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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Fake 'doc' arrested; 2-year work permits being considered; False killer whales run aground. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: Number crunching tourism figures. **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE NATION: Temple kerfuffle has Thais ruffled. **Page 7**

AROUND THE REGION: Play your cards right with the Krabi quiz. **Page 8**

AROUND THE SOUTH: Train drama rattles economy. **Page 9**

AROUND THE ISLAND: Clown-fish still not very funny. **Page 10**

GOOD LIVING: Wilko goes mad over meat. **Page 12**

PEOPLE: Ink master creates a buzz. **Pages 14 & 15**

SPORTS: Flying Fish nets a medal; Surf's up for annual Kalim comp; Anyone for tennis?; ESPN celebs prepare for golf tourney. **Pages 34 & 35**

PROPERTY: Construction Update: Rad news for Radisson; Home of the Week; Design; Property Watch: Show me the money. **Pages 37-42**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 6; HAPPENINGS 16; AMBROSIA 17; LIFESTYLE 18 & 19; SPA MAGIC 20; WHAT'S ON 21; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; FEATURE 26; BOOKS, WORD COURT 27; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 28; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES & ANSWERS 29; END OF THE LINE, HOROSCOPES 30; COMPUTERS 31; BUSINESS, MONEY TALKS 32 & 33; CLASSIFIEDS 43-55.

Ultimatums issued over illegal billboards

By Akbar Khan

CHERNG TALAY: Ma-an Sumraan, Vice-President of Cherng Talay Tambon Administration (*OrBorTor*), has launched a campaign to rid his neighborhood of all illegal billboards.

Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* officials have started pasting warning notices on offending billboards as part of K. Ma-an's "soft" approach to the problem.

The warnings stipulate that billboard owners must remove their billboards or else pay the *OrBorTor* for the cost of pulling down the billboard in order to get the disassembled billboard back.

Billboards that are not claimed by their owners will be sold as scrap metal and wood, K. Ma-an said.

Initially, the warnings pasted on the billboards were A4 size, now larger A3-size warnings are being used, he explained.

The majority of offenders are real estate companies or the advertising agencies that they use, he said.

However, K. Ma-an added that he understands that businesses need to advertise, but he would like them to be more socially responsible in their marketing strategies.

"Around 99% of the billboards on the island are illegal in one way or another," he said.



Notices from Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* pasted on illegal billboards near Surin Beach. The notices warn the billboard owners to remove their illegal erections or face being charged for having them pulled down.

"Most billboards are illegal because building permission was not obtained for them. In many cases, it is obvious because many billboards have been erected on public land, where, in theory, it is not possible to be issued a permit.

"Many of these billboard erections are also in violation of other laws and regulations, such as safety rules that take into consideration where the billboard could be blown over in a storm.

"If permission had not been obtained for an erection, then the

billboard tax is also often evaded," he added.

However, K. Ma-an added, "A large part of the problem seems to have arisen due to the lax attitude of government officials who were previously in power before I came here."

K. Ma-an explained that he will continue with his "soft" approach for now. However, later he might consider informing Cherng Talay Municipality officers, who would have the authority to fine transgressors from 2,000 to 5,000 baht.

Gazette Mobile launches 'Smart News'

PHUKET: After seven months under construction, *Gazette Mobile* has launched "Smart News", a mobile information service focused on Phuket. The product is substantially different from any other mobile news model currently available in Thailand.

Subscribers to Smart News have the ability to choose both the frequency and nature of the information they wish to receive. There are three information packages, or "News Bags", on offer –

all priced at 39 baht per month, and all offering a 10-day free trial.

For subscription information and other details about *Gazette Smart News*, visit www.phuketgazette.net/mobilenews

Gazette Mobile is a joint venture of the *Phuket Gazette*, AIS, DTAC and True, in partnership with *The Nation* and Thailand's largest English-language newspaper, *Daily Xpress*.

Tsunami evacuation drill on July 7

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: At 9:45 am on July 7, all 79 tsunami warning towers operated by the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) will sound their alarms as part of a comprehensive tsunami warning test for the six Andaman provinces.

Deputy Prime Minister and Industry Ministry Suwit Kunkitti announced the drill on nationwide television at 3 pm on June 26.

Co-ordinating the drill from a command center at Saphan Hin in Phuket City will be Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Chainarong Kerdson, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

The drill is scheduled to start at 9:30 am and finish at 11:30 am.

In addition to conducting a tsunami evacuation drill at Saphan Hin, the command center will also act as the communications center for co-ordinating the siren tests throughout Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong, Trang, Satun as well as Phuket.

Residents from Rassada and Wichit and students from Phuket Technical College, Phuket Vocational College and Phuket Polytechnic College will join the evacuation drill at Saphan Hin, K. Chainarong said.

K. Chainarong said the choice of location was not that important because all low-lying coastal areas are at risk and need advance warning.

All tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*) and local municipalities have been asked to co-ordinate evacuation drills in their respective areas, he added.

The drill will be televised live on NBT.

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Labor Office mulls 2-year work permits

PHUKET: The Ministry of Labor is considering issuing work permits valid for two years, Janya Yingyong, chief of the Work Permit Section at the Phuket Provincial Labor Office (PPLO), has confirmed.

Under the current system, work permits are valid only as long as the holder's permit to stay, which is issued by Immigration.

"The visa and work permit will be based on the type of business of the applicant's employer. However, the work

permit will be independent from the permit to stay.

"For example, even though you have been issued a permit to stay valid for three months, you might be issued a work permit valid for one year," K. Janya explained.

The extended work permits would be available only to businesses approved by the Board of Industry (BoI), she added.

K. Janya said the move would help bring work permits in Thailand closer to

those used in other countries. "It would be much better than it is today," she added.

However, K. Janya explained that the concept is still in its infancy and much has to be considered before longer work permits are approved. "Even if the Ministry of Labor intends to issue longer work permits, we would not expect to see them being issued for about two years," she said.

K. Janya added that under the current proposal, a two-year work permit would cost 20,000 baht.

The current work permit renewal fees are 750 baht for periods of up to three months; 1,500 baht for periods of three months to six months; 3,000 baht for periods of six months to a year; and any combination of these for periods longer than one year.

Another officer at the PPLO told the *Gazette*, "We have received good feedback from hotels on this because they hire many foreigners."

— Semacote Suganya

Evicted hotel tenants seek top-level redress

PHUKET CITY: After being told by Kathu Police that their forced eviction is not a police matter, long-term tenants of the Vises Hotel in Patong on June 27 filed a complaint with the Phuket Consumer Protection Board at Provincial Hall.

The tenants were met by Prapan Chansaeng, who explained to them that, by law, a hotel can rent rooms only on a daily basis, despite the victims having been granted long-term tenancy agreements.

K. Prapan said the Consumer Protection Board could do little to help them; but he would try to assist by putting on his other hat as head of the Phuket Office of the Damrongtham Foundation.

The Damrongtham Foundation provides legal aid to any per-

son of any nationality that the foundation believes has been unfairly treated.

K. Prapan immediately prepared a complaint against the hotel, which was signed by Provincial Office Chief Rapeepat Na Nakorn and then by Vice-Governor Smit Palawatvichai on behalf of Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

The complaint has now been forwarded to the Provincial Attorney.

K. Prapan said that the management at Vises Hotel has created numerous problems over the years and that he would coordinate with police and the Public Prosecutor to ensure that this latest problem is dealt with by the law.

—Akbar Khan

Cops collar robed robber

PHUKET CITY: A man wanted for the theft of Buddha images and amulets valued at about 100,000 baht was arrested on June 24 after Phuket City residents helped police set up a sting operation.

Capt Aththapol Wannasaengthong of Phuket City Police named the man as Wisuth Pongpakawat, 45, also known as Phra Tee. He added, "He was arrested about 8 pm at the home of

the volunteer who called him, near Samkong Shrine," he added.

"Some of the amulets have been recovered. However, the rest he had already sold to a shop in Bangkok.

"He has been charged with stealing and receiving stolen property," he added.

The *Gazette* understands that Phra Tee was at one point officially defrocked from the monkhood.

'Doctor' arrested at Bang Tao clinic

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CHERNG TALAY: A so-called doctor at a clinic in Bang Tao has been charged with practicing medicine without a license after allegedly administering an injection that resulted in a local boy nearly losing the use of one of his legs.

Cherng Talay Police arrested Tassaneeporn Kachane, 53, at Pannavej Clinic on Srisoonthorn Rd on June 26 after Phuket Provincial Health Office Director Dr Paisan Worrasathit and fellow PPHO officers presented a warrant for her arrest issued by the Phuket Provincial Court.

Tassaneeporn was one of three doctors working at the clinic. When police arrived, she was in the middle of a consultation with a patient.

Dr Paisan explained that Tassaneeporn was brought to his attention three months ago after he received a complaint from local parents whose six-year-old child had received an injection in the hip from her.

The injection was a flu vaccination even though the boy was already showing symptoms of having a cold, he said.



Tassaneeporn Kachane has been charged with presenting herself as a doctor and practicing medicine without the necessary qualifications.

Dr Paisan explained, "The injection to the child's hip resulted in him losing strength in one leg. He couldn't walk on it even after days of rest at home.

"The parents took him to Vachira Phuket Hospital for an X-ray and to continue treatment, but the X-ray revealed that nearly all the tissue in his leg had atrophied.

"We have since helped him with treatment, but he has yet to

fully recover and he is still at Vachira Hospital," Dr Paisan added.

"His family is not wealthy, so they asked Vachira Hospital for help with the cost of the boy's treatment. That's when we checked with the Ministry of Health for a profile of Dr Tassaneeporn Kachane but could not find any record of her," he said.

"We have since had many people come forward claiming they were not happy with the treatment they had received from her," said Dr Paisan.

Tassaneeporn has been charged with presenting herself as a doctor and for practicing medicine without the necessary qualifications.

Sub Lt Suppachai Puthkaew of Cherng Talay Police told the *Gazette*, "She has acknowledged the charges against her and has been released after posting 50,000-baht bail."

He added that police are continuing their investigation into the charges against her.

Dr Paisan added, "We have checked the other doctors working at the clinic and have found they are fully legal and qualified."

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Rawai to move ahead with 'Sea Natural History Museum'

RAWAI: In a bid to simultaneously preserve local flora and boost tourism, Rawai Municipality is renewing efforts to build a "Thai Island and Sea Natural History Museum" on 271 rai of government land north of the viewpoint at Laem Phromthep.

Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai presided over a meeting on the new initiative on June 24 at the Rawai Municipality Offices.

After the meeting, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos told the *Gazette* that V/Gov Smith agreed with the plan.

"We would like to start this project as soon as possible, but because it is so huge we will need help from many organizations, both in the private and government sectors," Mayor Aroon explained.

"I'll start by requesting Ministry of Interior (MoI) permission to use the land. After that we'll have building plans drawn up, estimate the budget and get down to fundraising," said Mayor Aroon.

If built, the "Sea Natural History Museum" will not be the first of its kind in Thailand. Another with the same name is already nearing completion at Samaesan in Chonburi's Sattahip district.

Even with MoI support, funding continues to be the main obstacle to the project.

Mayor Aroon added that he plans to ask the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) for part of the funding, while Satee Phuket School and Phuket Rajabhat University are expected to help organize exhibits once construction is complete.

A new feasibility study would need to be conducted to determine how much the project would cost today.

The project could be developed in phases as the needed funding became available, Mayor Aroon explained.

— Janyaporn Morel

Dolphins rescued after beaching on Racha

By Janyaporn Morel

KOH RACHA YAI: Researchers at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) have been examining the remains of a false killer whale, a type of dolphin, that was one of a pod estimated to number about 40, many of which beached on Koh Racha Yai, some 25 kilometers south of Phuket, late afternoon on June 26.

Local hotel staff and tourists rescued the beached cetaceans that could not make their own way back to deeper water.

False killer whales are large "open-ocean dolphins" known to attack and kill other cetaceans with their distinctive array of 44 teeth.

PMBC biologist Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong told the *Gazette* that about 40 dolphins were spotted about 5 pm in the shallow waters off Ao Paktok, where 11 of them later beached.

"Almost all the whales that came ashore were three to four meters long.

The longest was 4.2m," K. Kongkiat said.

As most of the whales appeared healthy, it was unlikely that the mass beaching was the result of illness, he added.

Korean drowns trying to save wife in heavy seas off Kata

KATA: A Korean man drowned off Kata Beach about 11 am on June 27 after being dragged out to sea while trying to save his wife, who had swum into difficulty.

Hun Sang Suk, 46, had swum out to rescue his wife, who had been dragged away from the shore by strong currents, said Lt Ratthaket Mingmuang of Chalong Police Station.

"The red flags were up at the beach, but they still went swimming. I saw that there were strong waves that looked dangerous there," he said.

Mr Hun's two teenage daughters then swam out to aid their father, but he was pulled out



Volunteers struggle to move the beached dolphins back to the water.

— Photo courtesy The Racha

"They are social animals that live in large groups and all members obediently follow their leader, so if the leader beaches the others follow," he said.

The animal that died was a 2.8m female, probably about 10 years old, he added.

"The animal went into shock and we couldn't save her. There were no visible signs of illness," he said.

K. Kongkiat said the leader of the pod might have become confused trying to negotiate a narrow channel and found itself unable to return to deeper water due to waves and strong currents.

Ten of the stranded dolphins were taken by truck to the relatively calm waters of Ao Teua on the other side of the island.

There, they were given injections to prevent infection and released around midnight.

"After their release they seemed to gain strength.

That was the last time we saw them, though we continued

to patrol the shoreline by boat," K. Kongkiat said.

False killer whales typically live for about 50 years and are seldom spotted close to the shoreline, he added.

There is a healthy population of the dolphins in the Indian Ocean, K. Kongkiat explained.

"They can be seen off the coasts of Burma and Bangladesh, as well as Thailand," he added.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) lists false killer whales' conservation status as "least concern".

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Crunch time: tourism figures go under the knife

With tourism being the backbone of Phuket's economy and making up a large piece of the nation's economic pie, tourism-related organizations have a vested interest in keeping an eye on tourist statistics and demographics. Statistics regarding tourists' nationalities, how much they spend during their stay and the time of year they visit are reported by Tourism Authority of Thailand, but there are no guarantees that these figures are accurate.

This week Akbar Khan takes a look at some of the issues surrounding the way tourist statistics are collected and the trends emerging from these figures.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) actively promotes Phuket as a tourist destination with international road shows tailored to entice travel agencies and tourists to visit Phuket during the high and low seasons.

According to TAT figures, tourists visiting Phuket during the low season tend to spend less on a daily basis.

The TAT has been targeting potential tourists from the Middle East with roadshows promoting

Thailand's "green season".

Airports of Thailand (AOT) counts each arrival at Phuket International Airport as one tourist. If a tourist flies from Phuket to Bangkok and back again, he is recorded by AOT as a new visitor to the island on his return journey. Tourists arriving in Phuket by car or boat, however, are not counted in or out.

The accuracy of data collected by Immigration is also up for debate, as foreigners staying on a tourist visa sometimes work

illegally, while many fail to notify Immigration that they are still in the country every 90 days.

The TAT admits that methods for collecting tourist statistics vary and can never be completely accurate, but they supposedly give a reasonable idea of the island's tourist trends.

Maiyarat Pheerayahouses, president of the Association of Domestic Travel, said that the number of Thais traveling nationwide plummeted by more than 50% during the first half of this



This graph represents data provided by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) over the years, showing the trends for both Thai and foreign visitors to Phuket.

year due to political uncertainties and the sharp rise of oil prices.

"Travel costs have soared. For example, the fuel surcharge on a Bangkok-Phuket flight on Thai Airways has jumped from 400 baht in 2007 to 1,700 baht by mid-2008," she said, adding that local consumers are concerned about the political and economic outlook, so they are not in the mood for travel.

The revenue tourists bring to the province is also an important factor in the statistics and one that fluctuates with the seasons and the "quality" of those tourists.

Methee Tan-manatrakul from the Southern Chapter of the Thai Hotels Association told the *Gazette* that tourist-sustainability programs, such as the Green Leaves awards – recognizing resorts for their commitment to ecological operation management – mean that

'Travel costs have soared. The fuel surcharge on a Bangkok-Phuket flight... has jumped to 1,700 baht,' said Maiyarat Pheerayahouses, president of the Association of Domestic Travel.

a key factor in sustaining a constant flow of tourists, he added.

The agency's plans to support local communities and promote eco-tourism include, initially, soft loans with low interest rates to Phuket banks to the tune of 2 billion euros in order

more travel agents in Europe who support eco-responsible tourism are promoting Phuket as a holiday destination. This is expected to boost the number of European visitors this year, she added.

Arthur Honore from the French Development Agency recently presented plans at Phuket Provincial Office to keep a healthy flow of tourists to the island. He explained that equity sharing is vital if locals are to welcome the tourists, stating that too much of the island's revenue is routed to Bangkok and other countries rather than supporting local communities. The friendliness of islanders is

a key factor in sustaining a constant flow of tourists, he added.

The agency's plans to support local communities and promote eco-tourism include, initially, soft loans with low interest rates to Phuket banks to the tune of 2 billion euros in order



TAT has been targeting potential tourists from the Middle East with roadshows promoting Thailand's green season in the hope of drawing people Phuket's beaches.

to fund environmental protection programs run by conservation organizations such as the National Parks Department and the World Wildlife Fund.

Plans also include funding to be made available for privately run hotels and resorts on the island that wish to build more rooms or to make their resorts more environmentally friendly.

K. Methee welcomed the French Development Agency's funding plans, citing the increased demand among European tourists for more eco-friendly resorts. "Phuket resorts are becoming greener by the day," he said.

Panu Maswongsa, deputy General Manager of Patong Resort, said that he understood that international hotel chains would not be eligible for these low-

interest loans, but he is still in the dark as to what criteria would have to be met by private resorts and hotels in order to receive the loans.

Mr Honore explained that more research needs to be done to ensure that the criteria for the loans can be met and that a reasonable repayment period would be up to seven years.

His agency has also brought in Thai and foreign experts in various fields to advise local resorts and hotels on everything from architectural considerations to the development of human resources.

The continual rise in land prices on the island means that new hotels would need a minimum of four stars in order to operate profitably, said K. Methee.

"Real estate developments on the island are now making land scarce as foreign investors build housing estates and other residential projects, attracting more and more expat retirees," he added.

K. Methee observed that the Green Leaves project is similar to that of the French Development Agency's program, but that the French Development Agency gave broader help by also considering new projects. "Detailed plans would be needed to demonstrate to resort owners how going green

can reduce costs and attract tourists with more spending power," he said.

He also advised that the agency finds ways to support travel and tour agencies on the island to further ensure tourist satisfaction.

Phuket now has a total of 50,000 hotel rooms, up from 40,000 three years ago, when many properties were still rebuilding after the 2004

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit said that investors see opportunities for home-stay projects with a number of new home-stay facilities springing up around the island.

K. Methee said that the increased demand for real estate development indicates that more

foreigners want to stay for longer periods.

"The value of land trading between 2006 and 2007 stood at 1.5 billion baht, according to the Phuket Land Office, but officials expect the value to go up to nearly 5 billion baht this year. One rai near Patong beach is now worth 50 million baht," he said.

"A foreign investor has just bought 1,200 rai in north Phuket, on which there are plans to develop three hotels and private residences," he added.

According to Sompot Nipakanon, assistant director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket, which receives up to 60,000 foreign patients a year, foreign residents can be categorized into three groups: those who wish to live here permanently, those who are working here and those who living here for periods longer than their visas specify.

Maitree Narukatpichai, president of Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), forecasts that average hotel occupancy in Phuket in the coming high season from November to April would be 70% this year compared with 75% in the 2006-07 high season.

PTA projects tourism revenue in Phuket will this year amount to between 94 billion and 95 billion baht.

The hotel occupancy rate in May and June was only 10-15% compared with 50% in the same period last year.

Phuket now has a total of 50,000 hotel rooms, up from 40,000 three years ago, when many properties were still rebuilding after the tsunami, said K. Methee.

However, Mr Maitree said, "It is too early to predict the precise hotel occupancy rate in the high season, as most of the bookings will not be concluded until August."

"Should bookings decline, local hoteliers may need to design special tourism packages," he added.

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Queer News

Wasp wipe-out a blast for teachers

PHRAE: Two teachers in Phrae province were left fuming on June 23 after asking their local council for help in ridding their house of a wasps' nest only to come back and find that the fumigators had rid them not only of the wasps, but also of half their house.

Prapahn Saisa-aat, 51, and his wife, K. Rachanee, 53, were first pestered by the wasps two days earlier when one stung K. Prapahn on the head as he was cutting the grass. When he went to investigate where the aggressive insect had come from, he found a nest in a ventilation pipe leading to an enclosed area under the house, which is raised up on stilts.

To prevent further attacks, K. Prapahn bought some insecticide. "When I sprayed the insecticide onto the nest, the wasps flew out from under the house and into the house itself," K. Prapahn said.

"My wife and I rushed into the bedroom [until the wasps left]. On [June 23] morning, I called the municipality office and asked for help to get rid of the wasps. The municipality sent workers round with a fumigator, but after about five minutes there was an explosion. My house, which cost 700,000 baht and was built only 10 years ago, was badly damaged and my computer, air conditioner, television, fridge, hi-fi and furniture, with a combined value of more than 300,000 baht, were all destroyed," K. Prapahn added.

A reporter at the scene said

'The municipality sent workers round with a fumigator, but after about five minutes there was an explosion. My house, which cost 700,000 baht and was built only 10 years ago, was badly damaged and my computer, air conditioner, television, fridge, hi-fi and furniture, with a combined value of more than 300,000 baht, were all destroyed.'

that many of the couple's possessions had been blown clear of the house and that both stories of the raised brick abode had been damaged.

K. Prapahn's worldly possessions were not the only things damaged in the explosion, as the three hapless exterminators – Od, Phiset and Kaow – all sustained injuries.

Od said that at the time of the explosion, he and his two colleagues were fumigating the space under the house with pesticide of the type used to kill

aedes aegypti – the striped mosquito that transmits dengue fever. After about five minutes, however, the mixture exploded, sending him and his two colleagues flying in different directions, though none of them were seriously injured.

Lt Col Meedech Kengsanthia, head of Phrae Forensic Police, said that when the insecticide was sprayed under the house, the pressure of the mixture would have been increased as there was little ventilation. This, combined with the heat, could have caused it to explode, Col Meedech explained.

Maj Somchai Dentee, duty inspector at Muang Phrae Police Station, said that the three exterminators had yet to be charged with any offenses as police were waiting for a report from Forensic Police in Lampang.

Phatphong Phongnuan, deputy mayor of Muang Phrae, said that after examining the house, he found no evidence suggesting that the explosion was caused by the negligence of the municipality employees. This method of driving out wasps has been used many times before and, as far as he knew, in Thailand there have been no previous incidents of explosions.

K. Prapahn and K. Rachanee will receive some kind of compensation for the destruction, K. Phatphong said, but as for how much, they will have to wait and see what the regulations allow.

Source: KomChadLuek

STAMPS



Thailand Post goes green with new stamps

World Environment Day was established by the UN in 1972 in a bid to raise awareness of global environmental issues. Every year on June 5, World Environment Day is hosted in a different city. The slogan for this year's event, which was held in Wellington, New Zealand, was "CO2 – kick the habit! Towards a low-carbon economy".

To commemorate this year's World Environment Day and to spread the word about global warming, Thailand Post on June 5 launched four stamps with an eco-theme.

The stamps were designed by Thailand Post's Thanet Polchaiwong and printed by lithog-

raphy to highlight the bold colors used.

The first stamp shows the causes of global warming, such as pollution and deforestation.

The second stamp depicts the greenhouse effect, highlighting how the world's atmosphere is losing its protective layer.

On the third stamp are the effects of global warming: drought, wild fires and flooding.

The fourth and final stamp offers a glimmer of hope, showing how we can save the world by planting trees.

Each stamp measures 27 by 37.5 millimeters and is available for 3 baht, with one million of each design available.

All 10 of Phuket's post offices currently stock the stamps.

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The Royal Thai Air Force has aircraft on standby to evacuate Thais living in Cambodia "in the event of an emergency", Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit said on June 26.

He was responding to Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's statement in Parliament during the no-confidence debate regarding the dispute over the Preah Vihear Temple.

The Supreme Commander said the Air Force has C-130 transport planes on standby.

"We are ready and have all contingency plans in place because we are afraid there might be events occurring as a result of misunderstanding. So we must get ourselves ready to keep Thai people out of harm's way," he said.

Meanwhile, an Abac poll showed that nearly two thirds of 1,260 people in Bangkok and adjacent areas surveyed on June 25 and 26 want the government to put the Preah Vihear matter on hold.

Ownership of Preah Vihear Temple, built along the current Thai border in the 11th and 12th centuries, was ceded to Cambodia after a 1962 ruling by the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

The current government's support for Cambodia's efforts to list the temple as a UN World Heritage Site rekindled the ownership controversy, with the opposition arguing the government was ceding Thai sovereignty to help further the business interests of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in Cambodia.

True vision. At its 91st international convention in Bangkok, the Lions Clubs International Foundation announced it had raised more than US\$200 million (6.7 billion baht) to fight preventable blindness.

The clubs' SightFirst project, started in 1989, provides free cataract surgery and vision tests in countries including India, Thailand and China, where it has already performed more than 6.5 million operations.

More than 15,000 Lions Club members and their families gathered in Bangkok for the convention on June 21 to 25.

Of the funds raised, at least US\$100 million will be spent to contain the leading causes of preventable blindness, including cata-

Temple tempest: Thais ready to fly



HORSING AROUND: Students of Maejo University in Chiang Rai have opted to ride horses to their university to save energy and fight global warming. The university has also introduced a horse-riding club for students.

— Photo by Kwandao Jitpana.

ract, while US\$50 million will be used to combat emerging threats, such as diabetic retinopathy. The remaining US\$50 million will fund research and rehabilitation initiatives.

The Lions are the largest service-club organization in the world with a membership of 1.3 million in 45,000 clubs spread across 202 nations.

Park visitors limited. From July 1, 10 national parks will limit the number of visitors they admit each day.

National Park, Wildlife & Plant Conservation Department boss Chalernsak Wanichsombat said the quotas will reduce park visitors by half during holidays and by between 20% and 30% at other times.

This will shrink the department's 400-million-baht annual revenue, but will allow it to revive park ecosystems. Other national parks will soon follow suit, he said.

The parks will accept only "good-quality" visitors, he added.

There are 147 national parks and 21 marine national parks.

Koh Surin Marine National Park in Phang Nga will allow 620 overnight visitors and 6,520 daytime visitors, while Koh Similan Marine National Park will allow 180 overnight visitors and 1,410 daytime visitors.

The other parks are Huai Nam Dang, Doi Phahompok, Doi Inthanon and Doi Suthep-Pui in Chiang Mai; Phu Kradueng Park in Loei; Khao Yai in Nakhon Ratchasima; Erawan in Kanchanaburi, and Kaeng Krachan in Phetchaburi.

Reversal of fortune. Small retailers will disappear in the near future if the government does not accelerate the implementation of the country's first-ever retail business law to create a level playing field, the Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) said on June 27.

The ratio of the number of small local retailers to modern traders has plunged from 70:30

in 2001 to 30:70. The smaller operators will gradually go out of business due to aggressive expansion by giant modern retailers, the chamber said.

The TCC maintains that small retailers were at risk of being forced out of business while Thai consumers would be the next to suffer because giant retailers would then dominate the market.

TCC Vice-Chairman Dusit Nontanakorn said that after being in office for more than four months, the government has paid no attention to the necessity of a retail business law.

A draft retail and wholesale business bill was aborted last year when the Surayud Chulanont government ran out of time to have it considered by the National Legislative Assembly.

A draft of the same legislation was rejected by the Thaksin Shinawatra government.

Technical difficulties. Three 17-year-old Army Transportation Engineering School students in Bangkok sustained knife wounds in a bus brawl with students from a rival school.

Four Dusit Construction School students have been arrested and charged with fighting in public.

The brawl occurred aboard a Number 66 bus in Bang Sue district.

Witness Keaukul Kerdkaen told police he was with 16 schoolmates who boarded the bus at the Prachaniwet 4 depot. Later, about 20 Dusit students boarded — armed and looking for trouble, he said.

Accusing the transportation-school students of painting graffiti on walls at the Dusit school, they attacked, said K. Keaukul.

The bus stopped and police managed to break up the fight.

A Dusit student contends he and his fellows were not responsible for the brawl and asserts the transportation-school pupils were armed, too.

Sourced from The Nation, Daily Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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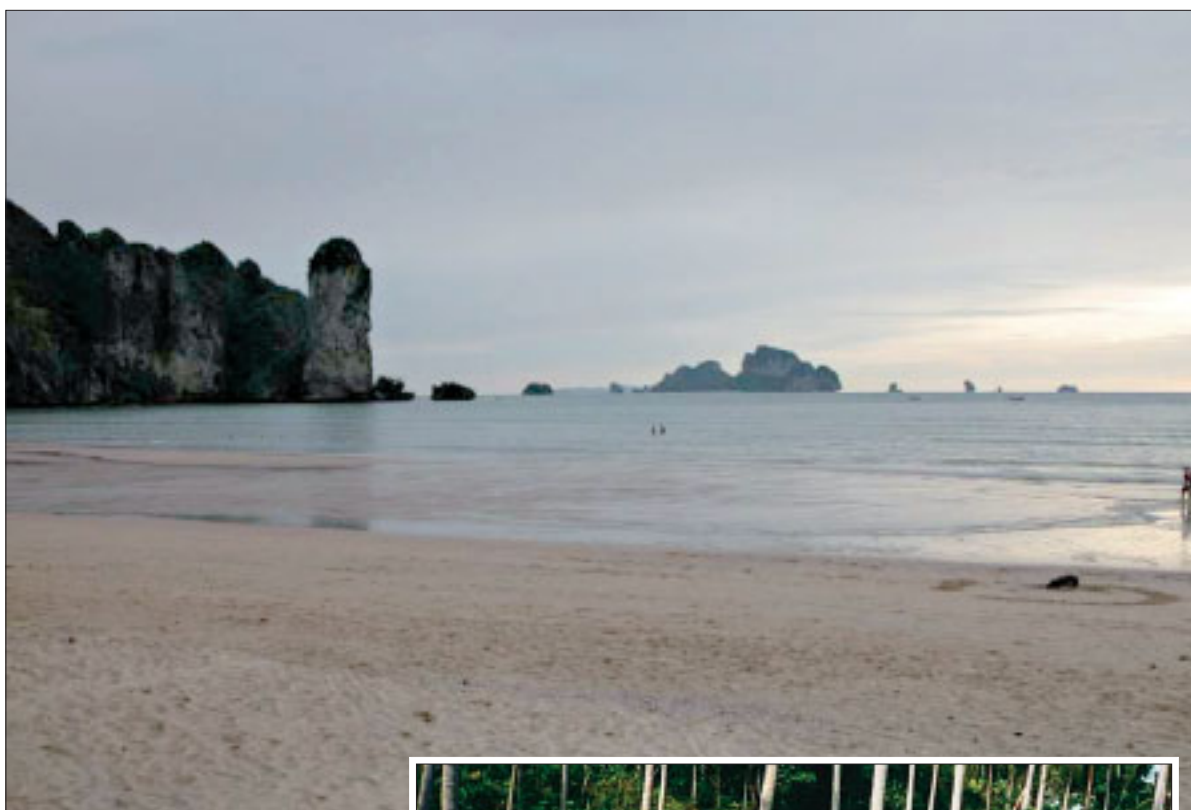
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The Kool Krabi Kwiz

Quiet isn't the right word to describe Krabi these days. Silent would be more appropriate, aside from the sound of rain. With Bangkok Air and Tiger Air canceling their services for the low season, things couldn't get much duller – until a gang of thieves heisted some eight Toyota Hilux pickup trucks last Saturday night.

That woke up the locals, especially since many of the old local families' cars were stolen. It certainly wasn't local pranksters or a local gang. They knew what they were doing and the cars have probably already been re-sold in Cambodia or elsewhere.

While it's so quiet, I thought I would provide a little mental stimulation, to keep those neurons working. Below is a Krabi history knowledge test, and you can test your knowledge about the trivial things that have occurred here over the years. The answers are at the bottom of the page – no cheating.



Above: The view from the Last Café. How much did a rai of land there cost in 1960?



Right: The police box on Ao Nang beachfront. When was it built?

1. In which year did the Krabi Resort open?

- a) 1992
- b) 1985
- c) 1982
- d) 1974

2. What was the average room rate for a beach front bungalow that year?

- a) 300 baht
- b) 750 baht
- c) 1,200 baht
- d) 180 baht

3. Who was the original voice of the "Muay Thai" loud-speaker truck?

- a) Bob Hope
- b) Gary Pinker
- c) Larry Rankin

d) Chuan Phukaoluan

4. What was the name of the original Ao Nang bar located on the (then) hillside by the current location of the Irish Rover?

- a) Blues Pub
- b) Yellow Sun
- c) Green's Bar
- d) Black Cat

5. What is the previous and most popular name for the current Soi RCA Entertainment?

- a) Soi Excitement

- b) Soi Rejection
- c) Soi Cellulite
- d) Soi Disappointment

6. What was the name of one of Ao Nang's original pizzerias that had a sign claiming "Millions Served"?

- a) Millionaires Pizza
- b) McDonald's Pizza
- c) Pizza Hut
- d) Don's Pizza

7. What was the name of the restaurant, bakery and bungalows at the current site of Centre Point?

- a) Mr Bill's
- b) 24 Hour Inn
- c) No Tell Motel

d) Gift's Bungalows

8. What was Krabi Town's first fast-food restaurant?

- a) Starbucks
- b) Café Europa
- c) KFC
- d) The Farang Falafel stand

9. What now-defunct Ao Nang bar was founded by a former member of the French Foreign Legion?

- a) Paris Café
- b) Amour Bar
- c) Austria Hut
- d) Attench Hut

10. How many bottles of wine has La Luna Italian Restaurant sold in its 15 years of existence?

- a) Less than 10
- b) More than 100 but less than 200
- c) None
- d) 500 to 600

11. How many bottles has the proprietor of the La Luna Italian Restaurant personally consumed in the last 15 years?

- a) 600
- b) 700
- c) 800
- d) 900+

12. Approximately, in which year was the Ao Nang Police Box shown in the accompanying photo on Ao Nang beachfront built?

- a) It is the new plan, not yet constructed
- b) the current police box
- c) Circa 2000
- d) Circa 1990

13. What was the cost of one rai of land on the Ao Nang beachfront beside the Last Café in 1960?

- a) 20,000 baht/rai
- b) 50,000 baht/rai
- c) 100,000 baht/rai
- d) 2,000 baht/rai

Answers:

- 1) c; 2) d; 3) c; 4) c; 5) d; 6) d;
- 7) d; 8) c; 9) c; 10) d; 11) d;
- 12) d; 13) d.

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The suspension of train services throughout the South has caused severe damage to the local economy, said Narathiwat Traders' Association president Somboon Chanvisut.

"Trains have been the main means of transportation for the locals. This also exacerbates problems for industries here that transport their products out of the provinces by rail, since it is the least costly," he said.

The Haad Yai-Sungai Kolok service was suspended on June 22 after four employees of the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) were killed on duty. Services were suspended for almost a week, finally resuming on June 28.

K. Somboon said students suffered the most in the suspension of train services since they must pay more to take the bus to schools in Haad Yai and Songkhla.

Some were stranded on June 23, because only a few buses were running, he said.

He urged the government to pay close attention to the incident, warning that a "third party" could use this to convince locals they have been ignored by the central government.

Silenced. A Muslim man, who had been held for questioning by the authorities, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Narathiwat on June 27.

Kamaruding Timoh, 36, was shot dead by an assailant riding in the back of a pickup truck on the Tanyong Mas-Bango Sato road in Rangae district at 7:50 am. An 18-year-old student was injured by a stray bullet.

Police said Kamaruding was riding his motorcycle home after taking his children to school.

Kamaruding had previously been held for questioning at a military base in Pattani's Nong Chik district and was released two months ago after the authorities found no evidence strong enough to take legal action against him.

Police believe he may have been killed to prevent him from talking further to the security authorities.



HEADING SOUTH

In addition to the ongoing terrorist tactics being used by insurgents in the South, the Army suffered a major blow on June 25 when 10 people, including eight soldiers, were killed when a Thai Army helicopter carrying a forensic team crashed in Yala due to technical problems.

Southern rail woes hit local economy

Student strife. Three students in Songkhla were left seriously injured after being stabbed and shot by a rival group of youths on June 23.

Weerasak Suksrinuan, Somsian Wunsingsee and Naranarong Phromthong, all students at Songkhla School of Technology, were taken to Songkhla hospital after the attack to be treated for gunshot and stab wounds.

Witnesses told police that at about 4 pm, five youths on two motorcycles pulled up outside a rented house opposite the school where the victims and several

friends were relaxing after school.

The five then rushed into the house and started shooting and stabbing the students inside before running back out of the house and making their escape on their motorcycles, police said.

At the scene, police led by Capt Pratheep Onrot, duty officer at Muang Songkhla Police Station, found a two-foot-long sword, which was taken as evidence.

Behind the house, police found a large amount of discarded boiled *krathom* leaves – an in-

digenous Thai plant with a stimulant effect popular among youths in the Deep South.

Police said that the attackers were likely to be a rival gang of youths, probably from another school or college in the area.

Relief for schools. A 20-year-old undergraduate student was arrested in Nakhon Sri Thammarat June 24 on suspicion of carrying out a string of indecent assaults on young girls in the city's schools.

Police arrested Adisak Dechthongkham at a house he

rented in Tambon Nai Muang after they received a tip-off from people who had recognized him from a sketch released by police the previous week.

On seeing the officers, Adisak dashed into his car, but was boxed in by police cars. He then attempted to flee on foot, but was brought down by officers pursuing him.

Police said that during questioning, Adisak admitted that he had assaulted four young girls in four schools in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

In each case, after finding a potential victim by cruising around schools in his car, he tricked them into accompanying him to a quiet area before assaulting and robbing them, police said.

Lt Col Samret Chukanan, deputy superintendent of Muang Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police Station, said that so far three of Adisak's victims have come forward to press charges.

Adisak has been charged with indecent assault of a girl younger than 13 years old with the use of force, and robbery. Officers have been ordered to keep a close eye on him as he is considered a suicide risk, Col Samret added.

Police notified all schools in the area of Adisak's arrest as the attacks had deeply worried many parents and teachers in the city.

Bomb ambush. An Army major and four of his subordinates were injured when their pickup truck was caught in a bomb-attack ambush in Yala June 25.

Police said the explosion occurred at 12:50 pm on the Yaha-Patae road in Yaha district.

Maj Thanitphon Pongwilai, commander of Yala Taskforce 14, and his subordinates were on their way to train defense volunteers at a village when a roadside bomb was detonated, police said.

The five soldiers were rushed to the Yala Provincial Hospital, where Maj Thanitphon was treated for a broken left arm.

Sourced from The Nation, Daily Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.





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By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Of all the fish inhabiting the coral reefs around Phuket, the clownfish has long been one of the most popular to catch and keep as a souvenir in aquariums in people's homes.

Worried about the number of clownfish being taken from Phuket waters, the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) at Cape Panwa long ago started a program to breed clownfish in captivity.

The idea behind the project is that pet stores could breed their own clownfish to sell so that people could have as many as they liked for pets with no effect on the local aquatic ecosystem.

Part of the clownfish project at the PMBC is marine biologist Ratree Suksuwan. "We have been breeding clownfish for 10 years under a Fishery Department project," she said.

Knowledge gained through research at the PMBC is passed on to government marine biologists working elsewhere, so that the project has a much more far-reaching impact, she explained.

"Many officers have come here to learn how to breed clownfish and then moved on to places such as Phang Nga and Krabi.

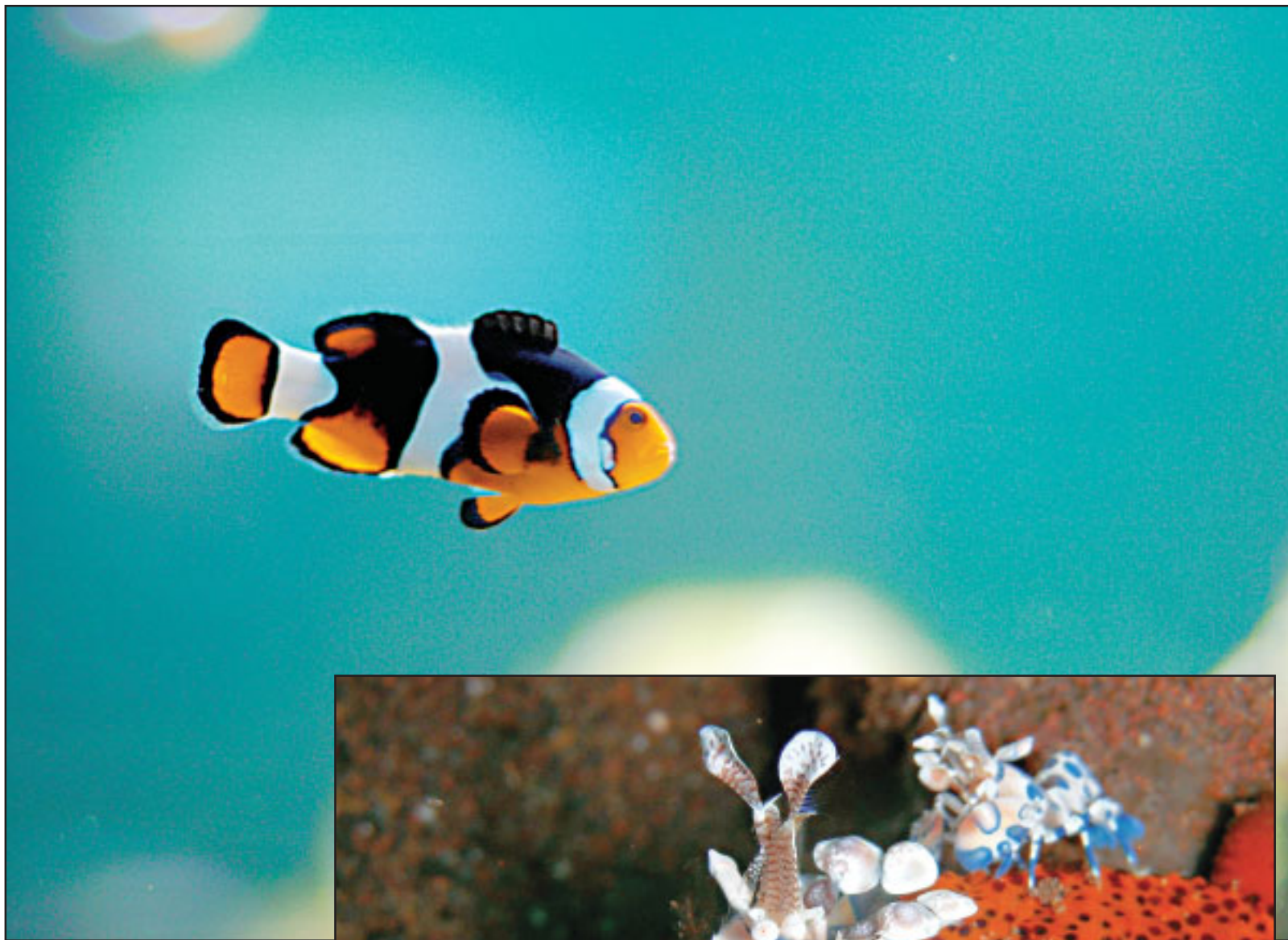
"For example, now the Coastal Fisheries Research & Development Bureau in Phang Nga breeds clownfish for people to buy as pets instead of people catching them in the sea," she said.

Last year, however, the clownfish project received a boost with the addition of yet more "clowns" – harlequin shrimp.

Boontika Intaring, one of K. Ratree's assistants, said, "Two years ago, local fishermen discovered a colorful shrimp while diving. They brought it to us here at the PMBC because they thought it was rare.

"It was a harlequin shrimp, which is found at the deeper coral reefs along the Andaman coast, which is why it seems rare. Harlequin shrimp are very small and look like clowns. In Thai we call them *goong dua dalok* ['clown shrimp']," she said.

K. Ratee added, "We currently have only three pairs of harlequin shrimp that we study. We plan to breed them and release them in the sea."



BARREL OF LAUGHS: Clownfish (above) are a popular choice for home aquaria in Phuket, but 'clown shrimp' (right) have been muscling in on the act recently.
– Photos by Jeff Kubina and Steve Childs.

"The larger, orange one is the female and the smaller, brown one is the male. The female lays eggs twice a month.

"When she is ready to lay the eggs, she will lie on her back and use her legs to release the eggs, which float on the surface of the water," K. Boontika said.

What makes harlequin shrimp even more special is that they eat only starfish – and they

eat them slowly. "They follow the starfish around, taking nibbles every time they are feeling hungry," K. Boontika added.

"In the wild, harlequin shrimp live in pairs and hunt together, so we keep them in pairs. It can take a pair of harlequins up to a month to eat one starfish, eating one tentacle at a time," she said.

"We feed them the light-orange linkia species just as they

would eat in sea. If we cannot find linkia starfish, we feed them the more common light-brown starfish that we often find on the beach around the PMBC," she added.

"Harlequin shrimp are not a protected species yet, but they are sold at the Chatuchak market in Bangkok for 1,000 baht apiece, so there are people who catching them for their business.

"When people catch and

remove aquatic animals from their environment, it affects the coral and the sea flowers they feed on. That's why I study them," she said.

K. Ratree invites any local fish-shop owners to come and learn how to breed clownfish and harlequin shrimp. To find out more, call HER at the PMBC at Tel: 076-391128 or 076-391438.



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Hot, tasty flesh in Patong

La Boucherie has long been well known in Patong and its signature red-and-white striped logo is a familiar sight to many return tourists and residents.

Stepping inside, diners might reasonably expect an enormous, grinning, bearded giant brandishing a dripping cleaver to greet them, but no.

In spite of its explicit name – “The Butcher”, in French, for those non-Francophones – the establishment has no stained-and-coagulated sawdust on the floor; no bloodied butchers’ aprons and no dismembered limbs and pole-axed porkers hanging from hooks in the corner – and it’s all for the best if you ask me. Cuts down on the flies, you see.

Patong is better known for cleavages than cleavers and tank-topped cherries than its boucheries, but this doesn’t mean there isn’t some delicious fresh meat available there.

And where better to enjoy a bit of juicy firm flesh in downtown Sin City than at La Boucherie?

Forming part of the frontage of the Royal Phawadee Vil-



‘This is Patong; one has to be adaptable,’ says Boucherie owner Claude de Crissey. In this case, the adaptations definitely work.

lage on Sawatdirak Rd, a striking resort with a Lanna leitmotif running through it, La Boucherie’s menu sports a distinctive French influence. Owned by French entrepreneur Claude de Crissey, a man more associated with water-based activities and businesses,

he also happens to own the Phawadee.

One of the paradoxes in Patong – and there are many – is that Thai-language menus are sometimes harder to find than hen’s teeth. This results in the unlikely scenario of a Thai-speak-

ing foreigner translating the restaurant menu to his girlfriend in her own country. Silly? Sure. So it comes as a pleasant surprise that La Boucherie’s menu is written in French, English and Thai.

Claude says that at one time he had a German version but the waiters couldn’t understand Deutsch and that, as you can imagine, is where things got complicated.

So let’s center into the booze before we all get a mild case of the DTs: With 40-plus labels, La Boucherie is no slouch in the wine department; featuring such delights as a Pouilly-Fuissé 2006 or a simpler Côtes du Rhône (1,800 baht).

The most popular tippie is the Rosemount Rye Croft (1,390 baht) from those clever Aussies with a well-liked Chilean Undurraga Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 (1,450 baht) coming in a close second.

The range of meats, as one would expect from a boucherie, is impressive. I choose foie gras (350 baht), stuffed Burgundy snails (240 baht for six) and a dish of steak tartare (380 baht).

By this time the restaurant is pretty busy and Bob from Blackburn is booming his opinions across his table at a tiny Thai lady who is struggling to understand his broad Lancastrian accent while Sally from Sydney regales her friends, ending every sentence with a rising question tone.

The disparity of nationalities and characters doesn’t escape Claude’s notice; he shrugs in the way only the French can (apparently, the famous “Gallic shrug” did not exist before the invention of the guillotine...) and says by way of explanation, “This is Patong; one has to be adaptable.”

The foie gras is spot on and the snails in Persil, butter and garlic are a rare delight. “I don’t know why, but they are always

so slow in arriving,” observes Claude with a grin. I was momentarily tempted to riposte with the usual; “S-car-go” joke but some deep altruistic instinct deftly drew me away from spiraling deep into the abyss of Franco-Anglo misunderstandings.

In the meantime, Bob’s chewing his beef and Sally her steak, and silence reigns. We sip a simply wonderful Châteauneuf du Papes 2003 – a wine that effortlessly man-

ages to put any Aussie wine – no matter how dependable – firmly back on the New World rack. I’m a great fan of Aussie wines, but a good French label – notwithstanding the checkered past of the wine industry in the Hexagon – a good French label retains the edge.

The steak tartare is a entire meal in itself and comes with a choice of Freedom, oops, French fries, baked potatoes, “pommes – de terre en robe des champs”, rice, pasta, gratin Dauphinois and a list of sauces that would be right up Danny La Rue’s alley. Along with a salad, this dish is huge; Titanic, even.

And just what would a decent French restaurant be without a cheese platter? A bit like the Titanic before its captain ordered a random block of ice with his whiskey – it wouldn’t go down well... So it is that the cheesy options at La Boucherie are actually quite classic. Everything’s here, from Camembert to Gruyère to Roquefort.

To say *j’étais bien servi* after eating at La Boucherie would be an understatement; I’m no Napoleon but I was almost “Blownapart”.

La Boucherie, 3 Sawatdirak Rd, Patong. Open daily, noon to 3 pm and 6 pm to midnight. Tel: 076-344614. Website: www.laboucherie-asia.com

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Humble skin artist upholds tradition

After searching for three days the *Gazette* tracked down the island's most elusive tattoo artist, **Anusorn Amornpun**, who goes by the nickname "Sorn". He comes from Amphur Bang Khan in Nakorn Sri Thammarat, where he learned the ancient art of tattooing mantras and religious icons using a bamboo stick with fine needles attached to the tip. **Akbar Khan** talks with the man behind the needle about his unusual trade.

Sorn is 29 years old and came to the island three years ago; he is the family breadwinner and takes care of numerous relatives. He is a difficult man to find because he does not have a shop. Sorn can sometimes be found sitting outside Surin Fashion Point down by Surin Beach, although most of the time he busy is tattooing customers in their hotel rooms. Most of these customers find him via word of mouth.

British connoisseur of tattoo art, Andrew Lynn, who has been traveling around Phuket and Southern Thailand for the past 24 years, took us to the little village in Cherrng Talay district where the roving artist lives. Andrew has long admired the subtle and delicate tattoos produced the local way and identified the potential in Sorn.

The only thing that was holding Sorn back was the quality and colors of the inks he used, which Andrew soon rectified by importing the best possible tattoo inks from Australia and the United States. Sorn's tattoos could now be in full color instead of just the dark blue that is used in the ancient Thai-style tattoos. They would also not fade with time, unlike tattoos with local inks that need to be redone every decade.

Sorn is a humble man with almost no personal possessions

except his inks and needles. When asked about having so few possessions, Sorn told the *Gazette* that maybe one day he will get a notebook computer and printer so that he can provide better design customization and explanations for clients.

His art is no longer just Thai but almost anything a client would like to have done, from Celtic to Japanese designs. He does not mind if images are sexual or violent but he will not do tattoos of the Lord Buddha since that would violate the oaths he made to his teachers of the art back in his village.

The only downside to the art is that it takes considerably longer than one made with electronic needles. The upsides, however, are numerous. Apart from being more intricate, the entire process is relatively painless when compared with a machine tattoo.

There is no bleeding, no scars and unlike machine tattoos it is possible to swim in salt water immediately after a session. Machine tattoos raise the skin and change the skin texture, whereas the traditional Thai bamboo tattoo does not.

Antiseptic creams are not needed either, just a dab of Vaseline to seal in the inks.

In the high season, Sorn supplements his income by do-



ing henna tattoos on the beach while his wife provides massages for tourists. Henna tattoos are temporary, lasting about three weeks and are quite popular with female tourists.

Last year, an Italian tat-

too artist came to Phuket to study this ancient art with Sorn, who proudly taught him all the techniques starting with how to attach the micro-needles to the bamboo.

Handmade tattoos are not

only more time-consuming, they require a higher degree of concentration by the artist. This does not, however, mean that his tattoos are more expensive. Without the overhead costs of a studio, Sorn charges much less

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: A man has the image of his baby son tattooed on his shoulder by Sorn.

him to tattoo over the old image, with beautiful results.

Sorn's needles are cheap to replace and always fresh for each customer, and since his technique does not cause any bleeding it is very safe. There are some rumors generated by machine artists about the safety of bamboo tattoos, Sorn's customers have come away delighted and no one has reported even the smallest of infections.

Andrew had a botch job done by another tattooist and regretted it, but removing it would have probably left a scar. His forearm read "Honour My Country" until Sorn transformed it into a Celtic design.

Repairing ghastly tattoos is an extremely difficult art and many tattoo artists are incapable of performing such repairs. Seeing how Sorn creatively applies his inks using light nimble taps in any situation makes one understand why he really is a true master.

Andrew was so touched by Sorn's sincere friendship and refusal to accept fair payment that he built him a website for those wishing to look at pictures of his tattoos and tattoo repair jobs or to get in contact with him.

One Korean fan of tattoo art who visited the website was so impressed that he has decided to come to Phuket for his next holiday to have a tattoo done by Sorn.

While Sorn still shuns mechanized tattoo techniques, his venture onto the Internet may well bring this talented skin artist out of the shadows once and for all.

Photos and contact details may be found on Sorn's website at www.sornthetattooartist.com.

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This week



ALWAYS ON OUR MIND: MC Ricky Zen (left) sings 'Always on my Mind' as a special request for Swedish Consul General Christina Palm (2nd from left), joined by her husband Amjad Choudhry and friend Cassie Potger, at her farewell party on June 21.



READY FOR ACTION: Bangkok Hospital Phuket staff and Cherng Talay OrBorTor emergency services staff show their support for each other during the annual tsunami evacuation drill held on the morning of June 17.



WANA DO YOGA? (above): Yoga at Wana Park in Cherng Talay opened its doors to welcome guests for the first day of daily private and group yoga classes on June 9. Pictured are (from left) Robert Akerblom, Sukanda Chiaranussati, owner and yoga teacher Tomas Goetel, Wallapa Chankaew and Bruce Whitehead.

PINK POWER (left): The annual Laguna Phuket International Marathon was tickled pink this year with the first-time inclusion of a team of 28 staff from the head office of Asia Web Direct (AWD) participating in the annual charity fundraiser for HOPE worldwide Thailand.



HIGH TIMES: Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa's General Manager John Kidd (3rd from right) and staff members let their hair down at a thank-you party held for staff last month to show appreciation for their hard work over a successful high season.



FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS: Children from Thalang Wittaya School enjoy a day of games and activities at the opening party for The Courtyard at Surin Beach. The day was hosted by the resort's General Manager Theera Kanjana (rear, center, with moustache) on June 6.

Baba

DINING LOUNGE

COME FALL IN LOVE

Sri panwa

076-371-006

Here is a rundown of how a well-off couple (let's call them Bella and Tom) manage their lives in 2008. In order to get pregnant, Bella visits a fertility therapist, then an acupuncturist and, finally, an IVF specialist. In time, they have a baby, Zak.

Bella's mother feels a bit excluded because of all the new parenting advice and her daughter's decision to adopt the Gina Ford method on the recommendation of her maternity nurse. Her mother is astonished to find the nurse advising Bella on baby-friendly scents.

Within the next few months, Zak attends a cranial osteopath and baby yoga. Tom gives up smoking with the aid of a hypnotist's book and Anna resumes sessions with her personal trainer.

By now it is time to extend the house, which Bella organizes with an architect and, after a few false starts, a project manager. Then it's time to go back to work, so she books an appointment with the dietitian who diagnosed Kate Winslet's food allergies and calls on a wardrobe detoxer to sort out what still works and what doesn't.

Another month goes by and Bella's friends persuade her that it's now the "baby whisperer", Tracy Hogg, who has the secret of infant happiness sewn up, so Bella switches. Tom watches a documentary on television about

hormones in the water and has a filter fitted the following week. Then he decides that his man breasts are probably just weight gain and that the solution is the GI diet, so Bella buys the book and fills the cupboards with pulses.

Both of them decide to give up drink because new statistics reveal that Bella is a problem drinker and Tom a full-blown alcoholic. Bella may also have stunted Zak by having a glass of wine a week during pregnancy. They also move the office in their house further away from Zak's bedroom because of the Wi-Fi scare.

Take a look at Tom and Bella's world and you notice something about their lifestyle that is dramatically different from 10 years ago. Tom, Bella and Zak are constantly in the care of so-called experts. Most of the decisions in their lives – from paint colors to potty training – are made in consultation with specialists.

Bella is not a high-maintenance woman who spends silly money on handbags, but she does pay regularly for advice in situations where her mother would have relied on her instinct.

She and Tom occasionally watch TV programs on how to improve your lot. They look at

hiring experts as a modern lifestyle choice for a certain well-informed affluent stratum of society that wants the best – like eating organic.

But there's more than affluence at work here. Britons like to be told what to do by people who claim to have the answers.

Brits used to be renowned for their caution – sniffing out humbug in politicians and people in authority – but pick out any smart, well-off

woman these days and you'll find she will think nothing of placing her wardrobe in the hands of a consultant, her anniversary in the hands of a party-planner and her photograph collection in the care of a personal archivist.

Not everyone can afford professional input, but that doesn't mean we don't buy into the idea. All of us are suckers for the latest information on weight loss,

aging, quick and delicious recipes and where to buy bedroom lamps. You could say that this has always been so, but the difference is that there's now a new answer every week and still we keep chasing the latest update.

Too much choice and too much information, along with a shortage of time, is the standard explanation for our burgeoning culture of dependency, especially as choice comes with the pressure to get it right. "It's the drive for perfection,"

says a friend, who is, basically, Bella.

"In the past, you had a dog that was a bit badly behaved and a house painted magnolia, but now that isn't good enough. The dog has to be perfectly behaved, the paint has to be exactly the right shade of white."

But choice and the drive for perfection don't altogether explain why the most personal decisions are delegated to strang-

ers. Intuition has become the amateurish option, it seems. The central message of parenting books is, "Don't do it like your mother and father. If you do, you're screwing up: you need an expert."

The default position is that the wisdom of the past is wrong. We have lost that touchstone. Nothing is right or wrong anymore – it's all research based.

Paid strangers or not, at least they are available. I have a good friend who is a life coach, and she says, "Everyone seems to be so busy now, but people want to be really listened to, and for you to make sense of their world. And if they can pay, then that is a guilt-free hour from someone with no agenda."

As she also says, "If the answer for you is to emigrate to Thailand, that's not what your family is going to advise." And let's face it, what family is capable of providing the kind of attention we need now that we settle for nothing less than the best?

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a Britain-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist and interior designer.



LAND AND HOUSES PARK PHUKET

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By Nick Davies

With so much rain recently, memories of curling up on the sofa with a hot mug of tea have come increasingly to mind.

The millennia-old custom of tea drinking is said to have been born in Japan and China, diffusing its way across Asia and eventually influencing the kings, queens and aristocrats of Europe. It has now spread around the globe, each region with its own specialty teas, brewing methods and serving etiquette.

Thailand is not traditionally a tea exporter; the temperate and hilly Northern regions of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai are better known for the once-abundant opium poppy fields of the Golden Triangle.

In recent times, livelihoods and traditions have changed with the royal patronage of tea-plantation projects, replacing the controversial opiate crop of the past with what are now some of the best oolong tea varieties in Southeast Asia. Marking this achievement is an annual tea festival every February in Chiang Mai, where local teas can be sampled.

In addition to the green teas of Siam, there is an abundance of local herbs that can be picked and dried for use in herbal teas. Some are known to quell internal heat, others to help clear and refresh the mind.

The dried herbs listed here are easy to find in large markets. All you need to do when you buy them home is add them to hot water for a tropical herbal brew.



A common and versatile fruit is the sweet scented **bael fruit**, also

Going native with herbal infusions

known as the Bengal quince or stone apple. In Thai it's called *ma-tuum*. The healing properties of the fruit, bark and leaves of the bael tree have been well known and widely used for centuries. In India, it is considered a sacred plant, the leaves being used to make offerings to Lord Shiva. In Hindu culture, the fruit is often called "golden apple" or even "holy fruit".

The pulp of ripe bael fruit can be turned into a kind of sherbet that is used to clean and tone the digestive system. Dried and infused as a tea, it acts as a diuretic and can help regulate the body's digestive functions. Applied externally, the aromatic pulp is a cooling sun block and helps the skin keep its natural color.

The yellow flowers of the **Chinese aster**, better known as chry-



santhe-
m u m
or *gek huway* in Thai, can be made into a cooling and refreshing herbal tea that has been used in Thailand for generations as a traditional thirst quencher.

The tea can be drunk hot or cold. As it has a slight bitter taste, it is usually sweetened, ideally with honey. Some roadside trad-

ers always have a few glasses of chrysanthemum tea waiting in a chilled cabinet for heat-weary passers-by.

The sweet tea made from chrysanthemum lowers blood pressure and periodic consumption of this brew is said to improve sight and help dissolve gallstones.

Ginger tea has almost the opposite effect to chrysanthemum tea as it warms the body. That might not seem desirable in Phuket's climate, but it's ideal when you have a cold or flu.



More than just adding a refreshing scent to tea, Lemongrass can provide a vitamin C boost and is considered an excellent maintenance tonic for general health.

Lemongrass tea is drunk to soothe sore throats and ease respiratory problems. It can also be effective against headaches and an upset stomach.



The maroon flowers of **hibiscus spice** (roselle), or *gra-jap*, make a deep-reddish-brown tea often used

as an aid to losing weight as it helps reduce fat cells in the blood and acts as a diuretic.

It is one of the most popular herbal drinks in Thailand, served hot or cold. With a pleasantly sweet taste, it is a great introduction to Thailand's herbal teas for first-time tasters.

Roselle is known to soothe the throat and clear colds. It also helps reduce fevers and, taken regularly, promotes proper kidney function.

Safflower tea, or *kham foi*, has a rich fragrance and a mild taste. It is one of the oldest and most versatile crops, cultivated in India mainly for its edible seeds and flavorful flowers. It is also used as an orange food coloring and as a dye, thus the saffron robes of Buddhist monks.

Medicinally, safflower has been used in China as a traditional remedy for heart and blood problems and is recommended to be taken as a hot tea for treating colds as the herbal infusion helps the body to expel illness through perspiration.

Cinnamon tea is useful for soothing bouts of "Phuket belly", calming upset stomachs and indigestion. It's also good for an energy boost, improving heart and blood circulation. It can be quite strong on its own, but makes a pleasant addition to a regular pot of tea or coffee. Simply add a stick to the pot and let it brew or place a cinnamon stick in a mug of coffee.



Centuries ago, having cin-



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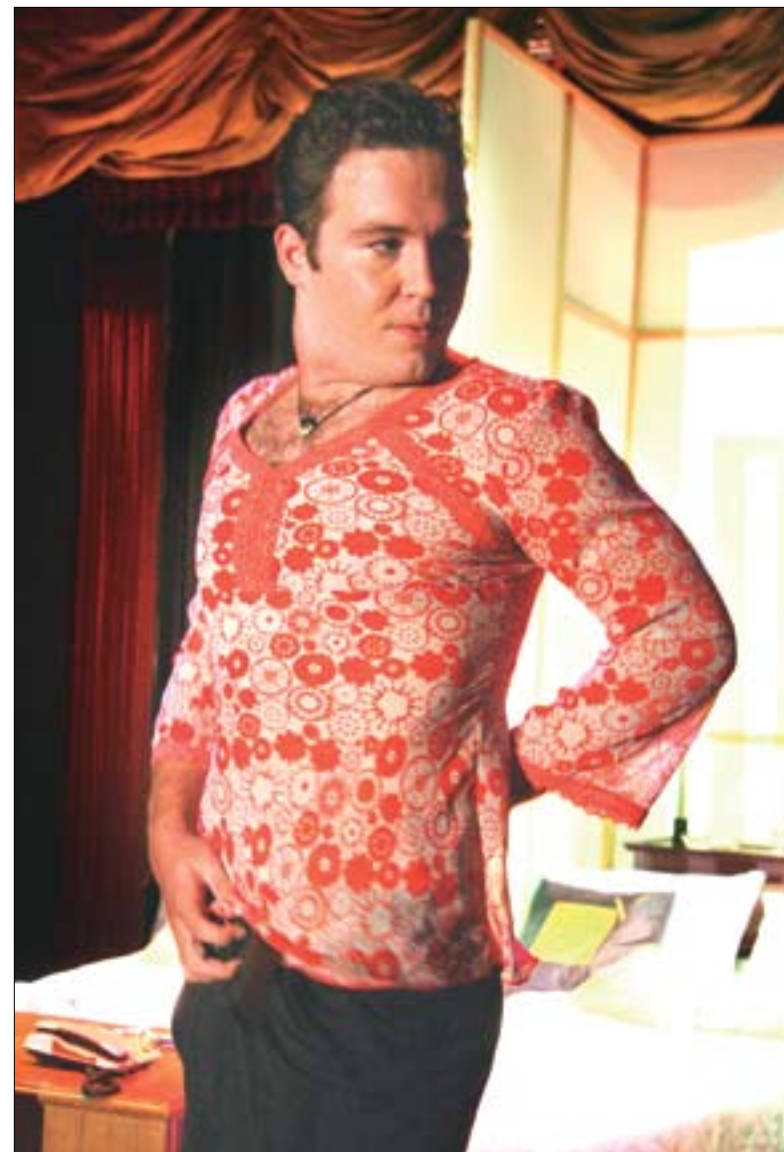
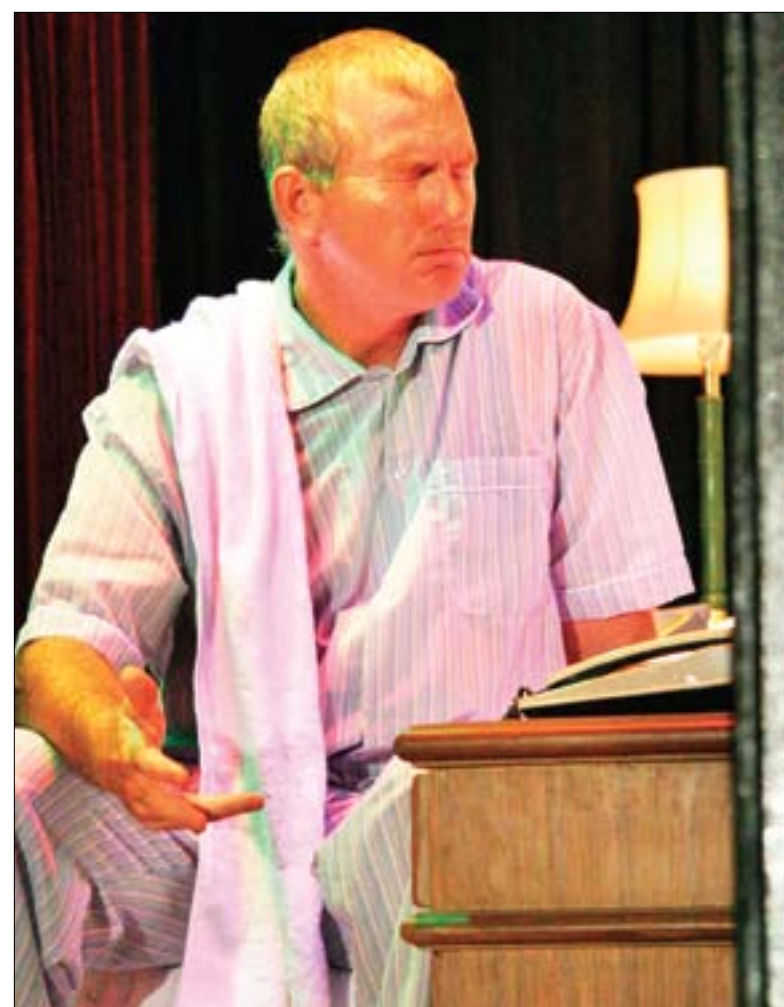
The Andaman Players performed Another Night in Phuket to a full house at The Playhouse in Patong last Sunday night.

The performance consisted of two one-act comedies about life in Phuket: *Adjoined* and *Night in a Bar Room*, written by the group's director Simon J Hand.

The performance, accompanied by

wine and food, was a sell-out, prompting the Andaman Players to announce a repeat performance scheduled for July 6 at the same venue.

The show starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are 1,000 baht, including a three-course meal. To book tickets, call 076-270900-102 or email jiraporn@manathai.com



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A song in every step



Spa MAGIC

By Sangkhae
Leelanaporn
The Spa, Hilton

Tucked into the sprawling gardens of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on Karon Beach is a cluster of spa villas where wellness and luxury merge into one.

The Hilton, the largest resort in Phuket, with 685 rooms set on 75 acres, built The Spa villas in a natural, green setting near the resort's private lagoon. The Hilton has offered massage and other treatments for several years, but only created this purpose-built spa space three years ago.

The villas are connected by a wooden walkway, evoking the



sense of a traditional Thai village with the added twist of a musical forest. Peaceful tunes are piped through a hidden sound system; an extra touch of relaxing ambiance for those taking a stroll around the spa zone.

The 15 spa-treatment villas are in Thai-contemporary style and include four double bedrooms, nine single bedrooms, one suite and a beauty salon. Assistant Spa

Manager Noriya Prayut said that there are 17 therapists practicing here, including one male masseur for those needing "hard" massage treatments.

Each villa has a name with a cool and relaxing theme, such as Bliss Villa, Timeless Villa, Sanctuary Villa, Indulgence Villa and Serenity Villa.

On offer are eight different massage techniques, six facial

treatments, five body wraps and four body scrubs that may be indulged in individually or as part of a package.

K. Noriya said that the spa's outstanding feature, apart from its ultra-private setting, is its use of Thalgo facial and body products, imported from France.

Thalgo is advertised as providing the "riches of the marine universe – a range of marine-based proteins, amino acids and vitamins that are known to have powerful effects in revitalizing, rebalancing and healing the body," said K. Noriya.

"This global brand is used in conjunction with locally-sourced products in The Spa's relaxing and restorative treatments. For every facial treatment and with some body treatments we use the products of Thalgo," she added, "but for oil treatments we use local products like lemongrass and other fresh herbs blended in-house."

Most customers choose a spa package, with the longest session called Uplifting Ritual: The Perfect Day. This popular four-and-a-half-hour treatment, costing 7,500 baht, includes a herbal steam sauna, honey-and-sesame scrub, massage, milk bath, aroma essential facial, manicure and pedicure, plus healthy snacks and herbal tea.

While Uplifting Ritual is ideal for people who want to relax and unwind, the 2,800-baht Body Wrap of Marine Prelude by Thalgo treatment removes toxins from the skin and loosens up tight muscles, said K. Noriya.

The one-and-a-half-hour Body Wrap session starts with a

Left: A variety of massages is offered in The Spa's 15 private villas. Below: A body wrap using marine-based products by Thalgo gives the skin a healthy glow.



sauna or steam bath for 15 minutes, followed by scrubs with mud from Thalgo products, then a quick sprinkle of special salt all over the body. After that, the customer's body is wrapped and covered with an electric blanket for 20 minutes for some added toxin-flushing warmth.

During the 20-minute wrap, a therapist gives a soothing head massage and then scrubs out all the dead skin cells at the end of the session.

Praiyaes Srisomroop, The Spa's senior therapist, said that in her eight years of massage service at the Hilton, she has learned that the trick of massage is to focus on the customer's back – a part of the

body where the muscles are centered that therefore needs more work to stay healthy and strong.

Before or after a session at The Spa, be sure to take a moment or two to relax in the Tao Garden Juice Bar, a retreat within a retreat and a lovely place to enjoy a healthy drink in natural surroundings with views out over the resort's lagoon.

Each month, The Spa offers various package promotions, and also has daily specials with discounts for singles and couples. Contact the spa for further details on what's available now.

The Spa at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, beach road, Karon. Open daily from 10 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-396433-31 ext 2818. Website: www.phuket.com/arcadia/spa.htm



Playhouse Theatre Restaurant presents an Andaman Player Production of two one-act plays

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Phuket Gazette

EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

July 14. Celebrate Bastille Day.

There will be a free French wine tasting and a themed French buffet and barbecue at Orient-Asia, overlooking the beach, at Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.

The evening begins with a free wine tasting from 6 pm to 8 pm, followed by great food and company.

The celebration dinner is 888 baht, including two further glasses of wine during dinner.

Contact Patrick de Staercke for more. Tel: 076-396139-442/430. Email: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com Website: www.moevenpick-phuket.com

Wine Connection Chalong will host a Bastille Day French Buffet from 6:30 pm to 11 pm.

Celebrate Bastille Day with a sumptuous French buffet dinner and cheese buffet at 650 baht per person. Includes one bottle of wine at 1,250 baht per person. Live band and fireworks.

Contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074 or email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

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 processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 18. Buddhist Lent (Khao Pansa) - Public Holiday.

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. The monks are not allowed to stay overnight at any other location during this period.

A candle festival is held annually on this day. Sculpted beeswax candles, generally depicting mythological creatures, are carried in a ceremonial parade in each province before being presented to local 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



Oh no, not again! After tickets for the June 29 performance sold out, the Andaman Players now proudly present a repeat performance of *One Night In Phuket*, an evening of comedy dinner at The Playhouse, Patong, on July 6.

As well as exceptional cuisine, you get two one-act comedies specially written for this occasion by Simon J Hand.

For more information contact Tony Kelsey-Stead. Tel: 085-7903652. Email: t_kelsey_stead@hotmail.com

July 22. Green Initiatives in Event Planning: a Seminar.

"Green Event planning is here to stay," says Shannon Kilkenny, author of *The Complete Guide to Successful Event Planning* – a best-seller – who will present a seminar at Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket on green initiatives in event planning.

Sponsored by the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter and Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International, this seminar is essential for all in the hospitality and events industries.

For information and reservations contact Andrew Johnstone. Tel: 076-396139-787. Email: andrew.johnstone@moevenpick.com Website: www.moevenpick-phuket.com

July 23-27. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek.

Described by veteran yacht

racers as "the most exciting mixed fleet regatta [in] this region", Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is four days of 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@imageasia.com Website: www.phuketraceweek.com

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.

To enter the tournament, golfers may choose a corporate or standard team package. Dinner-only tickets are 2,500 baht per person, inclusive of wine and beer. Team Packages and dinner tickets are sold at the Golf Club Pro Shop.

For details contact the Golf Club Pro Shop. Tel: 076-324374. Email: timh@lagunaphuket.com

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday.

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand.

August 13. Boathouse Writers' Night with Jim Newport.

James "Jim" Newport (www.vampireofsiam.com) is a writer and Emmy-nominated production designer of film and television.

He wrote *The Vampire of Siam* trilogy, which includes the first novel of the same name, followed by *Ramonne: The Return of the Vampire of Siam* and *The Reckoning: A Tale of the Vampire of Siam*. The author's latest work, *Chasing Jimi*, is a novel about Jimi Hendrix and was released in May.

The evening at the Boat-house will include readings from *Chasing Jimi* and a Q&A session with the author.

September 13. SDF Tails at Twilight Annual Fundraising Bone A Fit.

The Soi Dog Foundation

will hold its annual fundraiser "Tails at Twilight Annual Fundraising Bone A Fit" on September 13 at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa.

It will be a private beach party extravaganza with raffles, auctions and a prize draw.

The ticket price of 2,000 baht includes a buffet dinner, free-flow beer and wine, non-stop entertainment, and lots of fun at the beautiful venue.

For tickets contact Cristy. Tel: 085-4734636. Email: cristy@soidog-foundation.org Website: www.soidog-foundation.org

September 16. Punchline Comedy Club Live Stand-Up Comedy.

The Punchline Comedy Club, in association with the London Comedy Store, returns to Phuket for a night of international stand-up comedy. More details will be released soon, but expect a madcap night of laughs.

September 29 to October 7. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, which normally falls in late September or early October. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict diet of 'vegetables only' will purify mind and body and constitute merit-making.

Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show spectacles of strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements. Devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

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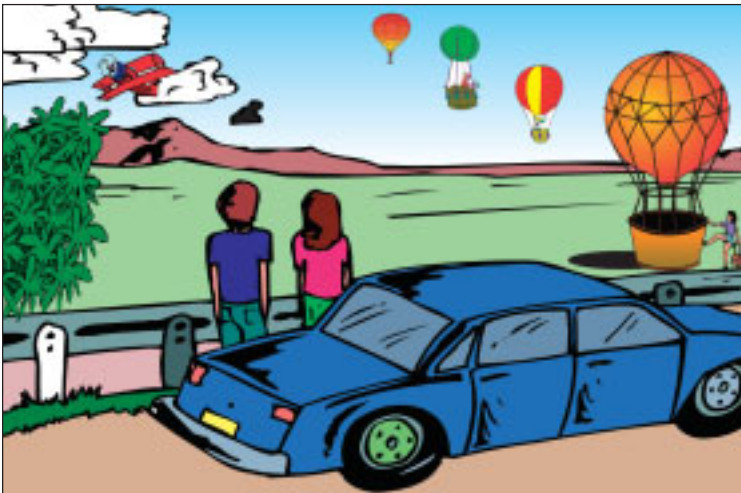
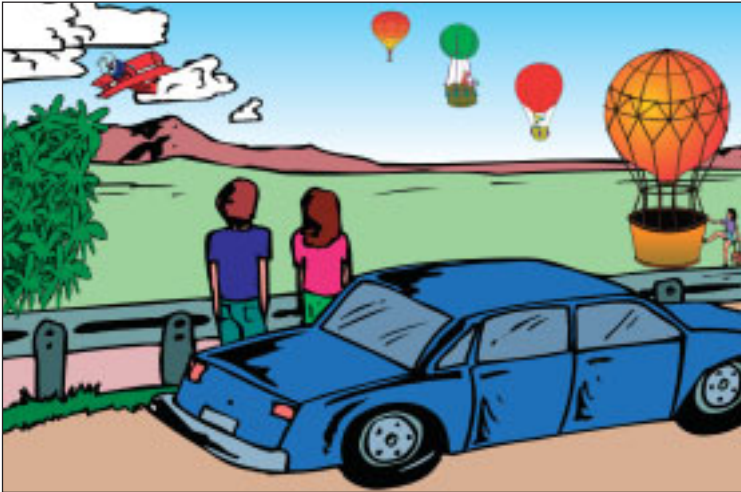
Puzzles

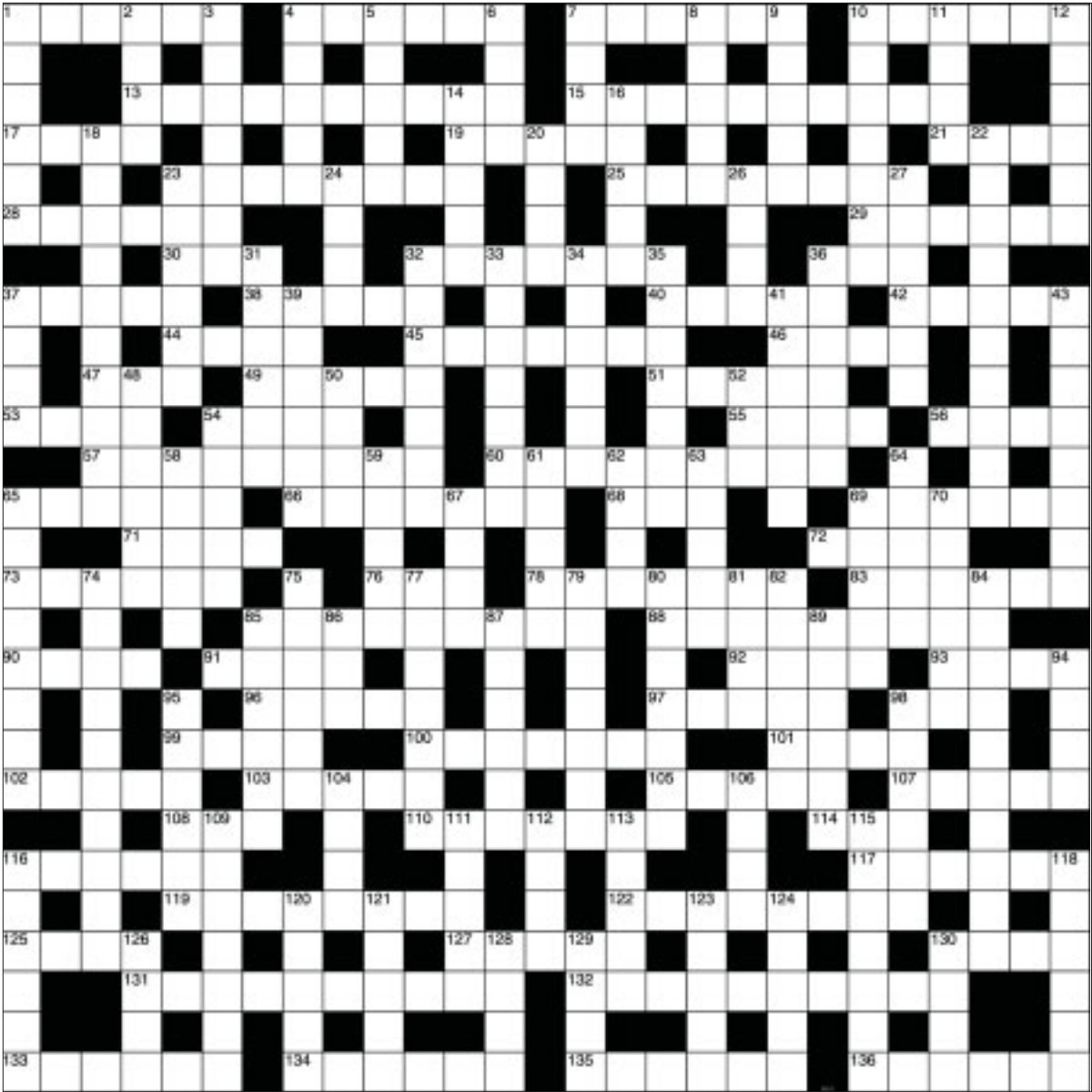
The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



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





© Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

- Across

1. Toppled

4. Wax pencil

7. Restaurant

10. Comparison

13. Sly digs

15. Peas or carrots

17. Writer, ...Blyton

19. American actress, ...Hannah

21. Docile

23. Took dimensions

25. Authorized

28. Crab claw

29. Synagogue scholars

30. Positive vote

32. Return matches

36. Food enhancer (1,1,1)

37. Fulfills (demand)

38. Scientist, ...Curie

40. Beefy

42. Revered actress, ...Garbo

44. Starring role

45. Cleaver

46. Inclination

47. Pronounce

49. From Baghdad

51. Rested

53. Keen

54. Persevere, ...on

55. Depend

56. Doorpost

57. Larger than usual

60. Point at origin of earthquake

65. Capital of the Philip-pines capital

66. Tricky questions

68. Lyricist, ...Gershwin

69. Fleshy face parts
- Down

71. Eyelid swelling

72. Rectangular court yard

73. Tapes (programs)

76. Geological age

78. Defrauded

83. French bathroom fit-tings

85. Hair on upper lip

88. An obsession with fire

90. Corrode

91. Lend a hand

92. Irish island group

93. Repeat

96. Noosed rope

97. Of the nose

98. Cigar dust

99. Cartel

100. Breed of dog, ...terrier

101. Stun

102. Australian marsupial

103. River-mouth flats

105. Rose to feet

107. Arrive at

108. Your

110. Tapers

114. Yes

116. Multicolored

117. Steady

119. Stereo soundboxes

122. Facts as proof

125. Walks quietly

127. Beer

130. Salt Lake City state

131. Became too hot

132. Exits

133. Sums

134. Country

135. Give concrete form to

136. Seat for a jockey
62. Quote

63. Spruce

64. Set of links

65. Independent person

67. Sicilian volcano

69. From Havana

70. Whirlpools

74. Led astray

75. Consolation

77. Sofa footstool

79. Hoisting anchor cry (5-2)

80. Fitness

81. Periods of time

82. Legendary kingdom, El...

84. Win & place wager (4,3,3)

85. Tune

86. Rises of fortune

87. Chillier

89. Disorder

94. Curse

95. Eases off

98. Charge with gas

104. Lifeless

106. Was in debt to

109. Dashes

111. Gangway

112. Telephoned

113. In what position?

115. Chaperones

116. Chart (course) (3,3)

118. Breathe

120. Grey

121. Praise highly

123. Type of potato

124. Admittance

126. Tofu bean

128. Yemen port

129. Border

130. Exploited

Solution on next page

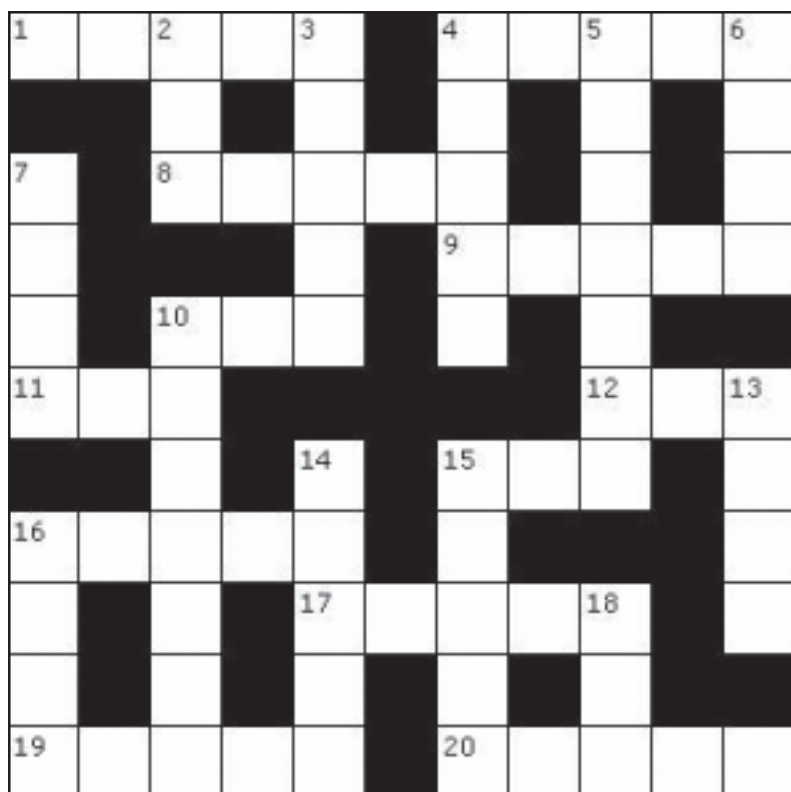
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

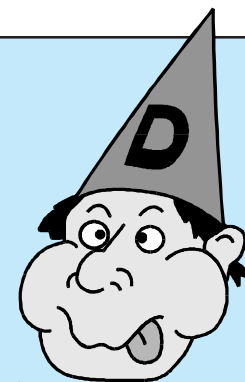
1. Large boat
4. Red
8. Delay
9. Cool
10. ...Humbug
11. Illness
12. Allow
15. Pastry
16. Not suitable
17. More
19. Capital
20. Words of a song

Down

2. Drinking utensil
3. Strong and firm
4. Bank payment
5. Readable
6. Rotate
7. Canine
10. Large animal
13. Fish
14. Meat
15. Part of a flower
16. Applies something
18. We breathe it

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. For which 1995 comedy movie did Nicole Kidman win a Golden Globe?
2. Which natural phenomenon has Lebanon proposed as a "New 7 Nature Wonder of the World"?
3. What was exceptional about how Ole Bentzen died?
4. Which movie was he watching when he died?
5. Which disease is also known as "laughing sickness"?
6. Who wrote the 1973 stage musical song Send in the Clowns?
7. In which London neighborhood is the Ministry of Sound located?
8. What was benchmark about the club's license?
9. Where did the first Ministry of Sound open?
10. Who was lead signer of Culture Club?
11. What name was he given at birth?
12. Which constellation has a name meaning "table"?
13. In which country is Table Mountain?
14. When and where was Mensa formed?
15. Who formed Mensa?
16. Who are Mensa's youngest members?
17. How old were they when they were admitted to Mensa?
18. Which award-winning actress and Mensa member starred in *The Long Kiss Goodnight*?
19. In which sport did she reach the semi-finals for the US Olympic squad?
20. How many times has she been married?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. *To Die For*; 2. The Grotto in Jeita; 3. He died of laughter; 4. *A Fish Called Wanda*; 5. Kuru; 6. Stephen Sondheim; 7. Elephant & Castle; 8. It is a non-alcoholic bar; 9. Bangkok (the club is now closed); 10. Boy George; 11. George O'Dowd; 12. Mensa; 13. South Africa; 14. England, 1946; 15. Roland Berrill and Dr Lance Ware; 16. Ben Woods and Georgia Brown; 17. 2 years and nine months; 18. Geena Davis; 19. Archery; 20. 4

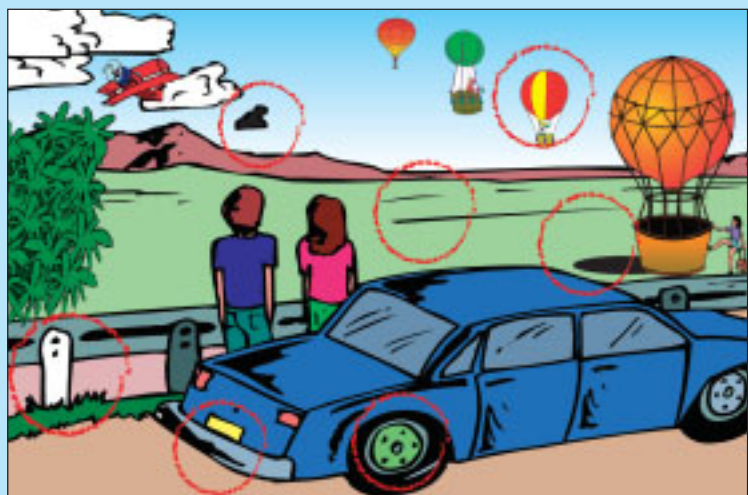
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



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By Marque A. Rome

One night last week at a Chalong Plaza watering hole, business was slow. The girls were watching a horror film.

It was typical of the modern genre: bloodthirsty devils wearing reptile outfits terrorized nubile victims in a cave replete with Satanist symbols. The soundtrack consisted mostly of muttered oaths and a great deal of crashing, thrashing and screaming.

Amid Hollywood's concocted sturm und drang, two girls at the bar, Tip and Jane, chatted animatedly.

Tip, the bartender, handed Jane a glossy square booklet covered with pentagrams. As the five-pointed star loomed large in the movie-devils' underground digs, a patron naturally asked, pointing to the booklet, "Is that the cover art?"

"No, the movie comes off a cable channel," said Jane. "This is an Amway booklet."

He was taken aback. "Really? Let me see that."

On the cover, a pyramid-like house of cards decorated with pentagrams and less-sinister stars rested inside the circle of a larger pentagram, as if part of a Satanist ritual.

"Command the stars and your future with assurance with Amway," read the Thai blurb. At bottom, next to the large pentagram, "Amway" was printed in English.

Another patron looked at the booklet and simply laughed out loud. "In Australia an ad campaign like that wouldn't go over. People'd be afraid to buy the products."

Tip was surprised to learn the pentagram's meaning. "It's a mistake," she averred. "To Thais, that's just the same as any other star."

"Perhaps," countered the first patron, "but whoever created the cover clearly knew its occult meaning because he laid the scene as if it were a Satanist ritual."

The star's meaning is commonly known, thanks to Hollywood. "It is no mistake."

But it is a curious marketing device, especially for Amway,

To most Americans, the five-pointed star connotes Satanism, neo-paganism, and sexual debauchery.

winner of the United States Chamber of Commerce Corporate Citizenship Award and a company whose very name – suggestive as it is of "the American way" – should preclude truck with the devil.

Anyone who knows, for example, that many US schools forbid students

from wearing pentagrams will understand why: to most Americans, the five-pointed star connotes Satanism, neo-paganism, and – by association – sexual debauchery.

"Well, that is strange," said Tip, who mates the spirit of inquiry with the soul of an accountant. "I'll call my contact."

It was just before midnight. Over the phone, the contact tried to allay her reservations, but when she asked "precisely what

is the star's meaning?" he said he'd find out and come set the foreigners straight.

Forty minutes later, he and his wife – neat, stylish, bubbly optimistic, in their early forties – arrived at the bar.

"I really don't think you understand the meaning of the text," said Tip's chief with a smile, hoping to trounce his opposition by appeal to superior knowledge of Thai.

"If you understand the

meaning you'll understand why the stars are there."

"It says inside you shouldn't depend on your lucky stars," came the reply. "It doesn't say you shouldn't depend on the devil."

The salesman then argued that the two are related and that the booklet urges on readers a realistic outlook.

"It might just as easily be interpreted," said the patron, "to mean 'Forget astrology – the real black magic is with Satan... and Amway'."

The Amway salesman did not laugh.

Inside the booklet, flanked by pentagrams, five types of young woman – progressive, fashionable, sociable, new wave and sporting – were depicted, each beneath a Roman numeral. The layout suggested Tarot cards. Beneath each was a blurb with the words "fate", "getting ahead" and "take charge" repeated.

On the back page it read, "Why depend on fate to decide your future? If you can progress on your own, start progressing today with Amway."

The final sentence relapsed into mysticism, inviting readers to be "transformed" into their "true selves" and to "discover hidden potential".

But, though much was made of the company's wealth, longevity, and stability, and of its many patents, researchers and laboratories – nowhere was it explained what business Amway is in. (Ostensibly, it's a home-products vendor.)

Imagine, say, Toyota or Citigroup trying to recruit sales personnel without mentioning they were in automobiles or banking.

"I wonder," the patron mused, "whether this booklet wasn't concocted by a disgruntled employee."

He must have known it would cause controversy. It would not be the first large company accused of using Satanist symbolism in advertising.

"Then, too, the cover's pyramid scheme is awfully suggestive, as if hinting at criticism Amway bosses are ever at pains to dispel."

That was enough for his hearers, the Amway sellers, whose product is really the pitch.

They didn't even press their name cards on him before parting.



On the cover of an Amway pamphlet there is a pyramid-like house of cards decorated with pentagrams and less-sinister stars rested inside the circle of a larger pentagram, as if part of a Satanist ritual.

Pentagrams and pyramids

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EATING TO AMERICA

Female writers often love lavish descriptions of food, its preparation, scent, texture and taste. Evelyn Waugh turned out long, loving passages about food, too, in his masterpiece *Brideshead Revisited*, but this was because he was suffering from wartime rationing and he cut many of these culinary passages after WWII.

Stealing Buddha's Dinner (Viking, New York, 207, 256pp), a memoir by Bich Minh Nguyen, is also an extended paean to food as can be seen by the chapter headings: Pringles, Toll House Cookies, American Meat, Green Sticky Rice Cakes, Salt Pork, Holiday Tamales, Mooncakes and Cha Gio.

Bich Minh Nguyen was eight months old when Saigon fell in April 1975 and her father spirited the family out of the city aboard a ship. They – father, grandmother, two daughters and three uncles – settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

They looked very different from their tall, blond, Dutch-descendant neighbors. All her life Bich would seek to fit in and her passionate love for American food stood in contrast to what she mostly ate at home: traditional Vietnamese dishes made by her grandmother and Mexican fare from her stepmother, Rosa, a second-generation Mexican-American.

Bich's father is a tireless factory worker, a skilled carpenter, a gambler,



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

drinker and dancer. He literally swept Rosa off her feet when she turned up at a Vietnamese party. Into the household Rosa brought Crissy, her eight-year-old daughter from a romance with a white guy.

Bich's father and Rosa produce a son, Vinh. It's a noisy, jumbled household with the kids running wild in the basement apartment of the bachelor uncles.

In contrast to this is the immaculate household of their Dutch neighbors, the Vander Wals. Bich yearns for the same staid, orderly, ordinary American family life. Jennifer Vander Wal becomes her best friend and Bich yearns for her blond hair and blue eyes.

Bich's older sister, Anh, teams up with Crissy in pursuit of fashion, music and boys, leaving Bich shut out with her books, braces and clunky eyeglasses. She is perpetually awkward. Invited to spend the

night with a white classmate, she faces the prospect of cutting up a pork chop with mortal terror. Knives and forks are not used in her Asian home and her pork chop skids off the plate and onto the floor.

Ah, but what a refuge is good old

American junk food.

Bich sings out the litany, "I knew the spartan packs of Juicy Fruit as well as the fat pillows of Bubble Yum, Bub-

balicious, Hubba Bubba, Chewels, Tidal Wave, the shreds of Big League Chew and the gum shaped into hot dogs and hamburgers. I

knew Reese's peanut butter cups, Twix, Heath Crunch, Nestle Crunch, Baby Ruth, Bar None, Oh Henry!, Mounds and Almond Joy, Snickers, Mr Goodbar, Watchamacallit, Kit Kat, Chunky,

Charleston Chew, Apline White, Ice Cubes, Whoppers, PayDay, Bonkers, Sugar Babies Milk Duds, Junior Mints, Bottlecaps, candy cigarettes, candy neck-

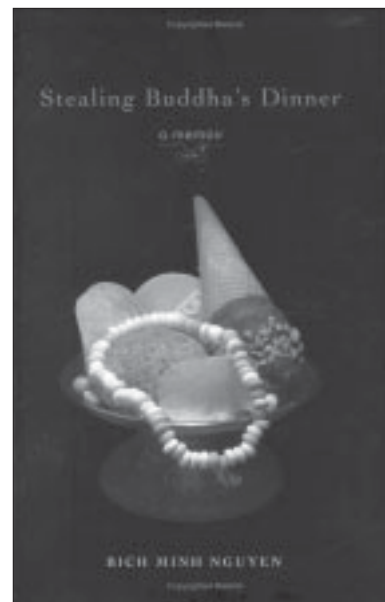
laces, and wax lips."

On and on and on. There really is too much food talk in this book at the ex-

pense of plot and characterization. Still, Bich is very good at summoning up the ethos of her American youth. "It was the summer of Laura Branigan's Solitaire, the Police warning us about every breath we took and David Bowie murmuring 'Shhhh' to his little China Girl. Crissy was off with her forbidden friends while Anh and I roamed, restless, turning up the radio whenever WGRD played Culture Club and Duran Duran. We played four square, Life and pickle with Jennifer and our brothers. We watched MTV, wishing we could be as cool as Martha Quinn."

There are swift surprises at the end when Bich learns what happened to her mother in Vietnam and that she has an older brother and sister. She meets them

on a visit to Boston. The book ends as she and her grandmother revisit Vietnam in spring 1997. Bich can barely speak Vietnamese anymore and realizes that her many long-lost relatives are foreigners to her. She realizes that she is, indeed, an American.



Dr Seuss' or Bridget Jones's?

Hollywood has me confused about the use of "s" following a name that ends with "s". *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who* is now playing in theaters. The punctuation of this title conflicts with the name of a hit movie from a few years ago, *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Who is right? Should it be "Dr. Seuss's" or "Bridget Jones's"?

Michael Ones
Kingston, Ontario

Barbara replies:

No matter what I tell you, some authorities will call me wrong. The *Associated Press Stylebook*, which most newspapers follow, says that to make a possessive out of a singular name that ends in "s," you shouldn't add anything more than an apostrophe – so "Seuss'" and "Jones'". But the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which many book publishers follow, says it's better to add an "s" as well – so "Seuss's" and "Jones's".

I'm in favor of writing the "s" because we pronounce it as an extra syllable: "Seuss-ez," "Jones-ez". Still, I know it saves ink and trees and space to leave the "s" off. A good case can be made on each side of this argument. Be that as it may, no one who cares in the slightest about language seems tempted to say, "Oh, whatever." Even the Arkansas legislature has weighed in. Last year it passed a bill making "Arkansas's" the official possessive. The state's largest paper,

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

the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, won't hear of it, though, and continues to use the possessive "Arkansas's".

Is "tolerancy" a word? If so, is it interchangeable with "tolerant", or is it be used in a different context?

Eamon Winston
Monterey, California

Barbara replies:

No, it's not a word – but that doesn't stop people from using it. You can easily find it on the

Internet. An online dictionary just told me it didn't have a definition for "tolerancy", but it was "increasing the priority" for the word. I don't like the sound of that.

Please join Bob and me in welcoming Ted" or "...Bob and myself..."? My dictionary says "myself" is used as an intensifier of "me" or a reflexive substitute for "me": "I burned myself". It seems people don't like to use "me".

Sandy Regan
Saratoga Springs, NY

Barbara replies:

I tried to explain that to American public radio personality Ira Glass, who always ends his radio program, *This American Life*, by announcing that the episode was produced by somebody or other "and myself" – but I didn't get anywhere. Sigh.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary says, "Such uses almost always occur when the speaker or writer is referring to himself or herself as an object of discourse rather than as a participant in discourse... These uses are standard."

But the *American Heritage Dictionary* says that "a large majority" of its usage panel "disapproves of the use of "self" pronouns when they do not refer to the subject of the sentence.



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

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Will the real land owner please stand up?

As this edition went to print, Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung and a sortie of senior officials were arriving in Phuket for an inspection tour of the island. During his visit, Chalerm was to inspect plots that he is accused of helping his associates acquire by using his position as Interior Minister.

Plots identified in the accusation include land in Cherng Talay owned by Siam Chao Praya Land Co Ltd and two plots on Koh Racha Yai owned by Rachai Yai Estate Co Ltd and Racha Yai Island Co Ltd.

Minister Chalerm was also scheduled to inspect plots of SorPorKor land totaling about 100 rai that have been reclaimed by order of the Supreme Court from five local landowners.

We can be sure that the visit will rattle a few cages on the island. The last time a Bangkok sortie came down to Phuket to inspect land plots, the tour party cruised Millionaires' Mile.

By coincidence, Chalerm's visit comes nearly two weeks after long-term tenants at Vises Hotel in Patong began their battle against forced eviction by the owner of the hotel, Photipoom Co Ltd.

What the Vises Hotel tenants and those who have had their claims to SorPorKor land revoked have in common is that the courts have stuck to the basic Western principle of property law: possession is the best claim to property except for the rightful owner.

Many of the Vises Hotel tenants had signed tenancy agreements, which the court deemed are not legally binding.

The agreements were never valid, even though they were signed by a person representing the hotel, which the court was well aware of.

When it comes to land – an industry driving Phuket's economy – what insurance does a buyer have that the Chanote he has paid millions of baht for is worth the paper it's printed on? Some of these Chanote titles even bear the stamp of the Land Department, but this is little reassurance.

Even if a buyer maintains due diligence, it's a game of pot luck whether he discovers who the real owner is – and even if the mystery appears to be solved, there is no guarantee that a spanner won't be thrown in the works.

While land and property disputes unfold in Phuket, economy watchers are saying that major investors are holding off because of political instability in Bangkok. Perhaps such concerns pale in significance when compared to the very real issue of exactly who owns property and land in Thailand.

– The Editor

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

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Letters

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

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

Wolfpack attack not a pretty sight

On Friday, June 27, at approx 11 pm, directly across from Starbucks at Jungceylon, I witnessed with my friend another fine indication of Phuket's apparent descent into the macabre.

Two farang tourists messing around on hired motorcycles were driving without care approaching the pedestrian crossing when, while braking hard to avoid a collision with a pedestrian, one of the men slid along the ground while his bike continued on and scraped the side of a car parked at the roadside.

The owner of the car ran over and started to stomp the tourist's head into the ground before he had a chance to get up. By this time, a number of the motorcycle taxi guys had run over to join in the excitement.

Upon witnessing the spectacle, the tourist's friend ran over to help and was whacked from behind on the back of the head with a large wooden object by an outraged taxi guy. Eventually, a police officer casually strolled over to write the tourists' up for dangerous driving. I believe that none of the Thai men were given a telling off for their overzealous conduct and vigilante behavior.

All of this was witnessed by more than 50 tourists that I could see at Starbucks and the surrounding cafés and ice cream parlors.

What a wonderful example this is of the protection that farangs have here in Phuket. I have lived here almost six years and will be leaving soon as it has become far too dangerous. I would like to live out my days in a society where my life is not at

risk from a Charles Bronson type at a motorcycle taxi stand.

Martin
Rawai

Bored of boards

I could not resist writing to you after reading the editorial in the *Phuket Gazette*, June 28-July 4 issue.

Indeed, it is the issue of roadside advertising. Anyone leaving Phuket Airport could not miss these billboards and then there are more along many, many roads in Phuket. It really is an eyesore.

What is becoming of Phuket, the world-famous holiday destination? There are many other creative ways of advertising.

Something has to be done now. I would be more than willing to lend a hand if someone could spearhead this project.

Piyanoot Hongsyok
Phuket

Cab karaoke is the future

I recently read a story about a taxi driver who took it upon himself to pioneer a "cab karaoke" craze. Vichian Simma is the guy behind this fantastic idea and it's proved to be a hit with everyone from random locals to drunk tourists.

With all the problems in Phuket that result from the island's pitiful taxi service, isn't it about time that cab karaoke came to Phuket?

Singing would no doubt leave all the cab drivers in such good spirits that they would lower their fares and find a way to make friends with the tuk-tuk drivers.

This could all lead to island-wide peace, I think most people will agree.

The benefit for locals would be an improved service and the opportunity to groove away in the back of a cab while traveling round the island. Tourists would love this quirk and arrive and leave the island happy.

I don't know how seriously other people might take this, but I suggest we all write to the governor and put forward the idea.

Basil bag
Nai Yang

A great read

I'll be honest – the only part of the *Phuket Gazette* I read is the classified ads. I don't read them because I want to buy anything, but because the best stories are to be found in those funny little boxes.

For example, I didn't know there is a rampant swinging scene in Phuket – and I don't mean the dance. I have tried to become a swinger, but I am always turned away when the other couple realizes I don't have a wife.

Then there are the cowboy tricks and the magic shows. Phuket is such an exciting island.

I feel sad for the fella who wants people to play backgammon with. I bet he's been running the same advert for years. Has he still not found anyone to play with? Or maybe he's just too good that people will play with him only once.

I also never realized that there were so many bars for sale. I'd buy one myself if I could turn it into a roller-disco, but I've heard the licenses for such a venture are difficult to obtain.

Fred Cow
Karon

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.

It's a tough job tackling the chattering classes

The law is still new and has been enforced only since May. We have collaborated with the media to try and let people around Thailand know about it.

We started charging people in Phuket for violating the law on May 20. Since that day, we have charged 43 drivers and motorcyclists in the Phuket City area.

None of those charged complained because they all knew that what they had done was against the law.

We have 60 traffic officers in the Phuket City area keeping an eye on the roads, so it is hard work for us. We don't have enough officers to keep up with the number of people on the island, including all of the tourists.

Each of the traffic officers has his own camera so that he can capture images of drivers caught in the act of using their mobile phones.

We have 48 CCTV cameras in Phuket, of which 16 are in Phuket City. We record throughout the day and watch the footage whenever we need to.

However, the number of CCTV cameras is an issue as well. We need more cameras around the island, especially in Phuket City.

Road accidents can happen at any time at road intersections and so we have requested more

FIRST PERSON

A law prohibiting drivers and motorcyclists from talking on their mobile phones while driving came into effect across Thailand on May 8. Phuket was given a grace period until May 20 before police began charging violators of the new law. Phuket City Police Traffic Inspector **Pol Lt Col Tee-rawat Leamsuwan** shares his thoughts about the regulation and how officers under his command have been enforcing it.



CCTV cameras to be set up in danger zones.

This is important for us to effectively enforce the new phone law, because if officers do not have access to the necessary equipment then they cannot

charge every person who breaks the law.

The mobile phone ban is not as important as some of the other laws that we have. Also, this law has only recently been approved in Thailand, whereas places such

as Japan and countries in Europe have had this law for a long time. It will take some time for everybody to become accustomed to it.

I think that this law is a positive step because it will help

decrease the number of accidents on Phuket's roads. When people talk on their phones, they have to use at least one hand, which means that they cannot fully concentrate on driving. It's similar to people who drive while they are drunk.

Most of the people who have been charged so far are car drivers, as opposed to motorcyclists. They think that if they are in a car that they can hide from the eyes of the police. Some of them even have tinted windows, which is actually illegal according to Thailand's traffic laws. This is something that we must inform drivers of, although we understand that Thailand has hot weather.

People caught using their mobile phones while driving are charged between 400 and 1,000 baht. I think this is a fair and suitable price for the crime, although some might say that it is perhaps a little excessive given the current state of the Thai economy.

I would like to ask all drivers and motorcyclists to operate their vehicles legally.

People must value their lives, especially when they start their cars. Do not use a mobile phone while you are driving. If you have to speak on the phone, use hands-free or a Bluetooth kit.

— *Compiled by Sompratch Saowakhon*

Can I help with the pudding?

In last week's *Gazette*, Ray Brown asked if mowing the lawn would get him in trouble for working without a work permit.

Am I forbidden from getting up early in the morning to help my Thai wife prepare her coconut pudding? She sells coconut pudding and fried quail eggs from a motorbike side-cart.

Ian Knowles
Thalang

Janya Yingyong, of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office Work Permit Section, replies:

If you are working to prepare things for your wife to sell, you are considered to be working to earn money. This is technically prohibited if you hold a retirement visa.

Officially, you should have a non-immigrant O visa and apply for a work permit. If you did this, your wife would need to be operating a registered business.

Can I change my visa dates?

My retirement visa is due to expire on July 28 and I will return to the UK for family reasons on July 31. I will be in the UK for about two months.

Is it possible to renew my retirement visa on my return to Phuket, rather than before I travel back to the UK?

I am very pleased and honored to have been issued a retirement visa and do not want to lose it.

Campbell Black
Phuket

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen, Phuket Provincial Immigration Office, replies:

Even though you will leave the country for two months, you should apply for a one-year, multiple-entry permit-to-stay based on your existing retirement visa before your current permit expires on July 28.

You cannot apply to renew your one-year permit-to-stay once your current permit has expired.

If you do not apply to renew your permit-to-stay before

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

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

July 28, you will have to pay over-stay fines at the airport immigration desk when you leave the country.

Also, if you let your current permit-to-stay expire, you will be back at square one and you will have to obtain a new non-immigrant O retirement visa from a Royal Thai Embassy and apply for a new one-year permit-to-stay

when you return to Thailand.

If you have all the required documents with your application, the Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket City can renew your one-year permit-to-stay on the same day as application.

For a list of the documents required, see www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/2notice/rtp606EN.pdf

Work permits for Burmese

What can I do if my Thai partner refuses to sign the documents for renewing Burmese work permits and also refuses to sign over the authority to do this to my work-permit-holding foreign manager?

I used to do it myself, but I'm now on a retirement visa.

Horst Lakits
Rawai

Janya Yingyong, officer at Phuket Provincial Employment Office Work Permit Section, replies:

You do not need the Thai partner to hand over the authority to apply for the Burmese work permits to be renewed. Anyone with the correct authority can do it.

As you now hold a retirement visa and do not have a work permit, you cannot apply. However, if your foreign manager who has a work permit is also a shareholder in the company that has hired the Burmese, he or she may apply.

Alternatively, you can ask a Thai partner to do it for you.

The Thriller in the Villa

There is a popular misconception held by many in the City of Angels that Bangkok's men do not enjoy shopping. Bangkok men love shopping. What men do not like is being dragged around the Emporium by their dearly beloved on Cup Final afternoon looking at curtain fabric and bathroom tiles.

The highly evolved proficiency with which the single man shops, however, may offer some solace to those blighted couples for whom a trip to Villa Market spells relationship doom.

Although the single man's shopping trolley is pure Darwinism at work, it must be noted that this miracle of evolution does not come without its share of personal anguish and soul searching.

Force-fed the inexorable fodder about the "new age man" being a super-enlightened and eco-minded friend of the earth, his stroll down Aisle 11 encounters its first crisis at the fruit-and-veg section. Still belching last night's orange fish curry, he resolves to go green and proceeds to stuff his trolley with all manner of exotic and verdant fruit and vegetables.

He is off to a flying start, since he sees this seminal step as marking not only the renaissance of a long-lost healthy diet but also a belated baptism in the mysteri-

ous art of home cuisine. Sadly, six curry nights and a kung-po-chicken weekend later will see our hapless hero filling a bin liner with the malodorous and festering foliage that now nestles so invitingly in his trolley.

The secret of the single man's shopping supremacy lies in the fact that his purchasing criteria remain blissfully simple and rarely stray from the Three Golden Rules:

1. If you have had it before, liked it and you don't have to cook it, buy three.

2. If you have never had it, but it smells nice and doesn't need cooking, buy three.

3. If you have never had it, never heard of it, don't know anything about it, but it's in a nice packet and doesn't require cooking, buy two.

The deli section is clearly

the most important part of any supermarket for the single man as it generally provides him with the meal he is going to eat on his way back to the car. For this reason, chorizos, vegetable samosas, sliced ham and cooked chicken drumsticks are a must.

The single man will never knowingly set foot in the frozen food section for two important reasons. First, the single man eats when he is hungry, not six hours and a good defrost afterwards. Second, the most attractive women in supermarkets are never to be found in the frozen food section, the sole exception being the ice-cream counter since it is a well documented fact



that all desirable women live on Haagen Dazs.

Similarly, the fish counter remains alien territory to our single male shopper. Not only do fish smell unpleasant, but they also require cooking; our intrepid shopper understands that if the vegetables smelled that bad after a week, the fish are going to be dancing around the kitchen juggling bananas.

The drinks section offers little resistance to the single man's honed skills of selection. Two bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau in case he brings a girl home from Bed Supperclub, a bottle of Stolichnaya because he hates Beaujolais Nouveau and 24 cans

of San Miguel because he will need something to put in the fridge after he's thrown all those vegetables away.

When it comes to toiletries, the single man invokes the wisdom of a higher authority. Scarlett Johansson says Pantene Pro-V is fabulous. Scarlett Johansson is fabulous. The single man buys three.

He knows, too, that most deodorants smell like napalm and turn your shirts purple. But if the reigning Miss Venezuela says that Agent Orange makes her thighs quiver with desire then our shopper is in no mood for indecision and buys three of them.

The checkout at Villa is the single man's mating call. Like a bullfrog puffing out his cheeks in a pre-mating fanfare, our single shopper extravagantly unloads his wares onto the conveyor belt.

An admiring throng of alluring females gaze adoringly at this dazzling display of manhood as 20 kilos of fresh vegetables rustle their way down the creaking conveyor belt.

Whether the mating call is answered is the "Thriller in the Villa".

Dale Nottingham is a Bangkok-based writer. Email: khundale@gmail.com

In The Stars

by Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The stars forecast a turbulent week ahead, but your life should calm down by mid-month and you will wonder what all the fuss was about. Your partner's problems at work leave little time for romance or socializing. However, if you're celebrating a birthday, you will be pleasantly surprised by what transpires on that day. Your year ahead is forecast to bring worthwhile investment opportunities.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You aren't likely to be lying in your hammocks too much this week. Your efforts to boost your business potential are about to reap rewards. Capricorn comes up with a proposition early next week that is worth considering, but Gemini would be a difficult colleague to work with. Mid-week, you learn of a friend's dilemma, but your involvement could lead to problems in the relationship. The number 4 could open a lucky door on Thursday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Those of you who are quick to spot an opportunity will notice a rainbow before others do this week. This should ensure that the pot of gold is yours, but it may be necessary to share the secret with Aries. This person has the necessary skills to bring the project to fruition. Too much enthusiasm for a new romantic relationship could cause it to sink quickly. Wear the silver gray to encourage dignity.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Family matters occupy most of your time this week. If you have children, you could find yourself in an uncomfortable situation on Sunday. Set clear boundaries for those concerned and ask for more support from those who are happy to let you accept too much responsibility. The atmo-

sphere lightens after Thursday with the arrival of a last-minute holiday invitation. The scent of vanilla encourages peace.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The sting in your tail is activated this weekend when Taurus says the wrong thing. Those of you who have been avoiding the truth should prepare to acknowledge that changes need to be made. On Tuesday, you receive a hint of how that can be done. New romance remains a source of happiness and is forecast to move onto a more committed level during July.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You are set to see life from a more down-to-earth perspective during July. Recent dreams of moving to a distant land fade as you realize that home is where the heart is. Finances are forecast to become more stable and it is likely that an investment brings more income than you hoped for. Those in a long-term relationship will see that a spontaneous gesture works wonders to rekindle romance.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those of you embarking on a shopping trip with Scorpio this weekend could be tempted into going overboard. Your finances are not forecast to become stable until later this month and unexpected outgoings are likely. Romance burns strongly for those who are prepared to make certain sacrifices. However, you should guard against giving up too much freedom for this relationship. The number 3 can bring some luck on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A wave of good fortune is forecast to arrive before mid-month. Some of this will be financially related, but it will mostly be in the form of promising employment opportunities. You may have to make a life-altering decision regarding relocation - you are advised to listen carefully to family's reaction to this situation. Monday is best for productive discussions. Wearing beetroot red can promote clear thinking.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Personal circumstances are forecast to be problematic during the first half of July. This week, family problems demand your partner's time and expecting them to pay the usual amount of attention to you could cause cracks in the relationship. Those of you who are single should think twice before extending a romantic invitation to Taurus as this person has other fish to fry.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A holiday affair can provide some light relief if you aren't looking for commitment. If you are involved in a long-term relationship, the stars suggest you take an intimate break to help rekindle a romantic flame. Wednesday is best for solving a work-related mystery, but you could be disappointed to discover that Sagittarius is less than honest. The number 8 can be lucky this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): If you're trying to make too many ends meet, you will be inspired by a boost to your bank balance this week. The astral atmosphere is ready to back your attempts to cut down on financial commitments this month, although certain family members will find this hard to accept. Where romance is concerned, Sunday is best for revealing your feelings for Gemini, but a jealous Scorpio could try to upset the apple cart.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): July brings more chances to travel than you had anticipated. If you have family responsibilities, this could cause disagreements when not everyone close to you understands your need to get away. Compromise is the only answer and you would be wise to listen to your partner's point of view. Those who are footloose and fancy free will enjoy encountering an alluring Aries this weekend.



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Pitching the Windows Megapatches

Over the past few months, Microsoft has released significant patch roll-ups for all versions of Windows Vista and Windows XP. They're called Service Packs – Vista Service Pack 1 and XP Service Pack 3, respectively – but the “SP” name doesn't mean much. Windows Service Packs over the years have varied from utterly forgettable to critical.

Windows XP SP2, for example, qualified as a new operating system. It was as different from the original Windows XP as, say, Windows ME was from Windows 98. In fact, more so.

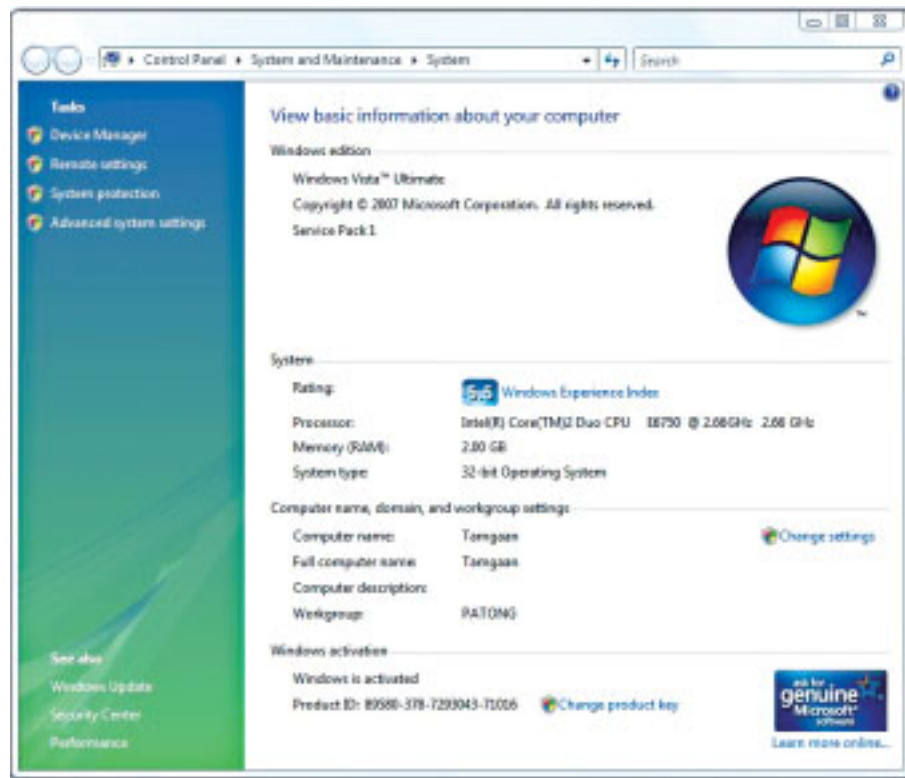
As Service Packs go, WinXP SP3 won't do much to get your heart racing, presuming your heart cares one whit about Windows. WinXP SP3 is a late-life roll-up of various patches, coupled with a few improvements necessary to better handle new types of hardware.

Microsoft emphasizes that this is the last Service Pack for Windows XP. They've finally put WinXP out to pasture, officially. With a few notable exceptions, you won't find XP available on new PCs any more.

The exceptions: Microsoft still allows manufacturers such as ASUS to sell WinXP pre-installed on very small laptops including the EEE. Some vendors such as Dell allow you to buy and pay for both Vista Business and XP Pro – and then ship the computer to you with XP Pro pre-installed. It's called a “downgrade” for reasons I can't fathom.

Microsoft released Windows XP SP3 under duress from its largest corporate customers, who refused to upgrade older machines to Vista – a perfectly reasonable decision. In theory, the big customers are waiting for Windows 7, which is expected to be released in late 2009, before giving up the ghost on Windows XP. Me, I'm certain WinXP will be around for a lot longer.

Vista Service Pack 1, however, offers essentially no new features, but it's an interesting update nonetheless. Microsoft released Vista SP1 primarily for its big corporate customers – have you noticed a theme developing yet? – to stabilize interaction be-



tween Vista PCs and corporate servers running the new Windows Server 2008.

The mechanism for making Vista talk to Server 2008 better? Microsoft, to a first approximation, took all of the “guts” out of Windows Server 2008 and put it inside Vista Service Pack 1. When you install SP1 on a Vista PC, nearly all of the “innards” get replaced with Windows Server 2008 components.

Since Windows Server 2008 is very good at talking to itself (there's some metaphysical truth lurking here somewhere), cloning the insides of Server 2008 and putting it in Vista makes for a much healthier relationship.

Microsoft had many problems with the initial versions of both Windows XP SP3 and Vista SP1. That's expected, upgrading a couple hundred million PCs is bound to pull a number of bugs out of the woodwork. The problems with Vista were so bad that Microsoft had to create special code for its SP1 updater, so PCs running certain kinds of hardware with older drivers don't even get a chance to upgrade to SP1.

The Windows XP SP3 patch had particular problems with certain Hewlett-Packard (HP) computers that use AMD processors, as well as a slew of bad interactions with Norton's security suite.

So, if you were waiting for yet another reason to dump Norton...

People who have been, uh, tricked into installing pirate copies of WinXP or Vista should know that both Vista SP1 and XP SP3 sniff out the most common pirate tricks.

In many cases, if you install Vista SP1 on a pirate copy of Vista, or SP3 on a pirate copy of Windows XP, Windows will warn you after the installation is complete that you may have a pirate copy and give you 30 days to get legal.

You can actually buy a legit copy of Windows online, from Microsoft, for about 6,000 baht. Just follow the links when you're told your copy is “not genuine.” You are issued a valid Product Key emailed to you, instructions and a link to use the Product Key Updater Utility. A genuine CD comes later in the mail. This is a Full Retail License of Windows, which means that it can be moved from one computer to another.

Alternatively, you can buy a legit copy of Windows just about anywhere (including Phuket Alpha, the Apple shop on the third floor of Central) and use the legit key to activate Windows, without having to re-install. For details, see www.microsoft.com/genuine/selfhelp/

If you have Windows Vista Service Pack 1, your System About box looks like this.

PKUInstructions.aspx.

Not sure if you already have WinXP Service Pack 3 or Vista Service Pack 1? Click Start, right-click Computer (in XP, right-click My Computer) and choose Properties. If you have a Service Pack installed, its number appears in the System About box.

To install Vista SP1, if you don't already have it, click Start, All Programs and at the top click Microsoft Update if it's there, or Windows

Update if it isn't.

Look to see if SP1 is among the updates on offer. If it isn't, install all available “important” updates (Note: do not install any Language Packs), reboot your

computer and go back to Windows Update.

If SP1 still isn't available, you probably have one of the problematic drivers. Hop over to support.microsoft.com/ph/11732 and tell Microsoft that “Vista SP1 isn't listed as an available update”. The Softie responding to your email will understand immediately and write with instructions. Note that one-on-one email support for SP1 installation problems is free. Direct from Microsoft. Yes, really.

If you don't have Windows XP SP3, I wouldn't be in any hurry to install it. Keep an eye on my site, www.askwoody.com, and wait for the all-clear. Microsoft still has a way to go with SP3.

Woody Leonhard will be speaking at the International Business Association of Phuket (IBAP) meeting at the Yorkshire Inn on Soi Sansabai, Patong, on August 8, about the current state of Internet connections in Phuket, and the technology that's coming down the pike. For details, see www.ibap-phuket.org

PC Group Therapy Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the Phuket Gazette. On July 6, the PC group convenes at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, and on July 13, we'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe near the entrance to Laguna. July 19 is at Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle next to Wine Connection. And the July 26 session, also in Chalong, will focus on the Mac. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at www.khunwoody.com

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ON THE MOVE

Theera Kanjana has been appointed General Manager at The Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Surin Beach. Before his current assignment, he spent five years at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa as Resident Manager and Food & Beverage Director. His first position with Marriott International was Catering Service Manager at the original Marriott Hotel in Washington DC. He has also worked as Banquet Manager for Marriott hotels in California and helped open the JW Marriott Houston in Texas.



Itt Pamarapa has been appointed Chief Marketing Officer at Bundarika Villa Phuket. He has held senior management positions at Maritime Park & Spa Resort Group in Krabi, Sima Thai Hotel in Bangkok and Barali Beach Resort in Trat. He has also worked at Paragon Car Rental, United Travel Service (Thailand), Ocean World Water Park in Chon Buri and Excalibur. K. Itt has served as Director of the Thailand Incentive & Convention Association and guest lecturer at Chulalongkorn University and Bangkok University.



Anuchit Phangkruea has been promoted from Food & Beverage Manager of The Villa Zolitude Resort and Spa, Phuket, to Hotel Manager. He has worked in the industry since 1987, starting out as Restaurant Captain at Le Meridien President, then moving to the Dusit Resort and Polo Club in Cha-am. Moving to Phuket in 1998, he has worked at Thavorn Beach Village, Laguna Beach Resort, the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and The Racha.



Fish firm plans to hook local mar-

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Phuket-based seafood processor and exporter Thai Ocean Venture Co Ltd (TOV) has announced plans to increase sales of raw tuna fish in Thailand by distributing tuna sashimi products to more retailers and through the opening of a new production plant in Rayong province.

TOV General Manager Sathaporn Bhuyathorn told the *Gazette* that TOV has been supplying cobia and tuna sashimi, as well as other fish dishes, to restaurant chains such as Fuji, Bar-B-Q Plaza, and various hotels for the past five years. He added that few Thai people, however, have tasted tuna sashimi and even fewer realize that the fish is distributed from within Phuket.

K. Sathaporn said that TOV aims to supply tuna sashimi to more retailers such as MK Restaurants, CP Fresh Mart, McDonald's and 7-Eleven.

"We are one of the world's three biggest producers of frozen tuna. Our products are to the same standards whether they are exported or sold within Thailand," he said.

"People mostly know about canned tuna but we have been producing sashimi-grade tuna for a long time," he added.

"Response from the domestic market has been positive and we want to continue raising awareness that Thailand produces



Thai Ocean Venture General Manager Sathaporn Bhuyathorn (center) is confident that his firm will soon be supplying tuna sashimi to retailers such as 7-Eleven and MK Restaurants.

high-quality tuna," he said.

K. Sathaporn added that Thai Ocean Venture does not plan to create its own brand yet and will continue to supply other brands with seafood.

The company is currently

building a second production plant in Amata City, Rayong province, which should be operational this August. The new plant is under construction at a cost of 350 million baht, and will allow TOV to better manage its

logistics as the plant is near Laem Chabang port.

"We are also looking to expand into the Korean market, which is a new market for us," he said.

TOV was founded in 1996

by Phuket native Kanya Yu, who now sits as managing director of the company while her husband, Paol Yu, acts as president.

The company does not own any fishing boats. It buys raw materials from 600 contracted trawlers, buying 6,500 tonnes of raw tuna per year to produce 3,000 tonnes of end product. Of this, 65% is exported to the US and 20% to the EU. The remaining 15% is sold domestically.

"Although the rising cost of fuel makes it difficult to find produce for us to use, we have a team that works hard to find it for us.

Tuna suppliers increased their prices about three months ago, but after meeting with them, a more acceptable price has been agreed. However, instead of raising our prices, we add value to our products for customers," he

Slashed prices buoy US and British retail sales

Retail sales in both the US and the UK have been better than expected, considering the current economic environment. In explaining the reasons for this, Ashok Shah of London & Capital, while acting as guest host on CNBC Europe, said that with the economies becoming worse in these countries, manufacturers and retailers are aggressively discounting their goods.

Their objective is to sell their goods before consumers are under too much stress to buy at all and also to reduce their stock levels. This gives them more capital on hand and helps them to pay some of their debts before conditions deteriorate and capital becomes more expensive, as Shah believes will happen.

A large percentage of banks have inadequate capital bases. Shah believes that with the high leverage that many banks are running, their balance sheets resemble hedge funds more than banks. Obviously, this has to change. Some major banks, for example the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), have already managed to raise substantial funds via rights issues.

Other banks, such as Barclays, are trying to avoid the stigma of having to issue rights to shore up their capital base and have alternative strategies in mind. Barclays, before the credit crunch, had already accepted investments totaling 5% of its share capital by Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), namely Temasek of Singapore and China Development Bank.

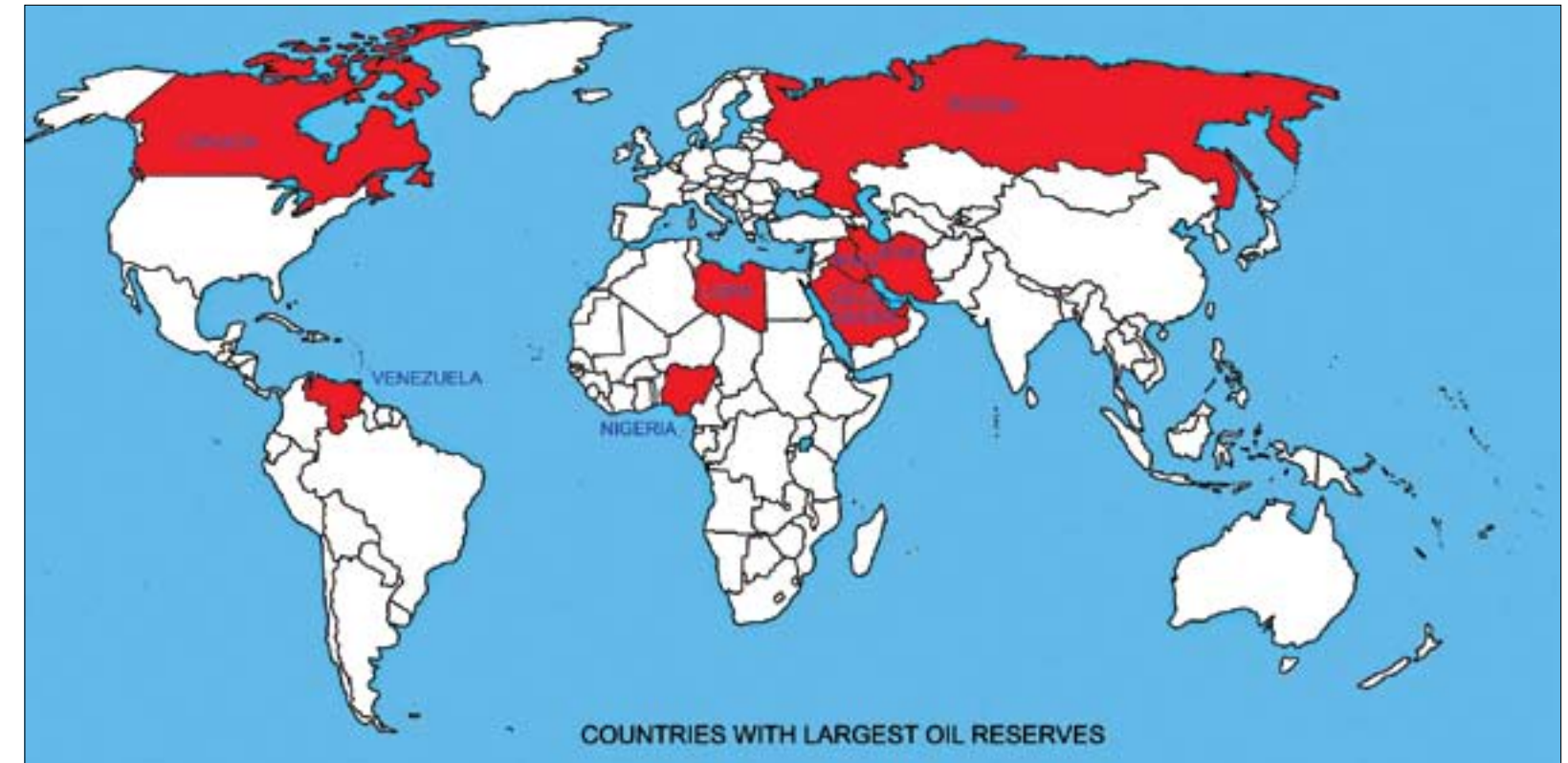
There have been rumors, which Barclays has not denied, that Barclays is talking to six different parties, most of whom are believed to be SWFs.

SWFs, for those who have not been following their development, refer to cash placed into a fund by a government as an investment vehicle for a country's wealth.

There is an increasing number of these funds. In some cases, where a country has been making a windfall from sales of oil and natural gas, an SWF is simply a large savings account to be used when the country's energy reserves are exhausted. The countries involved in these funds include Russia, Norway, Singapore and China.

The assets held in these funds currently exceed US\$3 trillion and, by some estimates, by 2015 they will hold around US\$15 trillion.

China and Singapore are two excellent examples of SWFs that derive their wealth from



current-account surpluses, as opposed to simply selling oil, natural gas and so on, although Singapore is a substantial exporter of refined oil products.

SWFs have already played an important role in helping to overcome acute liquidity problems in a number of global banks. Citigroup of the US is a prime example.

However, SWF involvement has recipient governments, especially the US, very concerned. SWFs are aware of these sensitivities and have kept their shareholding to single digits in percentage terms to effectively remain below the radar screen.

However, providing that SWF shareholding remains relatively low, governments are going to have to accept their involvement. First, banks in a number of countries are in urgent need of capital infusions and without SWF involvement this could turn into a nasty banking crisis.

Banks that have inadequate capital bases cannot operate properly as banks by lending money. When this happens we end up with a credit crisis that weakens business and consumer sectors alike.

Banking crises are not new, but it is the manner in which they are dealt with that makes the difference.

Here are two examples. First, during the recession of the early 1990s, the US had widespread problems in its savings and loans industry – that is, mortgage lenders. The US government actively tackled the problem and within two years conditions were back to normal.

Around the same time, Japan also had a banking crisis. However, the Japanese govern-



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G.

ment seemed to be under the impression that if you ignored a banking crisis, it would disappear. They were wrong and the crisis lasted a decade.

Banks were massively under-capitalized. Some of their corporate customers were in such poor shape that they were called "zombie companies".

Many of these companies

The map shows the top 10 countries in terms of size of oil re-

were only able to survive by repeated infusions of cash from their bankers, but in reality the system in places was rotten to the core.

Eventually, the Japanese government had to concede that the situation would never improve on its own and measures were taken that solved the crisis. This is still referred to as "the lost decade".

In addition to simple capital infusion to the banking sector, what will also be required is M&A – mergers and acquisitions. Many banks are now finding that a major source of their profits,

namely selling structured products, has disappeared and they have lost a significant part of their earnings stream that will not recover even when conditions improve.

Yes, we do live in interesting times, but boring is better for the nerves.

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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Celebs set to tee-up for charity

CHERNG TALAY: Laguna Phuket will on July 26 play host to a bevy of TV personalities, who will be on the island for a round of charity golf at the Laguna course followed by a dinner and auction at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

Fifteen members of ESPN Star Sports' football-broadcasting team will be joined by former Aston Villa football star Peter Withe.

To join in the fun and play a round of golf while raising money for charity, golfers can choose a corporate (30,000 baht for three players to team up with a celeb) or standard (28,000 baht for a team of four) team package. The format for the tourney will be a four-person Texas scramble.

Tickets for the dinner are 2,500 baht and are available at the Golf Club Pro Shop at Laguna.

Funds from this year's event will be donated to improving the health and safety standards of a school in Phang-nga province.

For more information or to book a place contact the Golf Club Pro Shop at Laguna Phuket. Tel: 076-324374. Email: timh@lagunaphuket.com

Winning Wimbledon with a confidence trick

Roger Federer, who is considered by many to be the greatest player to ever swing a racket, recently lost to Rafael Nadal 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 in a one-sided affair at the French Open. There are several explanations, but this loss likely stems from a lack of confidence.

Federer is confident in almost all areas of his game, but when it came to facing Nadal on the Philippe Chatrier court on the final Sunday of the Roland Garros, the cracks started to appear and he simply did not seem confident.

Move from Paris to London and from clay to grass and you see a much happier Federer. There are big differences in the playing surface, with grass being much quicker due to the lower bounce. The type of movement is also different due to the lack of slide.

But for all the differences in the venue, confidence will be key if Federer is to defend his title at Wimbledon for the sixth straight year after coming off such a hard loss to his arch rival, Nadal was close to winning last year, but will he be ready should that kind of opportunity come



Roger Federer is looking to notch up his sixth straight Wimbledon title this month, but after losing in straight sets to Rafael Nadal at the French Open, questions are being asked about how much Federer believes in himself.

around again?

Confidence is something to ingrain into young tennis students from an early age. Children often don't need to see any proof

to believe; if they trust their tennis coach, they will believe.

People tend to believe in themselves and the unknown far more when they are children than when they are a bit older.

If you believe in a realistic goal when you are young and you reach that goal, it reinforces what you are capable of and casts away the doubts that start creeping in as you age.

It is here that coaches play a dangerous game by telling parents that their children can achieve unrealistic goals, which often sets the children up for a fall, placing huge financial, emotional and physical pressure on families and students.

It is better to be honest, even if it means a less in the bank for the coach at the end of the month.

Everyone has physical limitations that have to be understood and respected. It is a coach's job

to fulfill a player's potential, which for most people is not at a world-class level. Pushing beyond physical limits also causes injuries.

Tennis is all about having fun, enjoying friendly competition and staying healthy.

Can Federer win Wimbledon this year? Sure he can. He just needs to believe. Look at Andre Agassi, who in 1998 made a career comeback and jumped from 141 to sixth in the world rankings. He believed – and he went on to win the French Open and the US Open the following year.

Darran Ferre is a 17-year full-time tennis pro based at Indigo Pearl. He has worked around the world with players of all ages and abilities. He can be contacted by emailing darranferre@hotmail.com

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DROPPING IN: Phuket's best board riders are expected to turn out for the annual Kalim Surfing Contest July 18-20.

Wave riders set for Kalim surf jam

KALIM: Surf's up and the surfing season will splash out in style with the fourth annual Kalim Surfing Contest, organized by the Phuket Boardriders Club.

The event will take place July 18 to 20 with the aim of promoting surfing to the masses and encouraging sustainable tourism in Phuket.

The Kalim Surfing Contest every year attracts surfers from the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Three divisions will be competed in: open shortboard, longboard (boards more than eight feet long) and grom (for surfers 14 years old and under).

In the open shortboard event, competitors will face off against one another in a series of heats, spread over the three days until the eventual winner is crowned. First prize is 10,000 baht, a trophy and a range of prizes from the competition sponsors.

The grom division is open to a maximum of 16 competitors who are free to use any kind of board and will duel on the waves in heats held on July 19 and 20. Top prize is 7,000 baht, a trophy and another ensemble of goodies from sponsors.

Up to 24 surfers will face off in the longboard division, which will also span the three days. As well as the collection of sponsors' donated prizes, the winner will receive 5,000 baht and a trophy.

Prices will be awarded to the top four surfers in all three categories.

Registration will open from 7:35 am until 8:25 am on July 18.

Spectators are invited to attend the event while surfers can check on the full timetable and find out how to enter at www.phuketboardriders.com Alternatively, call K. Joob at 081-9565854.

Marriott sports day



KOH KAEW: JW Marriott hosted its annual sports day on June 7 at British International School.

About 400 people attended the event, with Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima as the guest of honor.

The games kicked off at 9 am with teams from 13 Marriott brands facing off in games of tennis, table tennis, takraw, volleyball, badminton, basketball and football.

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Flying Fish scores at SEA champs

PHUKET: Phuket's Flying Fish have been in action over the past few weeks, with star swimmer Bianca Goetz coming away with a bronze medal in the 100-meter freestyle at the 32nd SEA Age Group Championships at Thammasat University in Bangkok, held June 20 to 22 for swimmers aged 11 to 17 years old.

Bianca, 13, a Eurasian-Singaporean, made her debut for the Singapore National Youth Swimming Team as part of a 63-strong squad.

Extremely nervous and out of her comfort zone, Bianca took part in three individual events: the 100m freestyle, the 200m freestyle and the 400m freestyle.

The first day's event was the 400m freestyle, marking only the third time that Bianca had swum the discipline. Bianca swam a personal best time of 4:45.92 to place fifth overall.

On Day 2, Bianca was up in the 200m freestyle, finishing in



Bianca Goetz was the pride of Phuket when she won a bronze medal representing Singapore at this year's 32nd SEA Age Group Championships in Bangkok, held June 20 to 22.

2:16.92, narrowly missing out on third place to finish fourth.

The final day's event was the 100m freestyle. By this time, Bianca was relaxed and ready to fight for a medal. She swam a personal best of 1:02.93, which

won her bronze.

Bianca said that she is looking forward to competing for Singapore again and that she has her eyes set on the Youth Olympics, which will be hosted by Singapore in 2010.

While Bianca was going for gold in Singapore, her Flying Fish teammates were in action at Saphan Hin for the Phuket Sports Association's annual Phuket Sprint Meet on June 21 and 22.

Clubs from around Southern Thailand were invited to join the event, with 21 clubs signing on and sending 413 swimmers, ranging from six to 18 years old.

The Flying Fish swam to 10th place in the overall team standings, with three swimmers taking trophies in their respective age groups.

Karnika Porter won third place in the category for swimmers born in 1992, while Melisa Kegans finished third for swimmers born in 1995. Pathomphop

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Patong road finally gets surface

PATONG: While awaiting 300 million baht for the construction of the Phang Muang Sai Kor Rd, the new road running north-south through Patong, the local municipality is putting up 7.5 million baht for a temporary road surface to help ease the current traffic load.

Phunsak Naksena, Patong Town Clerk, told the *Gazette* that construction of the three-kilometer-long road is expected begin within three years with a date for completion yet to be set. In the meantime, the road has been graded and a temporary surface of gravel and asphalt will be used.

The Phuket Province Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office (PPWT) surveyed the road and determined that 300 million baht will be needed to complete the project. When finished, the road will be 20 meters wide with 1.5-m footpaths on either side. About 500m of the road has already been paved, K. Phunsak said.

"We finished the part of the road near Simon Cabaret about five years ago. There are now two sections left to work on: from Patong Hospital to Jungceylon and from Jungceylon to where the concrete begins near Sirirat Rd."

"This road was under the responsibility of Phuket Provincial Rural Roads Office and has been in the planning stage since 1996. The road, which will be the third main road in Patong, will pass behind Jungceylon, connecting Pra Barami Rd to Sirirat Rd," K. Phunsak explained.

"The provincial committee assigned this road under the responsibility of Patong Municipality as we are the local administration. Now we have to find the budget for this project by ourselves," he said.

An issue with the drainage system of the road means that the original plan is currently being revised. "We found that the road-side drainage should be improved as it is located in a lowland area prone to flooding. We are working to improve the original plan, but because of the large amount of money needed for the project, we are unable to begin construction," said K. Phunsak.

"The cost could escalate to more than 300 million baht," he added.

Funding for temporary surfacing of the stretch of road outside Jungceylon was donated by the shopping mall.

The construction contractor for the temporary road surface is PNK Construction Co Ltd with work expected to be finished by the end of July.

The road is currently usable, although large stretches are hindered by surfacing work and uneven terrain.



Patong Municipality is putting up 7.5 million baht for a temporary surface on the new road through Patong to help ease the current traffic load.

Radisson to open high-end resort

CAPE PANWA: The newest addition to Radisson Hotels & Resorts global brand will be the Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach, which will be the first Radisson Plaza property in Southeast Asia. One of 400 Radissons in 64 countries, the Plaza Phuket is expected to open its doors in October.

Construction of the resort began in June 2007 and about 80% of the building work is completed, said Kimberley Sproule, marketing communications manager of Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach.

Designed by Thai architect Paisit Thirakasetchai and built by Arun Chaiseri Consulting Engineers Co Ltd, the resort is located on 25 rai of land at Panwa Bay.

There will be 211 rooms at the resort,

including 14 Ocean Villas and 15 Pool Villas with outdoor salas.

The Lower Pool Bar and Lobby Lounge will accompany two restaurants at the resort, all designed with an aquatic theme.

"The resort will have a lot of facilities for kids, as well as three lagoon-style swimming pools, a fitness center and climbing wall. There will also be yoga and an assortment of additional activities," said Mrs Sproule.

"The resort is built over a number of low-rise structures with individual facilities



The sun rises at one of the pool villas at the Radisson Plaza Phuket.

and accommodations similar to a village-like setting. Three dividable meeting rooms, including a ballroom, are available. The ballroom has floor-to-ceiling windows that fill the room with natural light," she added.

"The Radisson Plaza Phuket will introduce a premium product into the local market place. The team wants to further establish

Cape Panwa as an up-and-coming destination for MICE [meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions] visitors," said Mrs Sproule.

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Home of the Week

Kathu

Nothing rough about golf home

The Phuket Country Club provides the setting for this issue's Home of the Week, a semi-detached townhome sitting on a 328-square-meter plot surrounded by fairways and lush landscaping.

Located alongside the 15th fairway, the home has spectators' views of the greens and panoramic views of the hills while contemporary styling and the use of screens ensures complete privacy to residents.

This modern and newly built townhome offers three levels of living space and a carport on the main level.

The style used throughout the 260sqm interior area borders on minimalist and boasts clean, crisp lines with open areas adding accents of tropical living.

Complementing the style, the townhome has been decorated with tasteful art, light fixtures and furniture made with natural materials.

The carport on the ground floor leads to the living area, which includes the dining room, kitchen and a bathroom. The fully fitted European kitchen features a stove-top built into the worktop, a grill, oven and microwave, while

the dining room is set to comfortably accommodate a dinner party of eight.

The living room features a host of decorative features, such as built-in shelving with wide-screen TV and many ornaments.

Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors and windows comprise one wall of the room, offering views of the golf course and allowing in natural light.

Just beyond the glass panels is a private patio with an 18sqm swimming pool overlooking the townhome's own landscaped gardens.

A master bedroom featuring a small sitting area and walk-in closet occupies the second level with a private living area and designer bathroom. Glass doors offer more views and lead to a small balcony.

Glass walls in the master bathroom add a modern element and afford views of the natural surroundings, though the fitted Venetian blinds can be closed for complete privacy.

The third level features two more bedrooms, both with en-suite bathrooms and private balconies. All bedrooms have hardwood floors and plenty of



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: Large windows with attractive screening allow natural light in while keeping the home cool.

closet space.

Adding to the townhome's modern feel are state-of the art

recessed lighting and dimmers, a water-filtration system and broadband Internet access. The

energy saving Infinity glazing system with its pivoting "full wall opening" means that the large window and door panes can be opened to expand and fully integrate the indoor and outdoor areas.

Other energy saving features include generous overhangs and timber screens to provide extended shade to reduce the need for artificial cooling. The need for artificial lighting is also reduced with sections of the roof made of glass to allow natural light into bathrooms and stairwells, which also adds to the feeling of spaciousness.

Centrally located in Kathu, this condo provides luxury living with absolute golf course frontage. The neighborhood is home to many new housing developments and continues to enjoy growth.

The townhome is available freehold at 13.5 million baht.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Quote reference number: HSILD1789. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com

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Design

By Semacote Suganya

Canadian designer Paul Raff's latest vision of modern tropical living in Phuket is the recently launched Bluepoint luxury apartment development in Patong. Aptly named, Bluepoint apartments have a sweeping view of Patong Bay and the blue waters beyond, which dictated many of the design features so that residents can make the most of the hillside view.

The boutique development on a rai and a half is a trio of three-story buildings arranged in a fan shape, allowing each of the 20 condominium units a 270° view of Patong Beach and the bay with seven-meter-wide, floor-to-ceiling windows that can be fully folded away to reveal the panorama.

A variety of floor plans were conceived for the one- to three-bedroom condominium units ranging from 107 to 240 square meters. There are nine landscaped rooftop garden penthouses and eight plunge pool garden homes, all facing the bay with facades of sculptured timber louvers.

The wooden facades of the apartments are Paul Raff's way of integrating the development with its tropical surroundings, something he was inspired to do with earlier projects in Phuket in order to minimize the visual disharmony of the buildings among natural surroundings and to enhance the project's concept of being close to nature.

One significant challenge for the developers was wrapping the timber louvers around the units with swelling curves rather than straight lines.

Roland Bleszynski, managing director of Abode Development, Bluepoint's development management team, explained, "We chose Paul Raff Studio to design Bluepoint because we wanted a modern tropical design.

Designer viewing



The fan-shaped Bluepoint development is designed to integrate with the natural surroundings and make the most of the 270° view of Patong Bay.

Our top priority was to make the most of the view, which was achieved with the wide windows."

"The concept of the curved wood is a beautiful one, which hasn't been done to such an extent before, so it was an engineering challenge, but one we eventually solved by using a wood and PVC combination. This also helps protect the wood for a long time, reducing damage from exposure to the elements," he said.

The triangular penthouse building is perched behind and above the main buildings and has broad wooden balconies extending at the front to provide shade for the apartments below. Two sides of the building are covered with curved wooden facades designed to ensure privacy by re-

stricting the view into the apartments from the outside while allowing the occupants to see out.

The materials used in the exterior walls and the flat rooftops were selected for their energy-saving properties. Mr Bleszynski explained that the wooden facades provide shade to prevent direct sunlight heating the apartments up.

"You don't see much of the concrete used in the buildings as most of it is covered with wood. This serves the double purpose of keeping things cool and blending in with the surroundings. The curves are also tapered to 'frame' the view of the sea," he said.

"All the building materials used were selected with the aim of creating a sustainable, ecological solution that will keep future

maintenance costs to a minimum," he added.

For a contemporary tropical look, the buildings are formed with clean architectural lines, topped with flat roofs so as not to disrupt the view for others.

"Most developments in Phuket have pitched roofs because we get a lot of rain here, but we wanted flat roofs in keeping with the modern tropical minimalist concept. It also ensures that all the occupants can enjoy unobstructed views of the bay," said Mr Bleszynski.

Another energy-saving adaptation rarely considered by developers is locating external air-conditioning units in shaded areas. "Air-conditioning compressors are usually located on the side or roof of a building, which doesn't

look nice. If they are positioned in direct sunlight, they are put under strain to keep the place cool, so we placed the air-conditioning units where they can't be seen – in the shade underneath the balconies.

Other cooling concepts include water features surrounding the apartments, shade provided by the ample greenery and elements incorporated into the design that allow air to flow through the apartments.

Varieties of stone and wood are used for the flooring with the choice of two interior design concept packages for buyers: Tropical Contemporary and Tropical Modern. Both concepts use a combination of color co-ordinated natural and fabricated materials conceived by Bangkok-based designers Onion Workshop.

Even the car-parking area has a unique design. Latticed wood creates shade for vehicles. Its crisscross pattern hides cars from view and creates interesting patterns of light and shade.

"We don't want to be able to see air-conditioning units and cars from the apartments. The only thing visible should be wood and greenery," said Mr Bleszynski.



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Protecting the endangered cash cow

The property market in Phuket is unique, rare and endangered. For the duration of the real-estate boom of the past six years, its growth has been driven almost entirely by cash. Finding similar models, though they do exist, is hard. It's a true idiosyncrasy, even within other markets in Thailand.

While Bangkok, Hua Hin or Pattaya, for example, are driven more from the domestic market along with some foreign investment, our island is a virtual cash cow when it comes buying villas, condos and lifestyle investments.

With the market softening over the past 12 months, together with a spate of new projects entering the arena, new options are emerging for buyers.

Banks in Thailand are not allowed to loan money to foreigners. Over the years, this regulation has plagued the market, especially for buyers looking for investment-grade properties.

Overseas hot spots, such as London, Australia and even Hong Kong and Singapore, allow the leveraging of units with the ability to obtain financing. For resort



properties in Spain, in areas such as the Costa del Sol, buyers can secure financing over a long term with a small down payment.

The winds of change have arrived with Bangkok Bank out

Mortgages for buying condominiums with freehold ownership, such as some of the units at the Bay Cliff development (above), are available to buyers.

of Singapore offering foreigners the option to finance freehold condominium units. There are some restrictions, including an age limit of 65 and that terms not exceed 20 years.

Loans may be secured in three currencies: euros, US dollars and Singapore dollars. Applicable interest rates depend on the relevant currency. Security for the loan will be on the condominium title.

Since loans for condominium units will be secured on titles, only 49% of the freehold units in a development will be open to this type of loan.

Leasehold condominiums are not eligible as they lack the title documents required for loan security.

Processing of documentation early on may be done through domestic branches of the bank, but the final processing approval will be with Bangkok Bank's Singapore office.

There are a number of requirements in documentation so it's best to check with the bank on exactly what is required.

While this is a positive move, it addresses only the condominium market and not the luxury villa developments so prevalent in Phuket.

Seasoned speculators in property anywhere in the world look to get the most from their money; leveraging up property with manageable debt is a good use of funds that allows investors to spread risk across a wider range of properties within their own portfolios.

No foreign-buyer financing is yet on offer for the ailing leasehold and villa products in the market. With some notable exceptions, including Laguna Phuket's successful Dusit-hotel-managed projects and a handful of developer's self-financed offers, there is little diversity or choice except to part with the entire purchase price of your

dream house.

While Bangkok Bank's offering is a breath of fresh air, in order to attract a larger and more diverse base of customers from abroad, Phuket needs more financing options.

New initiatives are often borne as a knee-jerk reaction – perhaps a downturn coupled together with rising inflation will cause financial institutions and the government to reduce restrictions on foreigners obtaining loans and recognize the importance attracting international investment.

Our industry, along with tourism, is a bright spot on a cloudy horizon and there's potentially a much wider audience interested to invest in Phuket.

As for now, when buying that next piece of paradise, you'll still be asked to "Show me the money".

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (www.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.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

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6.1 rai in Mai Khao. Chanote. Tel: 084-4413871. Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

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Resort in Chiang Rai situated in a beautiful place in natural surroundings including lychee trees and 2,500 Arabica coffee trees. Convenient location in the middle of Chiang Rai, just a 25-minute drive from airport, 35 minutes from town, and 20 minutes to tourist attractions. Comprises 23 guests rooms and 1 conference room. 50 rai at 39 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner's representative. Email talayjan@yahoo.com for more details.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

SINGLE HOUSE

Pa Khlok, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 310sqm. Tel: 081-5365030.

KOH SAMUI LAND FOR SALE

2 rai with one house, six bungalows and 10 row houses. Ideal for rentals. Near beach. Chanote title. Asking price: 30 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai, Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Boudha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jlhshand@gmail.com

BANG TAO HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, Sat TV, ADSL, fully furnished, 2 parking spaces. Tel: 084-8516121. www.phukethome.ws

LOOKING FOR INVESTMENT?

Looking for an investment: any land or uncompleted project? Please contact Michael with information. Tel: 081-8937720. Email: m@bayproject.com Visit our website at www.bayproject.com

KATA SEAVIEW LAND

1,100sqm, full sea view, access road, electricity. Includes plans for 19 apartments. 12.5 million baht. This is the best land. Contact Tim. Tel: 087-8938747.

LAND PLOT 2.3 MILLION BAHT

900sqm. Land plot with underground electricity and water supply in quiet, secure community next to Mission Hills golf course. For sale at only 2.3 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 081-2712825.

MODERN BUILDING IN NAIYANG

Amazing property is 4 rai, 44 rooms, 8 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, Jacuzzi, air-conditioned, fully furnished, 7 minutes (4.5 km) from Phuket International Airport. Price: 30 million baht.



For full details contact Tel: 087-6899679. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

TOWNHOUSE, MODERN STLYE



Townhouse: 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 120sqm, near Vichit temple. Tel: 084-0645908.

BEACH FRONT, 5.9 MILLION BAHT



Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build on, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180 meters of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

VIDEO REAL ESTATE SITE

Thailand's first national video property portal has just been launched. Sell your own property with video or photos and download your free "for sale" sign. Email: admin@idevelop.tv For further details visit our website at www.thailandproperty.tv

POOL VILLA

BangTao, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sat TV, ADSL. Big living room, 2 car-parking spaces. 6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121. Website: www.phukethome.ws

VILLA IN BANG TAO

10 mins to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-8976998 (English), 089-6995136 (Thai).

KOH SAMUI SEAVIEW LAND

Hillside sea view on Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm, or 2 rai. Chanote. Tel: 02-277-1992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-9610072. Email: phara wee@yahoo.com For further details, please visit www.lovesamui.com

HOUSE ON CHALONG BAY

Quiet location in Chalong Bay, Khao Khad area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, fully equipped kitchen, fully furnished, freehold. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8528096.

HOUSE IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, 2 floors on 222sqm of land. 7.95 million baht. Tel: 081-9251730.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

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Property Gazette

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket Airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

CHALONG VILLA



800sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. Tel: 084-0645908.

GOLFER'S PARADISE LAND

opposite Mission Hills Golf Course. 1.43 rai, Chanote title. Only 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-8924126. Email: jaron@khaokhad.com

HOUSE NEAR BIS

2-story house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with ample parking space and nice landscape. Total area: 336sqm. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7247073. Email: jutima021@hotmail.com

DETACHED HOUSE, YANUI

2-bedroom, own parking, swimming pool. 3.4 million baht. Tel: 084-8486139.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE NEAR BIS

3-bedroom waterfront townhouse for sale. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-238948. Email: info@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, see our website: www.phuketpropertytrip.com

SPACIOUS NEW VILLA



New European-style villa in quiet area in Rawai. Quality building, large living area and huge terrace, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 bathrooms (en suite), 1 separate guest toilet, Western kitchen, laundry, garage, wall and gate, tropical garden, True TV, 650sqm plot, Chanote title. Price: 9.5 million baht. Contact Paula. Tel: 084-844-1486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

2-BEDROOM VILLA

Kamala, 2 bedrooms, swimming pool and Jacuzzi, very nice area. 7.5 million baht. 50% private finance may be offered. Chanote title. Tel: 081-1873451. Email: paulilley@yahoo.co.uk

BEACHFRONT LAND

2 large plots, west coast beach, undeveloped, suitable for large hotel or condo development. Serious inquiries by email: info@phuketpropertyinvestor.com

THAI STYLE HOME

near Laguna. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 150sqm of living area. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

PATONG STUDIO

fully renovated and furnished 1.95 million baht, freehold. Tel: 089-9715664.

PATONG CONDOS, FREEHOLD

2 freehold condos in Patong. 1 bedroom, 54sqm each. Just 350m to the beach. 4.6 million baht/unit. Under construction. Will be fully furnished. Tel: 081-9793369. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

- * 4 stories
 - * 8 apartments on floors 2, 3, 4
 - * Chanote title
 - * Electricity, water
 - * 2 minutes to the beach
- Asking price: 52 million baht.
Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

SHOPHOUSE PATONG

Tel: 087-8817600. 65 steps to Bangla Rd. Please see our website at www.phuketshophouse.com

EXCEPTIONAL BARGAIN

House located in desirable and secure estate. For sale at 6.9 million baht. 3 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen, diner, veranda, ADSL, True TV. Fenced garden about 500sqm, use of clubhouse and pool, furnished. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

3.5 rai in Chalong with access road and utilities. 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-949-6480. Email: thipsee84@hotmail.com

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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

CONTEMPORARY VILLA



4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms (master with double Jacuzzi), 4m x 12m pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden set on a 1,606sqm land plot with more than 400sqm of living area. Tel: 081-970-7019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

LUXURY HOUSE



for sale or rent. Mission Heights community, 5 mins from Mission Hills Golf Club. House 270sqm, 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms with bath and shower, large Western kitchen, 90sqm pool complete with seating area, fully furnished throughout, complete with solar heating. Tel: 089-4720918.

EXCEPTIONAL BARGAIN

House located in desirable and secure estate for sale at 6.9 million baht. 3 bedrooms (2 with en suite), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen/diner, storage/laundry room. Veranda up and downstairs, fitted furnishings, ADSL, & True TV. Fenced garden, approx 500sqm, use of estate clubhouse and swimming pool nearby. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

3.5 million baht, 1 minute to Chalong pier, 34sq wah, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, unfurnished, 3 telephone numbers. Nice, quiet & safe area. Contact Kay. Negotiable. Tel: 076-236590, 081-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH LAND

7 rai, good location. Chanote available, roadside plot. Contact Alex for details. Tel: 089-7231682. Email: patongland@gmail.com

FOR SALE

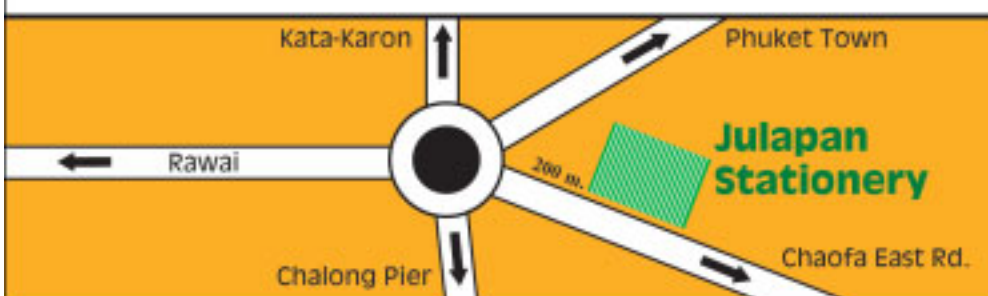
Two 5-rai plots (8,493sqm and 8,46sqm) in Tambon Thepkasattri, Thalang. Almost level, dry, secluded land near Thalang east side. Adjacent land already built on with large, elegant houses. Titles: full Chanote, water, electricity. 1.5m baht/rai. Contact Michael. Tel: 076-521591. Fax: 076-521592. Email: kerryt@southwest.com.au

YAMU HILLS, PA KHLOK

Private Land, fully developed. Sea view, Chanote, 4 million baht per rai. For more information contact Royal Coast Co Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-3966060. Email: earn1008@mac.com

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LAND IN AO NANG

4 rai in Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

KHAO LAK HOUSE/VILLA

1 rai of Khao Lak land (Chanote) with house/villa for sale. Top residential area close to Bang Niang Beach. For details call 081-7874043 (Eng) or 081-8825069 (Thai). Email: wolly.woerner@subaqua-khaolak.com

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

3km from Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, newly furnished, community pool. 2.75 million baht. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-5358767, 0011-760-7808584 (US). Email: phuketone@gmail.com

BANGLA SHOPHOUSE

for sale. Ideal investment. Serious buyers only. No agents. Tel: 081-8306007. Email: ksachakul@gmail.com

CHIANG MAI LUXURY HOME

Exquisite 4-bedroom home in landscaped estate, 10 minutes from town. Fully furnished and adorned with antique art pieces. 17.5 million baht. A unique investment opportunity. Tel: 053-862450, 081-4726494. Email: chris@chiangmailifestyle.com Website: www.chiangmailifestyle.com

HOUSE, RAWAI

for sale. 4 million baht. Living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 terraces, carport, own water. Tel: 084-8463826.

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

CHALONG, 3 BEDROOMS



Rent or sale. Luxury 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house, 5 mins walk to beach, in small, quiet development, open-plan living area, wooden floors, Italian kitchen, ADSL, True TV. Must see. Long-term rent: 39,000 baht/month. For sale at 7 million baht. Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

BAAN ROCK GARDEN BYPASS 5

New two-story houses for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, large garden. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8684644.

BEACHFRONT, CHALONG

4- and 2-bedroom furnished houses. Bay views, swimming pools. 10,000 and 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4706104.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

DETACHED HOUSE, YANUI

2 bedrooms, own parking, swimming pool. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8486139.

SURIN APARTMENT

50sqm, 700 metres to the beach. Pool and restaurant. From 10,000 baht per week. Tel: +66-70-7327657. Email: matsivarbergstrom@spray.se

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.



For more information email a.pueng@gmail.com

THAI-STYLE HOUSE



for rent. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, True TV, aircon, hot water, kitchen, private terrace with sea view, on the hill opposite Safari Pub. Tropical garden. 40,000 baht/month. 1-year contract. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

KATHU - NEW HOUSE

Newly built modern house near Loch Palm. 3 bedrooms, aircon, European kitchen. Rent: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-3355408. Email: nokskelton_c29@yahoo.co.uk www.phuketrental.googlepages.com/home

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.

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.

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Ham 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.

HOUSE RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in to. Tel: 089-6628733.

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking 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 Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com www.phuketislandhomes.com

NEW TOWNHOUSE

for rent near British International School. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

OFFICE: 12,000 BAHT PER MONTH

40sqm on 1st floor. Separate toilet, Phuket City. Tel: 081-3317693. Email: chayath@gmail.com

RAWAI POOL RESIDENCE



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 9,000 baht per month. 100m from Rawai Temple. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: p.pimada@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE (BAANDON)



Sales & rent near Laguna, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, just bring your bag. 23,000 baht/month, 1-year contract. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

SURIN APARTMENTS

Beautiful 3-bedroom and 1-bedroom apartments 100m from the beach available for short- (3 months) and long-term lease. Please email jgstryker@gmail.com

HOUSE RENTAL

Waterside 2-story house at Land & Houses. Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, 4 aircons. Long-term rental from August: 40,000 baht/month, negotiable. Includes ADSL. Contact Khun Nee. Tel: 076-367077.

LAND RENTAL/SALE

Rawai, Nai Ham, good prices. We have it, we find it or we make it. Contact K. Bua or K. Sue. Tel: 085-7955383, 087-8974421.

MAGNIFICENT SEA VIEWS



over Phang Nga and sandy fringed islands. Spacious private villa, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large garden and swimming pool. Internet, security. In Cape Yamu, only 10 mins to BIS and Marina. No dogs. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

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

NEW HOUSE

for rent. Thalang, 3 Bedrooms, 142sqm, True TV, furnished. Only 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-1824505.

HOUSE IN PHANG NGA

for rent. A traditional Thai-house situated near Phang Nga Town. It has a beautiful view, natural surroundings, on the way to Sa Nang Manora Forest Park. 2 bedrooms. Monthly rent: 20,000 baht. Includes water and electricity. Please contact K. Poo. Email: rukwith@yahoo.com

WANT TO RENT AT LAGUNA?

Allamanda apartment or reasonably priced Laguna townhouse wanted for long-term rent. Tel: 086-9920777. Email: jbettles@emtex.com

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for rent or sale (27.5 million baht). 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

FOR RENT, RAWAI



2-bedroom house, aircon, cable TV, Internet. Short-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-0912905.

5-BEDROOM HOME WITH POOL NEAR BIS

Luxury house with swimming pool. 100,000 Baht/month. Tel: 076-239839, 081-877-9292. Fax: 076-239839. Email: prakaisiroj@hotmail.com

CAPE PANWA LUXURY HOME

5 Bedrooms, overlooking bay, long term, Chalong. New home, beautiful 3 bedrooms. Nai Ham condos, 2 bedrooms, 100m to the beach. Tel: 087-8794421 (Khun Sue), 083-3904176 (Khun Bua).

BEAUTIFUL DETACHED HOUSE

Well maintained, fully furnished, all services, parking, tropical garden, quiet. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9795755. Email: info@sawasdeephuketproperty.com

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13 meters. 185 Hino engine with auto trans. Registered for 12 pax. Wood and fiberglass, Thai built. Outriggers, fish finder and depth finder. Pics available. 600,000 baht. Tel: 076-388478, 083-5207308. Email: gerrybfoster@hotmail.com

24 FOOT CRUISER

2-liter Nissan diesel I/O. Wood and fiberglass, water, toilet, depth sounder, radio. Photo available. Priced for quick sale: 250,000 baht. Tel: 06-388478, 083-5207308. Email: gerrybfoster@hotmail.com

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SEA DOO JET BOAT



1996 Speedster, 2 x 85hp reconditioned Rotax engines and new road-legal trailer. Excellent condition. 380,000 baht. Tel: 081-0888271. Email: capt@loxinfo.co.th

33-FOOT WOODEN HULL

in perfect condition, 10 years old, 2 engines, Yamaha V6, 200hp, 250 hours, 900,000 baht. Contact Jano. Tel: 083-5905464.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

52-foot charter yacht, successfully run by couple in Phuket for 10 years. Price: US\$95,000. Tel: 081-677-1641.

FIBERGLASS SPEEDBOAT

for sale, Thai registered 11-meter fiberglass hull, perfect condition, 3 years old, 2 engines: Yamaha V6 200hp. 990,000 baht. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-8955628. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com

SPEEDBOAT WANTED

33ft + speedboat required. Please send photo with details of age, specs and engine running hours, etc. Up to 1 million baht. Tel: 084-8463816. Email: gesine_sdl@hotmail.com

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Info at Typhoon Sails website: www.typhoonsails.com/stiletto.html

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795,000 baht. Call or email for details. Tel: 076-521133, 087-8945643. Email: lordknivett@yahoo.co.uk

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4 Stroke. Excellent condition. Tel: 086-2781291.

SPEEDBOAT HULL

37-foot wooden hull, 2 years old, perfect condition. 275,000 baht. Contact Nicolas (Tel: 081-7286188) or Kat (Tel: 084-7463032). Email: nicolaswinckler@hotmail.fr

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

33-foot wooden hull, perfect condition, 10 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

10-METER CATAMARAN



New! 4 double-berth cabins, 37sqm sailing area, 9hp 4-stroke Honda. Built in 2008 in wood epoxy composite. 590,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

THAI-REGISTERED SPEEDBOAT



with two Yamaha 200 engines in good condition. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 085-7820586, 087-8846788.

FAMILY SAILING DINGHY

4.52m/15ft. Easy sail for husband-wife, parent-child combos. Outstanding stability and fiberglass hull. Designed to be sailed by a man and a woman. Can deliver exciting performance without using spinnaker or trapeze. Small class on island, so can race. Four hours free tuition with sale. 125,000 baht. Wind comes free. Tel: 081-539-9560. Email: oystcove@loxinfo.co.th

CENTER CONSOLE, 6-METER IMPORT

Our best bargain! Quick sale for cash. Contact Andrew. Tel: 081-8941530, 083-3927150. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com



PRE-OWNED BOAT SELECTION



This boat is a perfect motor yacht for coastal and blue water cruising in style and comfort. A catamaran needs no hydraulic stabilizers like most trawlers or power yachts and doesn't roll underway or at the anchorage. Beside it, the two hulls allow for privacy of the owners and their guests or children.

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47' Garcia Passoa 47 - 1990
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875,000 GBP
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Nerreschoff 50

Price reduction

\$200,000 USD



Riviera 3000

3,300,000 THB

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tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
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
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3217
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: yachthaven@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 7879408
tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com



Find more classified ads

"Boats & Marine"

at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

Gallery Manager

- Female
- Bachelor's degree
- Strong English-language skills essential
- Strong computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be prepared to work six days a week
- Experience in Sales or PR would be an advantage

Please send CV with recent photo and expected salary to info@dgallery.co.th

D GALLERY CO., LTD.

63/501, Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
T. +66 (0) 76 360867 F. +66 (0) 76 360 868
Email: info@dgallery.co.th
www.dgallery.co.th

Hunter

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sotheby's International Realty is an international real estate agency with over 450 offices worldwide, represented in Phuket by Hunter Sotheby's International Realty.

We are currently seeking highly motivated candidates for opportunities within the following fields:

- Sales & Rentals
- Design, marketing and website management (web design skills not necessary)

Both positions require excellent English communication skills. Experience preferred but not essential.

Please send your letter of application and CV to admin.phuket@sothebysrealty.com

Hunter Sotheby's International Realty
t +66 (0)76 324 614 f +66 (0)76 324 618
43/1 Baen Don-Cherngatalay Road, Cherngatalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Admin.Phuket@sothebysrealty.com
www.huntersothebysrealty.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

ARTIST

- Thai national
- Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker and Photoshop
- Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication skills, team player
- English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

AJAX PHP PROGRAMMERS

Freelancers welcome for large Internet project. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING

lady required for morning and afternoon help. Must have car or motorbike. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

SELL ADVERTISING

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai to sell web banner advertising space in Phuket. Must have outgoing personality and speak good English. Good commissions. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

SHARP & SMART

50m motor yacht looking for full crew, career-minded people. Excellent salary, will train. All nationalities may apply. Tel: 076-2282468, 085-2748626. Send resume & photo to contact@purist.biz

The Village Coconut Island
The Village Coconut Island is now recruiting for the following position:

Construction Quality Control Assistant Inspector

Job Requirements:

- Thai national
- At least 25 years old
- Experience in construction essential, specifically quality control or finishing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good knowledge of MS Office
- An "eye for detail"
- Hard working and flexible approach to work

Job Description:

- Daily inspection of all stages of the construction process
- Identifying defects of all finishing work within luxury pool villas
- Reporting all defects to the construction team
- Monitoring defect schedules

CV to phorn@thevillage-coconutisland.com

Tel: 081 968 6912

The Village Coconut Island
51/7 Moo 6, Tambon Koh Kaew, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83200
www.thevillage-coconutisland.com

Scandinavian Divers

One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has positions available in the following departments:

- 1 Manager/Partner, Krabi/Koh Lanta
- 1 Manager/Partner, Khao Lak
- 2 Accountant, Patong office, Phuket
- 2 Booking Staff, Phuket

For the Manager the following qualifications are needed:

- Flexible and able to work under stress.
- Scandinavian would be preferred.
- Presentable and flexible.

For the Accountant position the following qualifications are needed:

- Able to speak and write English.
- Minimum 2 years of working experience with accounting.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks is necessary.
- Knowledge of official papers such as work permits, TAT license and related company papers will be an advantage.

For the Booking positions the following qualifications are needed:

- Excellent skills in spoken and written Thai.
- Good skills in spoken and written English.
- Knowledge of the dive business – persons with a dive certificate will have a big advantage.
- Good knowledge in working with a computer.
- Presentable and flexible.

Interested candidate, who fit the above profiles, please email your resumé to us immediately. We will call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Patong: Phone: 076-294 226
Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com
For additional info of our company: www.diving-phuket-thailand.com

Anantara
PHUKET • THAILAND

Anantara Resort Phuket, Mai Khao Beach Opening September 2008

Are you a spirited individual who believes in delivering luxurious heartfelt hospitality? Do you want to ensure every guest leaves with an amazing story to tell? Then Anantara wants you to apply for a career at our new flagship property.

To be part of the Anantara story, you must like using your initiative, show genuine and natural warmth to colleagues as well as guests, act with honesty and integrity at all times, and be proud to deliver the unparalleled experience that is Anantara.

We are seeking qualified, experienced and passionate candidates who can speak English for the following positions:

Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR Director • Staff Canteen Head Chef • Staff Canteen Chefs (3) • Staff Canteen Cooks (2) Front Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Villa Operations (Room Division Manager) • Guest Services Supervisor Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Housekeeper • Housekeeping Supervisor (4) • Housekeeping Clerk • Villa Attendant (12) Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Controller • General Cashier Reservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Manager • Reservations Manager Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Chief Engineer • General Shift Engineer (3) 	Spa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spa Manager • Spa Supervisor Kitchen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Sous Chef • Outlet Sous Chef • Chef de Partie (4) • Demi Chef de Partie (4) • Commis (11) • Chief Steward • Steward Supervisors Food & Beverage Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar Manager • Wine Sommelier • Restaurant Manager • Food & Beverage Concierge/Event Co-ordinator • Food & Beverage Secretary Recreation & Sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Manager Sales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Sales Manager (Bangkok based) • Public Relations and Sales Executive (Phuket based)
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All associates will enjoy a 5-day work week (average 45 hours per week). Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided.

Submit your CV by email with a covering letter stating the position you are applying for and the reasons you would like to be part of Anantara to: recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good Luck with your application!

ASIA PACIFIC SOLUTIONS

We are currently seeking people for the following positions:

- Accountant
- Customer Service Representatives
- Telemarketers (must speak English)
- Graphic Designer (must be proficient using Flash)

All applicants should be Thai nationals under 30 years of age.

Student applications considered.

Please send your CV including your expected salary to info@asiapacificsolutions.net

THE YAMU HOTEL

The Yamu Hotel, scheduled to open in early 2009, will feature 65 villas, 67 deluxe rooms, 2 duplex suites with private pools, a spa, imaginative restaurants, wine cellar, private kitchen, cigar room, chocolate room, a 100m swimming pool and a boutique, is currently looking for a dedicated professional to fill the position of Club Butler:

- Female or male
- Thai national
- 25 to 30 years old
- Minimum 1 year of experience in similar position
- Fluent spoken English
- Outgoing & friendly personality

Tel: 076-360846, Fax: 076-360849. Email: zai@theyamu.com For further details, please see our website at <http://ghmhotels.com>

SPEECH, LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Regular one-on-one sessions required with a 4/5-year-old English child with delayed speech development. Specialist experience essential. Email: mark_higson@hotmail.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours is looking for a Tour Leader. Applicants must Thai nationals, speak good English, provide excellent customer service, be passionate about biking and be able to work full time. Tel: 076-283436, 087-263 2031. Fax: 076-283436. Email: info@amazingbiketourthailand.asia

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

SECRETARY TO GM

Need female English native speaker to serve as secretary to GM of Pornthip Seastore. Email: donnong@gmail.com

PROPERTY CARE SERVICES

Electronic Security Sales Executive required. Thai nationals, degree in a related field, 2 or more years' sales experience. Please contact us for more information. Tel: 076-376557, 081-9586879. Fax: 076-376560. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful small guesthouse in Karon. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart



WE ARE HIRING!

Decor Mart the leading company for interior furnishings is now hiring for its brand-new showroom in Phuket.

HANSGROHE FLAGSHIP STORE c/o Decor Mart Phuket

The following positions are open.

- Manager (1)
- Showroom Sales (2)
- Project Sales (2)
- Administration officers (2)

We offer an excellent salary and related benefits to suitable candidates. If you have a few years' experience in bathroom/sanitary-ware or related products and feel you are qualified and up to this exciting ground-floor challenge,

drop an email to panornit@decormart.com
or call 085-1633013 for an interview

Decor Mart Co., Ltd.

555 Soi Thonglor 19, Sukhumvit 55, Klongton-nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel: 0-2758-7290-9 Ext. 1800, 1802. Mon-Sat: 8:30-17:30. www.decormart.com



OUTRIGGER
HOTELS-RESORTS

Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, one of the fastest growing hospitality companies in Asia Pacific, are expanding into Thailand.

OUR MISSION

We will grow together as the leisure hospitality company of choice by providing:

- Our employees an opportunity to be their best.
- Our guests distinctive hospitality and value.
- Our owners promised results.

Working as a family in harmony with the culture and environment of the places where we do business.

Please visit our website www.outrigger.com and see the family values and commitment demonstrated by Outrigger as an employer of choice. If you would like to be part of this growing company here in Thailand then we look forward to hearing from you.

We are currently looking for Thai nationals to fill the positions below and join our pre-opening office in Phuket.

- 1) **Chief Accountant** – Set up accounting controls and procedures and oversee accurate and timely preparation of financial statements and related financial reports.
- 2) **Sales Manager** – An experienced sales professional with contacts in the local and international wholesale market.
- 3) **Public Relations Manager** – Position Outrigger properties in Phuket as a premier resort company and ensure Outrigger's family values and integration into the local culture are well publicized.

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, are interested in any of the above positions and would like more information please email to the below address, with your resume, recent photo and salary expectations: oum.suksompong@outrigger.com. A full job description can be given on request.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Urgent. Interior design company requires a Thai national with experience and good knowledge of AutoCad and Photoshop. Contact Khun Sopit. Tel: 085-8831695. Email: rendering.info@azzen.net

EXPERIENCED COOK

needed for international bistro in Kata. Good English essential. Accommodation may be available. Contact David for more information. Tel: 084-0639223. Email: david.r6pd@gmail.com

NANNY / HOUSEKEEPER

20-30 years old, Thai and English skills, sporty, driving licence. Good salary. Send CV; start job around August. Email: homeinphuket@yahoo.com

SECRETARY / ASSISTANT

Require a Thai lady with good English and an outgoing personality. Good salary and commissions. Tel: 081-9583341. Email: ericbayon@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT STAFF WANTED

A new restaurant in the Laguna area is recruiting:

- Sushi Chef
- Cashier
- Service Attendants
- Bartender
- Dishwasher
- Cleaning Lady

Tel: 085-4738028. Email: dedos.phuket@gmail.com
Please email your resume (in English) with a picture.



The Village Coconut Island is now recruiting for the following positions:

Reservations and Contracts Manager

A senior position coordinating the contracts for agents and managing the reservation process and team to maximize revenue and yields.

Qualifications:

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- 4 years' experience in front office and reservations management
- Excellent knowledge of contracting with agents
- The ability to motivate and manage a team
- Total customer focus
- The ability to be flexible in the role and work in an operational capacity from time to time

Assistant Reservations Manager

Coordinating and processing reservations with specific responsibility for e-based agents and day-to-day management of price alterations to maximize yield.

Qualifications:

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- 3 years' experience in front office and reservations
- Excellent knowledge of contracting with agents
- Total customer focus
- The ability to be flexible in the role and work in an operational capacity from time to time

The jobs will be based on Coconut Island, only 3 minutes from Laem Hin. A good remuneration package and bonus will be provided.

Application with full CV to
nop@thevillage-coconutisland.com

The Village Coconut Island

51/7 Moo 6, Tambon Koh Kaew, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 081-9682068
www.thevillage-coconutisland.com

EASYLINK PHUKET

We are looking for an experienced salesperson. Must speak English. Excellent benefits and commissions in Phuket. Please contact "Q" by phone 076-257020. Fax: 076-257008 or by email at: info@easylinkphuket.com

SEEKING LIVE-IN MAID

Seeking long-term maid in private luxury house (Thai & farang) in Kamala. Duties: cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping and cooking. We offer: 10,000 baht for 1st & 2nd month, then 12,500 for good work. For female aged 25-38, with hotel experience and fluent English. Tel: 086-1727974. Email: surat.rattana@romsai.ch

EASYLINK PHUKET

Part-time/freelance salespersons required. Must speak English; other languages an advantage. Excellent benefits and commissions. Please contact "Q" by phone at Tel: 076-257020. Fax: 076-257008. or by email at: info@easylinkphuket.com

EXPERIENCED SALES

lady for real estate work at our Kata office. Good English essential, good salary, good commission. Contact David. Please contact for more info Tel: 084-0639223. Email: david.r6pd@gmail.com

WINNERS!

We need 5 special ladies to promote an exciting new concept at our resort in Patong. You should have experience in marketing, sales, PR or tourism and welcome new challenges. High earning potential. Send applications and photos with CV by email: anthonyafrench@yahoo.com

INTERMEDIATE C++ PROGRAMMER

C++ / Web Programmer for fashion website. Foreigner Only. Work from Home in Phuket. Visa/Work Permit available. 40-60,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2661524. Email: anthonyafrench@yahoo.com
For further information, please see our website at www.holyclothing.com/IT.html

RECEPTIONIST WANTED



Requirements:

- Diploma or bachelor's degree in any related field
- Minimum of 1-year 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 Co Ltd

18/9, 17 Moo 8, Chao Fa East Rd, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130. Tel: 076-384014, 076-381055. Fax: 076-381252. Email: rung@pk-phuket-law.com

Employment Wanted

SALES TECHNICIAN

Foreign male, 20-35 year old, must have sales & technical knowledge. Direct salesmen are welcome. Tel: 076-214281, 089-873 6889. Fax: 076-235289. Email: m@bayproject.com

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. Please contact for more info. Tel: 085-7932477. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

CREATIVE CHEF AVAILABLE

Creative American chef with 20 years' experience seeks to relocate to Phuket. For more info, please contact me. Tel: +1-351-2011419. Email: dru_01923@yahoo.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better quality candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

SELLING ALL CONTENTS

of a nightclub/disco and furniture for 4 bedrooms. Sofas, tables, coolers, aircons, water pumps, sound and lighting equipment, visual effects systems from the best factory. Everything is new. Used only 6 months. Contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

SWIMMING POOL SALE

8-foot, easy to set up. Perfect for kids to play in or adults to relax in. Includes filter. Only 7,000 baht. Email: info@pools4fun.com

AIRCONS

15,000 BTU, 8 months old, 7,000 baht. Tel: 085-0300612.

40-INCH PLAZMA TV

6 months old. 22,000 baht. (60,000 baht new). Tel: 085-0300612.

MAHLE, ELGAR

Bach, Brahms? 300-400 used classical CDs for sale, many spares, good condition. Contact Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

PANASONIC LCD

projector. Watch DVDs/football on 100-inch white wall with 2m screen. 35,000 baht. Call Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

YAMAHA PIANO

Baby grand, black, 3 years old. Tel: 089-2121254.

MUSIC SALE

1,000 classical music masterpieces in MP3 format. Package: 6,000 baht. Tel: 076-200148.

BOSE LIFESTYLE 50

10+1 speakers, white, wall brackets, 6 CDs, touch-screen remote, complete system. 65,000 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

KINGSIZE MATTRESS + ANTI-MITE

Kingsize Carnation mattress with anti-mite. Size: 6'6" x 5'6" (1830 x 1980 x 150mm). Used only with cover and only for 3 months. For sale because it's too hard for me. Pick up in Rawai. Only 1,000 baht. Tel: 083-390-2970. Email: bastelman1@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

AIR CONDITIONER

We have a 13,000 BTU Sapphire air conditioner for sale. About 3-4 years old, serviced annually. 10,000 baht. Come take it away. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-330967, 081-8920474. Fax: 076-330990. Email: John@siamdivers.com

PRO DJ SETUP

2x Vestax turntables, Pioneer DJM 600 mixer, 2x Behringer pre-amp speakers, 164 house records, 3xt cases, 70,000 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

MOSQUITO MAGNET

Mosquito magnet (Defender model). Complete with gas bottle and in good working order. Can deliver. Tel: 085-7895092. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

NINTENDO Wii

Wii console with sports pack for sale – like new – only 2 months old and in original packaging. Asking US\$500. 3 extra remotes for 4-person play for \$150. Great family fun. Email: rhong@phuket.ksc.co.th

HP 312 SAT NAV

Complete with car kit. Only 1 month old. In box and complete. Unwanted gift. New: 15,000 baht. Will sell for 10,000 ono. Tel: 085-789-5092. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

BINOCULAR-STABILIZED-14X40

Fujinon Techno-Stabi image-stabilizing binoculars. Waterproof. Come with yellow Pelican case. Rarely used. 25,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-397-0905. Email: phil@asiawebworks.com

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

AQUA ONE FISH TANK

Rounded perspex, filter, built-in lights + pump, 75L. 4,500 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

PRIVATE SALE

Gurios paintings, stereo, antique oriental carpets. Call Heyno. Tel: 080-1453483. Email: heino.geick@yahoo.com.sg

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

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.amulphy@piwv.info).

RED CORRECTION FILTER

Sea & Sea 4-inch (10cm) red correction filter in good condition. Free for someone who can use it. Please contact by email at info@warmwaterdivers.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, 087-0716063. Fax: 076-381937. Email: tbokich@tbokich.com

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR SALE NANAI ROAD

Bar with large kitchen, pool table, fully equipped and ready to run. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht. Price: 490,000 baht. Please contact K.Nat. Tel: 089-6514279. Email: m_saundersuk@hotmail.com

PATONG HOTEL

for sale. 6-year lease, 22 rooms, aircon, TV, hot water, phone. 3-minute walk from Bangla. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 085-0300612.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

for sale in Thailand. Can make work permit, acquire land etc. 65,000 baht. Tel: (66) 089-2875221. Email: mike_travis@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla road area. Priced for quick sale at 1.2 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

MASSAGE BEAUTY SALON

for sale. Brand new in Patong, 120sqm. 750,000 baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-4954761.

BEAUTY SALON

Great location on Sainamyen Rd in Patong. 200,000 baht for 3-year lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9400022.

LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT

For sale: chicken farm project, on 8 rai of land in Ka Pong, Phang Nga. Guaranteed income of 100,000 baht/month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2781784. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

BAKERY & RESTAURANT

for sale. Please visit www.bakeryforsale.info

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.

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

BANGLA BAR

Popular Black Pearl bar now for sale. Located in soi beside Tiger discotheque. Tel: 086-2785265. Email for website details. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Apartments and massage shop in Kata Center for sale or rent. 5 bedrooms, aircon, cable TV, kitchenette. Tel: 076-333171, 085-216-4953. Email: saranya1974@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT, KATA

Well-established restaurant ready for takeover. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-1203660.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery Tel: 076-282254

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-282403

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

K.L. Mart Tel: 076-280400/3

Patak Rd, Chalong Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School Tel: 076-232398/9

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee Tel: 076-258369

Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521/2

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Deli Supermarket Tel: 076-342275

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344314

Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

Have something to sell?

Tell the WORLD!

All CLASSIFIED ads in the Phuket Gazette

appear FREE OF CHARGE in the

Phuket Gazette Online

Always on top in **Google**

30-40,000 visitors a day!

Phuket Gazette.Net/Classifieds

Focused exclusively on **Phuket** -

and delivered to the world!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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.

SPORT FISHING COMPANY

Turnkey, ready to start, fully rigged. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: huuvi@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

in Patong. Must see. Great location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

RESTAURANT & INTERNET



cafe for sale, huge potential, 130sqm, 32-seat caff, fully equipped, HP/PCS/LCD/TV, newly furnished decor and seating, many extras, superb location in Phuket City. Job offer forces sale. No sensible offer refused. 850,000 baht. Tel: 086-5097510, 089-1037000. Email: simons thomas@hotmail.com

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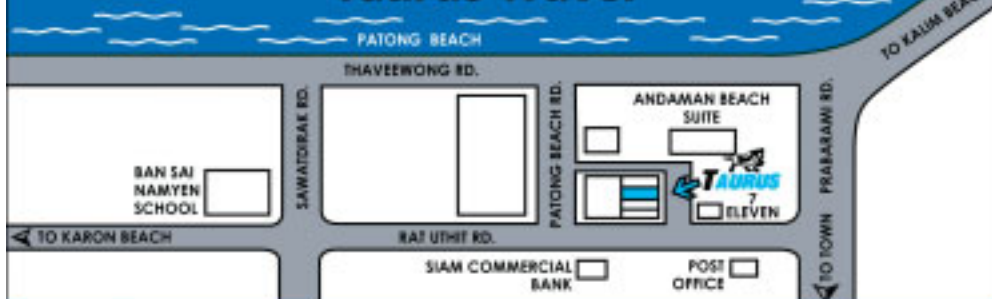
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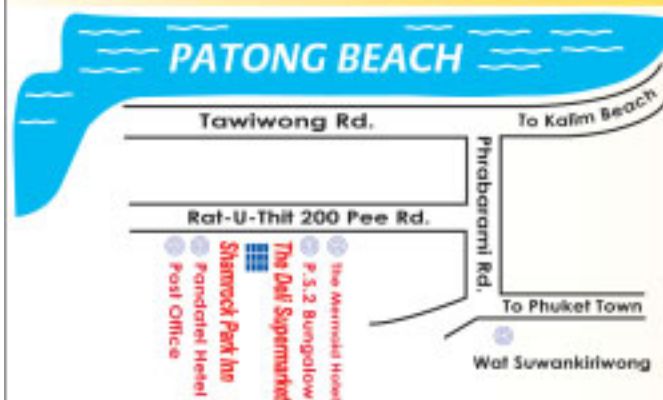
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"OLYMPIA" CHAMPION IN ALL CATEGORIES!

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Free 2 rounds of golf at Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa
or
Free 4,000 Baht Dining & Shopping Gift Certificates
or
Free Mandara Spa treatment for 2 persons
or
Free 2 tickets to Phuket Fantasea dinner and show
or
Free 2 tickets to John Gray Sea Canoe Caves tour
or Best of all
Free 2 nights Accommodation in Deluxe Garden View Hotel Room

Visit our welcome center at
JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa
or call 076-338-200
For Free round-trip transportation to and from your hotel.

This offer is sponsored by Marriott Vacation Club International as part of an advertising plan for this Vacation Ownership program. Attendance of a vacation club sales presentation lasting approximately 90 minutes is required. A couple must attend the presentation together.
This offer is subject to change without notice and subject to the availability at the time of reservation.