions:

- Sales & Marketing Manager
- Events Chef
- Event Catering Supervisor
- Hostess & Guest Relations

Thai nationals only.
Some experience, excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

watermark bar restaurant
Phuket Boat Lagoon
22/1 Thepkasatri Rd, Muang, Phuket
For interview send resume to info@watermarkphuket.com
tel: 076-239078



Due to recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:

Camera Operator: Reporting to the Production Manager, the Camera Operator will be responsible for daily footage and news gathering for our daily program packages, and will coordinate with the TV news editor, producer and reporters.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows; who have a real passion for TV production; and who enjoy being part of a dynamic team.

Attitude and interest level will be more important than experience as a camera operator. A driving license and basic English is required. Knowledge of video editing would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter, photo, and video samples (if available) to Jib@PhuketGazette.Net, or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

5-Star Resort Hotel Spa in Phuket seeks:

SPA MANAGER

- Background in Hospitality / Spa
- Possess Supervisory Skills
- Sales Oriented

Email Resume & Expected Pay to:
SpaCare Thailand Co. Ltd
Email: spacare@singnet.com.sg

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Phuket's leading fitness center requires sales staff, fitness instructor and personal trainer. Tel: 076-354027, 089-126-5671. Fax: 076-233384. Web: www.clubasia.phuket.com

STAFF REQUIRED

Owners and guests staying in luxurious villas are world travelers who value convenience and service. To ensure their utmost satisfaction and experience, Phuket Villas & Homes is currently seeking Team members to occupy the following permanent positions:



Executive Assistant Manager (Phuket)

- Thai applicant
- Hotel experience not essential
- Assist the GM and run the Operation Office
- Experience in similar position is a plus
- Good command of English
- Knowledge of accounting is a plus
- Must have vehicle (allowance provided)

Villa Operations Supervisor (Phuket)

- Supervise staff of several villas
- Co-ordinate villa operations and guests service
- Training and implementation of standards
- Hotel experience (Front Office or Housekeeping) or Villas Manager experience is essential

House Keepers / Maids (Phuket & Phang Nga)

- Required for housekeeping and cleaning duties
- Positions in Khok Kloy, Koh Pilai and Kamala

Thai Chefs / Thai Cooks (Phuket)

- Full-time and part-time chefs / cooks for live-in and non-live-in positions

Estate Managers (Phuket)

- Property management or hotel experience
- English speaking, organised and able to supervise

Villa Managers (Phuket)

- Co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day operations of a large 4-5-bedroom villa + staff

Gardeners/ Pool Maintenance (Phuket)

- Experience required in garden maintenance or pool maintenance and chemical checking

All positions offer an attractive salary package & benefits including service charge. Applicants are invited to apply in writing with full CV stating present & expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo to k.nelson@phuketvillasandhomes.com or 081-9281530 or 076-270155

PROPERTY CARE SERVICES

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

NURSERY ASSISTANT

Female Thai national required Mon-Fri 8:30 am-4 pm. Enthusiasm and a love of children needed! 7,000 baht/month. 4 weeks paid holiday per year + Thai national holidays. Contact for interview. Tel: 089-9711813. Email: info@abcnurseryphuket.com

RESERVATIONS STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operations staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required. Experience in tourism is a plus. Thai citizens only. Tel: 081-8927714. Email: max.t@thdiethelmtravel.com

Employment Wanted

SUCCESSFUL HOTELIER

Seeking mid-level to executive-management position. Previous 250-room American hotel GM will guarantee you a profitable low season and a super high season. Tel: 085-7932477. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

ENGLISH TEACHER

A full-time English teacher is required to teach my 12 staff basic English on a full-time basis. Salary and hours negotiable. Please email me with your contact details. Tel: +61-418-997446. Email: tonyll@bigpond.net.au

SALES MANAGER

Male, 42, Dutch national, sales manager with 20+ years' sales experience. Fluent in Dutch and English, basic German. Tel: 087-0072366.

RELIABLE, HARD WORKING

Thai female, age 36, experienced in management, administration and sales for the past 8 years. Speak and understand English. I am easygoing and confident. Tel: 089-4742515. Email: tjularat@hotmail.com

CONSTRUCTION

German supervisor, 20 years working experience in Thailand. Speak English and Thai. Email: johann.phuket@gmail.com

ENGLISH TEACHER AVAILABLE

Experienced American TEFL certified instructor seeks resort-staff teaching position. Please contact. Email: jamesv_moorejr@yahoo.com for resume.

WHO WANTS A CHEF?

Chef from Holland looking for a job in Phuket. For your Western Cuisine. Available direct. Tel: 087-9142632. Email: kimbacardi@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

LIKE-NEW 9-BALL POOL TABLE

Size: 4'x8'. Slate top, new felt, new set of balls, all accessories. Delivery & installation included. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-823-4627, 084-2901645. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

PRIVATE SALE

Gurios paintings, stereo, antique oriental carpets. Call Heyno. Tel: 080-1453483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

OFFICE FURNITURE

Armchairs, chairs, desks, computer tables – all for sale at just half of their full prices. Also have aircon unit for sale, only 10,000 baht. Tel: 076-346004, 087-2642598. Fax: 076-346004. Email: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

SIERRA WIRELESS AIRCARD

4,000 baht, call after 2 pm. Comes with CD software. Not for Vista; XP is OK. Tel: 076-296351, 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

MULTIGYM

Large, 4 stations, excellent condition. Moving, so must sell quickly. All offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2752808. Email: lwa_liz@hotmail.com

2-LEVEL TRAILER

Legal, registered with lights. Suitable for 2-3 small boats/dinghies, karts, etc. 35,000 baht. Tel: 081-3970905. Email: phil@asiawebworks.com

BINOCULAR-STABILIZED-14X40

Fujinon Techno-Stabi image-stabilizing binoculars. Waterproof. Come with yellow Pelican case. Rarely used. 25,000 baht. Tel: 081-3970905. Email: phil@asiawebworks.com

SUPER HD TV 52"

Samsung projection TV, [;us Samsung DVD player. 10 years old. Free delivery. Tel: 075-637290, 087-9214260. Email: odni.gg@gmail.com

WATER DISPENSER

For both cold and warm water. Sale includes 2 x 5-gallon bottles. 1,000 baht. Tel: 076-323459, 089-7291113. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

SONY-ERICSSON K850I

5MP camera, UMTS, quad-band, email. Black/green, perfect condition (as new), warranty. Original, complete with box and receipt. Comes with free Bluetooth headset. Fixed price: 11,500 baht. Tel: 087-3892160. Email: jrm.dlrm@gmail.com

MONGOOSE

Rockdile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink fridge, 2ftx5ft. 4,000 baht. Compaq desktop computer: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-628-8450.

MATTRESSES FOR SALE

25 hotel mattresses, good condition. 1,500 baht each. Tel: 081-9684978.

SAMSUNG LCD TV

32-inch screen, about 1 year old. 17,000 baht. Call or email for more info. Tel: 089-972-8544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Hospital Phuket
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)
For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

FORMING ARTISTS' COMMUNITY

International artist living in Phuket wishing to organize local artists and people interested in art to share work and ideas to better the community and each of us individually. Tel: 076-381937, 087-071-6063. Fax: 076-381937. Email: tbokich@tbokich.com

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860. Email: carol.fryer@piwv.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwv.info).

RED CORRECTION FILTER

Sea & Sea 4-inch (10cm) red correction filter in good condition. Free for someone who can use it. Email: info@warmwaterdivers.com

Business Opportunities

BAR AVAILABLE ON SOI BANGLA

Prime location, frontage. 8.5 million baht. Fixed price! Call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT & BAR
Business for lease in Patong. Great returns & low costs. Just 1.5 million baht. Call Simon at Andaman Business Brokerage. Tel: 084-304-7700.

KARON GUESTHOUSE

Beautiful guesthouse, 6 apartments from 45sqm. 50m from beach. 2.9 million baht for inventory. 55,000 per month rent. Tel: 086-271-8254. Email: ninproperty@hotmail.com

50% PARTNERSHIP OFFERED

Established business producing sausage and bacon products for the catering industry requires working partner. Sales, marketing and logistics. Work permit available. Investment: 500,000 baht. Tel: 084-8058815. Email: gntradingco@hotmail.co.uk

RESTAURANT/BAR FOR SALE

Restaurant/bar on Karon main road for sale. Seats 38. 3 floors, with big, newly furnished apartment. Monthly rent: 17,000 baht. 3-year contract. No keymoney. Price: 15,000 euros, all inclusive. Tel: 089-8729149. Email: info@klausharbauer.com

BEAUTY SALON, MASSAGE SPA

in Patong, opposite Cabana hotel. 6 massage beds and chairs, massage room, spa room. 2 aircons. 2-year contract possible. 1.5 million baht, includes rental, non-negotiable. Contact Ben. Tel: 081-9586741.

GO-GO BAR

On busy soi off Soi Bangla. Well established, good fixtures and sound system, staff accommodation and 2 other upstairs rooms. Popular dancers and a good website. Rent 30,000 baht/month. Sale price: 1.99 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

TAILOR SHOP AT JUNGCEYLON

A well-established tailor shop at Jungceylon, Patong, is for sale. Tel: 086-3287376. Email: sohailnoshad@hotmail.com

NIGHTCLUB IN KATA CENTER



KATA NIGHT BAZAAR 2.5 MILLION BAHT

- The only nightclub in Kata-Karon and Chalong area. No competition!
 - 3-story (mezzanine/balcony included), stock room, kitchen.
 - Disco is located in a 'government zoning area'.
 - Top-brand sound, lighting, effects and visual equipment and systems, new with 2-year warranties.
 - Have government licence.
 - All materials, equipment, furniture, air conditioning and coolers are new with warranties.
 - 3rd floor has 4 newly furnished rooms with cable TV and air conditioning.
 - 2 rooms with balcony and gardens/city view (Kata).
 - 2 rooms without balcony and sea view.
- Tel: 087-6899679.
Email: allservices29@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSE FOR RENT

Rawai, Nai Harn. Main road, ADSL. 7,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-3904176.

Agents for Classified Advertising

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| Julapan Stationery Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank) | Tel: 076-282254 |
| Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd | Tel: 076-282403 |
| K.L. Mart Patak Rd, Chalong | Tel: 076-280400/3 Fax: 076-280403 |
| Earth Language School Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City | Tel: 076-232398/9 Fax: 076-232398 |
| Sin & Lee Thalang Rd, Phuket City | Tel: 076-258369 Fax: 076-211230 |
| Taurus Travel Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong | Tel: 076-344521/2 Fax: 076-344523 |
| 41 Minimart Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay | Tel/Fax: 076-324312 |
| Deli Supermarket Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong | Tel: 076-342275 Fax: 076-344314 |
| Property Information Center [PIC] 2 nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank) | |

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

HOTEL IN PATONG

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BAR FOR SALE

One of the busiest bars on Nanai Rd. Established for 11 years with year-round trade and known for good-quality food. Pool table & dartboard with established teams in two pool leagues and darts league. TV projector & 6ft screen. Website and Wi-Fi. Four-year lease with reasonable monthly rent. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 086-2678138. Email: dna-muswell@hotmail.com

MASSAGE BUSINESS IN NAI HARN

4 massage beds
4 foot massage chairs
9 chairs
4 tables + 1 bar
Aircon of 36,000btu
Good location
Price: 200,000 baht. Tel: 089-5922411. Email: pascal.hersleven@hotmail.com

VISA BUSINESS

American owned, capital enough for 1 work permit. All taxes are up to date. Moving, must sell. 80,000 baht. Tel: 084-7137495. Email: richguess@aol.com

GUESTHOUSE PATONG

26 rooms, bar, restaurant, kitchen and elevator. Best location, 11-year lease. Quick takeover, must go back to Europe, need money. 6.4 million baht. Tel: 081-9251730.

SALON & SPA

for lease or rent with all equipment included. In the basement of Fantasia in Phuket City. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-5930086.

BARGAIN BAR FOR SALE

Nanai Rd. League pool table, 6-month-old 42" plasma TV, music system, DVD and large pizza oven. 500,000 baht. Tel: 083-6491300.

PATONG OPPORTUNITY

Bars, go-gos, nightclub and huge area suitable for club or other development. Very long lease available on excellent terms. Starting from 750,000 baht. Phone Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

MASSAGE SALON FOR SALE

on Saiyuan Rd. Includes new equipment. Many repeat customers. 390,000 baht. 3 Thai massage beds, 2 oil massage beds, 2 foot massage chairs. Contact K. Bee. Tel: 089-5939105.

BAKERY AND RESTAURANT

for sale. Please visit www.bakeryforsale.info

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain, 4-story shophouse with Chanote. There is a fully equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

PHI PHI

13-bedroom guesthouse for sale. Tel: 081-7475293.

RESTAURANT & BAR FOR LEASE

Directly opposite the beach in Patong. Fantastic location. Fabulous sea views. 14 million baht total for this business. Please call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage for more information. Tel: 084-304-7700.

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Contact via email at a.pueng@gmail.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with bookshelves. Quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

BUSINESS PARTNER

Looking for business partner. New restaurant in Nanai, Patong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9757336.

THAI RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Thai-style restaurant (house) on Kamala hill, prime location, for rent. Built traditional Thai way with 3 separate buildings. Wi-Fi. 130,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-292980, 086-9473432. Fax: 076-292980. Email: thai_model2003@yahoo.com

STOP BAR FOR RENT/SALE

Newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most beautiful bar in Patong.

- 2 units
- Top location near Soi Bangla
- 12 small rooms
- Top audio/video equipment (Bose, Behringer, etc.)
- Running as a go-go or open bar is possible

Fully equipped. Contact for information. Tel: 084-848-3495 (K. Osi in German), 089-5903968 (K. Holger in English). Email: stop-bar@holgervolp.com Photos at www.holgervolp.com

SHOP SPACE

on Soi Tan 3. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-177-9097, 085-7949687.

KARON RESTAURANT FOR LEASE

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