

Phuket Gazette

Volume 15 Issue 28 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

July 12 - 18, 2008

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Royal visit scheduled.
Chalerm makes a diversion;
Ice Boy busted at Jungceylon.
Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: Doc offers
hope for Phuket's drug ad-
dicts. Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE NATION: Contro-
versial site given world heri-
tage status. Page 7

AROUND THE SOUTH: Imam
death sparks controversy.
Page 8

AROUND THE REGION: Authori-
ties mull Surat sea wall.
Page 9

GUEST CHEF: Top tikka and
super samosas. Page 11

PEOPLE: Musical pair hit all the
right notes. Pages 12 & 13

SPORTS: Thai Tyson takes out
challenger; Phuket Raceweek
set for top turnout; ICC take
cricket title; Runners raise
money for a good cause.
Pages 30 & 31

PROPERTY: Decor: Pretty por-
celain; Home of the Week:
Life above the bay; Property
Watch: Vietnam under the
spotlight; Gardening: Bert
shows off his skills.
Pages 33-38

PLUS

**QUEER NEWS, STAMPS 6; AROUND
THE ISLAND 10; HAPPENINGS 14;
ANDAMAN RANT 15; LIFESTYLE
16 & 17; YOUTH 'N ASIA 18;
WHAT'S ON 19; MOTORING 20;
BUSINESS AND MONEY 21 & 22;
TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; BOOKS,
WORD COURT 25; EDITORIAL, LET-
TERS 26; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES
& ANSWERS 27; TOWNINGS,
HOROSCOPES 28; COMPUTERS 29;
CLASSIFIEDS 39-51.**

Sirens sound but tourists stay put

By Akbar Khan

PATONG: Tourists in Patong opted to soak up the sun and enjoy the beach rather than run for their lives during the July 7 tsunami drill held across the six Andaman provinces, which included the sounding of all 79 tsunami warning towers operated by the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC).

At Patong Beach, a female English tourist told the *Gazette*, "I heard the siren and knew what it was, but when I looked out and could see that there was no tsunami coming, I just sat here."

When questioned what she would have done had a real wave been hurtling towards the beach, the English tourist gave no reply.

One male Kuwaiti tourist said, "The hotel told me about the drill and they gave me brochures, so I knew that there was no real danger. I am staying on the ninth floor of my hotel so I feel very safe while on holiday in Patong."

Another male tourist said, "I knew there was a drill, but I couldn't hear the siren."



TO THE RESCUE: Emergency medical staff attend to an 'injured' student in Saphan Hin during the tsunami drill held across the six Andaman provinces.

The drill, which was coordinated from a command center in Saphan Hin, in Phuket City, began at 9:30 am and finished at 11:30 am, with all 19 of Phuket's warning towers tested.

At the Saphan Hin drill, residents of Rassada and Wichit joined students from Phuket Vocational College, Phuket Technical College and Phuket Polytech-

nic College in the drill, along with emergency personnel.

Meanwhile, tambon administration organizations and local municipalities conducted their own drills around the island.

Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai said that he was satisfied with Phuket's part in the Andaman-wide tsunami drill.

OrBorJor hospital suffers minor setback

RASSADA: In the latest snag in the saga of the re-opening of the old Phya Thai Hospital, Wibool Tiramongkol, special instructor at the Faculty of Decorative Arts at Silpakorn University - Thailand's premier institution for studying the arts - on June 30 presented interior-design plans for the entire five-story shophouse building at the site, but only floors one, two, three, seven, eight and nine of the main building.

The new hospital, which is to be renamed the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Hospital, aims to relieve overcrowding that has become an issue at Phuket's main gov-

ernment hospital, Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket City.

"A contractor has won the bid to install the electricity, water and air conditioning with an offer of completing the work for about 170 million baht.

"However, we haven't signed the contract yet because the plans provided by the contractor do not match our existing plans, so we have to re-check the design and the work again," said OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising.

Regardless, K. Paiboon expects the hospital to re-open by the end of 2009.

PATONG ELECTION: Mayor Pian runs for re-election

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PATONG: Pian Keesin on July 3 announced he will defend his seat as Patong Mayor at least one more time in the Patong Municipality election to be held on July 27.

Khun Pian will be leading the charge for the Rak Patong (Love Patong) party, contesting the mayoral election against Somkiet Kuru of the Patong Gao Na (Patong Progress) party.

Campaigning began in earnest on July 3 after both parties announced their 18 candidates - six for each of the three electorates in Patong.

Patong Municipality council requires 18 members, comprising six councilors from each of three voting districts in the resort town, and an independently elected mayor.

Contesting for Patong Gao Na are:

Voting district 1: Boonrod Tiengnoi, Charoen Kwanyuen, Prasarn Nuchate, Narong Chueyuan, Mana Panchalad and Prasert Pattakor.

Voting district 2: Kittisan Kuru, Boontaen Piromrit, Suwat Somnam, Weera Sombat, Manode Thonghom and Tawit Solos.

Voting district 3: Somchai Niewnan, Jantaporn Yhuyen, Charnsak Poommak, Sutthikarn Karnjana, Siripong Kitdamnoen and Manop Thuenthin.

Contesting for Rak Patong are:

Voting district 1: Boontu Iebsap, Adisorn Maneesri, Siwakorn Kraithong, Peerawat

Continued on page 2

HRH Princess Ubol Ratana to visit Phuket

PHUKET: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya will be in Phuket July 26 to 29 as part of her "To Be Number One" project to steer Thai youngsters away from drugs.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit made the announcement at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 30 at the monthly meeting of provincial office chiefs.

She will attend the opening of the To Be Number One Friend Corner – a youth center where troubled teens can discuss their problems – at Muang Thalang School on July 28, at 5 pm.

The Princess will then be at Jungceylon in Patong for the To Be Number One Concert at 7 pm.

She will return to Bangkok on July 29.

Gov Niran also announced that Phuket has been selected as Thailand's model province for the To Be Number One project – the second time that Phuket has won this accolade.

Calling all speed diners

PHUKET CITY: Central Festival Phuket will hold an eating race on July 12 to promote the sale of Thai food at its food terrace.

The contest will be held from 2 pm at the food court on the 3rd floor of Central Festival Phuket.

The contest is open to people aged over 14. To enter, contestants must present a receipt of any purchase at Central Festival.

Each competitor must eat 25 dishes of food provided by vendors at the food court.

The winner will receive 3,000 baht and a certificate, the runners-up will receive 1,500 baht, 1,000 baht, and 500 baht and certificates, respectively.

For more information call 076-291111 ext 1941.

Nok Air slashes Bangkok-Krabi flights

BANGKOK (*The Nation*): Nok Air's daily Bangkok to Krabi flight was one of three routes dropped by the domestic airline on July 1 in an effort to reduce costs. Services from Bangkok to Chiang Mai and to Ubol Ratchathani were also terminated.

Travelers already booked on flights for

those routes are being transferred to Thai Airways International and Thai AirAsia flights, or they can contact the airline for a refund.

Nok Air CEO Patee Sarasin said the airline will also cut managerial salaries by 20% in order to save 4 million baht a month

and is considering increasing fares by about 240 baht.

"The airline has already lost 114 million baht, which is lower than earlier reported. The airline will not stop all operations as speculated by some media sources," Khun Patee added.

Bottle bank tanks as residents cash in

By Akbar Khan

CHERNG TALAY: A joint project by the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) and bottle-recycling company Bangkok Glass Co launched in January seems to have hit a snag, a *Gazette* investigation has found.

Since collection efforts have begun, the estimated 190-240 tons of glass waste that the *OrBorTor* was anticipating to collect from 7-Eleven shops and other businesses has shrunk to a volume of almost nothing.

When the *Gazette* checked into the project in March, the *OrBorTor* was dumping the bottles it had collected on a site beside its office, stating that once sufficient volume had built up, Bangkok Glass would transport it to its recycling facility in Bangkok.

As of last June 27, this small pile remained uncollected, and much of the glass in the pile was of quality lower than required for recycling.

OrBorTor Vice-President Ma-an Sumraan explained his theory of the non-appearing glass.

After the project was announced in late January, the *OrBorTor* set out to co-ordinate its collection effort with local hotels, shops, bars and property developments.

K. Ma-an said that they soon discovered that these companies' lower-paid staff, such as maids,



Local residents are opting to use small glass-recycling centers, such as Kalaya Kwat Keo, above, instead of the *OrBorTor* glass-recycling project as the small depots pay more per kilo for recyclable glass.

cooks, waitresses and security guards, were already collecting all the used bottles themselves and selling them to local buyers of recyclable materials.

Business owners opted to continue with this informal recycling method as a way for their staff to earn extra income, said K. Ma-an. As a result, no companies signed up to the *OrBorTor* program in Cherng Talay.

Despite the lower-than-expected volume coming from Cherng Talay, the glass recycling project is continuing throughout Phuket.

In the deal signed with all 16 of Phuket's subdistricts, Bangkok Glass was offering to pay 70 satang per kilogram for the glass, and proceeds from the waste were intended to fund the development of schools on the island.

Currently, Bangkok Glass is transporting 50 tons a month on average from Phuket to its recycling center in Bangkok, using broker Kaew Na Ka to co-ordinate with the local authorities, said the company's PR manager Pantida Wittayaparlert.

According to *OrBorTor* figures, Cherng Talay generates 950 tons of trash a month, with glass accounting for 20-25% of the weight. The fast-growing subdistrict's garbage volume has nearly tripled over the past five years.

Busted 'Ice Boy' spills the beans

PATONG: Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak and four Drug Suppression officers from Kathu Police Station arrested four *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) dealers on the night of July 1.

Krisada "Boy" Seangrot, 19, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was arrested at 8:30 pm at the fountain in front of Jungceylon shopping center on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in a sting operation in which police arranged to buy 200 pills for 38,000 baht.

After a little persuasion, Boy agreed to call three dealers to join him in the dragnet, Col Grissak told the *Gazette*.

Boy was escorted from the shopping mall to Chalermprong House, where police arrested Thidawan "Gay" Bongben, her brother Saharat, and female colleague Phanomwan Sunma – all from Bangkok – for possession of 23 *ya bah* pills and three bags of high-grade *ya ice*.

Patong election

From page 1

Hasan, Jakkrarin Charoenjit and Ammarin Saranyasakul.

Voting district 2: Tanin Atthasap, Prasit Changlek, Prasob Prateep na Thalang, Pongsak Kaenlek, Weerapote Iebsap and Sahat Charoongklin.

Voting district 3: Manit Yhuyen, Saichon Sombat, Pruedsapakom Setthong, Thanechai Jaemjarat, Pradit Kongkaew and Weerawit Kruesombat.

There will be a ban on the sale and distribution of alcohol in Patong from 6 pm Saturday, July 26, to midnight Sunday, July 28.

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Cape Panwa villagers moisten the skin of one of the stranded dolphins until a rescue party can return them to the sea. Photo by the PMBC.

Dolphins rescued from receding tide

CAPE PANWA: Three rough-toothed dolphins were rescued after they were found stranded on mud flats created by the receding tide at Ao Makham on July 5.

The rescue came one week after the carcass of a female striped dolphin was discovered washed ashore at Baan Dan in Thalung and nine days after a pod of false killer whales beached at Koh Racha.

The dolphins – two females and one male – were found by fishermen who, together with local villagers, helped keep the dolphins' heads and skin wet.

They also informed the nearby Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), whose marine biologists came to give basic treatment to the dolphins before taking them by boat back to the sea.

According to PMBC experts who rushed to the scene, the dolphins were more than 20 years old, weighed more than 100 kilograms and were more than two meters in length.

However, they were puzzled as to why the dolphins were found in the mangrove as they were in good health and this species of dolphin is rare in Phuket waters.

One theory put forward

was that they were fleeing a disturbance, possibly something man-made.

On June 28, the carcass of a female striped dolphin was discovered at Baan Dan. PMBC staff retrieved the dead animal and moved it to the PMBC at Cape Panwa after being notified by a villager at about 7 am.

An autopsy performed by PMBC staff on June 30 revealed that the dolphin had sustained five broken bones around her neck area, likely caused by some kind of collision, which ultimately led to the animal's death.

PMBC veterinarian Sontaya Manawattana said, "She died two or three days before she was found. She had many injuries from fishing nets... Her lungs were infected by parasites and she probably had no energy left to swim, so maybe a boat hit her and she died."

"The carcass weighs 50 kilograms and is 1.9 meters long. She was three to five years old, which makes her a teenager for a dolphin," he added.

Less than 10 striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) met their fate around Phuket's coast in 2007. This latest incident marks the first reported death this year, K. Sontaya said.

Chalerm routed by local protestors

KRABI (*The Nation*): Ongoing protests by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) took Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung by surprise in Phuket and Krabi, forcing him to cancel official duties on July 1 and 2.

Chalerm was to meet Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit on July 1, along with high-ranking police and local government officials. Heeding warnings of the mob at Phuket International Airport, said to have numbered about 1,000 people, he ordered his flight to land at Krabi instead. But protestors awaited him there, too, so he escaped through a rear exit.

He checked in to the Krabi Maritime Park and Spa Resort, owned by Democrat MP Pichet Panwichatkul, where he faced heckling over loudspeakers from a contingent of about 200 local residents.

Krabi Governor Siva Siri-saowalak arrived in the morning and told the group that Chalerm had left for Bangkok, reportedly at around 3 am.

Krabi PAD member Abisit Techwarodom said Chalerm lied when he accused demonstrators of being drunk and having been hired from other provinces.



Protesters chanted throughout the night outside the hotel where Chalerm was staying. The following morning he went back to Bangkok.

Chalerm told television news that politicians were behind the protests and that he had canceled the visit simply because he did not want a confrontation. "I don't understand why they wanted me out when I went there to help them," he said.

People Power Party party-list MP Chatuporn Prompan said the 14 southern provinces may discover they have funding problems if other government ministers face similar treatment.

Chatuporn said forest trespassers will benefit because that was one of Chalerm's missions following the no-confidence debate.

Chatuporn questioned the governor's booking of a hotel owned by an opposition member and why the protestors were allowed to gather outside it. Panya Daenmatam, secretary-general of the Phuket PAD, denied accusations politicians were behind the protest.

Health chief warns of dengue

PHUKET: Provincial Health Office chief Dr Paisan Worrasathit has issued a warning for people in Phuket to protect themselves against contracting dengue fever, which sees a spike each year in the number of people contracting the disease during the rainy season.

Currently, 200 islanders are suffering from the disease and one recently died, Dr Paisan said.

He added that dengue fever was most often contracted by people near freshwater pools and that most victims are elderly.

However, Dr Paisan played down the warning, saying that the type of dengue found in Phuket is relatively mild and likely to be fatal only to the very weak, the very young or the elderly.

He added that the incidence of dengue in Phuket seems to be falling. "In the past, Phuket ranked ninth of all 76 provinces in Thailand [for the number of people who had contracted dengue]; today we're ranked 20th."

"Of the 200 people in Phuket currently infected, only three were admitted to hospital for treatment," he added.

The PPHO has launched a campaign to educate local people in risk areas in how to better protect themselves from contracting the disease.

The main defense is the same as for malaria – ridding their homes of potential mosquito breeding sites, usually pools or puddles of stagnant water.

– Akbar Khan

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Caring People, Curing People

When former Phuket Immigration Superintendent Gen Apirak Hongtong returned to Phuket on June 8, he picked up where his predecessor as Phuket Provincial Police Commander, Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, left off in the latest "war on drugs".

In May, under Gen Decha, there were 178 arrests in Phuket involving drugs, an increase of 61% on the same month last year. Looking to improve on that, police under Gen Apirak have been moving up the ladder and targeting dealers, with 10 minor dealers arrested in the two most recent drug raids.

One man who welcomes the initiative is Dr Paisarn Worrasathit, chief of Phuket Provincial Public Health Office and the man behind the government's voluntary rehabilitation program for drug addicts.

Between October 1, 2007, and June 1, 98 drug addicts – 87 males and 11 females – took the plunge and enrolled in Dr Paisarn's rehab program. Since June 1, another 13 addicts have signed up, most of them learning about the program through leaflet and billboard campaigns.

Dr Paisarn told the *Gazette* that it is difficult to estimate the number of drug addicts in Phuket as most addicts are unwilling to

Rehab center helps

On returning to Phuket as Provincial Police Commander, Gen Apirak Hongtong vowed to rid the island of crime within 90 days. His ambitious goal includes wiping out drug crime. With the number of drugs arrests on the island increasing in recent months, steps towards solving Phuket's drug woes have been taken.

Chipping in to solve the drug problem is Dr Paisarn Worrasathit, the man behind the local government's voluntary drug-rehabilitation program.

Akbar Khan and Natcha Yuttaworawit report.

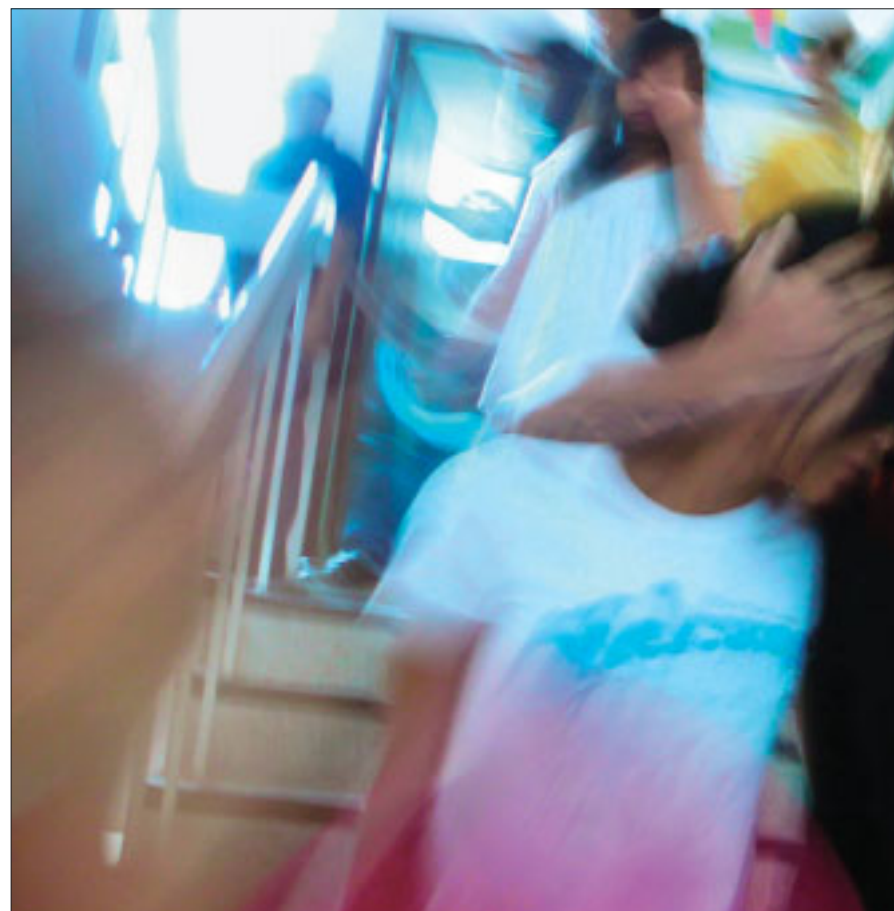
discuss their problems, or even admit they have a problem, though he aims to have 130 addicts successfully complete the program by October – a goal he is already three quarters towards achieving.

A patient is credited with successfully completing the program if he can stay clean for one year after leaving the treatment center.

The program is conducted at three government treatment centers on the island, each with their own target number of ad-

dicts to treat and each with varying degrees of success. In Thalang, 16 drug users have successfully completed the program, close to the target of 25. In Kathu, 25 of a target of 28 users have been successfully treated. In Phuket City, only seven of a target 40 drug users have successfully completed the program.

Drug users in the program attend rehab sessions three times a week and their urine is tested for drugs regularly. Treatment involves what Dr Paisarn calls the "body-mind-social" system and



lasts for periods of 120 days, six months or one year.

"Body" refers to the medication aspect of the treatment, which is decided on a case-by-case basis. Although methadone is sometimes used to treat addicts for withdraw symptoms, addicts entering the program are not told whether or not they will receive methadone during their treatment in order to avoid junkies from signing up just to get free "hits".

"Mind" refers to the side of the treatment that involves talks with a psychologist in order to get to the root of a drug user's problems and help drug users to develop a more positive outlook on life, he said.

The "social" element refers to support from families and loved ones, which is essential for recovery as drug addicts need to be in a safe and friendly environment after they have undergone rehab, said Dr Paisarn.

Once an addict has been physically weaned off a drug, one of the most important factors for staying clean is the addict avoiding people, places and situations in which he or so is likely to use again.

Sessions are tailored to meet the requirements of each patient. Some drug users will experience severe withdraw symptoms as they attempt to come off a drug. In such cases, other drugs may be administered in a controlled manner to prevent the symptoms of withdraw. Methadone being administered to heroin addicts is one example.

After enrollment, drug users are placed into one of six categories based on the type of drug they are using.

Of those who have signed up for the treatment, 63 were using *ya bah*, a drug known to give users short, sharp energy boosts, making it popular among individuals who work for prolonged periods, particularly at night. Small, colored pills, usually pink, are heated on tin foil and the resultant smoke is then inhaled by a user.


Ya bah plays a significant role in crime across Thailand and is often attributed by police as the instigator for petty crimes turning horribly violent. On May 15, a foreign man was shot and stabbed in a violent motorbike mugging in Rawai, which saw the perpetrators make off with just 300 baht. The attack was a return to violent petty crime in the area after a series of violent muggings a year earlier.

On July 4, a 23-year-old government officer was found shot dead in an apartment near his home in Rassada. Next to his body were a number of *ya bah* pills and smoking paraphernalia.

The next largest group of users are those looking to kick a marijuana habit. In May, 32 people were arrested for using cannabis, with 30.84 grams of the drug seized by police. In April, there were 21 cannabis-related arrests.

Six people who enrolled in the rehab program were self-confessed users of *krathom* (an indigenous plant that acts as a mild

Once an addict has been weaned off a drug, one of the most important factors for staying off the drug is the addict avoiding situations in which the addict is likely to use again.




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drug users kick the habit



BUSTED: Six members of a suspected *ya bah* gang are escorted by officers after being charged for possession of 577 *ya bah* pills and five guns.



Being caught with drugs in Thailand is no laughing matter, as this group found out recently.

stimulant). *Krathom* leaves are chewed to produce a stimulating effect that can lead to hallucinations.

Krathom is special in that it grows naturally in Phuket and has been used by locals since time forgotten. Some users say that the effects can make a user feel cooler during warm weather, while others chew the leaves to help them sleep better.

The leaves are sometimes chewed by people looking to wean themselves off harder drugs. Long-term *krathom* addicts are often easy to spot as their skin turns black in patches that gradually spread until the

entire epidermis is darkened.

Solvent addicts accounted for six of the treatment's participants. Glue sniffing is the most common form of solvent abuse. Users pour glue into a bag to breathe in the fumes.

The penalties for sniffing glue are mild compared with those for using harder drugs. Solvents are not classified as illegal drugs, but their use as mind-affecting substance are prohibited under Thailand's "Solvent Law", with punishments similar to those for possession of marijuana or *krathom*.

Only one *ya ice* user has enrolled in the rehab program. *Ya*

ice, also known as crystal meth, is a pure form of methyl amphetamine.

Thirteen people were arrested in May for possession of *ya ice* with 22.15g of the drug confiscated. This was up from April, when seven people were arrested for possession.

Ya ice causes euphoria and raised awareness, but the long-term effects include severe weight loss, drug cravings, rapid tooth decay and psychosis.

There was a solitary heroin user who checked into the program. During the 1970s, a program initiated by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej saw the beginning of large numbers of Northern Thailand's opium fields being replaced by crops such as strawberries.

As a result, the supply of heroin decreased significantly, making it an expensive and unpopular drug locally. In May,

there were five arrests made for possession of heroin, with 1.42g seized.

The remaining six drug users checked themselves into an additional "miscellaneous" category, believing themselves to have a problem with drugs in general, rather than with one specific substance.

Although undergoing a rehabilitation program is strongly advised for people looking to stop self-destructive habits, some people do manage to break their addiction by themselves.

A Chalong resident, who asked not to be identified, told the *Gazette* about his long affair with a drug called *ya maa* (horse drug). "When I was a teenager, amphetamines were sold in pharmacies. They were sold in pill form as energy boosters," he said.

However, *ya maa* was made illegal more than 20 years ago and a range of caffeine drinks

and pills were released commercially to fill the void, he explained.

Illegal versions of *ya maa* then surfaced, in bright colors such as pink and orange, he said.

But then he discovered that he stood to lose something he valued more than his dependency on the drug. "The most frightening thing for a family man is losing money. You don't want your wife to ever suspect that you are unfaithful due to missing cash when your only disloyalty is sleeping with this 'horse'," he said.

"It is one of those drugs that makes people do things that they would never normally do."

For more information about the government drug rehabilitation program, which also caters to smokers wanting to quit and alcoholics, call Phuket Provincial Public Health Office at 0-7621-1330, 076-212297.



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Villagers and Erawan Group staff carefully release rare fish into the sea at Baan Bangkontee, Chalong Bay.

Clams and fish move to new digs

CHALONG: A group of Chalong villagers and Erawan Group staff on July 3 released more than 1,000 rare marine creatures into the sea at Baan Bangkontee, Chalong Bay, as part of an initiative to support marine populations off the coast of Phuket.

Sutha Prateep Na Thaleng, leader of a Chalong fishermen's group, said, "There aren't many of these animals left in the water because of all the sewage released into the sea that has killed the coral reefs and, subsequently, the fish."

About 100 people attended the releasing ceremony at Baan Bangkontee, Chalong Bay, where 500 damselfish and 1,000 fingerfish, all of which were bred at Phang Nga Coastal Aquaculture Research Center, were released into the water at about 10 am. There were three species of damselfish among the 500: the three-bar dascyllus damsel, yellowtail

damsel, and sergeant major damsel.

At about 1 pm, 50 giant clams, which had been bred at the Surat Thani Coastal Aquaculture Research Center, were released near Koh Tanan, off the coast of Chalong Bay. The clams are about 10 years old and 20 to 30 centimeters long.

Giant clams are listed as having "Vulnerable" conservation status according to the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

About 200,000 young giant clams have been transferred from Surat Thani to the Phuket Marine Biological Center where they will be nurtured until they are large enough to be released into the sea.

"We need to save marine animals so that they can live long lives with us. Those that become extinct have a knock-on impact on humans," said Khun Sutha.

QUEER NEWS

Superlover meets sticky end

NAKON PATHOM: Many a wife would be happy that her aging husband can still "go all night" without the aid of those little blue pills.

As the saying goes, however, you can have too much of a good thing – and a high sex drive can be troublesome, even fatal, as one even unfortunate lothario found out at the end of last month after he pushed his wife for one all-night session too many.

At about 11 pm on June 25, Lt Bunsak Tipma, an investigating officer at Muang Nakhon Pathom Police Station, had an unusual call from a tearful woman saying that she had accidentally killed her husband.

At the scene – a motorcycle repair shop with a bedroom at the back – police found Yuphin Juprasert, 42, sitting weeping hysterically on the bed next to the body of her husband, Chaiwat Juprasert, 52. Chaiwat was still fully clothed, but had a pair of woman's knickers wrapped round his arm.

When she had calmed down enough to talk, Yuphin told police that she hadn't meant her husband any harm, but she couldn't take any more of his nocturnal advances as she had to work hard and needed sleep.

Chaiwat, despite being well into middle age, had phenomenal staying power and an enormous sex drive. Every night he would demand sex five or six times and each time would last for no less than half an hour, leaving little time for sleep, Yuphin explained. If she said she wasn't in the mood, Chaiwat would become angry and accuse her of cheating on him.

The night of his death, Chaiwat had been drinking with friends and came home as insatiable as ever. Yuphin, by this point, had been fast asleep for some time and in no mood to be woken for a multi-hour sexathon. She told her husband as much.

Chaiwat, as always, refused to take no for an answer and became angry. When he tried to force himself on her, Yuphin fought back, grabbing at his throat and holding on until he let her go, she tearfully told police.

When Yuphin removed her hands from his neck, she found that she had done more than just resist his amorous advances – Chaiwat was dead.

Police, unmoved by Yuphin's tearful confession and tales of bedtime woe, charged her with murder.

Source: Khao Sod



Jumping on the Jatukham bandwagon

Thailand Post in March launched a set of Jatukham Rammathep stamps to encourage Thai people to collect stamps in their spare time.

Jatukham Rammathep amulets became unusually popular in 2006 after the death of Phantharak Rajjadej, the Thai policeman who created the original amulet.

Amulets have taken on many different forms and are sold at Buddhist temples around Thailand.

The Jatukham Rammathep amulet is named after two princes of the Srivijaya Kingdom of Southern Thailand. Amulets are believed to provide protection and good fortune to the bearer.

Some legends hold that the name "Jatukham Rammathep" actually refers to an incarnation of Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara, whose reverence spread throughout the south due to the presence of Mahayana Buddhism.

The Jatukham Rammathep stamp set consists of 12 different designs.

The first design shows a bas

relief of Prince Jatukham on the gated entrance way to the Pra Brom That Chedi pagoda in the Pra Mahathat Worawihan temple grounds, Nakhon Sri Thammarat province.

The second design is of a Pra Pong Suriyan amulet. The first of these gold-plated amulets were created in 1987 and bestowed to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

A Prince Rammathep bas relief from the gated entrance way to Pra Brom That Chedi pagoda in the Pra Mahathat Worawihan grounds adorns the third stamp.

On the fourth, fifth and sixth stamps are images of the Pra Pong Suriyan amulet, first made in 1987, in white and gold, white and silver, and white and copper, respectively.

The seventh design shows the Prince Jatukham bas relief at the entrance to Pra Brom That Chedi pagoda, again in the Pra

Mahathat Worawihan grounds.

The Pra Pong Jantra amulet, first made in 1987, makes an appearance on the eighth stamp.

On the ninth, Prince Rammathep's image appears as another bas relief at the gated entrance to the Pra Brom That Chedi pagoda in the Pra Mahathat Worawihan grounds.

Further Pra Pong Jantra amulets are shown on the 10th, 11th and 12th stamps, in white and copper, black, and red, respectively.

The stamps were designed by Thailand Post's Adisorn Pradit and printed using a multicolor lithography technique by Gather Security Printing in France.


Stamps are limited to 500,000 for each design, priced at 9 baht a piece or 130 baht for a collector's set of 12. The stamps measure 3 by 4.8 centimeters.

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Disputed Preah Vihear listed as world heritage site

The World Heritage Committee agreed on July 8 to list the Hindu temple of Preah Vihear as a world heritage site amid political pressure in Thailand mounting on the government over the failure to object.

"I did my job to express our objection, observation and reservation in the line with former foreign minister Thanat Khoman, following the decision of the International Court of Justice in 1962," said Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattana.

"In addition to the unresolved border disputes of the areas surrounding the temple of Preah Vihear, Thailand cannot support the decision," he said in the session of the world heritage committee meeting in Quebec.

The minister needed to make such statements because the Constitution Court ruled that the joint communique he had signed with Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Sok An to support Phnom Penh's application was unconstitutional.

Senators and the members of the Opposition lodged the petition with the court as they were concerned that listing the temple might overrule Thai sovereignty.

Pongpol Adireksarn, head of Thailand's world heritage committee, said that Thai people should not be sad over Cambodia's success to list the site.

"We also plan to list our part in the surrounding area of Preah Vihear in the future," he said.

Lt Gen Niphat Thonglek of the Border Affairs Department, who also joined the Thai delegation in Quebec, said that Thailand did not compete with Cambodia to list the temple, but that Cambodia had prepared itself for the world heritage committee's examination.

"As the site passed criteria set by the committee, it received approval. There is nothing to jeopardize relations between the two countries," he said.

Col Noppadon Chotsiri of the Royal Thai Survey Department guaranteed that Cambodia did not take any of overlapping area claimed by both sides into its proposal.

"Through examining by mapping technique, we found that Cambodia's plan claimed nothing beyond the territory the Thai Cabinet in 1962 had relinquished," he said.

Dirty money. A former executive of Nishimatsu Construction has told Japanese prosecutors that the Japanese firm had paid 400 million yen (about 125 million baht) to Thai government officials in return for "favors" connected to the award of a 2-billion-baht tunnel project in 2003.

Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said that Town Clerk Pongsak Semsan would ask the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok to forward a document related to the allegation to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA).

It was reported that a

former executive of Nishimatsu Construction was being investigated by the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office on suspicion of violating the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act for bringing in 100 million yen from abroad without reporting it to customs.

The consortium of Italian-Thai and Nishimatsu won the 2-billion-baht contract from BMA in 2003, when Samak Sundaravej, who is now prime minister, was governor of Bangkok.

The project included construction of large tunnels along the San Saeb and Lat Phrao canals as part of a BMA flood-management system for the city.

Besides the consortium of Italian-Thai and Nishimatsu, the BMA project attracted other bidders, including Naowarat Pattanakarn, Si Saeng Construction and Ch Karnchang.

Citing sources, Kyodo News reported that local staff of Nishimatsu in Thailand had prepared bribes after consulting executives of Nishimatsu's Thai partner.

The payments were apparently made to Thai government officials and officials in charge of overseeing bids for the project immediately before and after the project was awarded.

The former Nishimatsu executive said he was not directly involved in bribing the officials but that "In return for favors to secure the tunnel-construction project, the company paid a total of more than 400 million yen to Thai government officials", the sources said.

"Such operational funds



YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Students of Rachawinit School walk past the People's Alliance for Democracy rally site on Phitsanulok Rd. Acting on a complaint filed by teachers, the Civil Court ordered the PAD to stop blocking the road and refrain from using loudspeakers during school hours.

were necessary in order to be awarded public-works projects in Thailand," he was quoted as saying.

The prosecutors searched Nishimatsu's head office in Tokyo's Minato Ward early last month in connection with the former executive's suspected violation of the foreign-exchange law.

The prosecutor suspected the 100 yen million he brought into Japan was part of a slush fund.

The prosecutors are also

conducting investigations into Pacific Consultants International, a major Japanese construction consultancy, in connection with a case of suspected bribery in Vietnam related to a project funded by official development assistance from the Japanese government.

PAD takes a knock. The Civil Court on July 7 ordered the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) to clear roads near its rally site for four hours more each day than the court had ruled earlier.

Following the order, PAD supporters on the night of July 7 moved to Makkawan Bridge, their original protest site, where no court orders have been issued against the activities of the pro-democracy group.

After hearing testimonies from senior police officers and the protest leaders, the court ordered the PAD leaders to keep all lanes of Rama V and Phitsanulok roads open to traffic between 5 am and 6 pm on weekdays. It had earlier ordered the roads to be cleared of any structures and objects related to the rally from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The court said its order banning the use of loudspeakers at the Nang Loeng horse racecourse between 7:30am and 4:30pm from Mondays to Fridays remained unchanged.

More than 1,000 people were present at the PAD's rally site on the 44th day of its anti-government protest on July 7.

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

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Death of Imam 'a test for Army chief's credibility'

New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) on June 4 said the Royal Thai Army may be covering up the torture and killing of Muslim religious leader Imam Yapa Koseng, 56, saying the judicial inquiry into his death has been blocked by army stonewalling.

HRW said that Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Anupong Paochinda's credibility was on the line because he had stated publicly in late-March that the Army would bring justice to the imam's case.

"Imam Yapa's case is a test for the Thai Army on whether it can hold abusers in its ranks accountable," said Brad Adams, HRW's Asia director.

"Gen Anupong has put his credibility on the line. Will he allow a cover-up or will he ensure that murderers in the ranks will be brought to justice?" he added.

HRW said the commanding officer of Narathiwat's Task Force 39 has refused to implicate abusive soldiers behind the killing of Imam Yapa, who was beaten to death just meters from where one of his two sons was being detained.

HRW quoted Imam Yapa's son as saying, "Soldiers took my father away at about 8 pm on March 20. That was the first interrogation. I saw them take him behind the camp clinic - not far from where I was being detained.

"I could hear everything that happened to my father. I heard punching and kicking noises. I heard my father scream in pain."



ALL ABOARD: Armed soldiers search a passenger carriage at Tan Yong Mat railway station in the Deep South following the killing of a policeman and rail staff aboard a train in Narathiwat late last month. Services resumed on June 28 after being suspended following the attack.

TV comes to Tarutao. Satun Vice-Governor Chuangchai Pao-in has defended the decision to allow the filming of reality show *Survivor* in Tarutao National Park, saying that shooting on location in the protected area would not affect the environment there.

Filming in the park is planned from July 21 to August 29.

V/Gov Chuangchai said the producer of the show has signed a contract not to damage the environment on the island.

The production crew has started building a Thai-style pavilion at the pier at Talohwow Bay as the center of the show, he added.

V/Gov Chuangchai said the show would promote tourism in Satun province.

Revenge rampage. Surat Thani Police are searching for a soldier after his girlfriend and her lover

were found shot dead in her room on June 2.

Police led by Col Bunthawee Toraksa, Superintendent of Muang Surat Thani Police Station found the bodies of Rasri Jitrong, 31, and Songsak Nujunjit, 21, in Rasri's bedsit behind Rasri Nuat Phaen Boran massage parlor, which she owned.

They had both been shot several times with a 9mm pistol.

Witnesses reported seeing Rasri's boyfriend, a soldier identified only by his nickname "Moo", who had been serving in the Deep South, enter the building before about 10 gunshots were fired.

According to witnesses, Moo was then seen running from the scene.

Acquaintances of Rasri said that after Moo had been sent to the Deep South, she started seeing Songsak. After returning to Surat Thani, Moo was allegedly enraged when he found out about Rasri's new relationship.

Private problem. Two Army privates and one civilian were arrested in Trang for possession of

45 kilograms of *krathom* leaves while waiting for a coach to Sungai Kolok on June 29.

Police were called to the bus stop in Tambon Thap Thieng in Trang's Muang district after a member of the public reported seeing a group of youths with a suspicious-looking black sack.

A police patrol truck found the group and asked them what was in the sack. The men replied in heavy Deep South accents that it was clothes, police said.

Police opened the sack and found it to be full of bundles of fresh *krathom* leaves. Police also found one .22 caliber bullet in one of the men's bags.

The three men, Pte Bukaree Sulong, Pte Phaisan Samohsa, 23, and Phendee Johhoh, 22, were arrested and taken to Muang Trang Police Station.

Police said that under questioning, the men admitted that they had bought the *krathom* in Thung Song district in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and that at the time of their arrest they were waiting for the Phuket-Sungai Kolok bus.

The men said that they planned to sell the leaves whole-

sale in Songkhla's Sabah Yoi district and use the money to help their families pay off debts.

Lucky escape. Sadao Immigration Police are hunting a group of suspected human traffickers after a 14-year-old Lao girl on June 29 claimed that she had been tricked into going to Malaysia to work as a prostitute.

The girl told police that she and two other Lao girls had been brought from Laos to Haad Yai by a Lao woman who she knew only as "Noi".

In Haad Yai, the girls were met by Noi's Malaysian husband, who took them to Sadao on the Thai-Malaysian border, police said.

Noi allegedly told the girl's parents that she would earn 6,000 baht a month working in Malaysia.

Malaysian border guards, however, refused to let the girl enter the country, so Noi took her back to a hotel.

While they were staying at the hotel, a man came to the room and she overheard him discussing the price to sleep with her, she told police.

While the visitor was talking with Noi and her husband, the girl managed to sneak out of the room and find her way to the immigration office, she said.

Immigration police searched for the girl's traffickers on the border checkpoint's CCTV tapes and found footage of the girl's two Lao friends being taken into Malaysia.

Police are now hunting for Noi and her husband.

Teatime trauma. Two gunmen opened fire at a teashop in Yala on July 5, killing three civilians and injuring five others, police said.

The shooting occurred at 7:15 am in Bango Puloh village in Tambon Noenngam of Yala's Raman district.

Police blamed Muslim insurgents for the attack.


Police found many spent shells suitable for M-16 and AK-47 rifles at the scene.

Two of the civilians killed were identified as Sulkiflee Siyadee, 32, and Da-oh Sohwmuae, 52. At the time of going to press, the remaining victim had yet to be unidentified.

Owner of the teashop, 53-year-old Arong Yama, told police that he saw at least four men in a white pickup truck arrive and park in front of the shop.

Two men on the back stood up and opened fire at the shop and the truck sped away, he said.



Items in Around the South are taken from The Nation and Khom Chad Leuk newspapers.




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Surat Thani authorities are considering building a sea wall to contain coastal erosion that has seen large sections of the shore washed away by constantly battering waves.

Waves had advanced 100 meters inland and washed a two-kilometer section of coastal road into the sea at Baan Pod Beach in Village 1, Chonlakram sub-district in Donsak district, Surat Thani Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) told the press on July 5.

Former Surat Thani OrBorJor council member Preecha Petcharat, who is still very active in the community, said that from 2006 to 2007, the fishing port and large fresh market on the Baan Pod beach road had been washed away.

"In the past, people's houses were located far from the beach, but now the waves are very close to them because more and more of the coast is being washed away.

"In the rainy season, people have to leave their homes and stay elsewhere because of the encroaching sea," he said.

However, Khun Preecha explained that the problem is not new to Donsak.

"The same problem has happened at Ao Nang Kam Beach and Baan Tong Ao Beach, both in Donsak district. The provincial government and the OrBorJor built a sea wall to protect against coastal erosion there," he said.

Confidence booster: Koh Samui's property sector was given a confidence boost at a recent seminar after several property experts expressed their optimism for the local market.

The seminar, which was organized by Raimon Land and held at the Centara Hotel in Chaweng, took place during the final day of this year's Koh Samui Regatta on June 7. Many of the attendees at the seminar were also involved in the regatta.

Press, local residents and property-industry members from around the world attended the seminar, which focused on the Samui property market and its future, as well as a country-wide condominium analysis and an overview on the recent changes in condominium marketing laws.

One of the keynote speakers was John Birt, CEO of Samui Villas and Homes – the island's largest sales and rental agency. He outlined a number of reasons for investors and residents to be positive about the future of Koh Samui.

Mr Birt told the audience that the arrival of many high-end brand resorts and villas will benefit the island in general. Major land purchases and investments by Bangkok-based companies and individuals have reached record-breaking prices, confirming that land on Samui is a hot commodity.

Mr Birt responded to concerns over infrastructure and drainage issues by saying that a

Constant battering waves devour Donsak roads



FROM THE
GULF OF
THAILAND

By Max Rogers

number of improvements have already been made, with more to come.

The success of high-end developers on the island has set the standard for the niche luxury market, although the lower-end and middle markets will likely be affected by the looming global economy crisis, he said.

Visitor numbers to Samui are up and there are plans by Bangkok Airways to increase the number of flights connecting Samui to the rest of Thailand, he added.

Bluewater expands: Koh Samui's Bluewater International School has announced plans to expand the school grounds.

The school, which first opened its doors in September last year, has been such a success that adjacent land has been bought to expand and improve facilities.

Headmaster Jeremy Lees told parents and prospective students that the new area will have a six-classroom kindergarten building with toilets and changing rooms. There will also be a swimming pool, tennis court and gymnasium.

The school will have a new entrance, dedicated drop-off and pickup point, and a new parking lot.

The original buildings are being renovated to provide more international-sized classrooms, a dedicated infirmary, a larger computer room and library, plus a common room and resources room for staff.

The improvements are due to be completed in time for the beginning of the September term.

"For me, the most important development is the number of new classes that will be opening next term, as well as the number of new subjects on offer, including Spanish and business studies," said Mr Lees.

From next term, all classes



Press, local residents and members of the property industry enjoy a presentation at a property seminar.

at Bluewater will be single-year-group classes and the school will be increasing its age intake up to 16 years old, offering interna-

tional GCSEs through its Ed-excel International Center accreditation.

The school has employed

additional British teachers, selected from more than 300 applicants, who will start work in September.

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By Akbar Khan

Phuket in the movie spotlight once again

Phuket is in the limelight as the backdrop to a movie due to be released in Thai cinemas next year. More than 70 cast and crew have been taking over some of Phuket City's narrow streets and beauty spots around the island to shoot scenes for *Mor 3 Be 4* (4th term of the 3rd year).

The movie is said to be a love story – set for release in Bangkok cinemas on Valentine's Day next year – centered around a relationship between a Phuket girl and her boyfriend from Bangkok.

Bookhemia book store has been converted into a *dim sum* restaurant as the girl's home, around which much of the story is based, accompanied by street scenes that take advantage of the colonial-style architecture. Promthep Cape viewpoint was also used for one of the poignant scenes.

Kanin "Koon" Bhatia is a newcomer to the big screen, having only performed in commercials. He plays the boy from Bangkok who falls in love with the Phuket beauty played by Sarocha "Bua" Tanjararuk, who is already well known as a pop singer among Thai audiences.

Other upcoming stars in this production include Suppasit "Pop" Chinwinitkul and singer Chonlathorn "Jam" Pratyarungroj.

The movie is the brainchild of controversial director Haemant Chatemee, also known as Khun Phu, and judging by his previous releases there will be a lot more to this love story than first meets the eye.

He will challenge audiences as he explores the turbulence of teenage tribulation, coupled with suspense and eroticism – details of which the cast and crew are keeping tight-lipped about.

Khun Phu shot to fame as a director in 2001 with his movie *Body Jumper*, the story of a fe-



Left: Male lead Kanin 'Koon' Bhatia checks his hair in a motor-bike mirror. This is his big-screen debut.

Below: Co-star Sarocha 'Bua' Tanjararuk, already well known as a pop star, waits for the director's call of 'Action!'

male ghost from Roi Et who possesses a Bangkok university student, turning her into a long-tongued nymphomaniac. The male characters in the plot are trained to use condoms to protect themselves from her necromantic advances.

More recent movies by Khun Phu include *Love to Death* and *Sexphone & the Lonely Wave*, both released in 2003. In 2004, he made *Xtreme Limit* and last year made *Rakna 24 Hours*.

Members of the *Mor 3 Be*

4 production team said that Phuket's beaches, natural surroundings and Sino-Portuguese architecture were reasons for scripting Phuket as the movie's main location. About 70% of the movie is based in Phuket, the rest in Bangkok, said one of the crew members.

Phuket and surrounding islands have helped give several international movies the tropical scenery needed for dramatic backdrops, some of which Thai audiences are not always familiar with.

One of the most outstanding movies made on the island so far, but little known by Thai audiences, is Tom Waller's erotic adventure of a confused Englishman who falls in love with a masseuse. *Butterfly Man* was filmed in 2002 entirely on Phuket and surrounding islands. It won the "Best Cinematography" award in 2003's Slam Dunk Film Festival.

The lead actress is Thailand's Napakpapha "Mamee" Nakprasitte, whose brilliant portrayal of a young woman trapped in the sex trade is credited with much of the movie's success, winning her "Best Actress" at the Slam Dunk Film Festival. Despite the movie's award and international following, very few local cinemas have shown "Butterfly Man".

Hollywood's *The Beach*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, was filmed on Koh Phi phi. The main character is a chain-smoking backpacker looking for a secluded beach that fulfills his hedonistic fantasies. Following a mysterious map, he discovers a



commune of foreigners who pass the time fishing, singing, playing Gameboys and smoking marijuana. The movie was controversial, not for the drug-taking scenes, but because the shooting was done in a national park, which sparked protests from conservation activists.

The movie that gave birth to Phuket as a popular tourist destination is *The Man with the Golden Gun*. Scenes of the villain Scaramanga's hideout were shot

at Koh Khao Phing Kan and Koh Tapu. Starring Roger Moore, it was the ninth film in the James Bond series and was released in 1974. Within a year of the movie's release, Phuket and the Phang Nga Bay area saw an influx of international tourists, something locals had never experienced before.

Filming of *Mor 3 Be 4* will continue for the next few weeks. The movie is on schedule for release on February 14, 2009.

Thai and Mediterranean dining directly on Kata Beach

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Top Secret: The Tikka Tapes

This week's Guest Chef is Shahid Saleem, proprietor of the Indian Halal Food outlet in the food court on the top floor of Central Festival.

His award-winning dishes have earned him recognition from American Express – listing his Bangkok restaurant, Tandoor, as one of the best Indian restaurants in the Big Mango – and ex-Prime Minister MR Kukrit Pramoj, who is said to have dined there weekly.

Chef Shahid's recipes for dishes such as dahl, samosas, chicken tikka and nan bread are based on the traditional home-style cooking he grew up with.

"Cooking is my hobby. I love it. I was taught by my brother, who has run an Indian restaurant in Tokyo for almost 20 years," Chef Shahid said.

Chef Shahid decided to open the food court outlet when he realized that there are few restaurants in Phuket offering Indian food. Plans are in the pipeline for another outlet in Pattaya.

Chef Shahid shares his recipes for vegetarian samosa – a centuries-old traditional snack made of thin triangular pillows of pastry filled with potato, herbs and spices – and chicken tikka – a lip-smacking offering of baked chicken marinated in spices.

SAMOSAS – 40 PIECES

Pastry ingredients

1 cup of all-purpose flour (*maida*)
Water to make the dough
2 tablespoons of cooking oil
A pinch of salt
½ teaspoon of *ajwain* (optional)

Stuffing ingredients

3-4kg of potatoes (peeled, boiled and mashed)
½ cup of green peas (boiled)
1-2 green chilies (finely chopped)
½ teaspoon of crushed ginger
1 tablespoon of finely chopped coriander



The gorgeous orange color of chicken tikka is a hint as to the rich flavors of this Indian favourite (left), while samosas (below) make a great snack at any time.



A handful of cashews nuts, chopped
A handful of raisins
½ teaspoon of *garam masala*
Salt to taste
Red chili powder to taste
½ teaspoon of dry mango powder (*amchur*)

Method

Pastry: Mix all the ingredients together and then add water a little at a time to make a dough. Knead the dough until it is soft and pliable. Cover the dough with moist muslin cloth and leave for 15 minutes.

Stuffing: In a bowl, blend the mashed potatoes and the dry masalas (salt, chili powder, mango powder, *garam masala*), along with the green chilies and ginger. Once this is well mixed, add the green peas, cashews and raisins. Add the coriander and put the mixture aside.

Guest chef By Semacote Suganya

Now break the dough into small pieces to be rolled out into circles about four to five inches in diameter. Cut the circles in half and fold them into cones.

Use a little water on the fingers to seal the edges where they join, but leave one side open so they can be filled with the stuffing.

Use a spoon to place scoops of the stuffing into the pastry pillows and seal the third side using a drop of water.

To cook them, heat oil in a *kadhai* (frying pan) on a medium heat setting and deep fry the samosas until they are golden brown. Serve hot with hari or tamarind chutney.

CHICKEN TIKKA

There are many variations of this dish. Fish and other meats can be used instead of chicken.

Ingredients

1kg of boneless chicken, cut into pieces
1 teaspoon of salt
Cooking oil
2 large onions (chopped)
4 cloves of garlic
1 table spoon of ginger
1 teaspoon of chili powder
1 teaspoon of turmeric
5 tomatoes (chopped)
1 teaspoon cumin seed powder
1 teaspoon of coriander powder

Method

Fry the chicken in the cooking oil on a medium heat and add salt.

For the masala sauce, fry the onion, ginger and garlic in the cooking oil on medium heat until the mixture is light brown, then add the chili powder, salt and turmeric. This will turn the mixture yellow.

Continue frying until the chili starts to burn, then add a little water and the chopped tomatoes.

Continue cooking until the oil in the mixture separates and rises to the top, then add the fried chicken to the sauce along with the common seed powder and coriander power.



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By Janyaporn Morel

Two young girls from Wittaya Sathid School in Phuket City, Chanok-suda "Tonhom" Polyling and Laksamee "Lily" Jutasripanit, are counting the days until they receive an award from the hand of HRH Princess Siriwan-nawari Nariratana.

The girls were part of a Phuket junior Electone band competing in the annual Yamaha Thailand Music Festival (YTMF), which was held at the Thai Cultural Center in Bangkok in May. The contest is organized by the renowned Siam Kolkarn Music School.

Although the Hammond organ became a household name, greatly influencing Western music when it was invented in the 1960s and continuing to be one of the most popular instruments for Western musicians looking for new sounds for decades after, in Thailand it is the Yamaha Electone electronic keyboard that has since become popular.

Nine-year-old Tonhom is the daughter of Suthat and Watcharin Polyling, who run a restaurant in Cherng Talay. Tonhom started playing the keyboard when she was five years old, purely out of her own interest.

Although she also learns the piano and violin, Tonhom said she likes playing the keyboard best because it can sound different from other musical instruments. "We can use our feet to make the rhythm while playing and the keyboard has two layers of music that we can adjust to any tone," she explained.

Lily, the daughter of Boon-yong Jutasripanit and Chutikarn Thongkam, a brewery distributor in Phuket City, also started playing the keyboard when she was five.

Eight-year-old Lily originally wanted to learn piano, but with her small body and short legs, the piano was too big for her, so her father suggested she play the keyboard instead. She started taking lessons at the Siam Kolkarn Music School at the Big C shopping center.

Both girls study and practice the keyboard after class as

A TALE OF TWO



LEFT: Tonhom on stage. 'We showed our feelings for the music,' says Lily (pictured above) left, with teacher Jinnipha, Director Somjit and Tonhom in the school's Electone class.

part of Wittaya Sathid School's extracurricular program. School Director Somjit Sinlapasart explained, "Our school has 980 students, from kindergarten through to Pratom 6 [final-year primary level].

"We encourage students to play sport and to study music or Thai performance arts in

addition to the standard curriculum.

"We would like them to have both a good education and to have developed a special talent by the time they graduate from our school," she said.

But it was at the Siam Kolkarn Music School where the girls practice most and where

they joined the Magic Junior band along with six other piano and keyboard players all aged nine or younger. The band comprises four boys and four girls. The other six band members are from Plookpanya, Anubaan Phuket, Darasamuth and Phuket Thai Hua schools.

Lily's teacher at Wittaya

Sathid School, Jinnipha Suphaburut, said that Tonhom and Lily practiced especially hard before entering the contest, as did the other children in rehearsals at the music school.

"To make the national finals, the children had to win their regional round first.

"This year, the contest was held at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel in Phuket and the band won, which meant they would represent the entire southern region at the national finals," explained Sasawat Limpanith, the Siam Kolkarn music instructor who led the band throughout the competition.

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YOUNG PIANISTS



Dream, which is eight minutes long, but with each member of the band playing different a different part of the tune. It starts with simple, easy notes and becomes progressively complex," Tonhom explained.

"There were nine bands from all over the country in our level. Each band played a different song. We had been practicing our song since May last year. It was the same song we played in the Southern regional round in December, but we improved it by adding more notes for the final in Bangkok," Lily added.

"We were the last band to play in the final. I was very worried that we wouldn't win because while we were waiting, we had to listen to the other bands playing and all of them were very good," said Tonhom.

"But we won!" added Lily, proudly.

Khun Sasawat explained that the competition has been held annually for 39 years. Groups and individuals compete in age groups for their discipline. Age groups are split into under and over 12s, 13s and 17s. The young musicians are made up of classic and modern guitarists, bands between 4 and 6 people playing covers for the "Popular Music Teen Challenge", Clavi-

"We were the last band to play in the final. I was very worried that we wouldn't win because while we were waiting we had to listen to the other bands playing, and all of them were very good," said Tonhom.
"But we won!"

nova (digital piano) players and vocalists, solo vocalists, electone, and piano players.

Next year, to mark the event's 40th year, the winner of national finals will join a special contest in Japan, said K. Sasawat.

"This year, our school entered many different bands, soloists and singers, and the students won many awards," he said.

In the 2008 event, other Siam Kolkarn students who won the first prize are Hitoshi Miyata for the under-17s classic guitar, Nalinda Divis and Nathyry Divis won the under-15s Clavinova with Vocals, and Anthony Tong won the under-22s singing con-

test.

The Magic Junior band won the under-9s Electone Ensemble contest. The children have just received their certificates and are waiting for a date to be set to receive the trophy from HRH Princess Sirirattana.

Tonhom said that the reason her band won was not only because they were the best players, but also because they showed that they enjoyed playing the song.

"I was scared of one band from Bangkok because they played a difficult song. I wondered why they came only second, but K. Sasawat said that it was because they didn't show any feeling or dance when they were playing," she said.

Lily added, "They just sat on their chairs and moved their heads a bit, not like us - we showed our feelings for the music."

"K. Sasawat said that he wants us to join the contest in Japan, but we are still not ready because we still don't know how and what kind of songs they are using for contest. We are not confident," said Tonhom.

"And we cannot play at junior level because we have already won that level. We must enter a higher level," Lily added.

Although it was Lily's first time in the contest, it was not Tonhom's first try for a major prize. She came second in the Southern region finals in Surat

Thani last year, although that was not good enough to compete in the national finals in Bangkok.

"In the final, we played a song called *Magic*

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This week



MED-IS-IN: Ninety-two local children, including residents of Sunshine Village, enjoy a day of swimming, games, snacks and dinner with 30 NGO volunteers from Club Méditerranée Foundation on June 25. The day out is organized by the foundation annually.



FREEDOM FRYUP: American expat families celebrate Independence Day on July 4 at Don's Mall in Rawai with a traditional barbecue buffet and fireworks. A good time was had by all, with restaurant owner Don Battles (2nd from right) giving away raffle prizes donated by Wine Connection.



SISA SMILES: Smiles all round for owners of Cafe Sisa Simon Shannon (back, right) and Atitaya "Saw" Shannon (back, center), plus friends during the grand opening of the Kamala venue last month.



THE MIGHTY PEN: Nineteen kids from poor homes in various parts of the island recently got their first ever ride on an elephant, free, thanks to Bang Pae Safari in Pa Khlok. The rides were part of a day out on June 29, organized by Pen Forbes (rear, second from left), with much appreciated help from Sue Usher of Lady Pie and Claire Mossop of PIPS.



SPECIAL EFFECT: Charity initiative Friends of BIS bought school uniforms and other necessities for nearly 200 orphans at Kamala School and treated them to a day at the movies last month. SFX Cinema gave free popcorn and drinks to all the children. Pictured (from left) are SFX managers Thanwarat Suwunnarat and Kiattichai Boonchatipukkun, Academic Resource Manager for BIS Diane Therrien, and Friends of BIS-PTA members Catharina Moeller, Sue McGoldrick and Jaroensri Muangmoon.



GOOD NEIGHBORS: General Manager of Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa Phuket Claude Sauter (4th from right), Marketing Manager Ben Moller (left) and Public Relations Manager Kankanitt Ruanhla (4th from left) welcome Australian journalists who stayed at the hotel during a recent visit to Phuket.

A bit of a restau-rant

Being a waiter or waitress is a thankless and impoverishing task. Waiting on tables or serving in a bar is the default occupation of many students, as well as writers, actors, musicians and would-be showbiz personalities still searching for their big break while needing to put bread on the table and keep the landlady at bay.

It's unpleasant, but is that any excuse for the annoying types of service behavior that one so often runs into when out for a jolly evening with a group of friends in a local bar or restaurant?

In Phuket, dehumanized table service is reaching the level of a new art form in certain establishments. Now I don't for one moment mean to suggest that this is universal or even common.

Sid has enjoyed many a fine meal around the Andaman region served by smiling and accommodating staff. Such displays are rewarded with the handsome tips they deserve.

If you've ever been there yourself, I mean, working at the service end of the evening-out equation, you'll know how impor-

tant tips are and how very grateful you feel when you receive them.

Sid spent some of his formative years working through university holidays as a barman in a big, inner-city English pub. A hugely popular jest at the time was, "Ere lad, do you want to know how to sell more beer?"

"Erm, yes, I suppose so."

"Fill the bloody glasses up to the top then."

You had to smile through 52 weeks of such rib-damaging hilarity in order to have half a bitter bought for you on Christmas Eve.

Ah, happy days.

Mostly the service in Phuket is exemplary, but there's a modern trend of technology that's creeping into the equation, threatening to make it stink.

We've all been in that strangely Thai situation of buying an item for, say, 80 baht, handing over a 100-baht note and, instead of being handed back the requisite 20 in change, watching the admittedly lovely assistant turn to her calculator for about five minutes of frenzied computation to work out what she should give you. Even if you say "Yi-sip baht" as a bit of a prompt to help



out, you are roundly ignored.

Lord knows what they teach the kids in Thai schools, but it certainly ain't 80 plus 20 equals 100.

This local idiosyncrasy becomes almost charming as you adapt to Phuket and so you wait for it to happen and point it out to visiting friends with fond amusement.

However, the latest sinister trend that is upsetting Sid is the introduction of technology into the serving equation in order to make things more "efficient". This often cuts down on the human interaction that normally makes dining out in Phuket so charming.

Your waitress will have her eyes focused on a little electronic

notepad in her palm with its trusty electro-pen.

She takes your order by applying the said electro-pen to the screen, which doesn't allow her to actually interface with her customer in any way. In addition, the fact that you can order only what is actually encoded into the notepad's memory leads you quickly into a Jack Nicholson Five Easy Pieces type of situation.

"I'll have the full English breakfast with my eggs scrambled, tea not coffee and brown toast, but no sausages, please."

Waitress, frowning at electro-note pad and definitely not looking at you: "You have to have the sausages with the English breakfast, they come together, it says here."

"Yes, I know that, but I want you to take them off my plate and give them to the kitchen's cat."

Waitress, starting to panic: "There's no mention of the kitchen cat on my notepad."

"It doesn't matter, just tell the cook to leave the sausages off, the kitchen cat thing was just a joke."

Waitress, calls fellow waitress then supervisor to come over

and they all glare at electro-notepad: "Serving staff are not allowed to talk directly to the cook, we just download the electro notepad into the main computer and that's relayed to the cook's computer in the kitchen."

At which point you decide to go down the soi to Khun Noodle's low-tech food stall and enjoy a perfectly excellent plate of *somtam* for your breakfast.

This trend to technologize the service equation is not only annoying, but in the case of Thailand, pretty dumb.

One of the great draws of this country for foreign tourists and residents alike is the charming, smiling service one generally receives.

That uniquely attractive part of Thailand is being thrown away – and for what? The chance of hopping on a technological bandwagon in the name of the great God of Efficiency?

Well, give Sid the old-fashioned, charmingly inefficient, warmly human style of Thai service that is so much a part of this endearing country.

I suspect I'm not the only one who feels this way.

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A pack of 52 Harley-Davidson bikes and 74 riders from Phuket, Haad Yai, Krabi, Trang and Phattalung held a poker run from Phuket to Ao Nang Beach in Krabi on July 3, clocking up a total of 21,000 kilometers (13,125 miles), as part of the Million Mile Monday organized by the Harley-Davidson Owners Group, better known as HOG.

Members of the local chapter set off from West Coast Ride Thailand bike shop on the bypass road at 9 am and returned late afternoon.

The day out was part of a global road trip by Harley-Davidson owners worldwide with the aim of reaching the target of one million miles ridden on their bikes on the same day.

The Million Mile Monday ride was co-ordinated at HOG headquarters in Milwaukee, USA, who hailed the global event a huge success with the virtual odometer going way past the record-breaking million miles to clock 3,000,960 miles in total or, as they pointed out, the equivalent of 120 trips around the Equator.



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ESCHEWING

By Nick Davies

It's not sweet, sour, salty or bitter. It's "umami." That's the word used to describe the so-called fifth taste – the taste of monosodium glutamate (MSG). Umami is a Japanese word, meaning "savory", that is used to describe a dish's deliciousness. The *aroy* factor.

The word came about after research by the Japanese to isolate the taste, which is detected by the tongue when it comes across glutamic acid, or glutamates. These occur naturally in meats, cheeses, broth, stock and other protein-heavy foods.

Today, MSG is used in most of the world's fast food, snacks, cooking ingredients and restaurant food to give dishes extra flavor. It's commonly used to make soy and fish sauce, and you'll often see the sugar-like MSG granules used by food vendors as one of the additives in their dishes.

Monosodium glutamate is a sodium salt and is a non-essential amino acid (glutamic acid). It was first patented by the Japanese Ajinomoto Corporation almost 100 years ago in 1909. The name Ajinomoto means "essence of taste", and was introduced to the US by the Japanese as "Accent flavor enhancer" in 1947 – a decade before Japan's cars were introduced to the states.

MSG is prepared by fermenting starchy foods, such as sugar beet, sugarcane or molasses. About two million tons of MSG is produced each year for use as a flavor enhancer.

Some of the foods MSG can be found in include canned soups, stock cubes, condiment sauces such as tomato and barbecue sauce, frozen seafood, potato chips, flavored tortilla chips and instant noodles.

So what happens when we eat foods laced with MSG and why is it used? For a start, MSG is one of the most profitable ingredients manufactured for the food industry because of its appetite-stimulating properties, making customers want more, while keeping down the production costs of food containing it.

MSG tricks you into believing that you're eating something highly nutritious and full of protein, stimulating the appetite by releasing insulin to take up the glucose contained within carbohydrates (sugars). If you're not eating as much carbohydrate as your tongue thinks, then the result of high insulin concentrations makes blood-sugar levels drop, making you hungry again a few hours later.

Adding MSG to beef burgers gives them the same savory taste of real beef. For fast food manufacturers, this means

TRICKY STUFF: No, not cocaine, but MSG tricks the body into thinking it is eating something nutritious. It also increases thirst – so gimme some more Coke!

Photo by Sage Ross



there's no need to use 100% beef, helping to reduce costs.

Another reason MSG is favored as a flavor enhancer is because it is very soluble in water, making it work very quickly the moment the chemical compound touches the tongue. Most, if not all, fast food contains MSG. The compound makes you thirsty, so you drink all those fizzy drinks with your buffalo wings. By the way, how do they catch flying buffaloes? More to the point, how does a buffalo ever get off the ground with such a tiny pair of wings?

Fermented products, such as soy sauce and Worcestershire sauce naturally contain glutamate in levels comparable with foods with MSG added. Even so, many sauce manufacturers still feel the need to add artificial glutamate in the form of MSG.

Controversy surrounds the use of MSG in foods. Many people suffer from Chinese Restaurant Syndrome when they eat foods containing MSG. Symptoms can range from strange sensations in the mouth and thirst to headaches, migraines and swollen limbs. Most sufferers will find that these symptoms will disappear soon after cutting

MSG-laden foods from their diets.

More alarmingly, MSG consumption has also been connected to Autism, Alzheimer's and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD, formerly known as ADD), which affects academic performance in youngsters and is also known to affect social behavior among adults.

Extensive research with tests conducted in US and UK schools has shown that academic performance increased and disciplinary problems decreased among students when artificial ingredients, including colors and flavors, were eliminated from school food programs.

In 1982, the US National Institute of Health (NIH) determined that about 5% of children with ADHD could be helped significantly by removing additives from their diet and that 90% reacted in some way to food containing artificial additives.

It's difficult to find scientific studies examining the actual biological effects on the body from consuming MSG, but there is enough concern among consumers that it is regulated by food and drug administrations (FDAs) in many developed countries.

THE FIFTH ELEMENT



Many snacks contain MSG as a cost-saving flavor enhancer.

Photo by Paul Hurst

Even when shoppers are selective about the food products they pick up off the supermarket shelves, turning them over to check whether the tin of beans or bag of potato chips contains MSG, it's not the easiest additive to spot. Most packaged foods will contain MSG, but it may be labeled as HS code 29224220 or as E621. It may also be labeled under a trade name, such as Ajinomoto, Vetsin and Accent.

Under current US, European, New Zealand and Australian FDA regulations, food labels must inform customers of whether the product contains MSG. This is not always made clear, especially if the food contains a sauce of flavoring from another manufacturer. In these cases, the label may simply state that "flavorings" or "spices" make up some of the ingredients.

Other additives that MSG is used to make include hydrolyzed vegetable proteins, autolyzed yeast, hydrolyzed yeast, yeast extract, soy extracts and protein isolate.

You can also check for additives such as disodium inosinate and disodium guanylate, because they are used only in conjunction with MSG in food production, though labels can state that the

food contains "No MSG" or "No added MSG".

Studies in China by the INTERMAP Co-operative Research Group found that MSG

intake is directly related to weight gain – Body Mass Index (BMI).

Knowing this, it may be worth taking the extra time to examine food labels more closely,

even if the packaging claims it's contents are "all natural". The best option is to avoid as much processed food as possible and avoid most mass-produced snacks.

Some kids – and adults – may already be addicted to the

zesty hit of MSG-enhanced foods and will take some time to be weened off them.

But surely a calmer disposition, a more peaceful household, better school reports and less accidents and forgetfulness are probably worth it.

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Caught in the looking glass

Miss Teen talks with the spirits in her family's new home

My family recently bought a villa in the southern part of Phuket City, on the way to Cape Panwa. When I first saw it, I was shocked by the size of it and how wild the garden was.

But the next time I was there, I was less shocked and I liked the look of the villa: old style, the right size, lots of flowers, coconut trees, romantic lighting. The third time I visited the place was with my little brother. We spent a lot of time exploring every nook and cranny of the villa and its garden – and we found some spooky surprises.

It was a lot of fun looking around, but also quite dangerous because of bees and insects protecting their territory. We saw a large tub with some fish inside it. My brother loves to fish.

My attention was grabbed by the large number of rectangular mirrors all over the house. They were placed on columns and pillars near the windows. I imagined that the previous owner perhaps wanted to have a lot of reflected light in the house or else he just enjoyed looking at himself all the time.

I wanted to learn more about why the mirrors were there. I asked my mom, dad, the servants and the neighbors. I heard many conflicting stories. Thai



people have such wild imaginations and they love to impress with their storytelling, especially when ghosts or witches are involved.

My brief history lesson taught me that the former inhabitants of the area the villa was built

on were Chinese fishermen, whose spirits are said to inhabit the villa today. They first settled in the area because of the small harbor that protects the boats from the sea and also because of the easy access to fresh water, bananas, coconuts and fertile land.

They made a decent living by farming and trading and a fearless community was established on the land, ready to fight anyone who might impose on them. One of the spirits now living in the villa was the son of a famous pirate. He was adopted by the fishermen because his father's pirate ship was destroyed and all the crew were killed.

The land was home to two wells that provided much of the water for the area. The previous occupants of the villa were so proud of the fertile land that they

gave water to their neighbors and had great respect for the spirits who had lived their before them.

The villa itself was built about 25 years ago. After the construction was completed, there was a ceremony in front of the spirit house and it was suggested by a soothsayer that rectangular mirrors be placed in every corner of the house and that the doors and windows be kept shut in order to protect the house from unwanted guests. The mirrors were thought to ward off evil spirits and reflect bad luck away from the villa.

The soothsayer visited the house many times, always saying that the spirits were happy and that they promised to protect the

Youth 'n ASIA
By Maria Giulietta

house forever.

Something incredible happened during the tsunami. All of the surrounding area was devastated by

the water, but the area within the villa's fence was untouched.

Such a beautiful story makes me dream. I want to speak with the spirits and find out more. I imagine what it would be like to talk to the sprites and ask them if I can keep a dog in the garden or what I should do at school. I am more curious about the spirits than afraid of them.

Even though my family bought the house in June, we couldn't go and live there until the following month because June is the sixth month, which would mean bad luck as it is the "falling month". If we were to move into the house in June, any manner of things could go wrong.

Now we have a beautiful villa with lots of mirrors and many spirits for me to talk to.

My attention was grabbed by the large number of rectangular mirrors.



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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 until 8 pm, followed by great food, company and music.

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 until 11 pm.

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

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

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 18-20. 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



Zoe Young's paintings and other art will be on display at the Boathouse from July 17.

Z.O.E. at The Boathouse From July 17

Z.O.E. (Zoe Olivia Eyres) Young was born in Redfern, Australia, in 1978. She is a self-taught artist and will have photos, paintings and other artwork in the exhibit. 'I have been inspired by the colors, lifestyle and harmony in Thailand within the chaos of Asia. While I document through the photographic lens the Phuket I see, I paint and sketch throughout the Phuket I feel.'

Zoe will be the Boathouse 'resident artist' until mid-September; you might find her sketching in or around the Boathouse. The opening cocktail reception for the exception will be on on July 17, from 7 pm until 8:30 pm.

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

July 18. Buddhist Lent Day (Public Holiday).

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

July 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 Plan-*

ning – a best-seller – who will present a seminar at Moevenpick 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.

The registration fee of 1,200 baht includes the seminar, refreshments and lunch.

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

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

July 26. ESPN Star Sports Charity Golf & Dinner.

Fifteen members of the ESPN Star Sports football broadcasting team and Peter Withe, English football legend and former 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 Boathouse 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 included 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 mad-cap night of laughs.

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NEW AMG MERCEDES IS ALL THAT AND MORE



By Jeff Heselwood

On paper it is relatively simple: take a volume-production family saloon, slot in a massive V8 from further up the range and create a high-performance tourer at minimal cost.

The problem arises when other aspects of the vehicle have to be taken into account: brakes, transmission, traction control, stability control and so on. All of these become more important due to the extra power and speed of the new car.

The latest Mercedes-Benz AMG C63 bears testimony to the care and attention expended by the engineers in Stuttgart and at AMG's headquarters in Affalterbach.

Powering the C63 is a 6.2-liter V8 delivering 457bhp (336 kW) at 6,800rpm, while peak torque is a tooth-pulling 600Nm at 5,000rpm. While these figures give the game away in terms of the C63's potential performance, when driven "normally" it is a docile, well-mannered animal that demonstrates no vices. When pushed, though, it makes a delightful growl and accelerates into the distance effortlessly.

The powerplant is full of technical highlights that have been adopted from the world of



motor racing, such as bucket tappets to control valve timing and a closed lower crankcase and magnesium dual-length intake manifold with two internal butterfly valves for optimized airflow. This configuration exists only in this particular AMG engine and ensures optimum agility plus incredible response.

The V8 is mated to Mercedes-Benz's award-winning 7G automatic transmission, which can be operated manually by steering-wheel mounted paddles.

The C63 accelerates from a standstill to 100kmh in 4.5 seconds, while the maximum speed is electronically limited to 250 kmh. To control this immense output, 360-millimeter brake discs with six-piston calipers are fitted up front, while 330mm discs are at the rear with four-pot calipers.

AMG sports seats with integral head restraints and embossed AMG lettering feature adjustable side bolsters and lumbar supports, allowing them to be adapted to individual requirements. The seats provide perfect lateral support and outstanding ergonomics. Hip-hugging they may be, but the large beams could be a little tight for some people.

The seats are upholstered in leather and fabric, while the multi-function steering wheel is leather covered with a flattened bottom part to allow more clearance. White dials record the actions of the C63, while a center-mounted satellite-navigation system directs the driver and doubles as an audio readout when required.

The similarities between the C63 AMG and its DTM racing counterpart are clearly apparent. For example, at the rear, the impressive diffuser-look AMG

When pushed, the new AMG C63 Merc makes a delightful growl and accelerates into the distance effortlessly. Below, the chromed twin tailpipes of the AMG sports exhaust hint at the car's power.



apron with its three distinctive diffuser fins. On the right and left, the chromed twin tailpipes of the AMG sports exhaust hint at the car's tremendous power, while the lip spoiler on the rear increases downforce.

Distinctive alloy wheels finish off the sporting look of the C63 AMG, which sits lower to the ground than a regular C-class. Speed-sensitive power steering, a new three-stage electronic-stability program and sports suspension are standard. Visually, the car is total excitement with power domes on the bonnet, side skirts and flared front fenders.

The Italian Association of

Motoring Journalists voted the Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG "European Tuning Car of the Year 2008".

The family lineage of the C63 goes back to the C36 of 1993 – the first vehicle to emerge from the co-operation between Mercedes-Benz and AMG. The 190E AMG, which was unveiled in 1987, marked the beginning of the tuning efforts in Affalterbach.

Although the C63 AMG is not on general sale in Thailand, there will undoubtedly be one or two personal imports.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigat.com



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UK bank bailout sets costly precedent

The crisis at the UK's Northern Rock that resulted in the government having to nationalize this home lender raises many issues. One of them is the whole outlook on risk. Traditionally, big banks with strong balance sheets were able to pay less interest, on average, than their smaller and weaker peers.

The credit crisis is in full flow and financial intuitions are still reluctant to transact substantial interbank lending. This is reflected in still-elevated London Inter-Bank Offer Rates (LIBOR), akin to a "fear premium".

Lending practices by banks, credit card companies and others have become more selective. In the previous credit boom, lenders in far too many cases were unconcerned about the quality of their loan book. It was volume that counted, followed by packaging these loans as structured investment vehicles (SIVs) or collateralized debt obligations (CDOs). Basically, packages of negligently lent money.

Some of these financial packages contained different types of loans, including housing loans, aircraft leases and consumer credit card and other debt.

Depending on who you take as an ultimate authority on the size, this problem seems to range from US\$900 billion to more than US\$1.3 trillion. So far, only around US\$400 billion has surfaced.

When the Bank of England stepped in to rescue Northern Rock's depositors, it may have been noble and practical, but it did change the name of the game. It would seem only logical that other small UK lenders offering high interest rates to depositors are in effect signaling they have the UK government as "the lender of last resort".

One of the UK's smaller lenders, Bradford & Bingley, has already seen its share price fall by more than 76% this year.

This has attracted investors looking for high returns and many are transferring accounts there from the larger and stronger financial institutions. Some time in the future, the investment banking world will discover new products – they have to.

All these SIVs, CDOs and so on will often be disassembled to become more marketable. However, the future will bring new trends. Risk will, after a hi-

NOT EXACTLY ROCKIN':
Anxious investors and savers queue up outside a branch of Northern Rock in Brighton, East Sussex, in September 2007. Many depositors rushed to pull their money out after learning that the bank had been badly hit in the sub-prime mortgage fiasco.

– Photo by Dominic Alves.



bernation, recover its appetite and there will be a boom in these new products.

The next time around, everyone will just look at the government to bail out the financial system. This blank check could be enormous and it never is the government that actually pays for anything – it's the taxpayer. The UK government needs to change these rules to reintroduce some level of risk in the market, even if all depositors do not always get their money back.

Henry "Hank" Paulson, the US Treasury Secretary, on a visit to Europe earlier this month commented on the need to establish new rules in the financial industry. This, obviously, will require more government oversight, but

usually this just incurs more bureaucracy and little effective oversight.

Meanwhile, in the real world, the economic situation continues to deteriorate in many countries. Economists and central bankers commonly use the terms "headline inflation" and "core inflation". The former is simply inflation as measured by a basket of items; the latter is the same but excludes energy and food prices.

The explanation for the use of core inflation is that by using this measurement it does not dis-

tort overall figures because food and energy prices are inclined to be more volatile than other items. This is useful in normal times, but when massive spikes in prices occur, as happened in 2007 and 2008, core inflation becomes little more than academic.

It becomes virtually irrelevant, except to those who do not eat, travel or use energy.

The last time global economies were subjected to such price shocks was in the 1970s. This time around, there is one major advantage: trade unions cover, in general, a much smaller percentage of the workforce in most countries.

This is helping to contain wage increases to a substantial degree, which, in turn, is acting as a brake on inflation.

France currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union. Nicholas Sarkozy,

the French president, claims that the euro is now 30% overvalued against the US dollar. Sarkozy is obviously determined to use his six-month period as European Union head to press the European Central Bank to introduce policies to reduce the value of the euro.

The strong euro is hindering exports, but it does have one advantage. This alone means tighter monetary policy and inflation figures are more muted than would otherwise be the case.

CNBC, the television business channel, asked one of its guests, Thannos Papasavvas, head of currency analysis at banking group, Investec, what his view was on euro and US dollar values.

He said that the euro is 10% to 15% overvalued against the dollar, but by year-end, exchange rates will have moved

from the current US\$1.58/euro to US\$1.50 or even the high US\$1.40s.

He also believes that when the US economy can achieve some "traction", economic recovery will be more rapid than in the euro zone.

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

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

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ON THE MOVE

Sylvie Yaffe has been appointed Public Relations Manager at Mom Tri's Villa Royale exclusive luxury hotel in Kata Noi. Sylvie has been in Phuket since 2001 and her experience includes marketing for a real estate company, freelance writing and sales advertising. She has a bachelor's degree from California State University of Los Angeles. Ms Yaffe will also assist in marketing Mom Tri's latest development: the Prem-buri in Chiang Mai.



Patcharee Chanantho has been appointed Personnel Manager at the Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort. A Chiang Rai native, Khun Patcharee has been with Laguna for eight years, first as Guest Service Manager at Allamanda Laguna Phuket and then as Member Service Supervisor at Laguna Holiday Club. She was previously Personal Assistant to the Assistant Vice-President – Hospitality Services.



The new Food & Beverage Manager at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket is **Thavorn Kaewchang**, from Nakhon Sawan. He has worked in beverage management since 1994, including being the Assistant Beverage Manager of Planet Hollywood Bangkok. He has also served as F&B Manager of Andara Villa Property and Silk Restaurant and Bar, Assistant F&B Manager of the Amari Coral Beach Resort & Spa Phuket and Executive Assistant Manager of The Watermark Bar & Restaurant.



Bus operators to get gas price reprieve

PHUKET: Following a request by the companies operating public buses within the province, the Land Transportation Department (LTD) will increase bus fares on the island to bring them in line with rising gas prices.

Public buses in Phuket are operated under concessions granted by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).

Chalchawal Ngarmthap of the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) explained that the current fares were set in 2004, when petrol was 23 baht per liter compared with the current price of 43 baht per liter.

Currently, a fleet of 16 buses, including the small, air-conditioned green buses introduced a few years ago, serves two routes in and around Phuket City.

There are 228 buses, mainly *songtaew* (open-air buses with bench seats) and older non-air-conditioned buses, serving the out-of-town routes, which connect Phuket City with Tah Chat Chai, Pa Khlok, Kamala, Patong, Rawai and Nai Harn, Ao Makham, Kata, Karon and Kata Noi, Chalong and the airport.

Included under this concession is an intra-city route between Samkong and the interprovincial bus terminus off Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City.

Fares on these routes, however, are charged according to

the distance traveled, currently about 1 baht a kilometer, a rate that was also set in 2004.

"The bus operators have been absorbing the higher petrol prices since then," said Khun Chalchawal.

However, he added that the PLTO had yet to decide how much to increase fares by. "In setting the new fares, we will consider increases in labor costs and the price of diesel as well as other factors set out in Land Transport Department guidelines, but the new fares must be fair to the bus operators and to the passengers," K. Chalchawal said.

Bus operator Phuket Mahanakorn has asked for permission to raise fares on the Phuket City-airport route by as much as 30%. "We have lost 2 million baht over the past six months [on the airport route]," he said.

However, he added that the two popular metropolitan routes, which Phuket Mahanakorn also operates, are still profitable, but only just and only because the routes are very popular.

In setting the new fares, LTD officers will use a computerized financial projection system to foresee who will benefit and by how much under the new fares, K. Chalchawal said, adding that the new fares are expected to be announced by July 28.



The Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa is one of three properties acquired by Acacia Real Estate.

Bahrain-based investor takes over three Evasons

By Akbar Khan

PHUKET: By increasing its shareholdings from 20% to 50% in three internationally branded five-star hotels in Thailand, Bahrain-based Acacia Real Estate has acquired the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa, Evason Hua Hin & Six Senses Spa and Evason Hua Hin Hideaway & Six Senses Spa.

According to Acacia, the deal is projected to generate a rate of return for investors in excess of 20% a year over a five-year holding period.

The Bahrain-based merchant bank, TAIB, has been appointed as the exclusive placement agent for the project.

Six Senses, which owns 50% of the 500-room portfolio acquired, will continue to manage the properties from its Bangkok headquarters.

Claude Baltes, resort manager of Evason Phuket, was unaware that the deal had finally gone through and told the *Gazette* that he was not at liberty to discuss any changes expected in the coming year.

"We're proud to be able to

offer our clients this unique opportunity to invest in Thailand's growing real estate and hospitality market," said Iqbal Mamdani, Acacia board member and TAIB Bank vice-chairman and chief executive.

Evason is a subsidiary of Six Senses Mauritius Ltd, which falls under the umbrella of Six Senses British Virgin Islands.

Currently, there are Evason resorts in Hua Hin and Phuket in Thailand and in Nha Trang and Dalat in Vietnam. Another Evason resort is scheduled to open at Ma'in in Jordan later this year.



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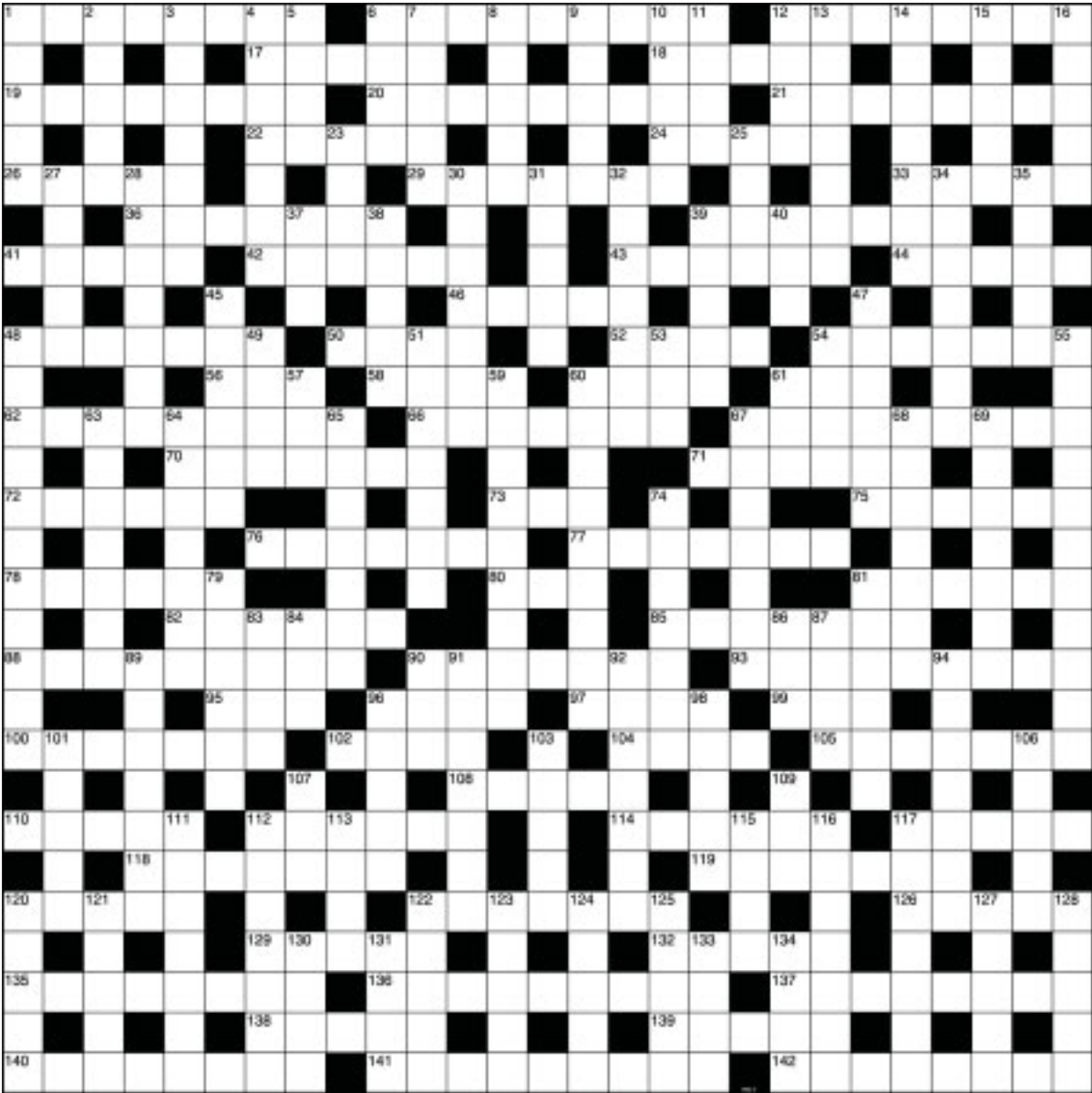


The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

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

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



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- Across**
1. Journalists
6. Unchanging
12. Disheartened
17. The first M of MGM
18. Desert springs
19. Remnant
20. Aggressors
21. Alp
22. Lordly
24. Pulsate
26. Martial arts expert
29. Furtiveness
33. Unfasten
36. Incited (5,2)
39. High singing voice
41. Proclaim
42. Impair
43. Chosen paths
44. Steak cut (1-4)
46. Acquire skills
48. Ideas
50. Personal identity
52. Taverns
54. Piers
56. Door rug
58. Leases out
60. Sterilise
61. Livid
62. Coagulated
66. Palest
67. Metallic element
70. Directed
71. From Seoul
72. Rarely encountered
73. Musical, Mamma...
75. Actress, ...Anderson
76. As a group (2,5)
77. Tableland
78. Receive
80. Rebuke, ...over the knuckles
81. Furrowing tool
82. Simpler
85. Daytime show
88. Superintendent
90. Wildly dangerous people
93. Most stable
95. Turn into leather
96. Twinge (of guilt)
97. Acclaim
99. Wrongdoing
100. Former Russian president, Boris...
102. Fitted with horse-shoes
104. Once...a time
105. Madman
108. Refute
110. Spending binge
112. Add-on building
114. Frozen peak
117. Fellows
118. Emit (heat)
119. Unaffected
120. Blueprints
122. Undisguised (lie)
126. Leotard fabric
129. Of the pope
132. Divide into two
135. Non-amplified
136. Post receptacles
137. Haughty
138. More modern
139. Original
140. Camping anchors (4,4)
141. TV bulletins
142. Ugly buildings
- Down**
1. Cable support
2. Pixie-like
3. Stowage space
4. Rectified (text)
5. Roman emperor
6. Russia's... Mountains
7. Paper money
8. Dumbfound
9. Bumpkin
10. The N of NATO
11. Slash
12. Test run
13. Pressure lines on map
14. Organized search
15. Raising agent
16. Compressed
23. Economic surge
25. Crowd brawl
27. Lead-in
28. Flying by jumbo
30. Cricket sub, ...man
31. Ear test, ...examination
32. Root vegetables
34. Disables (racehorse)
35. Interior
37. Touch lightly
38. Type of orange
39. Fine
40. Vigour
45. Prison occupant
47. Hold to ransom
48. Unavoidably
49. Auction
51. Most obscene
53. ...King Cole
54. Summon over loud-speaker
55. Compassionate
57. Golf driving area
59. Boiling gently
60. Allure (3,6)
61. Disfigure
63. Subtleties of meaning
64. Absconder
65. Band member
67. Violates
68. Permitted
69. Drink chiller (3,4)
74. Prepares for race
79. Ploy
81. Satay ingredient
83. Comedian, ...Laurel
84. Charged particle
86. 'Tis (2'1)
87. Astronaut, ...Armstrong
89. Design
90. China's...Zedong
91. Music, rock...(3,4)
92. Warn
94. Absurdly
96. Cordless or mobile
98. Group of 12
101. Force out
103. Terminate
106. Bury
107. Poetic term for field
109. Ingest
111. Lessens in intensity
112. Hobbling
113. On the summit of
115. Athlete, ...Lewis
116. Onset of adulthood
117. Rides quickly
120. Braid
121. Decorate
122. Trumpet sound
123. Map book
124. Fragrance
125. Robbery
127. Conduct (meeting)
128. Motor vehicles
130. High cards
131. Prayer ending
133. In existing state (2,2)
134. Flower container

Solution on next page

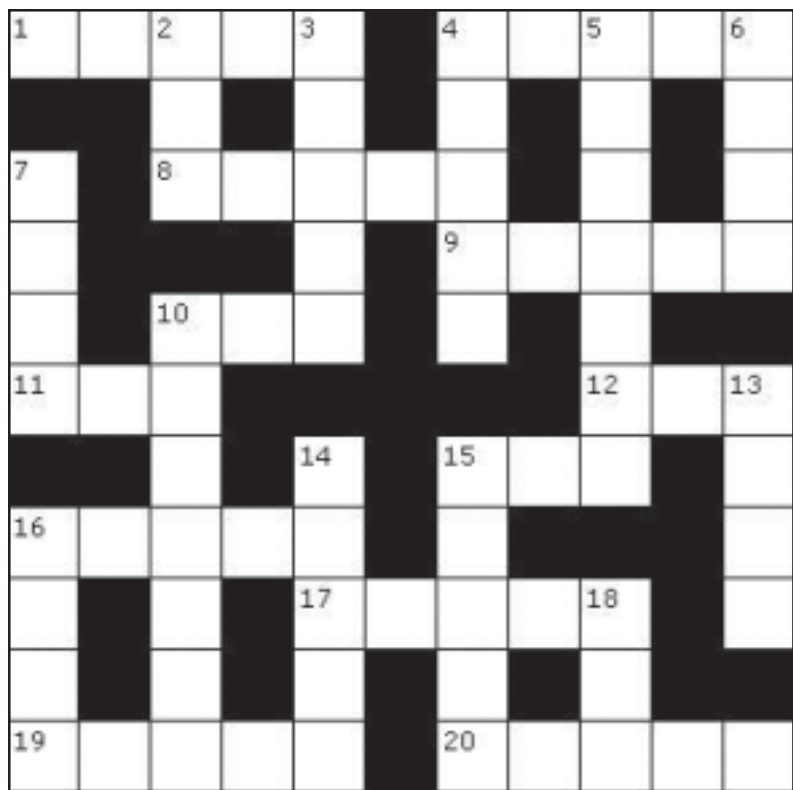
su|do|ku

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Full of joy
4. Singer, David...
8. Digit
9. Maximum
10. Hassle
11. Deux
12. Holy woman
15. Wooden fastener
16. Transmitter
17. Alcohol
19. Italian food
20. Large boat

Down

2. Hole
3. Youthful
4. The Good Book
5. US state
6. Leave
7. Footwear
10. Asian favorite
13. Bomb
14. Snake
15. Fake
16. Incline
18. And so on

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. Who holds the record for most Grand Slam tennis titles?
2. Which actress links *Star Wars* to *Leon*?
3. On which island was Napoleon born?
4. What color was Monty Python's Big Red Book?
5. What was Sly Stallone's debut movie as an actor?
6. What is the local currency of Puerto Rico?
7. How many points is the pink ball worth in snooker?
8. "Allium Sativum" is better known as what?
9. What were the two tribes called in *The Time Machine*?
10. What is the capital of Turkey?
11. What was Gloria Estefan's backing group during the 1980s?
12. What does "Ghengis Khan" mean?
13. Which famous captain was killed in Hawaii in 1779?
14. Black-eyed peas are not peas. What are they?
15. Which boxer was nicknamed "The Ambling Alp"?
16. What is Johnny Depp's real name?
17. Which country has won the men's Olympic 5,000- & 10,000-meter run the most?
18. Who was broadcaster Iva Toguri d'Aquino better known as?
19. In what European city is the International Court of Justice located?
20. What is the Roman numeral for 50?

Answers below

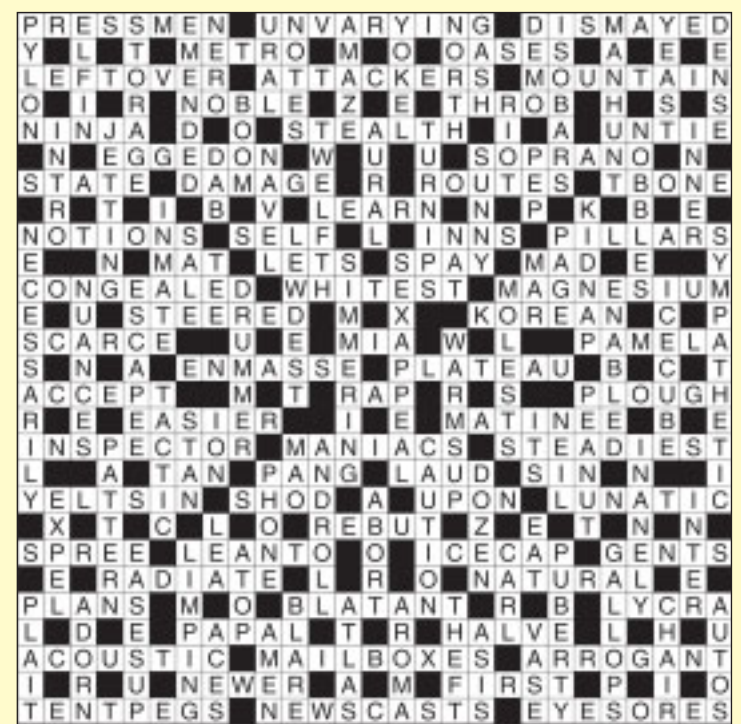
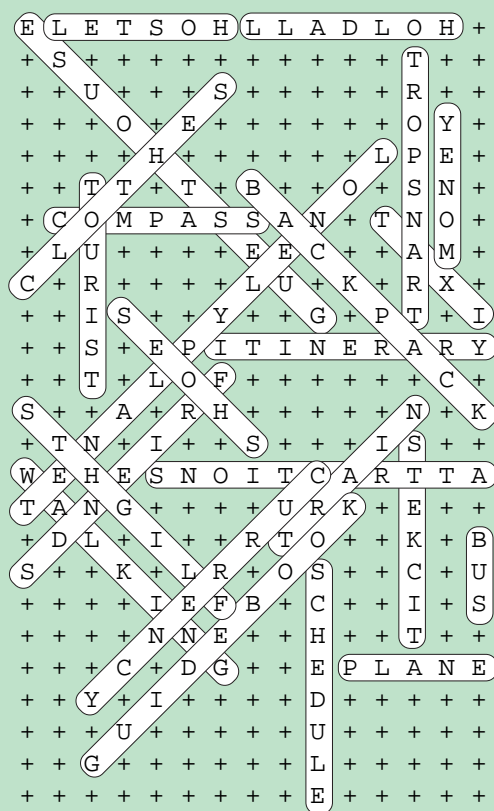
The Monster Quiz is provided by John Aldous, Quiz Master at the Green Man Pub. He can be contacted at Southern Wholesale Meat, procurer of local and imported products. Email: info@swmeat.com

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Pete Sampras; 2. Natalie Portman; 3. Corsica; 4. Blue; 5. *Party at Kitty and Stud's*; 6. US dollar; 7. 6 points; 8. Garlic; 9. Eloi & Morlock; 10. Istanbul; 11. Miami Sound Machine; 12. Universal Ruler; 13. Captain Cook; 14. Beans; 15. Primo Carnera; 16. Christopher; 17. Finland 7 & 7; 18. Tokyo Rose; 19. The Hague; 20. L.

The fall of the great dynasties

It took Thailand only a couple years to recover from the 1997 crisis, but many leading Sino-Thai capitalist families took a body blow from which they have yet to recover. Awash with dollar-denominated debt, they were forced to sell off huge chunks of their family holdings, mostly to foreign corporations, but also to a new breed of self-made Thai tycoons, such as Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi.

Their story is told in *Thai Capital After the 1997 Crisis* (Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, 2008, 309pp), a collection of 10 essays by Thai academics, edited by Pasuk Phongpaichai and Chris Baker.

"The 1997 crisis caused the decapitation of Thailand's capitalist class," eminent economist Ammar Siamwalla writes in his forward. "Certainly the crisis caused great suffering among the poor. But it devastated the rich, too. In retrospect the crisis seems to have left a mark on Thai entrepreneurship that threatens to become permanent."

Of course, it was their own damn fault to begin with: "They rushed off like a pack of lemmings to borrow too much overseas."

But, over the past decade, the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction, with the old families left so spooked that they have become risk-adverse.

"Look at the younger generation of our prominent old business families," Ammar notes. "They seem to prefer ventures in entertainment, media or other ser-

vice sectors like fashion and restaurants. They do not seem interested in the industrial backbone of the economy."

Traumatized by 1997, they are afraid of the risks entailed by a truly developing economy.

In their introduction, Pasuk and Baker note that after the crisis, foreign capital moved from a subsidiary role in the Thai economy to the center. "Over the crisis and aftermath, domestic capital had become of peripheral importance in the key activity driving growth in the national economy," they write.

"Domestic capital had been moved from the center to the sidelines. How that

happened, and what it may mean, is the subject of this book."

The first, and longest, chapter is *Companies in Crisis* by Natenapha Wailerdsak. In 40 pages replete with charts, she traces the rise and fall of the great Chinese immigrant families. Twenty years ago, 100 families owned 1,337 companies with combined revenue equal to 30% of GDP. "Even

within this list, business concentration was marked. The top 30 firms accounted for 81% of the total revenues, equivalent to over a quarter of GDP, and 90% of total assets."

Their approach to the stock market was cautious. Stockholding was structured according to the *kongsi* system in which the family patriarch maintained control. The 1997 crisis forced a great shakeup. The weaker players were

killed off, especially in manufacturing and finance. "Yet three-quarters of the business groups survived. The family firm was still the dominant form," K. Natenapha observes, adding that they were forced to

shift from *kongsi* to more professional management.

In the next chapter, Sakkarin Niyomsilpa shows how international corporations took control of the automotive sector after the 1997 crisis. Similarly, in *Services, Servility and Survival*, Veerayooth Kanchoochat traces the history of the megastores in Thailand and how they slipped from Thai control. The irony

is that these retail giants were introduced by companies such as Central and CP, who should bear the brunt of small shopkeepers' ire.

Ukrist Pathmanand and Chris Baker examine the mobile phone sector and how Thai firms simply gave up the ghost when faced by global competitors. There is the shameless matter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra lowering foreign ownership to 25% when rivals to his Shin Corp wanted to take on foreign partners and then yanking the bar up to 49% the day before he sold out to Singapore's Temasak Holdings.

You might not think that economic history can be hugely entertaining, but Chaiyon Praditsil and Olarn Thinbangtieo tell a rip-roaring tale of epic skulduggery in Rayong, where three semi-mafia families fought tooth and nail for political supremacy after 1997. Murder, bribery, backstabbing – this is Thai family entertainment at its very best.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

There is the shameless matter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra lowering foreign ownership to 25% when rivals to his Shin Corp wanted to take on foreign partners and then yanking the bar up to 49% the day before he sold out to Singapore's Temasak Holdings.

I am currently a high school principal, but I was previously a high school English teacher, so I realize I am sticking my neck out by asking a grammar question. I taught my students that "whether" was always followed by "or not" – as in "I will check the forecast to determine whether or not we'll go to the beach".

In one of your columns, you wrote, "If you want to know whether a word is offensive... it's important to use the most recent dictionary you can find." Where's the "or not"? Did I simply invent a rule?

Eric Waddell
Presque Isle, Maine

Barbara replies:

I've heard other people say the same thing, so you didn't invent the rule. Then again, I've heard yet other people argue that "whether" should *never* be followed by "or not," because it's a waste of words. So much for simple rules.

If "whether" means "no matter whether" then the "or not" is required – as in "This is what I think, whether or not you agree with me". By the way, "or not" should ordinarily come right after "whether" – as opposed to "whether you agree with me or not" – because this word order is easier to follow.

When "whether" means "if", though, the "or not" is generally unnecessary and better left out – as in "I wonder whether you agree with me".

Your example sentence about going to the beach is on this

Whether words are needed – or not

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



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.

syllables, shouldn't someone who means "if" use "if", instead of the longer "whether"? Usually.

But anyone who's thinking of taking me to task for my "whether" should please note that my sentence began with another "if". Putting two of them in a row would make the sentence, um, iffy.

Is there a simple way of telling when to use "I" or "me" in a sentence? I am not too bad with grammar and punctuation, but I do get confused about "I" and "me".

Alberta Parks
Warren, Michigan

Barbara replies:

You and about 100 million other people. These two common little words are misused so often, by so many generally well-edu-

ing about another person too – as in "Please tell my friend and... me? I?"

The way to get it right is amazingly easy and you'll find you already know which word to use, as long as you have time to think it through.

Let's do another one. "I'll bet this won't bother you and... I? me? ...anymore." You'd say, "This won't bother me", so say, "This won't bother you and me anymore" – and I hope it's true!

cated folks, that I'm not sure we're ever going to find our way back.

At least you're willing to admit that the words give you trouble.

The problem almost always comes up when someone is talk-

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Getting the message across about tsunami drills

Considering the response to the July 7 tsunami-evacuation drill, it is difficult to imagine that the disaster that claimed more than 250,000 lives was less than four years ago. Have visitors to Phuket banished the thoughts of the tsunami from their minds already after being so stunned by the disaster in 2004?

When the alarms sounded on Patong Beach on July 7, many of the tourists there chose to ignore them and continued to enjoy their sunbathing and playing in the sea. The tourists the *Gazette* spoke to said that staff at the hotels where they were staying had forewarned them that the drill would take place and knowing this, they chose to ignore the alarm.

What good is an evacuation drill if only select groups of people take part and how can emergency-response teams assess their performance if there are people still on the beach?

One tourist, when asked how she knew that the sirens sounding in the background were just a test, had no answer. If a real wave had been descending upon her, would she have batted an eyelid before it were too late?

Somewhat ironic is that the people who were not told that the sirens sounding would be just a drill had exactly the appropriate response. At a construction site in Mai Khao, workers immediately downed tools, picked up their bags and headed for higher ground.

The government conducting an annual tsunami-evacuation drill is highly commended. Perhaps better would be if this were extended to fire drills for major centers where people congregate, such as cinemas and shopping malls. Imagine if a fire were to break out at the Coliseum Paradise cinema complex or at Robinson department store in Phuket City.

However, allowing local authorities to organize their own tsunami drills has advantages and disadvantages. Exemplary examples are Kamala and Bang Tao schools, which didn't even wait for the national testing to stage their own evacuation drills.

However, it does allow lax authorities to slip through the cracks and place the population in their respective areas in potential danger.

Even if a tsunami never again strikes the shores of Phuket, complacency in being prepared for such a disaster is just not acceptable. Surely the large number of tourists who died in the tsunami is reason enough for the authorities to cajole holidaymakers to take half an hour out of their busy schedules to join in an evacuation drill.

— The Editor

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

The Phuket Gazette

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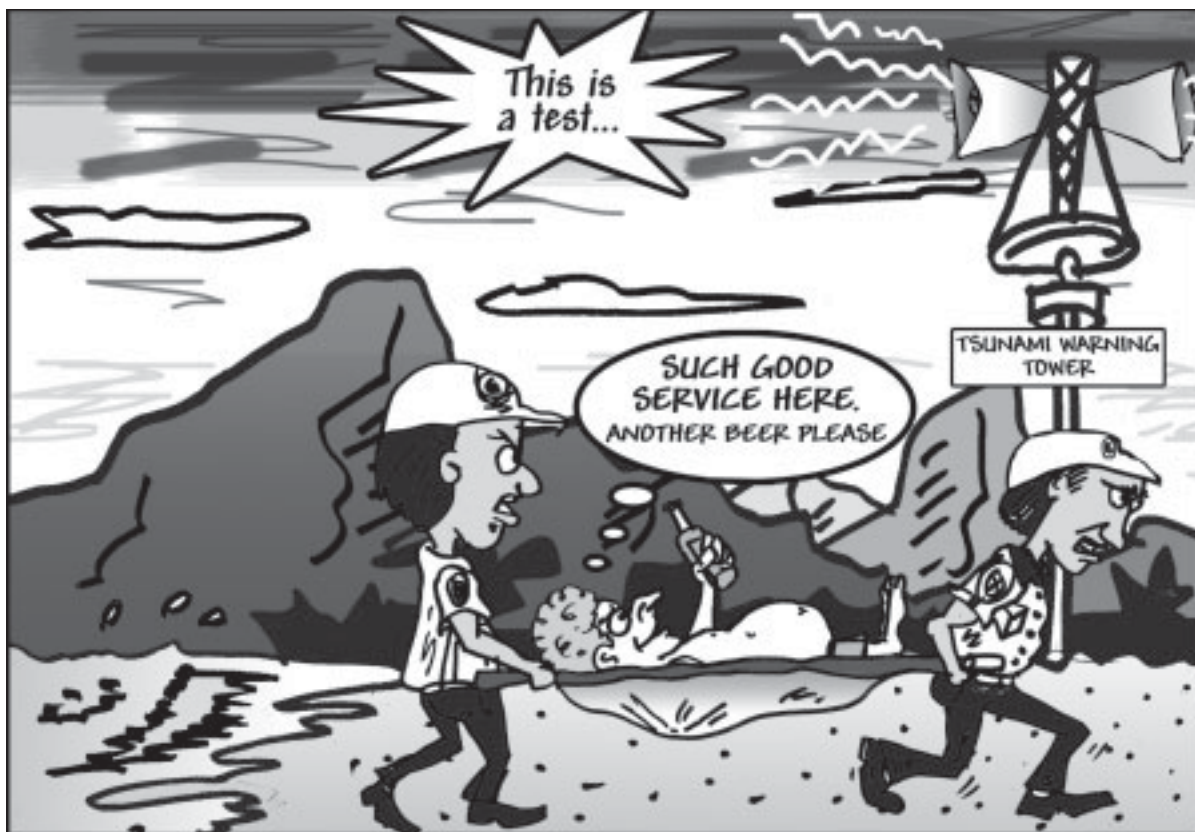
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Letters

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

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

A dinghy disaster

I would just like to say that the tsunami warning on July 7 scared the wits out of tourists that had just got on my boat for a day trip around Chalong Bay. I did the trip with one person instead of six because five of them just ran away.

It made me lose a lot of money. Why can't they say they are just testing the system so that everything would have been OK?

It also cost me in damages to my dinghy because everyone was in such a hurry to get off the boat.

Gordon William
River Rovers

The Badger will not be budged

I was rather taken aback by the response of Annoyed Reader, who, in reply to my letter, seems to think that protests are no laughing matter. Mr (perhaps Mrs) Reader wrote, "Protests are serious ordeals and affect the mood of the entire country. Thailand is already unstable, so why would you suggest more protests just so you can get free concerts?"

Yes, protests are serious ordeals... serious for the singers and dancers, the families having picnics, the children playing games, the vendors selling snacks and drinks. These bloody and tense riots are always on the verge of forcing little Daeng to have a nice time and wave some flags.

Perhaps Mr Reader hasn't been too many protests. They're a jovial affair.

Serious messages do get

through, but we are a long way from October Uprising.

Perhaps Mr Reader would like to head to Saphan Hin with me to hang out with the 200 or so PAD protesters who have been speaking out for their cause recently.

Why would Mr Reader ask me to "think before I write". I was the one at the protests in Bangkok after the coup.

I saw vendors selling to children stickers with images of tanks on them. Youngsters were having their pictures snapped next to smiling soldiers. Heck, I even bought the T-shirt. The protests after the coup were conducted in typical Thai fashion.

If a protest is one of the "the worst excuses I have heard for getting a free concert and picnic", perhaps someone should tell that to the thousands in Bangkok and the hundreds in Phuket.

There is nothing wrong with enjoying these social occasions because they give you the opportunity to see a different side of Thai culture.

What better way to get a glimpse into the mindset of the Thai people than at a protest? And who said protests can't be fun?

Bob Badger
Chalong

Dolphins dying for black gold

It has been distressing to read about the stories of whales and dolphins becoming stranded or lost around Phuket. I've never known this to happen so frequently. Knowing that whales and dolphins rely on sound and the earth's natural magnetic fields, something man-made must be

disturbing these creatures.

Whales and dolphins have turned up stranded on American shores following US military sonar testing. They often die before they can be helped. In May, the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) announced that it would begin petroleum exploration surveys off the shores of Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

These surveys use methods such as seismic reflection, in which seismic waves are created artificially as a "control" so they can be compared with the survey results. Other techniques involve generating strong sound and magnetic waves to work out what might be buried under the seabed.

Concerned
Phuket City

Save our souls

After reading "HOGs go the extra miles" [Gazette on line July 4], I sit here in Brisbane, Australia, shaking my head in disbelief at the story of stupidity and pride prevailing over the need to save the planet by massive reductions in carbon emissions.

The media must lift their game. Education on the perilous and frivolous use of energy is part of the media's role in today's world. Every story like this should include a comment from green groups on the danger of wasted energy and its impact on global warming. The science is very clear now. We must reduce our energy consumption or face a dark, uncertain and possibly bleak future, or worse, no future at all. Save fuel, save the planet, save our lives.

Michael Fish
By email

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.

By the people, for the people: PAD leader speaks out

FIRST PERSON



The Head of the Phuket branch of Thailand National Watchdog Foundation and the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) **Natjarong Ekpermsup** works as a hotel and kitchen designer but in his free time he joins other volunteers to help run the Phuket PAD.

In this week's First Person, he talks about what motivates him to support the organization.

Our goal is to create politics by the people without support from politicians in order to reach our objective. The main activity is teaching the public about politics, especially poorer people who do not have access to political information available on TV or the Internet. If people want to call this protesting, that's okay but the protests are peaceful, there are no weapons and all activities follow our constitutional rights.

We hope that better political awareness will prepare people for fairer elections by educating the working class so that they follow self-sufficiency principles rather than giving in to vote buying. This should not be so difficult because the working class in Phuket have better opportunities and higher incomes than their counterparts in other parts of Thailand.

Although the largest-vote buying problem is in Isarn there are also a fair number of people from Isarn living in Phuket who are learning about democracy.

The Phuket PAD have a large projector screen down at Saphan Hin where every night at 7.30 pm (it must be dark in order to project the broadcasts) the PAD stage in Bangkok is shown on a screen for all to see. There is no charge for this. The environment here is very relaxing and

the show runs until the early hours of the morning, attracting an interesting array of people from government officials and business people to motorcycle drivers and fishermen.

I also organize the Collection of donations and selling of T-shirts. There are also CDs by rock star Rang Rockestra available. These are given away free of charge to anyone who would like one as we have permission from Rang to create copies of them ourselves.

The Phuket chapter will stop their Saphan Hin meetings when the protest in Bangkok stops; the Bangkok protests, I predict, will finish once Khun Pojamarn, the

wife of ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra goes to Political Court on the July 31. Political courts such as constitutional courts do not provide opportunities for appeal, so it is easy to predict when the protesters will go home.

In the meantime, the Constitutional Court on July 8 will pass judgment in an important case that is a serious issue for PAD – selling the nation.

Noppadol Pattama the foreign minister and a legal advisor for ex-PM Thaksin Shinawatra should be found guilty of violating the constitution (Rule 190) when he signed a joint communiqué with the Cambodian Deputy

PM Sok An on June 8.

There is also a case of vote-buying in Chiang Mai by old TRT executives who are accused of lobbying votes for the People's Power Party (PPP) – the present government.

Three years ago, I realized that Thaksin really is very evil but felt powerless to do anything. I was afraid that if I protested against Thaksin's actions, people might think I was politically motivated or radical in my thinking. When the PAD was formed, I saw a legitimate group of like-minded people who sincerely feel that educating people about choosing their future rather than accepting payment for votes, is

the way to create a more honest and transparent system of governance.

The idea was never to teach people to drive out governments in power but to teach people how to pressurize the government into being more fair and just.

When Chalerm Yoobum-rung came to Phuket, the local people did not stop him coming on the island because he is Interior Minister. They still feel bad that his son Wanchalerm came down to Phuket in 1997, was involved in a shooting in Alien Pub near The Metropole hotel and was not punished for the crime.

We had received a call from PAD in Bangkok tipping us off that Chalerm would be coming to Phuket, so we went straight to the airport. We have no power to prevent him from coming to the island. It was his choice to stay away. We want wrongdoers to understand that the public knows what they are doing and are not happy with it.

I am not so much against certain people but more against the wrong things that they do. When the PAD has accomplished its goals, I will continue to find ways to educate the working class on the island, so that they can have a society that treats them fairly and provides justice when deserved.

– *Compiled by Akbar Khan*

Are people allowed to puff in my eatery?

I am opening a restaurant soon and would like to know if it is still possible to allow smoking in the eating area.

In which cases are people not allowed to smoke in the restaurant? My restaurant will be closed on three sides and open on one, without aircon.

Chris
Phuket

Prapa Nakra of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office replies:

All restaurants in Thailand are banned from allowing smoking on the premises, which means that people are not allowed to smoke in any public establishment where people eat.

In your restaurant, although it is open air and without air con-

ditioning, the smoking ban still applies.

A restaurant owner should provide a smoking area for customers. This area must be separated from the eating space and must be used only for smoking. You cannot have an area where people can eat and smoke.

An owner must also ensure that the smoke from the smoking area does not disturb the people who are eating in the restaurant.

You must have a sign tell-

ing your customers that the main area of the restaurant is a smoking-free zone and that there is a designated smoking area.

If you don't provide an area for smokers and you allow customers to smoke inside your restaurant, you could be fined up to 20,000 baht.

If you have the sign and provide a smoking area for your customers, but a customer still smokes in your restaurant, then that person could be fined up to 2,000 baht.

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

What to do about dogs?

My neighbor has six dogs that are free to roam around the estate. He looks after them well and is a dog lover. Unfortunately, they bark frequently at all times of day, leave their droppings about and sometimes even go for a dip in the shared swimming pool. How many dogs is one person allowed to own in Thailand?

Dog Tired
Phuket

Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office, replies:

There are no rules or laws in Thailand limiting the number of dogs one person is allowed to own. However, people who are having problems with dogs in their neighborhood can lodge complaints with their local administration organization, such as *OrBorTor* or *tessabaan* offices.

How long can a car stay for?

I have a friend who lives in Malaysia. He is going to drive his Malaysian-registered car into Thailand.

What are the rules with regards to how long the car can be in the country?

Frank Serio
By email

Bordin Sunsawad, inspector of Sadao Border Custom Office, Songkhla, replies:

Malaysian-registered cars are allowed to enter Thailand for 30 days..

An extension request for the car can be made at any Customs office before the first permit expires. You can request an extension at the Phuket Customs Office by showing the documents issued to you by the Customs officer at the border.

A maximum of two extensions for no more than 30 days each can be granted.

Breakfast at Farraday's

I used to teach English at a Thai university that offered a program called English for Special Purposes (ESP). It contained courses designed to prepare students for different occupations: tour guides, flight attendants, restaurant workers, businesspeople and so on.

I often thought that we should expand this admirable concept and that course titles such as English for Coyote Girls, English for Touts, English for Pickpockets, English for the Obscenely Rich, and English for Future Prime Ministers would be instant hits. But like most of my ideas, this one was quickly rejected by a cold and unfeeling world.

One of my favorite ESP courses was called English for Hotel Personnel. The English Department sometimes asked foreign teachers to write dialogs for its courses. I was never asked to write dialogs for this or any other course and you'll soon see why.

A typical dialog usually went like this:

Room Service: Good morning, room service, may I help you?

Guest: Yes, good morning, I'd like to order breakfast, please.

RS: Yes, sir. May I have your name and room number, please?

G: Richard Farraday, Room 302.

RS: Thank you, Mr Farraday. Would

you like the Continental, American or Thai breakfast?

G: American, please.

RS: Very good, sir. That's one American breakfast for Mr Farraday in Room 302. How would you like your eggs, sir?

G: Fried, please.

RS: Very good, sir. And would you like them sunny-side up or over-easy?

G: Sunny-side up, please.

RS: That's fried eggs, sunny-side up, for Mr Farraday. And would you like toast or muffins, sir?...

Now, I ask you: Is that boring or what? Students will fall asleep half-way through. You probably did, too. I fell asleep three times while writing it.

What this dialog needs is a little pizzazz. And it was because the English Department knew I would add pizzazz that they never asked me to write dialogs. They knew I would turn in something like this:

Room Service: Good morning, room service, may I help you?

Guest: Yes, this is Richard Farraday in Room 302. I'd like to order breakfast.

RS: Yes, Mr Farraday. Would you like

the Continental, American or Thai breakfast?

G: American, please.

RS: Very good, sir. And how would you like him?

G: Beg your pardon?

RS: Your American, sir. How would you like him prepared?

G: I'm afraid I don't understand.

RS: Sir, you ordered an American breakfast. I need to know how you would like the American prepared. Fried, boiled, baked, grilled, poached or cooked in a tasty casserole?

G: Oh, I see. I'm sorry. I'm terribly obtuse this morning, haven't quite woken up, you know. Well, errmm... I'd like him fried.

RS: Very good, sir. Belly up or over easy?

G: Over easy, I guess. Excuse me, but what state's he from?

RS: California, sir. All our Americans are flown in directly from Los Angeles. They're deep-frozen so they'll still be fresh when we cook them.

G: Well, if it's a Californian I suppose I'd better have him belly up.

RS: Excellent choice, sir. Californians do taste better that way. Now would you like him deep-fried or pan-fried?

G: Pan-fried, I suppose.

RS: Very good, sir. Rare, medium or well done?

G: Mmmm, medium-rare.

RS: And do you want him to be lean, average, muscular or fat, sir?

G: Average. I don't want too much fat or muscle. Oh, er, and I hope there's no body hair.

RS (offended): Of course not. All our American breakfasts are shaved clean before they're shipped. So that's one American breakfast, average build, pan-fried, medium-rare, belly up. Any condiments you'd like with that, sir?

G: Ketchup. Americans always taste better with ketchup, don't they? Oh, and I'd like some toast, a pot of coffee and some orange juice.

RS: Very good, Mr Farraday. Your American breakfast will be up shortly. Enjoy your meal, sir.

It was my talent for writing snappy dialogs like this that made the English Department really sad when I retired.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's writing snappy dialogs.



In The Stars

by Isla Star

Give up that bad habit, Cancer

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Turning over a new banana leaf should come easily to most of you this week. You have probably been considering giving up a bad habit for a while and the astral atmosphere will now provide necessary motivation to do so. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days can look forward to a year filled with minor accomplishments and commitment in a relationship that has been casual for too long.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The middle of the week will bring results in an ongoing employment disagreement. Most Leos will be

satisfied with the outcome, but a few may want to push their point further. You are advised to let the matter rest. If you are single, remember that love can be blind as a gold-digging Aries is forecast to appear on the scene.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A work colleague tries to complicate a simple matter early next week, which could result in you losing your cool. You are advised to show the person in question how the problem can be fitted into a nutshell and then retreat. Personal relationships are also best kept simple. A Scorpio partner's emotional outburst could

dampen the harmony at home this weekend. The number 4 can be lucky on Monday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your natural charm works wonders until the end of the month. Those of you who want to boost your achievements should make the most of current beneficial astral conditions. Raise your expectations and the outcome will be positive. Money matters improve when a debt is repaid this week, but try to curtail your generosity to friends. Wear salmon pink to encourage smoother flow of energy.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You will do well to keep the lines of communication open this week. Disagreements with friends or administrative bodies are best solved by facing up to them. Capricorn has decided to get up close and personal with you. This person's down-to-earth attitude should help you to see life from a calmer perspective. The number 6 can bring luck on Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The second half of July continues to be as positive as the previous two weeks. Some of you will be tempted to push your luck a little too far early next week. Remember that progress is not only measured by money in the bank. Contacts made before August can be useful further down the road. Romance with Taurus is well-

starred – a relationship with Pisces is forecast to be stormy.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Careful navigating with finances is recommended this week. If you have been budget conscious, you will find it easy to go with the restricted flow, but those who have been throwing caution to the wind will regret recent extravagances. Wednesday is best for impressing a prospective romantic partner with a creative gesture. The scent of peppermint can enhance your perception.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Taking a break from your usual routine is recommended this weekend. A relationship that has begun to grow stale will benefit from some sparks of fresh energy. After Monday, the coast is clear for those of you who would like to change employment; Gemini has a tip that's worth its weight in gold. Wednesday is the best day for talking to those in authority, but you will need to swallow your pride.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your persistence should pay off this week. A business deal that appeared to be on the rocks is about to resurface closer to home. Taurus is a suitable person to invite on board, but another Pisces could cause too many waves. Romance remains at a low ebb as a new partner seems to be maintaining some personal space.

You will soon know if this relationship is going to work.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A last-minute change of plan could bring you down to earth with a bump next Monday, but this will turn out to be a positive event. It appears that you have been having such a good time socializing that some work-related matters have been ignored. A Sagittarius snake in the grass is ready to take advantage of your lack of attention to business. Wearing sapphire blue can encourage better concentration.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Tolerance is key for you this week. Make allowances for friends behaving oddly and when negotiating with bureaucrats. Important appointments are best left until the last week of the month. Romance continues to bloom if you met someone special early this month and those of you who are single will be flattered by attention from a lively Libra.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Time is on your side concerning business. You should refrain from sudden moves as this will result in disappointment. The stars suggest that a casual romance is about to fizzle out and there is no point trying to stay on this sinking ship. Those in a committed relationship could learn that your partner has been concealing a problem. The number 9 can bring good fortune on Tuesday.

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The Internet times they are a-changin' Part I: Wireless

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Much has been happening locally in the fast-changing world of "broadband" fast Internet connections. This week I'd like to talk about wireless connections, specifically the EV-DO "AirCard" technology you can buy today and tomorrow's still-elusive HSPA "3.5G" wireless.

Next week, I'll discuss the amazing – and, to me, inscrutable – changes currently evident in wired ADSL connections all over the island. It's a jungle out there.

A few weeks ago, CAT rolled out its latest and greatest wireless Internet card, a small evolution in the AirCard/EV-DO line. The new C-motech CCU-680 incorporates "Rev A" fast wireless technology, which is marginally faster than the "Rev 0" EV-DO Sierra 580 and CCU-650 technology that CAT has offered for more than a year.

Rev A improves upon Rev 0 by reducing the latency – the stutter, if you will – when your computer is sending data. The bottom line: if you already have a CAT Sierra 580 or C-motech CCU-650, the CCU-680 may reduce the stutter in Skype conversations and it may make interactive games more responsive. Other than that, though, there's no reason for 680 envy. Most people won't notice any difference.

The CCU-680 has an innovative design: it's just a little bit bigger than a thumb drive, and the USB head swivels so you can stow your 680 up against your computer case. All of the drivers, as well as the documentation, are on the drive. The reports I've heard about installation have all been positive, on Windows, Linux and Macs.



CAT has just started selling the C-motech CCU-680, seen here on the C-motech website. The CCU-680 is a "Rev A" wireless adapter that plugs into any USB port.

CAT charges 10,990 baht for the CCU-680. "Rev A" monthly service is the same prices as "Rev 0" service – 835 baht a month for unlimited access.

I should repeat three admonitions that pertain to the CAT EV-DO "AirCard" service.

First, at this point in time, you can get a "fast" wireless Internet connection only from CAT. If you buy a fancy, expensive AirCard from any company but CAT, you'll spend a lot for a shiny card with mobile phone (GPRS or EDGE) speeds – at most one-fifth as fast as a CAT EV-DO connection.

Second, when you're shopping at CAT (there are two branches, one on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City, the other on Soi Tun near the "third road" in Patong), you have to be sure that you get the CCU-680. CAT has other products that use so-called "CDMA 1X" technology. They run at only a fraction of the speed of a CCU-680.

Third, if you want to buy a secondhand CAT Sierra 580, CCU-650 or CCU-680, both you and the seller have to go to a CAT office to transfer ownership. If you try to finesse the phone firm, you'll likely end up with a large bill and a dead card.

If you aren't up to getting a CCU-680, keep in mind that your laptop's built-in Wi-Fi card works in more and more places every day. Both pay-for and for-free wireless hotspots dot the landscape in all of the more developed parts of the island.

If you can get a telephone line, setting up a Wi-Fi network in your home is as easy as asking the phone company to put in a "wireless router" when they install ADSL.

The signal from your home system will reach only 100 meters or so – less through concrete walls – but Wi-Fi is a no-brainer for any household with two or more computers. Talk to your neighbors.

At one point it appeared as if WiMax – a completely different technology that delivers fast city-wide wireless access – might be rolled out in Phuket. A few limited pilot projects, including one in Phuket, have brought mixed results. In spite of what you may have read in the papers, or in certain phone companies' press releases, WiMax doesn't appear to be imminent.

HSPA (High Speed Packet Access), on the other hand, seems to be the way of the future, in Thailand in general and Phuket in particular.

HSPA and its kissin' cousin HSDPA realistically offer download speeds four times greater than the current generation of CAT "AirCards," and further development of the HSDPA tech-

nique promises to bring substantially faster speeds.

By the end of the year, Phuket should see at least one trial HSPA offering – if somebody in Bangkok starts making decisions.

Therein lies the rub.

Several mobile phone companies are pushing to get HSPA working, but they're running into regulatory problems. One group approves the use of the airwaves, while another refuses to issue import permits.

Some people think that one particular government organization is in charge, while others dispute jurisdiction. Billions of baht hang in the balance and it isn't at all clear which skids need to be greased or, indeed, if today's skids will even be around tomorrow. I think of it as governance by vacuum.

Next week, I'll delve into the intricacies of the current – nay, bizarre – state of wired ADSL connections in Phuket, and take a glimpse into our fuzzy fiber future.

Woody Leonhard will be speaking at the International Business Association of Phuket (IBAP) meeting on August 8 at the Yorkshire Inn on Soi Sansabai in Patong. He'll be talking about the current status of Internet connections in Phuket, and the technology that's coming down the pike. Then he'll field any questions you may have about computers. 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 14, we'll have a session, at the Sandwich Shoppe in Laguna.

On July 21, we'll be at Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

And on July 28, Mac group Therapy will also be held at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free.

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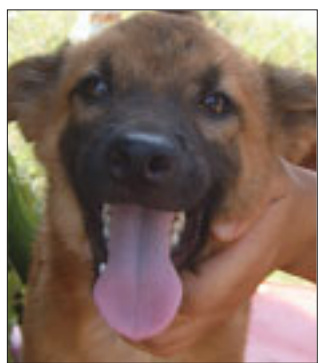
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Thai Tyson KOs Jimrex

By Scott Mallon

PATTAYA: It was an action-packed give-and-take bout while it lasted, but in the end, former WBA super-featherweight champion Yodsanan "The Thai Tyson" Sor Nanthachai of Thailand proved too talented and too strong for Jimrex Jaca, stopping the Filipino in Round 6 of the scheduled 12-round contest on June 27.

The Thai Tyson lived up to his name, scoring with thunderous blows. Jimrex stood bravely with Yodsanan, trading punches and connecting sporadically in rounds one through three, but Yodsanan refused to let Jimrex gain control of the bout, keeping him off balance with a mixture of stiff jabs and overhand lefts.

Jimrex had his best round in the fourth, but Yodsanan quickly squelched the attack, landing with crunching right hooks to the temple that rapidly depleted the power of the Filipino. In Round 5, Jimrex, his face swollen and bloodied, threw left hook after left hook, but the Thai marched forward and matched his punches.

Yodsanan picked up the pace in the next round until he scored with a hard right that knocked his opponent backwards. Sensing Jimrex was hurt, he moved quickly to the Filipino, pressing him against the ropes and unloading with a barrage of



Yodsanan 'The Thai Tyson' Sor Nanthachai goes to work on Filipino Jimrex Jaca in their super-featherweight title showdown on June 27.

punches. Jimrex attempted to move out of danger, but Yodsanan knew the end was near. He let go another volley of punches, scoring with right hand after right hand until Jimrex slumped over and turned his body away from the attack, no longer capable of responding. The stoppage came at 1:36 of Round 6.

Yodsanan plans to fight in the US next. The fight will be broadcast on ESPN. The win

brings Yodsanan's record to 56-3-1 with 45 KOs. Jimrex drops to 28-5-3 with 13 stoppages.

On the undercard, Thailand's Saddam Kietyongyuth displayed devastating speed and power in demonstrating why he is one of Thailand's top prospects, stopping JR Sollano of the Philippines in Round 1 of a scheduled 12-round fight.

JR began the round popping out his jab, moving side-to-side.

Saddam advanced, throwing jabs and overhand rights. Slightly over a minute into the round, the two traded punches in the center of the ring, with Saddam landing a left hook that smacked the point of the chin. Seconds later, JR turned away, suffering a delayed reaction from the effect of the punch, and dropped to the canvas. He took nine before springing up to beat the count.

The two traded punches and once more Saddam's punch found the mark first. Saddam went on to land a massive left hook that put JR down. The referee did not bother to count.

On to Vegas where, without a doubt, the fight of the week took place on June 28 in a WBC lightweight championship bout between Manny "Pac Man" Pacquiao (47-3-2, 35 KOs) and champion David Diaz (34-2-1, 17 KOs). Pacquiao, boxing's pound-for-pound champion, was moving up from super featherweight

(130 lbs) to fight as a lightweight (135 lbs) for the first time. The Filipino has jumped up eight weight divisions from the minimumweight division (105 lbs) since beginning his career. In choosing Diaz, Pacquiao knew exactly what he was in for: a fight with a tough but relatively limited opponent who could help showcase Pacquiao's considerable talents.

Before the bout, there was an abundance of questions. Would Pacquiao's punches have the same effect on his larger opponent? Could he cope with his opponent's strength and punching power?

The Filipino made it clear right from the start of the bout that he was the boss, controlling the ring, pressing forward aggressively and landing hard hooks and crosses to the face of his opponent. Diaz fought gamely but his offense never took hold and by the end of the fourth round, the Chicago native's face was a bloody mess.

Round after round, Pacquiao dominated the action. Before the bout, Diaz was heard saying, "This is going to be fun."

It didn't look particularly fun for Diaz. By Round 9, he was losing steam, but still attacking. After one combination, Diaz shuffled out of range. He immediately moved forward to throw a punch, but Pacquiao beat him to it, landing a picture-perfect left to the point of the chin. Diaz dropped face first to the canvas, out cold, and referee Vic Drakulich immediately called a halt to the bout.

After the bout, promoter Bob Arum said, "There is a possibility we could fight Ricky Hatton next year."

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

PATONG POOL LEAGUE

League standings after July 6

	Team	Pld	Won	Lost	Beer	Pts
1	Offshore Bar	9	6	3	16	62
2	Anchor Bar	9	7	2	10	61
3	Black Dragon	9	6	3	10	58
4	Shakers	9	6	3	14	56
5	Frog Club	9	5	4	10	54
6	Montes	9	5	4	10	50
7	Thunder Bar	9	2	7	8	49
8	Skylight II	9	5	4	6	46
9	Kata Spa Club	9	2	7	6	37
10	No Name Bar	9	1	8	0	22

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

ICC win 2008 cricket league

CHERNG TALAY: A glorious day awaited the finalists in the 2008 Island Furniture League. After 23 weeks and 20 matches, the Island Cricket Club (ICC) again found themselves up against the Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) – winners of the league for the previous two seasons – in a showdown of cricket giants on June 22 at Cherno Talay Wittayakom School.

A Chand, skipper of ICC, won the toss and elected to bat first. In scathing heat, Chand, along with fellow opener R Panday, had ICC off to a steady start before Panday was bowled by R Narula for 17.

This brought Dimple to the crease, who didn't disappoint, as he and Chand put on a partnership of 137 before Chand was bowled LBW for 66. Dimple fell in the next over for 69 when he was caught by B Daniels at long off. This came after Dimple had been dropped five times by the LLL fielders.

With the score at 186 for three in the 23rd over, the ICC camp was on track for putting together a decent total. S Khan and M Singh maintained the momentum before Khan was bowled by M Ayling for 35 and Singh was run out for 20.

S Sharma chipped in with 36 runs to propel ICC to 289 runs off their allotted 35 overs.

Shortly before 2 pm, LLL opened their campaign to retain the Green Man Cup for the third year in succession.



Players from the Island Cricket Club hold their heads high after defeating the Liquid Lounge Lizards to win their Island Furniture League title.

B Whitehead fell for a golden duck in the first over after being controversially judged LBW off the bowling of Kamlesh.

This brought LLL captain R Meyer to the crease, who steadied the ship with the help of R Loughland, moving the score to 102 before Loughland (50) was bowled by Khan. Meyer soon followed on 32, succumbing to a sharp catch by Chand at mid-on.

C DuPreez and S Reading then put together a 72-run partnership, with Reading eventually falling for 42 with the score 173 for four in the 23rd over. After a short rain delay, LLL knew they needed to up the run rate if they

were to have any chance of victory.

The loss of key wickets, however, saw their hopes fade. When DuPreez finally fell for 72, the writing was on the wall. Despite some handy runs by D Orchard (16) and P DuPreez (14), LLL didn't have enough gas in the tank and they saw out their 35 overs 27 runs short of the target, handing ICC their first league title.

Player of the Final was Anand Chand, while Camdyn DuPreez won honors for Player of Year.

The 2009 League will kick off in January next year. For further details email Mark Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th



Organizer's are confident that this year's Phuket Raceweek will be the best ever, with up to 50 boats expected to take part.

Phuket Raceweek set for record fleet

PHUKET: Dubbed "the most exciting mixed fleet regatta [in] this region", Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is almost here once more, with some of the region's top yachtsmen and women ready to do battle over four days of rainy-season racing.

A record number of boats are expected to cross the start line on July 24 for Day 1 of racing. More than 40 yachts have been entered with up to 50 expected to take part in the annual event.

There will be seven racing categories: RC Racing Class 1, IRC Racing Class 2, Club Class, Racing Multihull Class, Ocean Multihulls Class, Firefly 850 One-design Catamaran Class and Classic Class.

In the IRC Racing Class, Peter Ahern will be making the trip from Perth on *Yo!2* to lock horns with Stuart Williamson on *Endeavour of Whitby* and Antony Hastings's *Baby Tonga 99 Degrees East*.

Meanwhile, a good turnout is expected for the multihulls, with up to 15 boats taking part. Neil Ayre's *Shanghai Baby* and Richard Simpson's *Dingo* will be two of the boats to watch.

Keeping up with tradition, there will be five parties held after dark on each night from July 23 to 27.

Fresh from Bangkok, all-star girl-band Unicorn will be performing at the prize giving and closing party. All of the parties except one will be held at the Evason Phuket and Six Senses Spa. The exception will be the Raimon Land party, once again taking place at Ratri Jazztaurant in Kata.

Registration will be at the Evason Phuket from 10 am until 4 pm on July 23. Racing will start at 10 am on each of the following four days.

For more information about this year's Phuket Raceweek, visit www.phuketraceweek.com

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

July 1 results: Dogs Bollocks 2 - Queen Mary* 7; Piccadilly* 4 - Beach House 5; Simply Red 2 - Offshore* 7; Market Bar* 7 - Hilltop 2; Sick Buffalo* 7 - Celtic 2; Shakers bye (*winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (40 points); 2. Offshore* (36); 3. Market Bar* (34); 4. Sick Buffalo* (30); 5. Piccadilly*, Beach House (29); 7. Dogs Bollocks* (26); 8. Shakers* (22); 9. Hilltop, Celtic (19); 11. Simply Red (16) (* have had a bye week).

July 15 match-ups: Market Bar vs Queen Mary; Sick Buffalo vs Piccadilly; Dogs Bollocks vs Offshore; Hilltop vs Shakers; Simply Red vs Celtic; Beach House bye (home team first).

Runners raise money for charity

PHUKET CITY: About 400 people took to the streets on June 29 as part of the "Run for the One We Love" charity fun run held in honor of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana.

The event was divided into a 10.5-kilometer mini-marathon and a 2.5km "walk-run", with participants setting off from in front of Central Festival Phuket on the bypass road.

Taking first place in the 10.5km run was Taweesak Sue-sat from the Andaman Pearl Running Club, Phuket, closely follow by Somsak Limpawitayanon of the Cherno Talay Municipality Running Club.

Sa-ngob Praisuwan, from Phang Nga, finished third.

Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai led the start of the 2.5km walk, strolling alongside members of the public.

Part of the proceeds of the event will be donated to the Princess Mother's Medical Volunteer Foundation.



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Decor

by Nick Davies

Painting porcelain delights

Eye-catching and endearing are the first words that come to mind when describing the collection of hand-painted porcelain ornaments and other creatively colored decor items at Hobby Corner, a small folk-art shop at Baan Suan Place, on the road behind the Big C supercenter on the bypass road.

The assorted plates, coasters, vases, jewelry boxes, tissue holders, wall mirror frames and other knickknacks have an endearing uniqueness created by the floral images that have been skillfully applied on them by hand.

The everyday items have been transformed into works of art by Hobby Corner's owner, Noppamas "Moo" Limpanonda, who describes the work as "folk art". She began creating her collection of pretty porcelain after taking early retirement – opting out of the high-pressure demands of a career in finance – to indulge her flair for creativity.

The ceramic creations are reminiscent of European and American homes of yesteryear, when decorative plates and hand-painted picture frames lined the walls.

Khun Moo explained that

American and English ceramic painting styles differ in that they use different brush-stroke techniques. She uses both styles to transform plain household objects into works of art and adds a little flair of her own.

The items in the shop range in price from about 300 baht for a hand-painted table-top ornament up to 5,000 baht for a wall mirror with a flowery frame. Even the flowers standing in hand-painted vases have been made by hand. They are so well crafted that they look entirely authentic until you inspect them very closely.

Also on display are watercolor landscapes by reputed Bangkok artists for sale at prices between 5,000 and 6,000 baht.

For those tempted to learn the art, K. Moo offers porcelain painting courses at the shop. However, as space in the current shop is limited, she is moving into a larger unit behind the shop where groups can learn and practice making their own folk art.

K. Moo's 15-hour courses cost 3,000 baht. The courses are divided into three-hour morning and afternoon sessions with two brushes, 10 tubes of different-



ABOVE: Everything in Hobby Corner has been hand-crafted or painted, from the realistic flowers to the frames around the wall mirrors.



LEFT: Noppamas Limpanonda holds one of her hand-painted ceramic plates.

by applying base colors, then by outlining the pattern and filling it in.

"There are shading techniques to learn which give depth to the images, too. The plate would also have to be kilned several times before it is eventually ready for display," she added.

"Folk art can be any kind of handiwork," K. Moo explained. "My idea in opening Hobby Corner and offering porcelain painting classes was to have somewhere for people with a creative flair to meet. Anyone who wants to try their hand at folk art can come. We can exchange ideas and create new things."

Hobby Corner is located at Baan Suan Place, behind Index and Big C. For more information contact K. Moo at Tel: 086-5640876 or email: noppamas.net@gmail.com

colored paints and five items for painting provided.

Customers are also welcome to bring their own ornaments to be transformed or even commission K. Moo to create a work of art out of an everyday object, such as a decorative name and address placard to hang out-

side the house or an ornamental box as a souvenir gift.

Asked how long it takes to create a piece of art out of a plate, for example, K. Moo explained that a lot depends on one's skills as a painter. "There are several stages to porcelain painting before the end product. You start

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Downstairs in the fully furnished property, the en-suite bathroom of the master suite has a Jacuzzi.

The Western-style kitchen is fitted with European appliances, including a glass cooking top, oven, exhaust hood, microwave, double sink, timber cupboards and granite bench tops.

Connecting the kitchen to the living area is a timber bar, while a second living and dining area is located at the front of the property.

A timber staircase leads to the second floor, which contains a third living room and a double bedroom with bathroom en suite.

This property comes with stepped ceilings, timber cornices and skirting boards, and custom-made window treatments.

A self-contained guest-house, complete with kitchen, bedroom and bathroom en suite, is located in the garden along



with an al-fresco living area and 72-square-meter swimming pool.

The carport has space for two vehicles and the property also

features a laundry room and maid's quarters.

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The house is built on a 1.26-rai plot and is available freehold with Chanote title.



For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Reference number: HSIL715. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate

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One of the region's emerging tigers, Vietnam, is learning the hard way on the journey to a free market economy. With its currency, the dong, currently trading above 16,000 to the US dollar, all signs point to possible devaluation in the near future.

Also, inflation has breached 25% and the national trade deficit is approaching US\$15 billion. How fast the tide turns in what has been hailed as one of Asia's fastest growing economies in the past year.

In its accelerated march to attract overseas investment and open its doors to trade, the country adopted a much more aggressive liberalization program over the past decade than, for example, China.

China has repeatedly initiated measures to cool down its overheated economy over the years and taken considerably more pragmatic steps on the road from a bleak communist machine to liberalization.

Despite some historic benchmarks to learn from China, Vietnam is now poised on the edge of an economic situation that may have serious consequences for its neighboring Asian economies.

Not since the 1997 regional currency crisis has there been a large-scale devaluation. Already, over the past month, the baht has depreciated against major currencies.

A downturn in the Vietnamese economy would certainly create a larger downturn not only in Thailand but ripples would be felt throughout the Asia.

On a global level, inflation combined with the subprime problem and rising oil prices is resulting in a slowdown in economic growth with the cost of living everywhere continually on the rise.

For businessmen and property developers in Vietnam, there has been an abundance of US-dollar-denominated debt over the past 12 to 18 months. Now, all of a sudden, in cases where loans have been based in US dollars, say at 7.5% interest, banks are converting loans to Vietnamese dong denominations and quoting interest at hyper-inflationary rates of 15% to 16%.

For any business, this creates a sudden vacuum as the cost of investment is doubled overnight and the possibility of currency de-



Resort investments such as the Sheraton in Hainan Island (pictured) have proved that economic reforms applied in a tempered manner are far more effective than throwing open the market without adequate infrastructure, as is currently happening in Vietnam.

Vietnam: too fast, too soon

It's been said that no man is an island, and though Phuket indeed is one, it's not immune to the market ups and downs of Asia. In a real estate industry that thrives on overseas buyers, a moderate depreciation of the baht creates significant buyer interest and opportunities here.

For the growing overseas retirement market, it also leads to a lower cost of living, hence attracting more part- and full-time residents that favorably impacts a service economy such as ours.

In a nutshell, with risk comes reward and with threats come opportunity. The impact of Vietnam's worsening problems will no doubt be felt on these shores, but for the moment it seems that we are continuing to follow global issues more closely than ever before.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

valuation adds further downside risk on interest rates.

In Thailand, while local banks do not have substantial exposure to Vietnamese investment, there are troubling signs of large-scale inflation. Countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are seeing signs of this worsening.

Vietnam as of today is a stand-alone issue, but certainly the impact of the economic uncertainty will see knock-on effects here and abroad. Lessons learned from 1997 are that the property market was one of the worst-hit sectors and that recovery took several years.

Meanwhile, in Vietnam, sev-



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

eral high-profile projects have been launched in markets such as Danang. The mixed-use Laguna Hu with its mix of high-end luxury resorts, golf course and residential development has created con-

siderable interest in the emerging market.

Middle East group Kingdom Hotel Investments, which owns the Mövenpick Resort & Spa in Karon, are launching the upper-tier Raffles Resort and Residences, which are aimed directly at the lifestyle-investment market in which Phuket has dominated for the past few years.

Along Danang's China Beach coastline are no fewer than 15 large international hotels under development. While it's yet to be seen what fallout the current investment climate will create, in the long term this type of investor bodes well for longer-term development success.

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Not quite a total lettuce

I have very few skills. In fact there really isn't much that I'm any good at. This is proved weekly in a certain Southern Thailand newspaper; this particular page of drivel is certainly not about to win any literary awards. To be honest, I don't have a creative bone in my body.

I can't draw to save my life. Anyone who has heard me sing will confirm that the only thing that seems to make me stop (and believe me, they do sincerely want me to stop) is thrusting another beer in my hand. It usually works very effectively.

But there's one thing in life at which I've found that I do indeed excel – I am rather good at insulting people. It's a skill; one that's taken many years of honing. It's a shame that hurling abuse hasn't become an Olympic sport (most other things have, after all), because I rather feel that I could have represented my country.

There are some crackers that you can throw around. Try calling an American (a nation known for their astute awareness, of course) a "pillock" with a big smile on your face. When they ask you what it means, which they inevitably will with some inanity like "Gee, that's a cute word", you just tell them it's somebody who enjoys the sun or something. They'll love it.

It appears that the good ole US of A has even produced a book to explain British slang and insults. For each example, it ranks the slang, with a short description of each rating at the beginning of the book. There's "vulgar", which means the slang is fine to use in every day conver-



LETTUCE PRAY: A sea lettuce bush at Karon Beach.

sation, but not in, as they put it "proper" company.

Then there's "offensive", which should only be used in certain company with whom you are familiar. Surely these things really don't need spelling out to them. The crowning glory is "taboo"; the book essentially says "Do not, under any circumstances, use this". Bless them – these words actually do need explaining.

By the way – while we're on the subject, most Brits tend not to say things like "crikey" or "cor

blimey, guv'nor". Those classics are reserved for Mary Poppins.

Back to the insults, then. Allow me to help you out. If you call someone a "minger", you are of course referring to their exquisite taste in fine arts (certainly not implying that they whiff a bit), particularly with references to Chinese vases from the Ming dynasty, in the same way that a "plonker" is known for their flower-arranging abilities, ie, how skillfully they plonk.

We have some even weirder words. One, which describes two very similar parts of a gentleman's anatomy, on its own indicates total nonsense – hardly a positive use of the word. Precede that with the word "dog's", and suddenly it becomes something exceptional. I'm not sure that anyone quite gets that one.

A "right lettuce" could be one of many things; none of them particularly complimentary. At last – a mention of a plant. Specifically, the sea lettuce, a common sight in many areas of Phuket's shores.

Nobody seems to know where the sea lettuce, or *bong-bong* in Thai, originally came from. The so-called experts' answer is a bit of a cop out. They say that it is native to the coasts of the Pacific and Indian oceans – you hardly need to be a professor of tropical botany to figure that one out. What a bunch of wazzocks.

The sea lettuce isn't a particularly exciting plant. It just kind of sits there and grows, quietly minding its own business. Kind of the filing clerk of the plant world – nobody really notices its existence; its human counterpart

would probably be called Clive.

This large shrub or even a small tree is a predictable but useful enough addition to any garden near the sea, since it tolerates sandy soil (it even grows in 100% sand) and laps up strong, salty winds. It's freely branching, and will sprawl like crazy if you let it, and has fleshy, pale green leaves. It has small, five-lobed white flowers, which appear on only one side, leading to another popular name: "half flower".

The sea lettuce thrives in full sun and tolerates very dry conditions. Once you plant this thing in your garden and get it going, you can totally ignore it, as it's perfectly capable of looking after itself. It's propagated by seeds or by terminal cuttings; the oval berries of the sea lettuce float for long periods, which means that it spreads all over the place.

For the DIY enthusiast, seeds soaked in saltwater are said to germinate better and large branches for cuttings should be kept moist until rooted. I wouldn't bother though – just go and pinch a huge clump from Karon beach – tell them I sent you, if anyone bothers to ask.

It can get quite large and bushy, up to about five meters tall, often forming dense hemispherical mounds. The leaves are fairly thick, presumably because of the water that the plant stores inside them. They're a shiny green, wider near the tips, around 20 cm long and a bit hairy on both sides.

Because of the way they thrive in beach areas and bind sands together, the sea lettuce was promoted in the early 1980s for use in beach stabilization projects in some parts of the

world. This practice is now very much discouraged, as it can totally take over in areas that it shouldn't be, doing all sorts of damage to the local ecosystem. We're fine in Thailand – it came here naturally and seems to be behaving itself so far.

The fruits of the sea lettuce are buoyant, with a corky outer layer, which helps ocean currents to do the dispersing act. They are also eaten by pigeons and sea birds, and moved by crabs and other animals. This plant doesn't mess about when it comes to dispersing its seed, as it were. Although these seeds can last in sea water up to a year or more, they will germinate only with fresh water, when they're washed ashore on a rainy day.

The sea lettuce is hardly the life and soul of the party as far as plants are concerned. It's certainly no heliconia or hibiscus. I'd go so far as to say it's somewhat banal; all it seems to do is look green and hold beaches together in its own dull way. Am I insulting plants now?

At least I managed to get through this diatribe without saying anything derogatory about people (except perhaps Americans a tiny bit). Hang on, I did call botanists who couldn't be bothered to find out where this plant originated a bunch of wazzocks. I'm not even sure that I can define a wazzock. It's the same as a prat; a total lettuce. Does that help?



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Property Gazette

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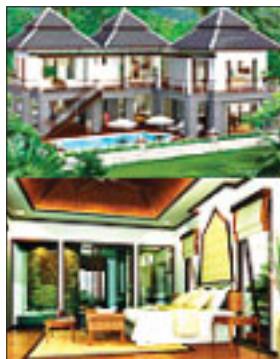
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Property Gazette

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4 rai in Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



Small plots from 1 rai up to 100 rai with very good sea view. A few minutes from city center and beaches. Chanote, road, electricity & water supply. Priced from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308 or Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

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

FOR SALE

Two 5-rai plots (8,493sqm and 8,461sqm) 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

APARTMENT DUPLEX

for sale in a nice resort. 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, kitchen, swimming pool, garden, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8448381.

KATA BEACH 3-LEVEL HOUSE

Only 2 mins to the beach. Chanote, reduced for quick sale from 3.5 to 3.1 million baht. Tel: 084-8405834.

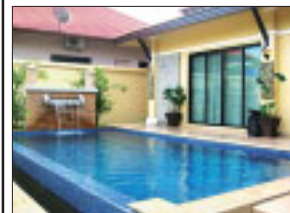
HOUSE NEAR BIS

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

HOUSE, RAWAI

for sale. 4 million baht. Living room, dining room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, carport, own water. Tel: 084-8463826.

HOUSE IN RAWAI-NAI HARN



- Detached floors: 1
 - Completed: 2008
 - Bedrooms: 2
 - Bathrooms: 2
 - Aircons: 2
 - Private pool: 7m x 3.5m
 - Land area 320 sqm
 - Price 6.5 million baht
 - Located on the way from Nai Harn to Rawai
- Living in the South of the island, near beaches in an area favored by expats. Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches are 5-8 minutes by bike or car. Please contact Miss Kob. Tel: 081-2733303. Email: info@sariyahouse.com or sariyapat-t@hotmail.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

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.

RAWAI: 3 BEDROOMS + POOL
220sqm villa, 10m pool, newly built, big garden. For sale at 7.5 million baht. Rent possible. Tel: 087-8938747.

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

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Property Gazette

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for sale (27.5 million baht) or for rent. 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

LOOKING FOR JOINT VENTURE OR SALE



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.

SAIYUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



2-story house with additional living space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. A few minutes to Nai Harn Beach. 10 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 084-8475700, 087-8987642. Email: morn_48@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KATHU



Quiet location, 3 bedrooms, detached with garden building plot. Chanote title, company available. 3.25 million baht. Tel: 081-3263269.

LAND IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn. Many small and big plots. Special: 1,772sqm. Sea view. 5.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 083-3904176.

TOP SEA-VIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel: 080-5358767, (US) Tel: 0011-760-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

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PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50 sq wah, garden. For sale at 4 million baht or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com. No agents.

2-STORY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72 sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Contact K. Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahniez@hotmail.com, okika_j@hotmail.com

HOUSE AND CAR



in Land & Houses Park, 7 months old, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Thai owner leaving. Please come and see. Call 081-3619277 or 086-4780349.

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

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

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

PATONG BEACH LAND

7 rai, good location. Chanote available, roadside plot. Contact Alex for details. Tel: 089-7231682. Email: patongland@gmail.com

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

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.

HOUSE IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, 2 floors on 222sqm of land. 7.95 million baht. Tel: 081-9251730.

BANGLA SHOPHOUSE

for sale. Ideal investment. Serious buyers only. No agents. Tel: 081-8306007. Email: ksachakul@gmail.com

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VARIOUS PROPERTIES

in Kata-Rawai from 2.8 million to 35 million baht. Contact David. Tel: 084-0639223.

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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).

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on the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85 sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

RAWAI POOL RESIDENCE



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 9,000 baht per month. 100m from Wat Rawai. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: p.pimada@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

3-5 BEDROOMS WITH POOL, NEAR BIS

Big homes in good community from 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-239839, 081-877-9292. Fax: 076-239838. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

BEACH VILLA HOLIDAY RENTAL

80m to the beach. Fully furnished and equipped with aircon. 2 double bedrooms + a single. Safe and security system. Maid service twice a week. BBQ and covered patio area. Available December, Jan and Feb only. Email for more details. Email: mat@pcphuket.com

LAND & HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, parking. 20,000 baht a month - available now. Tel: 084-3088110.

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.

DETACHED HOUSE, YANUI

2 bedrooms, own parking, swimming pool. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8486139.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

for rent near British International School. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

LUXURY RAWAI CONDO FOR RENT



2 bedrooms, plasma TV, fully equipped kitchen, phone, washing machine, seaview, pool. Prepaid UBC/Internet. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-264692, 086-281 2115. Email: natasha223@gmail.com

4-BEDROOM FAMILY HOUSE



at Kathu for sale or rent. 4 bedrooms, 320sqm, 3 bathrooms, in Kathu, near Lotus and BIS. For sale at 8.7 million baht. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7872201.

HEROINES' MONUMENT

New 2-bedroom, furnished to townhouse apartment in Permsap Villa, 2km west of Heroines' Monument, 20,000 baht a month. Available August 20. Tel: 076-248120. Email: vpdake@hotmail.com

LAND AND POND

for fishing park and resort at Sapam, Phuket. 8 acres, long-term lease. Tel: 086-689-3289, 083-0526696.

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

NEW HOUSE

for rent. Thalung, 3 Bedrooms, 142sqm, True TV, furnished. Only 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-1824505.

NEW COMMERCIAL UNIT

for rent. 155sqm, good location near Laguna hotels. Tel: 081-0915919.

HOUSE, RAWAI

2 bedrooms, TV, ADSL, garden, short-term rent. Weekly: 4,500 baht, monthly: 16,000 baht. Tel: 081-0912905.

BRAND-NEW VILLAS

with private pool, fully furnished. Chalung: 3 bedrooms, 47,000 baht a month. Saiyuan: 3 bedrooms, 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-242844. Email: krit89@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

NEW HOUSE (BAAN DON)



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

RAWAI POOL VILLA

Brand-new, 10m pool, security, big garden, 3 bedrooms, low-season offer: 45,000 baht/month. Fully furnished. You see, you take! Tel: 085-7831890.

BEACHFRONT, CHALONG

4- and 2-bedroom furnished houses. Bay views, swimming pools. 10,000 and 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4706104.

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.

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to 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 and gardening service. Rent: 75,000 baht/month. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com Website: www.phuket-island-homes.com

HOUSE IN PHANG NGA

For rent: a traditional Thai-house near Phang Nga Town. 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

AMAZING SEA VIEWS

Perfect condition, near the sea with spectacular views. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large dining and living rooms, maid, garage, enchanting gardens and pool situated in affluent cape Yamu, enjoying full privacy. 85,000 baht per month. No dogs. Tel: 086-2796283.

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

HOUSE RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in to. Tel: 089-6628733.

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 for details. Tel: 076-367077.

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

LAND RENTAL/SALE

Rawai, Nai Harn, good prices. We have it, we find it or we make it. Contact K. Bua or K. Sue. Tel: 085-7955383, 087-8974421.

FAMILY VILLA



Cherng Talay, custom-built, 300sqm villa for long-term rent. Well furnished, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, pool, lush 1-rai, garden. Great for families and entertaining. 5 mins to Bang Tao Beach and Laguna Phuket. 120,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-325401. Email: bee@dmg-thailand.com

NICE HOUSE



800m from Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, nice garden at corner. Fully fitted kitchen, 2 TVs with cable TV, 3 aircons, telephone line with ADSL. 21,000 baht/month for 2-year contract or 23,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Tel: 081-851-2280. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

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: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

KHAO KHAD HOUSE

Furnished, True TV, phone line, nice garden. 13,000 baht/month. Email: kwanarune@hotmail.com

CONDO, RAWAI

for rent, aircon, cable TV, DVD, kitchenette, hot water. Tel: 089-6483711. Email: phuketcomfortcondos@hotmail.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

APARTMENT IN KARON

50m from beach. Includes TV, DVD, aircon, Wifi and furniture. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

RENTALS

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SHARE A VILLA

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in perfect condition, 10 years old, 2 engines, Yamaha V6, 200hp, 250 hours, 900,000 baht. Contact Jano. Tel: 083-5905464.

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email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

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- University/higher education degree in Hotel and Tourism field)
- Former experience in Hotel Management
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Please post your application and resume (CV) via email to: atte.savisalo@savcor.com and atte3000@hotmail.com



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- Good command of written and spoken English
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- Willing to work in shifts
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- 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

DAY & NIGHT GUARD WANTED

No drinking, no sleeping. Between 20-40 years. Good salary. English recommended. Tel: 081-5376866.

50,000 BAHT/MONTH

We need English speakers (Thai + foreigners). Contact Marc. Tel: 086-6833526. Email: marcjunker_69@hotmail.com

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: 089-971-1813. Email: info@abcnurseryphuket.com



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 Baan Don-Cherngatalay Road, Cherngatalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Admin.Phuket@sothebysrealty.com
www.huntersothebysrealty.com

EARN 20,000 BAHT PER WEEK

English-speaking Thais & foreigners wanted. 1 month free accommodation. Work permit and assistance with visa provided. Contact Jonny. Tel: 086-5967322. Email: jonnyqvc@gmail.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING

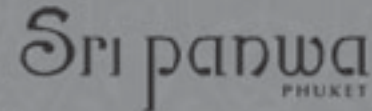
lady required for morning and afternoon help. Must have car or motorbike. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

CONDOMINIUM SALES

Hiring now for Thai female with good looks, excellent English and sales experience. Work involves making bookings at our sales booth in Jungceylon, Patong. Salary: 20,000 + baht. Tel: 084-0782753. Email: frank.modify@gmail.com

AJAX PHP PROGRAMMERS

Freelancers welcome for large Internet project. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com



Sri panwa, a young, exciting, luxurious hotel and residential pool villas estate is looking for vibrant, energetic and, most importantly, service-minded individuals to join our innovative team. If you have what it takes, please contact us at the address below.

Butler & Villa Asst.

- Male or female with diploma degree or higher.
- At least 1 year of experience in a housekeeping department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email and Internet.
- Service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

Senior Bartender

- Male or female with diploma degree or higher.
- At least 1 year of experience in an F&B department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email and Internet.
- Service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

Senior Graphic Design

- Male or female with diploma degree or higher.
- 1-2 years of experience.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email and Internet.
- Service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

Chef

- Male or female with diploma degree or higher.
- At least 1 year of experience in a kitchen department.
- Excellent communication skills and service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

F & B Manager

- Male or female with bachelor's degree.
- 3-5 years of experience in an F&B department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email and Internet.
- Service minded.
- Excellent in both written and spoken in English.

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charges. Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to:

Human Resources Sri Panwa

88 Moo 8 Sakdidej Road, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-371099. Fax: 076-371011.
Email: hrm@sripanwa.com or recruitment@sripanwa.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 resum (in English) with a picture.

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: 076-288-908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Telephone appointment maker required to follow up sales leads for a young energetic company. Telesales experience an advantage, but not essential. Basic salary and commission. Email CV to info@highgroveconsulting.com

MARKETING STAFF WANTED

Quality Vacation Club is looking for fluent English-speaking Thai nationals or Westerners to join their marketing team in Patong. Top commission: earn up to 10,000 baht per week + bonus. Tel: 076-290068, 086-5967322. Email: jonnyqvc@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful small guesthouse in Karon. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart

British International School, Phuket

Art Assistant

- Male, Thai national
- Ability to communicate in English
- Interested in the visual arts and the workings of art department
- Able to work in a team and independently
- Able to use design and equipment to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials.

Personnel Officer

- Responsible for taking care of long-term visas for foreign teachers, and administration work.
- Thai national, 25-33 years old.
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management, Social management or related fields.
- Good command of both written and spoken English.
- Good personality, human relation and service minded person.
- Computer literate; MS Office, Excel and Word.
- Experience in related work is more preferable.

Public relation officer

- Female, age 25-35 yrs, Bachelor's degree
- Have some background in PR or marketing
- Based in Phuket, the school can provide accommodation
- Good english and computer skills
- Must be able to travel within and outside thailand

Please send a short letter of application, CV, recent photograph and email/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakorn@bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th



Cocolopez Co., Ltd.

86/16 Rimhard Rd, Kamala Beach
Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: +6676-386157 Fax: +6676-386158
www.cocolopezfashion.com
www.methaya.com

Cocolopez Modeling

The first Phuket modeling agency is seeking resident models. Based in Phuket.

Male

- Handsome
- Minimum 170 cm height
- Aged between 16 and 35 years old

Female

- Beautiful
- Minimum 165 cm height
- Aged between 16 and 35 years old



Please send your application, size and recent photos
(of your face, upper half and full body) to:

Cocolopez Fashion Phuket Co., Ltd.
86/16 Moo 3 Rim Haad Road, Kamala, Phuket 83120
Tel: 076-386157 Fax: 076-386157. Email: dayuke@gmail.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Thai national
 - Minimum 1 year sales experience
 - Reasonable English language
 - Current driver's license
- Salary and commissions commensurate with experience. Tel: 076-222856, 089-8664023. Fax: 076-210893. Email: manager@artandcultureasia.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

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

British International School, Phuket

Teaching Vacancy for August 2008

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months - 18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. Applications are now invited for the following position.

Teacher of Thai - must be a fluent English speaker (Possible Head of Department)

The following are desirable but not essential:

- ⇒ Ability to teach literature
- ⇒ Experience of the IB Diploma Programme
- ⇒ Experience of the IGCSE programme
- ⇒ Leadership experience

Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and teaching certificate or Education Degree and a minimum of two years teaching experience.

Please e-mail a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees to: Headmaster@bcis.ac.th The closing date for applications is Monday 4th August 2008.

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th

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

ENGLISH-SPEAKING
lady for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.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

AJAX PHP PROGRAMMERS
Freelancers welcome for large Internet project. Please contact for more details at Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

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

EXPERIENCED SALES

lady for real estate work at our Kata office. Good English essential, good salary, good commission. Contact David. Tel: 084-0639223. Email: david.r6pd@gmail.com

Employment Wanted

AMERICAN WITH WORK PERMIT

Reliable, trustworthy and has work permit. Please contact for more details. Tel: 083-5907871. Email: imp_2u2007@yahoo.com

SALES TECHNICIAN

Foreign male, 20-35 year old, must have sales & technical knowledge. Direct salesmen are welcome. Tel: 076-214281, 089-8736889. Fax: 076-235289. Email: m@bayproject.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

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

SALES EXECUTIVE WANTED

- Basic salary and commission
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Computer/Internet skills
 - Good command of English
 - Proven sales record, including telesales
 - Own car with driver's license
 - Good benefits: mobile and petrol
- We work only 5 days a week.
Tel: 076-367040, 089-1951394. Fax: 076-367040. Please email CV with recent photo to info@mojomarket.com For further details, please see our website at www.mojomarket.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

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

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

40-INCH PLAZMA TV
6 months old. 22,000 baht. (60,000 baht new). Tel: 085-0300612.

AIRCONS
15,000 BTU, 8 months old, 7,000 baht. Tel: 085-0300612.

MAHLE, ELGAR
Bach, Brahms? 300-400 used classical CDs for sale, many spares, good condition. Contact Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

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

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.

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: 083-3902970. Email: bastel.man1@hotmail.com

BOSE LIFESTYLE 50
10 + 1 speakers, white, wall brackets, 6 CDs, touch-screen remote, complete system. 65,000 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

MUSIC SALE
1,000 classical music masterpieces in MP3 format. Package: 6,000 baht. Tel: 076-200148.

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.

AQUA ONE FISH TANK

Rounded perspex, filter, built-in lights + pump, 75L. 4,500 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

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

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

Bulletins

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

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@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

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

TO ALL FILIPINAS

Need help? Call Sister Mary. Tel: 084-3050963.

WENDY AND TALITHA

We are back from South Africa and would like to get in contact with our friends in Phuket. I lost all email addresses, so please email us at wendyatalitha@yahoo.com

Business Opportunities

RESTAURANT AND GUEST HOUSE

Only 100m to Patong beach. More info at Tel: 081-8916697, 084-6509076.

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla road area. Priced for quick sale at 1.2 million baht. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190

MASSAGE BEAUTY SALON

for sale. Brand new in Patong, 120sqm. 750,000 baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-4954761.

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

SMALL INVESTOR

Bricks and mortar real estate building in Bangla, Patong. No lump sum, only small monthly input over 60 months. Excellent capital gains. Contact Martin. Tel: 080-5362400.

BAR AVAILABLE

Soi Sea Dragon, Bangla. Good location, owned for 7 years. 3 rooms, 1st floor has good customer base, renewable lease. 2.25 million baht. Contact Jan. Tel: 076-323831.

RESTAURANT

Urgent sale, good location, only 100m from Patong Beach. Please contact at Tel: 081-8916697, 084-6509076.

GUESTHOUSE LEASE

10 rooms, fully furnished, 2 mins to Patong Beach. Tel: 081-8289329.

8-BEDROOM GUESTHOUSE

2m baht secures you a 6-year + lease. Rent: 60,000 baht per month. 3-story building with beauty salon & office. Professional lease. Sainamyen Rd. 5 mins walk from beach. Email: Mb99@ukonline.co.uk

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT, KATA

4 million baht, no down payment, pay over 5 years, no interest, no bank. GBP 990 per month, 1,299 euros or US\$1,999. Better than stocks. Move in now. Quiet, swimming pool, gym, restaurant. Walking distance to bars & beach. Rental return: 50% of your monthly payment. Tel: 085-7831890.

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)

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

with bar/restaurant for sale. 18 rooms, long-term lease, close to beach and Bangla Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 080-6971744.

INVESTING PARTNER required to help manage the growth of an already successful and profitable business. We offer a unique and much-sought-after product in Phuket with plans to expand into other areas of Thailand in 2008. A 20% holding in the company is offered. This position would suit those looking to make an investment, as well as seeking a quality lifestyle. Work permit, salary and vehicle provided. Cost of Investment 3,600,000 baht. Full details provided to interested parties. Email: bizphuket72@gmail.com

RESTAURANT, KATA
Well-established restaurant ready to take-over. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

RETAIL SPACE 125 METERS

Center of Patong. Rent: 35,000 baht/month. Store / restaurant. Tel: 086-158 8752.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Very profitable restaurant in Cape Panwa. Stunning views, low rent for quick sale 3.2 million baht Tel: 084-3047700.

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.

SHOP, KATA

good location, with or without stock. Low rent, bargain price. Thai contact: 089-5748884, English contact: 081-0804702.

SPORT-FISHING COMPANY

Turnkey, ready to start, fully rigged. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: huuwi@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

in Patong. Must see. Great location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

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

LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT

For sale: chicken farm project on 8 rai of land in Ka Pong, Phang Nga. Guaranteed income of 100,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-2781784. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

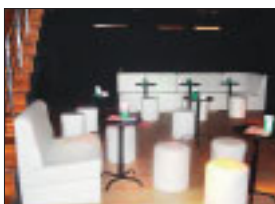
BAKERY & RESTAURANT

for sale. Please visit www.bakeryforsale.info

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.

NIGHTCLUB IN KATA CENTER



KATA NIGHT BAZAAR 2.5 MILLION BAHT

- The only nightclub in Kata-Karon and Chalong area. No competition!
 - 3-story (mezzanine/balcony included), stock room, kitchen.
 - Disco is located in a 'government zoning area'.
 - Top-brand sound, lighting, effects and visual equipment and systems, new with 2-year warranties.
 - Has government license.
 - All materials, equipment, furniture, air conditioning and coolers are new with warranties.
 - 3rd floor has 4 newly-furnished rooms with cable TV and air conditioning.
 - 2 rooms with balcony and gardens/city view (Kata).
 - 2 rooms without balcony and sea view.
- Please contact for more information.
Tel: 087-6899679.
Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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. Contact K. Nat for details. Tel: 089-6514279. Email: m_saundersuk@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT & INTERNET



cafe for sale, huge potential, 130sqm, 32-seat cafe, 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

COFFEE SHOP/ ICE CREAM / INT

Price reduced for quick sale. A real bargain opportunity exists for you: a 2-bedroom house in Patong with a shop & alfresco area in front. Rent includes the business and the living accommodation, all just recently renovated. Price: 1.6 million baht, including furniture & all business equipment. Monthly rent only 13,000 baht, with a renewable 3-year lease. Tel: 076-342338, 084-6976840. Fax: 076-342 338. Email: terryballphuket@gmail.com

PATONG OPPORTUNITY

Bars, go-gos, nightclub and huge area suitable for club or other development. Very long lease available on excellent terms. From 750,000 baht. Call Simon at Andaman Business Brokerage for details. Tel: 084-3047700.

STOP BAR FOR RENT/SALE

Newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most beautiful bar in Patong.
- 2 units
- Top location near Soi Bangla
- 12 small rooms
- Top audio/video equipment (Bose, Behringer, etc.)
- Running as a go-go or open bar is possible
Fully equipped. Contact for information. Tel: 084-848-3495 (K. Osi in German), 089-5903968 (K. Holger in English). Email: stop-bar@holgervolp.com Photos at www.holgervolp.com

BARS, GUESTHOUSES

Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities. For details visit our website at www.janepropertyphuket.com

BARGAIN BAR FOR SALE

Located on Nanai Rd. League pool table, 6-month-old 42" plasma TV, music system, DVD and large pizza oven. 500,000 baht. Tel: 083-6491300.

Business Products & Services

VISA RUN

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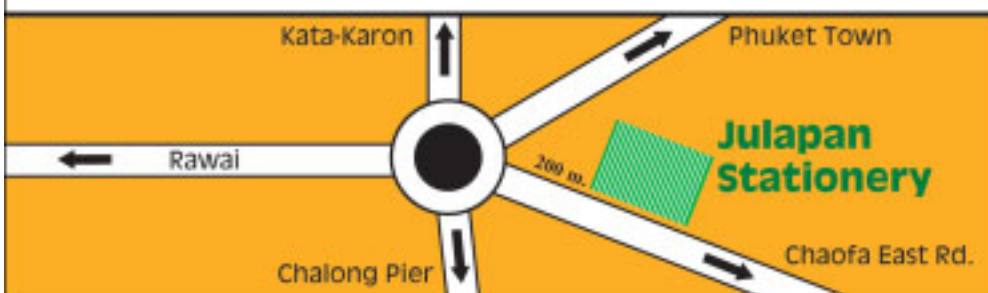
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