

Phuket Gazette

Volume 32

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

August 9 - 15, 2008

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

Phuket Gazette



HM Queen Sirikit's birthday on August 12 is a national holiday and is also Thailand's official Mothers' Day. The people of Phuket have utmost reverence for Queen Sirikit and are forever grateful for her prominent role in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami.

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Nok Air resumes Phuket service

By Akbar Khan

PHUKET CITY: Nok Air is resuming twice-weekly flights to Phuket from Bangkok following media reports of Phuket-bound tourists being stranded at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok.

The *Phuket Gazette's* story, as well as other media reports, was used by the board in their decision making, Nok Air Media and Public Relations Representative Dechavut Vuttisilp told the *Gazette*.

The limited service, which resumes on August 9, is scheduled to operate on Saturdays and Sundays only.

Flights depart from Don Mueang airport in Bangkok to Phuket International Airport (PIA) at 9:15 am, with the return leg taking off from PIA at 11:05 am.

However, the August 10 flight will be moved to Tuesday, August 12 to accommodate those wishing to enjoy Mothers' Day in Phuket. For the rest of August the flights will be on Saturdays and Sundays.

Many Phuket-bound tourists – who already faced limited flight options following the suspension of One-Two-Go's services on July 22 – were stranded in Bangkok when Nok Air suspended its Bangkok-Phuket service on August 1.

The move followed Nok Air's halt of its Krabi-Bangkok service on July 1.

At that time, Nok Air issued no official statement regarding its marketing strategies, but a source at the budget airline told the *Gazette* that people "would be able to figure it out" if they looked carefully at what the airline was doing.

Nok Air also suspended its



FAMILIAR FLAMINGO RETURNS: Nok Air has reinstated a limited Bangkok-Phuket service after travelers were left stranded in Bangkok last week.

loss-ridden Phuket-Haad Yai service November last year after a six-month trial period found there were not enough passengers to continue it. It now remains impossible to fly between the South's two major airports, which for decades had regularly-scheduled service.

Angry Finnish tourist Arto Tiitinen called from Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok on August 2 to inform the *Gazette* that many other irate Phuket-bound tourists were awaiting standby flights.

"I'm surprised that there are not extra flights; now my family must holiday elsewhere. I have no problem with money, it's just that there aren't any tickets to Phuket available for now at any price," he said, adding that he would instead take his family to Chiang Mai for a holiday.

The *Gazette* checked the AirAsia website that day, which showed that airline's seven daily

flights to Phuket from Suvarnabhumi were fully booked until August 5. Thai Airways continues to fly two or three flights daily to Phuket from Don Mueang and six flights a day from Suvarnabhumi.

Nok Air, which used Don Mueang International Airport as its main base, started operations in July 2004. Owned 39% by Thai Airways International, the low-cost carrier was set up to compete with the aggressive expansion of rival low-cost carrier Thai AirAsia.

As it celebrates its 4th anniversary, the carrier has also relaunched its "Nok Gives Life" project

With "Nok Gives Life" the airline works to raise funds for the Cardiac Children Foundation of Thailand, established Under the Royal Patronage of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana. Funds raised enable life-saving surgery and treatment for young heart patients.

PAD vows to continue protests in Phuket

By Akbar Khan

PHUKET CITY: Local members of the anti-government People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) will continue their evening gatherings at Saphan Hin even though Khunying Pojaman Shinawatra, wife of ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was found guilty of tax evasion in court on July 31.

Phuket PAD leader Natjarong Ekpermsup told the *Gazette*, "We will only stop protesting if the Bangkok protests stop."

While the PAD sees the sentencing of Khunying Pojaman as good news, its efforts must continue because PM Samak Sundaravej is still trying to amend the Constitution to protect Thaksin and his associates, he said.

PAD leader Pipop Thongchai on August 1 threatened to lay siege to Parliament if the government went ahead with its plan to rewrite the Constitution.

While PAD is planning its "megaprotest" in Bangkok, planned PAD activities in Phuket will consist only of nightly congregations in Saphan Hin, where members will continue to meet to observe their counterparts in Bangkok on a large screen, he said.

Asked if the new Cabinet lineup would help defuse tensions, K. Natjarong said, "The new ministers are just as bad as the old ministers. New Interior Minister Kowit Wattana might not be as talkative as Chalerm, but he is famous for inaction. Samak appointed ministerial positions to people to whom he owes favors, which only further incites the PAD."



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Local land brokers in murder-suicide

THALANG: A local land broker shot dead his female business partner and then turned the gun on himself in a murder-suicide on July 27.

The incident occurred at Manas House rented apartments on Thepkasattri Rd in Srisoonthorn.

After the owner of the apartment block heard gunshots, he called the police, who arrived at the scene about 5 pm, Pol Maj Prakob Boonkwun told the *Gazette*.

Police found the body of Phuket native Prasong Ubomane, 72, on the bed, lying across the body of Somporn Petduang, 49, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Prasong was dressed only in white underwear. Somporn was fully clothed.

"The apartment-block owner said that Prasong had checked in at 12:30 pm and Somporn later joined him in the room," Maj Prakob told the *Gazette*.

"She had been shot twice in the chest. He had held her down with one hand and shot her with the other.

"One of the shots went through his own left hand, through her chest and out her back. He then shot himself in the right temple," he added.

"I don't know what happened in the room. Somporn had borrowed about 300,000 baht from Prasong and apparently she didn't want to see him.

"Both were land brokers. They had worked together as agents selling land," Maj Prokob said.

"There are two possible motives: debt and adultery. I am continuing my investigation and interviewing their relatives and other people who knew them well," he added.

'Wave watcher' may predict tsunamis

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: An automatic weather station to be installed on Koh Racha Noi will also measure wave and tidal movements, which may be able to help warn against impending tsunamis.

The proposal has been approved by the Royal Thai Navy and the Town & Country Planning Department, though the budget re-

quired has yet to be determined, said Chumnong Chitpukdee, director of Southern (West Coast) center of the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD).

The equipment may be able to determine whether an earthquake has happened in the region and possibly warn against impending tsunamis, he said.

The project has been approved by the

provincial committee for coastal conservation, led by Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rathasima, and other relevant committees. Rawai Municipality, the local authority responsible for Koh Racha Noi, has also granted permission to install the facility.

Other automatic weather monitoring stations will be set up in Kamala, Karon and Pa Khlok, K. Chumnong added.

New orphanage nearing completion

By Janyaporn Morel

KOH KAEW: Construction of the Phuket SOS Children's Village on 10 rai on the road from Thepkasattri Rd to British International School (BIS) is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

The SOS Foundation of Thailand, under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, is a member of the Austria-based charity SOS Kinderdorf International (SOS-KDI). The foundation in Thailand was established in 1971 as an independent, non-government social development organization to take long-term care of orphaned and abandoned children.

"The SOS-KDI bought five rai of land from Thanachart Asset Co, which also donated five rai to the project. We started the project in February 2007 and we aimed to finish in April this year, but our work has been delayed by bad weather," explained Somsak Sukhakern, the project's Education Manager.

"Our main objective is to adopt children who have been affected by the tsunami," said Khun Somsak.

The village accepts young infants up to children seven years old from Surat Thani, Chumphon, Krabi, Phang Nga and Phuket, K. Somsak said, adding that children older than seven years are ac-



Orphans will start moving into some of the 18 houses at the village on August 8.

cepted if they are siblings of other children staying in the village.

The village is not designed to cater to handicapped and special-needs children, he added.

The village comprises 18 one-story buildings – 15 homes and three other building, including a kindergarten.

"The homes are four-bedroom houses, each accommodating 10 children and an officer who will be assigned as the "mother" to take care of the children in each house," said K. Somsak.

Once complete, the village will be able to care for 120 children with 12 "mothers" and six "aunts" to assist when the "mothers" have days off.

Other staff will include accounts and administration officers, education officers and four kindergarten teachers who will care for children from level one (K1) to level three (K3). The kindergarten will be able to cater to about 90 children.

For more information about the SOS Children's Village visit www.sosthailand.org

Healthy growth for local television

PHUKET: After extending its network from local provincial cable and the Web, where PGTV appears as the top result in Google for "Phuket Television", the *Phuket Gazette's* daily English-language television content has been added into all patient rooms at Phuket International Hospital and to the 15-inch touch-screen monitors on all Elevation-series training machines at the Royal Phuket Marina Health Club.

The expansion in the *Gazette's* television distribution channels follows a March 2008 change in Thailand's broadcasting regulations, which now allows cable operators to screen advertising.

"As a result [of the change in regulations], we expect to see a significant increase not only in the volume of programs available on the local market, but also in program quality," said Marc Mulloy, Executive Producer of PGTV. "So we continue to invest heavily in production staff and in technology in the belief that Phuket is a high-potential emerging market for English-language television."

Following the longstanding policy of the *Phuket Gazette* newspaper, content is chosen on the basis of its perceived level of interest to viewers.

For viewers outside of Phuket, PGTV, which focuses on local news and events, is available at www.phuketgazette.net/tv/default.asp

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Soldiers of fortune found dead in Rawai

RAWAI: Two men who worked for a "security" company in Iraq died from suspected drug overdoses in Rawai on July 28 while on holiday in Phuket.

Australian ex-soldier Jason Gerrard Flynn, 32, from Perth, and James Plunkett Howe, 34, from the UK, were staying in Soi Sammakkee 2 with their Australian friend Mark Leo, who discovered their bodies on the morning of July 28.

"Both of them were over on a break from Iraq. Many of their friends had died there, which must have been very stressful, although they never spoke about their work much," Mr Leo told the *Gazette* on July 30.

At around 3 am, Mr Flynn retired to his room after a heavy drinking session

and seemed to be stressed from the night, Mr Leo said.

"Jim went to the room to see Jason and found him unconscious and resuscitated him. I went to see what the problem was. When I saw Jason, I offered to call an ambulance, but Jim said that he knew first aid and could take care of him.

"I then learned they had taken recreational drugs. I was furious. I told Jim that everyone knows my stance on drugs and when he got up I was going to knock him out.

"Everyone who visits me in Phuket gets given the book *The Damage Done* to read as a warning that messing with any drug in Thailand is asking for trouble," said Mr Leo.

"But Jim told me that Jason was okay and that he would look after him. The next morning when I woke up and went to their bedroom, I found them both dead.

"I then called Phuket International Hospital and it seemed like hours before the ambulance arrived. The police arrived shortly after and searched their room. They took evidence away for examination and the bodies were sent to Vachira hospital for autopsies," he said.

Lt Chianchai Duangsuwan from Chalong Police Station, who had collected the evidence, showed the *Gazette* a box of steroid vials, six tablets with a horseshoe logo and one of three two-inch zip-lock bags containing a small amount of small translucent crystals.

Five syringes were also found at the scene. Three had been used and one contained a mixture of coagulated blood and air.

"The evidence will be sent to Bangkok for analysis. It seems that Mark had nothing to do with the drugs and no charges have been made against him," Lt Chianchai said.

Lt Chianchai today told the *Gazette* that a special investigation had been launched into Rawai's drug dealers and that he had already received information that he believes will lead to arrests soon.

A local shopkeeper told the *Gazette*, "It really is very sad. Although they were great big body builders, they were very friendly and polite."

Backlund murder trial enters final days

PHUKET: As this edition hits the streets, the final hearing of witnesses in the Hanna Backlund murder trial was due to be held, Phuket Provincial Court Registrar Sittipong Engchuan told the *Gazette*.

Akaradech Tongay is accused of stabbing Ms Backlund to death on Mai Khao Beach on March 15. On August 8, he was to be given a final chance to add to his confession and Pol Lt Col Somkit Khaosan from Tah Chat Chai Police Station, one of the police officers investigating the case, was to give testimony based on his investigations.

Col Somkit told the *Gazette* on August 5 that he had received the results of the DNA test on the blood found on the knife that was used to kill Ms Backlund, but added that he cannot reveal those results until he is in court.

If the DNA test results identify Akaradech as Ms Backlund's killer, the court intends to set a date for sentencing him within one month, Registrar Sittipong said.

Akaradech was being held at Phuket Provincial Prison as bail had been denied.

— Akbar Khan

Yachting events giant acquires Pimex show

PHUKET: World-class yachting events organizer Informa Yacht Group has acquired the Phuket International Marine Expo (Pimex), adding Phuket's premier boating exposition to its calendar of international yachting events.

The announcement was made at a press conference at Royal Phuket Marina on August 5, attended by more than 100 press and VIPs, to announce the opening of the new Royal Phuket Marina Exhibition and Conference Center.

Pimex will be the first event held at the center, which will provide 2,500 square meters of purpose-built, quayside exhibition space.

Informa Yacht Group is the yachting events division of Informa PLC, the leading international provider of specialist information and services for the academic and scientific, professional and commercial business communities.

Informa organizes more than 10,000 events each year, has more than 150 offices in more than 40 countries and employs 7,500 staff around the world. Informa has offices in Singapore and operates 25 exhibitions in Southeast Asia alone.

"We are really excited about the future of the marine industry in the region, and we hope that our experience and considerable network will propel Pimex to new heights and ensure that it is positioned to serve all aspects of this rapidly growing market," said Will Morris, managing director of Informa Yacht Group.

"The involvement of Informa is a very important development for Pimex and one that will really contribute to its future and ensure that Pimex is the marine show of choice in Southeast Asia," said Andy Dowden, managing director



Visitors to Pimex, pictured here at the event last year, will be able to enjoy it next time in the 2,500-square-meter Exhibition and Conference Center to be built quayside at RPM.

of Andaman Marine Consultants, which will continue its role as the Phuket-based organizer.

The array of leading superyacht and other marine events Informa owns includes:

- Monaco Yacht Show (the world's leading Superyacht event. Now in its 18th year)
- Abu Dhabi Yacht Show
- The Superyacht Cup (the leading sailing regatta for Superyachts held in Palma, Spain, and Antigua. Now in its 14th year)

- The Beijing Boat Show
- The World Yacht Racing Forum Monaco
- The Mediterranean Workboat Show

Sponsored and supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Sports Authority of Thailand and the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau, Pimex 2008 will be held from December 4 to 7.

OrBorJor takes over running of Chalong Pier

CHALONG: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) was on August 1 back at the helm running operations at Chalong Pier after cutting ties with Chokaree Tour Co Ltd, the company previously enlisted to collect berthing fees and run the pier on the *OrBorJor's* behalf.

A team led by *OrBorJor* Vice-President Chaowalit Na Nakorn visited the pier on August 1 to inspect the operation and staff.

The *OrBorJor* will now collect fees at Chalong Pier as follows:

- Use of a boat: 10 baht per person, charged to boat operator;
- Luggage transfer by *OrBorJor* vehicle: 100 baht;
- Luggage transfer by personal vehicle: 200 baht;
- Luggage transfer by private truck (six wheels or more): 300 baht;
- Anchorage fee: 100 baht per boat, per day;
- Car parking: 20 baht for up to an hour; 40 baht from one to 24 hours.
- Bus parking: 50 baht.

Allegations of Chokaree Tour not fulfilling the conditions of the concession contract with the *OrBorJor* led to Lamphun Tangnoi, managing director of Chokaree Tour Co Ltd, to request the contract be mutually annulled.

Chalong Pier services operate daily from 6 am to 8 pm.

For further information contact the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization. Tel: 076-211877.

— Natcha Yuttaworawit

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Not counting airport immigration staff, there are only 31 immigration officers assigned to handle immigration matters for the entire province of Phuket. Thus, Col Chantapol certainly has his work cut out for him. But his past experience shows that he's not a man who backs down easily from a challenge. Twenty-five years ago Col Chantapol gained recognition for cracking down hard on Pattaya's Russian mafia. He then went on to become one of the intelligence-gathering stars of the *Santibaan*, or police Special Branch.

The official opening of the new PPIO office on July 29 was only part of a major overhaul of Immigration's office systems, collectively called the Phuket Immigration Enterprise (PIE), that Col Chantapol is overseeing. One of the systems, which anyone operating a guesthouse, hotel or other rental property would be advised to get onto soon, is WebPIE.

TRACKING ALIENS. WebPIE is an on-line service that leaves no more excuses anymore for failing to comply with section 38 of the 1979 Immigration Law that helps monitor and protect foreigners:

"The house-master, the owner or the possessor of the residence, or the hotel manager where the alien, receiving permission to stay temporarily in the Kingdom has stayed, must notify the competent official of the Immigration Office located in the same area with their names, occupation, TM card details,

immigration issues are among the hottest topics of discussion and debate among foreigners traveling to or residing in Phuket, as can be seen in a visit to the *Gazette's* Issues and Answers section, various web forums and bar counters across the island. Chief Reporter Akbar Khan asked Pol Col Chantapol Yungbanjerd, Superintendent of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO), to speak about three of the most common services his office handles: foreign registrations, visas and 90-day notifications.

passport number, the arrival time, planned departure date, and dwelling place or hotel, within 24 hours from the time of arrival of the alien concerned. If there is no Immigration Office located in that area, the local police official for that area must be notified..."

With the use of technologies like WebPIE, Phuket Immigration is already using the Internet to help other government agencies gather information for monitoring aliens. The data can also be pooled with information from other sources in order to create meaningful, real-time

information.

Hotels with computerized systems will also benefit as PIE provides easy-to-integrate Excel templates free of charge as an alternative to filling in an online form. Both WebPIE options are available in Thai and English.

Col Chantapol told the *Gazette*, "August 31 is the deadline for house-masters and hoteliers to adhere to this law, as next month the law will be enforced strictly. Worrying that compliance will give the Revenue Department a better idea of actual income is a pathetic reason

for not following immigration law."

Those that violate Section 38 could face a fine of between 2,000 and 10,000 baht for each violation.

VISAS. Section 34 of the Immigration Law gives the list of visa categories available. (see panel). The flexible final category, "Other", is for to a variety of other cases that do not quite fit neatly into the other 14 categories of visa.

Some foreigners find it cool to make friends with the officers and even offer them tea-money. These foreigners are natural born losers, he said. There is a standard price list for services and processing of visas usually takes no more than around 40 minutes at the Saphan Hin office, he said.

If in the event that an officer solicits a bribe, accepts a bribe, does not follow rules or takes far too long to perform a simple duty, then that officer is in violation of the law (Section 157) and risks losing his job should a case be filed against him.

The Counter Corruption Division of the Criminal Investigation Department in Bangkok is a good example of a place to file cases against corrupt officials.

A less orthodox method in ousting a tainted official might be to video corrupt activities using perhaps a mobile phone and, if one cannot be bothered to file an official case, at least upload it to YouTube.

Officials must provide certain Immigration services on a mandatory basis. For example, an officer cannot refuse to process a valid 90-day notification request. More often discretion is involved, however. Individual officers do have the right to refuse to change a foreigner's permit-to-stay status from tourist to non-immigrant, for example.

Contrary to popular belief, tourists do not have to leave Thailand in order to change their



immigration status. Those who entered on a tourist visa can have their status changed into any other classifications upon submission of the necessary documents. However, the decision to grant this can only be given by an official ranked captain or higher.

For walk-ins, it will be the captain on duty who must personally decide that you are a desirable. If you cannot convince them due to lack of documented qualifications or any other reason then it is off for a visa run instead.

The One Stop Center on Ratchada-Pisek Rd in Bangkok has a range of special categories available where immigration status change can be granted and work permits can be issued by Labor Ministry officers in a couple of hours. This center is only for privileged foreigners that are deemed of benefit to the county, such as those involved in

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An Immigration Police volunteer help visitors get through the labyrinth.

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"In Bangkok there is a lot of traffic, but in Phuket it only takes a few minutes to nip from Immigration to the Labor Office so we don't need a One Stop center yet," Col Chanatpol said.

90-DAY NOTIFICATION. Any visitor to Thailand, unless exempted, must report to Immigration every 90 days.

The 90-day notification must be made within seven days before or after staying 90 consecutive days here in Thailand – if a visitor leaves and re-enters [without a re-entry permit] then that 90-day period starts fresh again.

The notification may be made in person or by an authorized representative. Immigration might allow you to make your

notification by registered mail.

Notification is free and it is just that, it is not an extension. Visa extensions now cost 1,900 baht a time. If you are stopped and found by an immigration official to have not filed your 90 days' notice and more than 97 days have passed, then you are subject to a 4,000-baht fine. If you notify Immigration before they catch you, then the problem can be rectified for half-price: only 2,000 baht.

To avoid the fine, simply leave Thailand and re-enter, thereby starting again – this is assuming that you are not the one-in-a-million foreigners that does something so annoying that your passport is checked for the 90-day notification before you make it across a border.

Notification by registered mail is probably the cheapest and most convenient for most people who find it difficult to travel to an Immigration office. To ensure success, mail all of the following:

- Copy of all passport pages (up to the latest arrival stamp in the Kingdom or latest visa stamp)
- Copy of arrival/departure card TM 6 (front and back)
- Previous notifications of staying over 90 days (if any)
- Completely filled in and signed notification form TM 47

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the officer in charge to send back the lower part of TM 47 form after receiving the notification. This part must be kept for reference and for future notifications of stay over 90 days.

The above mentioned documents must be sent by registered mail to:

90 Days Registration,
Room 206,
Immigration Bureau,
507 Soi Suanplu,
South Sathorn Rd.,
Thungmahamek, Sathorn,
Bangkok.

Do not mail them to the Phuket office. Only Bangkok can accept mail notifications as that is where the central database is maintained for the whole nation.

Send all these documents at least seven days before the 90 days are up, the postal service will then send you a receipt to say that they received the notification. Keep this receipt as evidence that the notification was made.

Although Phuket Immigration is officially open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, it is advisable to arrive an hour before closing as the staff have other duties to perform after finishing their duties servicing the public.

Mondays and Fridays are very busy days so if you do not like queuing then try to go on day Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Try to smell fresh and dress well to receive the best possible attention; there are often foreign volunteers at hand to help.

There are two immigration offices in Phuket. The main branch is located in Saphan Hin in Phuket City, at 482 Phuket Rd. Tel: 076-221905. The Patong Beach branch, on the beach road, can be reached at 076-340477.

There is an Immigration checkpoint at Chalong Pier, but it does not provide services such as extensions and notifications.

Should you have information that might help lead to the arrest, detention and/or deportation of undesirables then Col Chanatpol said he would be delighted to hear from you. Just ask for him at the Phuket City office, or send him a letter.

He asked the *Gazette* not to report details of cases currently under investigation until there have been arrests.

"It is better to print certain news after it happens. They are hard enough to catch without them getting tipped off by the newspaper," he said.

THE IMMIGRATION TEAM

The Superintendent of Phuket Immigration Police is Pol Col Chanatpol Yungbanjerd. His Deputy Superintendent is Lt Col Chaiwut Jansomboon, whose functional duty is Head of Service.

Lt Col Arunee Oam-imsin is in charge of general administration, accounting and the mail department.

Pol Major Netee Kanboon is the head of investigations and has five subordinates to help suppress illegal aliens on the island.

It is said that there will be a large special team of agents coming soon to help him clear up the island's delinquent foreigners who are frightening away the better tourists.

There are now four captains: Pol Capt Sanan Saorot, who manages the officers, short-term service problems and the mail and Pol Capt Napat Noosen (who recently changed his first name from Krissarat) who helps look after finance, budgets, short-



Immigration Superintendent Col Chanatpol Yungbanjerd.

term service issues as well as helping with the Issues and Answers section of the *Phuket Gazette* from time to time.

The two lady captains are Pol Capt Rasarin Teerapatanakul, whose primary function is to keep tabs on all the ships and boats, and Pol Capt Laddawan Wenkeo, in charge of 90 days notification, and who has two subordinates who now help due to the enforcement of the rule and the large number of long-stay visitors on the island.

THE 15 VISA CATEGORIES

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 D (Diplomatic) | 13 RS (Research and Science) |
| 2 F (Official) | 14 EX (Expert) |
| 3 TR (Tourist) | 15 O (Others) |
| 4 S (Sport) | |
| 5 B (Business) | |
| 6 IM (Investment through Ministry) | |
| 7 IB (Investment through BOI-Board of Investment) | |
| 8 TS (Transit) | |
| 9 C (Captain or Crew) | |
| 10 ED (Education) | |
| 11 M (Mass media and communication) | |
| 12 R (Religion) | |

Category 15 is used to help grant visas to those that do not fall into an already existing category and is used for cases such as working for a Thai government monopoly, a public charity, marrying a Thai national, to attend court sessions or any other reason that follows ministerial ruling.



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Matichon journo shot dead

The Nakhon Sri Thammarat correspondent for the Thai-language daily newspaper *Matichon* was shot dead in his home on August 1.

The body of Athiwat Chainurat, 48, was found lying in the kitchen of his house in the province's Tambon Chaimontree by his wife and two young children when they returned from a private tuition lesson. He had been shot four times in the head and body.

Khun Athiwat's wife, Phonphimon Chainurat, said that her husband knew his life was in danger and he was always very careful about his personal safety, never taking the same route home.

He also used to tell Police Region 8 Commissioner Lt Gen Thane Thawitsri, a personal friend, about all the people whom he believed might have been targeting him for his news coverage, K. Phonphimon added.

A close friend of K. Athiwat, who did not wish to reveal his name, said that a number of local politicians had been unhappy with K. Athiwat, who also reported for Channel 7.

K. Athiwat recently had a dispute with an influential government official over one of his stories, the friend added.

Col Somchai Uamthanom, deputy superintendent of Muang Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police Station, said that police were giving their highest priority to this case, but did not offer any possible motives for the killing.

Phaithun Inthasila, chairman of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Reporters Club, said that K. Athiwat's killing had left local reporters extremely shaken and worried about who would be the next newsperson to die for their work.

Killer crash. A suspected drug dealer was killed and two others injured after crashing their pickup while being chased by police in Songkhla on July 27. One police officer was also injured when his patrol vehicle flipped over during the chase.

The chase began when police tried to arrest three suspected *ya bah* (methamphetamine) dealers in Tambon Padang Besar in



BACK TO THE LAND: Pattani Provincial Governor Panu Uthairat drives a combine harvester in a formerly fallow rice field on July 29 to promote a campaign to bring back under cultivation farmland that has been abandoned due to the violence in the southern border province.

Sadao district. The suspects fled in a Toyota Vigo pickup truck with police in hot pursuit.

After a short chase, the suspects sped down a dead end and crashed into a rubber tree. The driver of the police pickup in pursuit also lost control, flipping his vehicle. The officer, Songkhla Provincial Police Squad Leader Sen Sgt Maj Banphot Jirasan, sustained minor injuries.

In the wrecked Toyota, police and rescue volunteers found the driver, Kampanat Matadam, 32, and one of the two passengers Sunee Fahkhamtan, 42. Both were alive but seriously injured. The second passenger, 34-year-old Sunisa Jongwilaikasem, was found dead in the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle uncovered a cigarette package containing 740 *ya bah* pills, police said.

Case cracked. Police in Satun arrested three men on suspicion of killing a rubber merchant in Tha Phae district in June.

On July 31, police led by Lt Col Kaweeat Kaowcheet, deputy superintendent of Tha Phae Police, arrested Buntham Nimitthawin, 27, Adinan Sriha, 30, and Adul Dendara, 30, on suspicion of the killing of Rorban Nilsakul, 43, who was shot dead

in Tambon Pae Ra in the early hours of June 17.

All three suspects have been charged with murder but deny involvement in the killing.

Police, who believe the killing was motivated by a business dispute, are hunting two other suspects.

Rubber robbery. Bandits made off with 130,000 baht in the armed robbery of a pickup truck in Haad Yai district, Songkhla, on July 31.

The 41-year-old victim, Anan Koekinseng, told police that he and his younger sister were driving his pickup back to the main road after buying latex sheets from rubber tappers in Tambon Tha Khama when a metallic-colored Toyota Vigo pickup truck cut in front of him, blocking the road.

When Khun Anan stopped his vehicle, four masked men armed with pistols got out of the truck and demanded that he hand over 130,000 baht he had brought with him to buy rubber from villagers on behalf of a rubber processing firm in Tambon Ban Phru.

The robbers also took two mobile phones belonging to K. Anan and his sister, he said.

The robbers were probably local men who knew that Anan bought rubber from villagers in the

area every Thursday and always used the same route, said police.

Knowing that Anan carried large amounts of cash on that day, the bandits likely saw him as an easy target, they added.

More arrests. Soldiers and police arrested two alleged leading insurgents in Narathiwat on July 28.

One of them, Durapah Jehuma, was suspected of taking part in both the June 21 massacre of four police and train officials aboard a train and in the fatal beating of school teacher Juling Pongkanmul in 2006.

Durapah, 24, was arrested at Kuching Lupoh village in Tambon Chalerm in Rangae district at 6 am.

Another team of police and soldiers raided Blatae village in Tambon Bango Sato, Rangae district and arrested Nushi Buasa, 21, on suspicion of shooting dead a teacher and committing several other attacks.

Teacher tragedy. A gunman riding pillion on a motorbike shot and killed a local school teacher at in Pattani's Yaring district on August 1 and a bomb exploded at a local outdoor market in Narathiwat the day before, injuring 12 people.

Akom Suwanawong, a 57-year-old resident of Tambon Sabarang in Pattani, was shot dead while riding his motorbike to the school. The attackers made off with Khun Akom's 9mm handgun, police said.

Meanwhile, Narathiwat Police were going through CCTV images in search of suspects, who may have placed the bomb at the outdoor market.

The bombing came just after authorities had pointed to a drop in the number of attacks in the area to claim a measure of success in quelling the insurgency.

In 2007, more than 100 public schools came under arson attacks. In contrast, only 10 schools in the region had been attacked in the first seven months of 2008.

Analysts said using the decline in the number of attacks as a sign of success was misleading because attacks have been much more deadly and intense in recent months.

While intelligence appeared to have been improved somewhat, the drop in the number of attacks on public schools did not reflect a change in the working of the state security apparatus, the policies of which remain largely the same as in previous years, they added.

More attacks. At least 7 coordinated bomb attacks were launched in this southern border province on the evening of August 2, injuring at least two people.

Songkhla police chief Pol Maj Gen Wiroon Iamphaijit said five attacks were made in Muang District and two others in neighboring Haad Yai.

The bombs were planted near three convenient stores, a restaurant, and three ATM booths, he said. They were detonated almost simultaneously.

Thirteen young suspects from the three Deep South provinces were detained in connection with the blasts, which authorities believe were intended to cause chaos and harm tourism, but not cause injury.

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



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New Cabinet appointments proposed by Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej have received royal endorsement, it was announced on August 2.

Former police commissioner Kowit Wattana will replace Chalerm Yoobamrung as Interior Minister and also serve as a deputy PM.

Chaiya Sasomsap is back in as commerce minister, while House Deputy Speaker Somsak Kiartsuranont takes over the helm at the Ministry of Culture.

K. Chaiya was last month disqualified by the Constitution Court from holding his post as Public Health Minister after it was revealed that he had failed to declare all of his wife's assets, as required by the new Constitution.

K. Somsak will be replaced as deputy speaker by a coalition MP.

Despite a Criminal Court suspended sentence against Kowit, the Cabinet secretariat has confirmed there is no legal impediment to his taking office.

In addition to K. Chalerm, four other members of the previous Cabinet lost their seats: Puea Pandin Party leader Suwit Khunkitti (deputy PM and industry minister) and his colleagues Ranongrak Suwanchawee (deputy finance minister) and Sithichai Kowsurat (deputy interior). Wiroom Techapaiboon (deputy commerce minister) also lost his Cabinet post.

The Puea Pandin purge followed an announcement by K. Suwit that his party was pulling out of the coalition. After six MPs overturned that statement, four kept their positions.

Mingkwana Saengsuwan, who was removed as deputy prime minister and commerce minister, took over the ministry of industry portfolio, replacing Suwit Khunkitti.

TV Eye. Bangkok City Hall is planning to increase the number of closed-circuit television cameras in the capital to 100,000 by the end of the decade.

Bangkok Metropolitan Authority traffic boss Jumpol Sampaothong said many more fiber-

SAMAK CABINET II: The Puea Pandin purge



ALL ABOARD! Bangkokians board free buses at the Victory Monument on July 31, the first day of the government's economic stimulus campaign that includes free bus rides in the capital.

optic cables would be laid to support the expansion. At present there are just 24 fiber-optic lines for 5,000 traffic-control and public-safety cameras throughout the city.

The future system, to cost 100 million baht, will be able to handle one million gigabytes of information, he said.

Warning notice. Institutions in Thailand must take stock of themselves or Thailand's political divide could result in unprecedented national violence and anarchy, Thammasat University anthropologist Theerayuth Boonmee has warned.

Following a series of violent clashes between People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) members and pro-government groups in the provinces, the academic said "even a military coup might not be able to contain such a situation this time".

K. Theerayuth said Thailand is on the edge due to four crises: parliamentary, lack of

problem solving, judicial and PM Samak Sundaravej's aggressive attitude.

Courts should speed up corruption trials and politicians embroiled in scandal should step down as they do in other countries, he said.

Making the grade. Members of a gang helping people cheat on the civil service recruitment exam will have their assets seized if the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) can catch them, the agency has announced.

Col Dutsadee Arayawut, who heads the the DSI's Information-technology investigations unit, said instances of cheating to pass the exam have grown so great the DSI is devoting resources to bust the gang behind it.

The "sophisticated and extensive" gang charges state workers 100,000 baht for a C ranking, per person, per exam, he said.

Its profits from the trade

could be in the billions of baht, he added.

As cheating is not a criminal offense, those caught are simply disqualified from sitting the exams, he said.

The DSI has therefore turned its attention to "the facilitators", Col Dutsadee said.

The gangsters send examination applications in one batch using the Internet so that all the cheaters are seated together during the test, he revealed.

Dengue danger. Dengue fever has spread across the country, killing 48 people and infecting more than 40,000 in the first seven months of 2008, new Public Health Minister Wicharn Meenchainant said on July 31.

As of July 26, some 41,300 patients had been diagnosed na-

tionwide with dengue hemorrhagic fever. Bangkok was the hardest hit with 3,763 patients, according to the Disease Control Department's Bureau of Epidemiology. Ratchaburi suffered the second-worst outbreak (1,710 victims), followed by Nakhon Sawan (1,582), Phetchaboon (1,304) and Rayong (1,291).

K. Wichan said the risk of catching dengue fever was high compared with last year, which saw 29 fatalities from 60,000 cases.

Coke is it. Police on August 2 busted a drug ring that supplied cocaine and designer drugs to tourists on Koh Samui.

A 100-strong police operation on arrested foreign and Thai members of the gang, allegedly headed by 38-year-old Iranian Ramin "Richy" Ahmani.

Working with US agents, police searched 13 locations on the island used by the ring, Narcotics Suppression Bureau commander Lt Gen Wut Liptapanlop said. Also arrested was a British citizen, identified as Lee Campbell Bimty, 34. Police seized cash in various currencies as well as bank passbooks in the names of Ahmani and his accomplices. Police said Ahmani bought cocaine, *ya E* (Ecstasy) and other drugs from African couriers to sell to tourists. Ahmani is said to own a yacht, cars, a night-entertainment venue and several gift shops.

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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An estimated 20,000 people turned out to hold an anti-government protest on Koh Samui recently.

The government group led by the Peoples Alliance for Democracy (PAD) held the rally, which drew attendance from Koh Samui, as well as Koh Phangan, Koh Tao and the mainland.

The group were there to show their grievances towards the current Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, who many believe has been nominated by former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

Sunthorn Rakrong, PAD co-ordinator of the southern province rallies said the protest was the second of its kind, the previous one being held before Thaksin was removed from office.

Khun Sunthorn said the Koh Samui rally was one of a number of rallies being held around the south in order for the party to gain momentum.

Speakers at the rally included Chaiwat Sinwong, Karun Sainmagm, Laem Pujadkaun, Kai Malaengsab and popular actor, Yuthiyong Limletwati.

The protests were not only directed against PM Samak. The protesters also voiced complaints about various political party members on Samui for being involved in unscrupulous business dealings, including several unlawful land exchanges believed to have been done during Thaksin's time in office.

Despite the large number of attendees, the protests were peaceful with no reports of violence or disturbances of any kind.

Election posters cause concern: Samui having finally achieved full city status, the race for a new mayor of the island is reaching its peak.

Huge numbers turn out for anti-government rally



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

Election campaign posters are steadily increasing around the island, which has caused controversy over the messages portrayed on the posters, as well as their placement.

Varakorn Rarranarak, the former mayor and leader of the Phatthana Samui Party was first to begin the poster campaign by placing signs and placards all over the island, followed by Ramnet Jaikwang, head of the Samui Kawna (Progress) Party.

Mayor Varakorn is running for his second and last term in office and has said that he would not be disappointed if he did not win the election if that's how the people voted.



Election posters lining many of Koh Samui's roads have sparked complaints that they are dangerously sited and are too controversial in nature.

One of the more controversial posters is a large sign that has been prominently posted near the customs office in the port town of Nathon. The poster suggests the proper qualifications the new mayor should have before he or she is given the position.

The image on the poster is of a person's hand with an intra-

venous drip attached and the slogan "Samui Today", implying the island is sick from the Samui Kawna Party.

Voters are said to be upset with the strong messages on the posters accusing other parties of bad management. Residents are also complaining about the unregulated increase in the number

of political-party posters being put up all over the island.

Residents have complained to police that many of the posters are a danger to the public, especially along roadsides, as many of the posters have been precariously placed and without any consideration of whether they obstruct views for motorists, this to such an extent, that residents have taken it upon themselves to take the signs down "in order to save lives," it has been reported.

"I called the police and various public offices to complain on more than one occasion that signs have been put in places that have almost caused serious accidents.

It is really irresponsible and action should be taken," said Khun Yuta a resident of the island. Elections are scheduled to take place in August.

Bangkok Airways opens shopping arcade: Bangkok Airways celebrated the opening of its Samui Park Avenue shopping arcade at its new terminal by hosting a ceremony attended by

over 300 guests.

The President of the boutique airline, Prasert Prasarttong, welcomed a wide variety of guests who included government officials, media and celebrities from all over the Kingdom.

The new Samui Park Avenue shopping arcade is expected to be a place where travelers make last-minute purchases in the variety of shops that line the street, and relax in the cafes and sports bars where games are showing for enthusiasts who never miss a game.



The arcade is located in the new terminal, which opened for business on September 1, 2007.


Bangkok Airways has received much praise for the design and creation of the tropical atmosphere in which passengers arrive and depart the airport. The quaint impression is also felt in the tree-lined shopping arcade, which follows the same tropical architectural theme.

During the opening event, top culinary establishments from around the island were represented in a competition for the Best Samui Recipe.


Ban Taling Ngam Resort and Spa took first prize for main course while Six Senses Hideaway was given the award for best dessert.


The rest of the evening's entertainment included dance competitions, fashion shows, face and body painting and live music.








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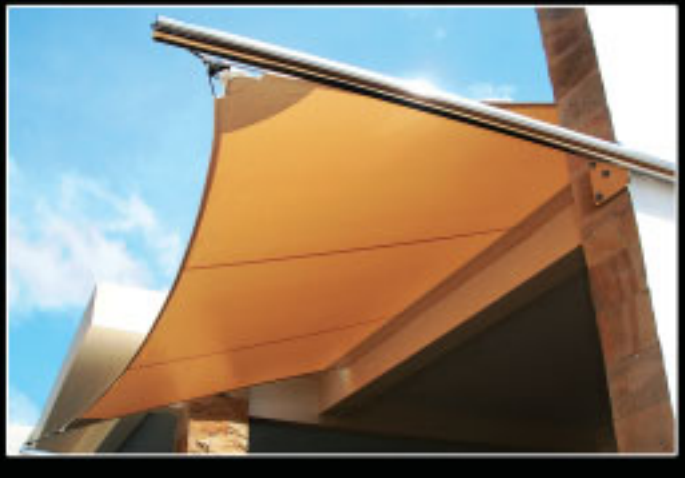

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THE YAMU

PHUKET

By Gazette staff

As the nation celebrates the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit this week, the *Gazette* takes a look at some of the projects around the island that were initiated by members of the royal family.

The Chaipattana Foundation was established in 1988 by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej with the aim of helping people through various development activities. After the 2004 tsunami, the foundation, in conjunction with the Thai Red Cross, began making fiberglass sail-powered boats to replace local fishermen's boats (*houtong* boats) that were lost in the waves.

Rangsan Chayakul, director-general of the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau, said, "There are about 500 fiberglass boats that have been given to each of the six affected Andaman provinces.

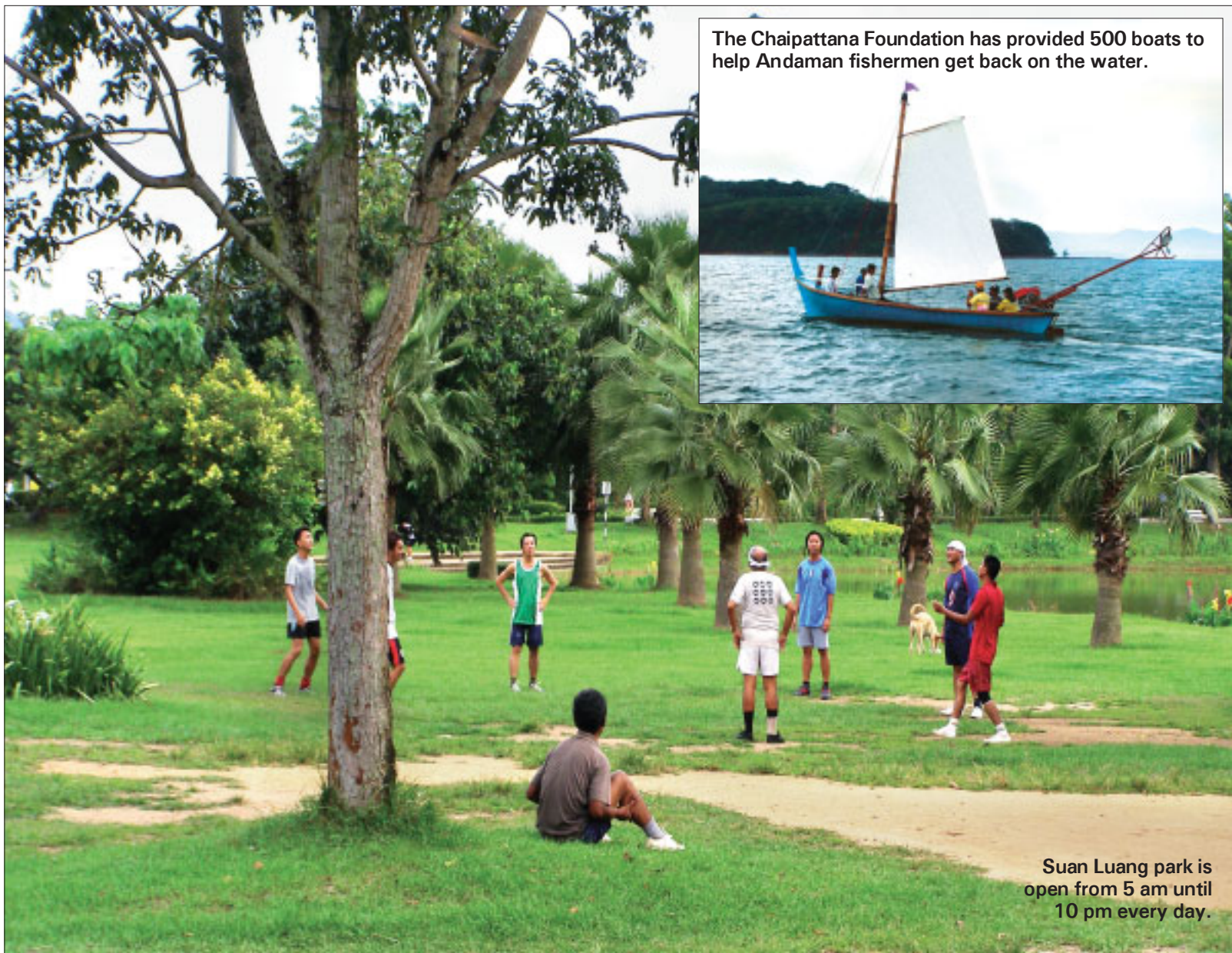
With fuel prices so high at the moment, most of the fishermen's income is spent on fuel. We aim to help the local fishing communities to give them a better quality of life.

"I think that if we can give them knowledge through this project, then they will be able to decrease their expenses. Each boat must still have an engine as well as a mast because when there is no wind, you cannot use a sail," he said.

The most recent addition to projects in Phuket initiated by members of the royal family is Thailand's ninth branch of the Phufa shop, which opened in March at Bantjai Beach Resort Plaza in Patong and is under the patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

The products for sale in Phufa are handicrafts made in village communities, agricultural communities and through family industries. After the project began, villagers who otherwise did not have a shop in which to sell

Royal projects breathe life into the community



The Chaipattana Foundation has provided 500 boats to help Andaman fishermen get back on the water.

Suan Luang park is open from 5 am until 10 pm every day.

their products were given the opportunity to use the Phufa shop.

The Phufa shop was borne out of the idea to support local communities in upcountry areas by increasing their income and standards of living.

Six years after opening, the Phufa project has 1,600 members from 70 groups around Thailand.

The Baan Khun Phum building at Vachira Phuket Hospital is a royal project also under the care of Princess Sirindhorn in memory

of her son, Khun Phum Jensen, who died in the 2004 tsunami. The aim of the project is to help children who lost their parents in the tsunami in order to nurture them and overcome the trauma.

The building is expected to

be finished some time next year.

Suan Luang Ror 9 in Phuket City is a project overseen by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) with the aim of improving Phuket's landscape by providing a park for people to relax in and exercise.

Suan Luang is a place where people work out every day in the mornings and evenings.

Various groups gather at the park regularly, from Tai Chi practitioners to skateboarders, joggers and dog walkers.

The royal projects are a boon for anyone in Thailand and each project forms part of the overarching goal of improving the quality of life for locals and non-locals alike.

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Californian terroirist captured

Most people equate a good glass of wine with a lengthy aging process and a sort of timeless bottled grace, mostly thanks to eons spent down in the damp, dripping cellar of a doddering but noble heap in a leafy French or Italian countryside lane.

Whoa Man, wake up: times have changed and one of the messengers of the Wine Apocalypse (I personally haven't met the other three yet) is Ray Kaufman, a vintner who helps promote the Californian McManis wine labels.

The excellent Banyan Tree was the venue for the resort's inaugural five-course Wine-maker's Dinner, hosted by Ray. In attendance were several of the island's wine connoisseurs and movers within the hospitality industry.

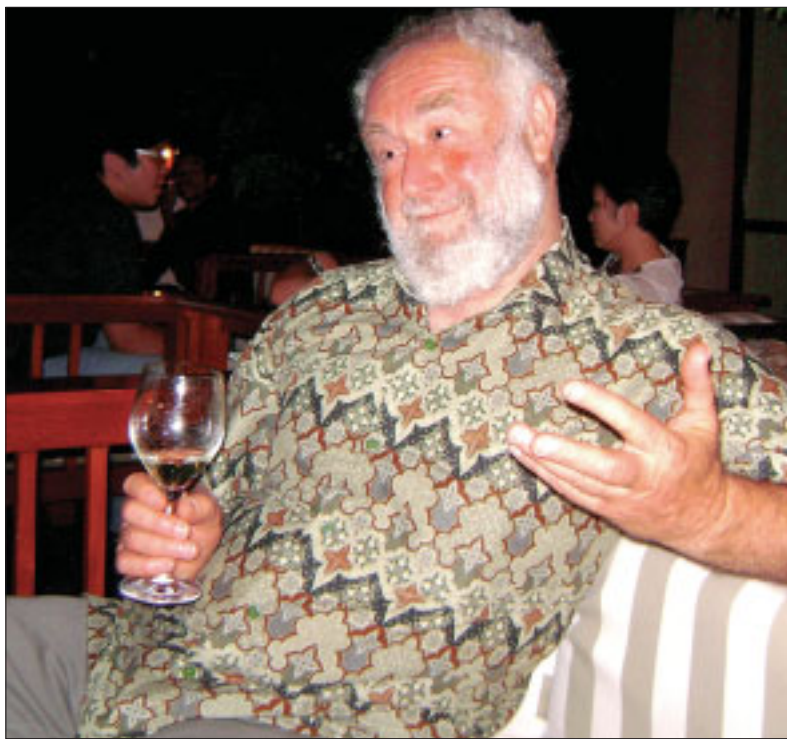
Ray Kaufman is a silver-bearded Californian, obviously at home with himself, with a lot of experience in life. In pre-prandial conversation he casually mentions that the last time he was in Phuket was some 30 years ago when he yachted around the Andaman. "There was, to put it simply, nothing here."

He also expounds on how savvy new wine-growing techniques have accelerated and ameliorated the industry so much in the last few years and explains just why California is able to grow such an astounding variety of grapes.

"If you drive five minutes up the hill from my place you can't grow the same wine and the same goes for five minutes down-hill." The world-famous San Francisco Bay fog is also good for adding a cooling pizzazz to the area's wine, he adds.

"There's a touch of coolness coming in off the Pacific. This keeps the grapes fresh and in point of fact there are more soil types in California than in Bordeaux or Burgundy. Plus, we have mountains and this gives structure and more concentration, meaning more flavor."

But why is wine universally stronger nowadays? Does he attribute this to global warming? No, he believes that leaf stripping, more open canopies (therefore more sun), better management and specific soil for specific



Californian winemaker Ray Kaufman says soil management is one of the secrets to a good wine.

grape types all add up to a fruitier and stronger wine.

If you factor in modern wine-growing techniques and knowledge in the preplanning of a vineyard the product is bound to be superior.

Factors such as faster-or-slower draining soil and how close the vines are to one another are bound to make a difference, but the really interesting thing is that the picking time has remained the same. And who can argue that stronger and better wine in exactly the same period of growing time as the old days is not a tangible success?

Suitably relaxed after a few glasses of fruity Pinot Gris, lake-side, outside Banyan Tree's lobby we traipse through to the Water-court restaurant where some 20 of us sit down at two tables that seem to me to be shrouded in partial darkness. But then again my eyes aren't what they used to be...

I love the total pampering a wine dinner offers. Course after course of gourmet offerings, lashings of wine and with each glass inhibitions are shed, friendships cemented and expensive shirts permanently stained.

Through good luck I find myself seated opposite Ray's lovely Japanese wife Emiko. It turns out that she writes a blog in Japanese about the Californian wine industry and is a Death

Metal fan. So, as you can imagine, we had a lot in common to talk about...

A truffle-infused chicken terrine with asparagus salad and walnut-Dijon ice cream is for first course and is accompanied by a

2006 McManis Chardonnay. The Dijon gives the dish a great piquant slant while the Chardonnay is sensational with a discernible toffee-like tang to it.

Braised rabbit shank in crispy fillo dough on a cassoulet bean stew with mush potatoes espuma seems like a good hearty dish to be taken with several quarts of robust ale but it is not to be. The dish is tiny. Tasty but tiny; and the rabbit shank in dough is more of a spring-roll affair but still it makes for an interesting flavor match and the 2006 Merlot boasts well-rounded tannins.

Next up, after the seemingly perpetually moving staff has cleared away the twilit debris, is an oven-roasted Wagyu lamb loin with Roquefort polenta, ratatouille nage and buttered French beans.

Itada kimas says Emiko and I smile back, wondering what to reply so I repeat the expression and hit the jackpot. Apparently it's Japanese for something like *Bon Appetit* which is French for, "Pass the ketchup".

A Syrah McManis red is the perfect companion for this dish and despite the small portions both of us are starting to feel

rather full. So, when a duo of beef and veal tenderloin is trotted out, we look at each other with some trepidation.

It's gorgeous meat and is effortlessly washed down with a Cabernet Sauvignon. Those guys in the Banyan Tree kitchen really do know what they're doing and the evening is splendidly rounded off with Brie in warm walnut and apricot sauce along with a superb 2007 Zinfandel.

The evening's a success; the wine's been sublime and the food outrageously innovative. Maybe the best part about it is that I haven't stained my shirt, or, on the other hand I have; I wouldn't know as I cunningly wore black.

So I leave the last words to Ray himself. I ask him how he feels about his line of work. "It's great to have a job that's close to Nature and to end up in places like this." Lucky man.

For more information on McManis wines visit www.mcmanisfamilyvineyards.com To contact The Banyan Tree F&B email sittichai.jitnathum@banyantree.com or phuket@banyantree.com

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A trio of supermums

As it is Mothers' Day on August 12, *Gazette* reporters Natcha Yuttaworawit and Sompratch Saowakhon went out to find three extraordinary Phuket mothers who deserve recognition as "supermums" for their commitment to their children. This week we take a look at the lives of a sea gypsy who has struggled to ensure her children received a formal education, a widow who lost a child in the 2004 tsunami and a mother of 13 children.

Mae-Pa Damrongprasert is a 68-year-old member of the sea gypsy community in Rawai. She was the very first woman in her impoverished village to support her daughter all through school and on to university, where she attained a degree.

"I have four children; three sons and one daughter. All of them are very good and respectful. They know their mother cannot give them everything they need like some other mothers can. I never went to school as a child, so I've tried to do everything I can to ensure that my own children receive the education that I didn't get," Mae-Pa said.

She recounted the day her daughter said that she wanted to study at university.

"I had no idea how I was going to afford it, but I told my daughter that she could go and that I would somehow find a way to pay for it."

"During my daughter's first year of university, I sent her about 3,500 baht a month. It's not much, but it's all I could manage. During her second year I sent her 7,000 baht every two months.

"She hated to think that I was struggling to find the money, so she made sure I didn't have to pay bank charges and transfer fees when I sent money to her," she added.

"It was always on my mind to save money for my daughter's

education. I didn't want her to have to worry about it, but she knew we were poor and that the only way I could make money was by selling fish at the market. I'm just lucky that I was able to work every day without ever having to take a day off sick," she said.

Mae-Pa's daughter is now a graduate of Songkhla Rajabhat University.

Although Mae-Pa isn't exactly sure what subject her daughter's degree is in, she is happy and proud that her daughter has a formal education behind her and can now look forward to the prospect of a financially secure future.

Mae-Pa still sells fish as a source of income, but times are not so hard these days as her daughter and two sons now regularly send money to her. "I'm happy that they are happy, but I keep on working to make sure I have something spare if my children ever need it," she said.

Prapai Jankaew is a Bangtao native. She married in 1972 and a year later gave birth to a daughter, Su. Six years later she had a son, who she named Yod. Her husband died when their two children were still very young, leaving Prapai to raise her children alone. Tragedy struck again in 2004, when she lost Su in the tsunami.

"My family is not rich like others, but I don't dwell on it. My



husband worked in hotels when he was alive so he didn't have much time for the family. The kids were still young when he died and I've raised them by myself since

then," she said.

"In the past, I did whatever work I could find to keep money coming in. I used to give massages to foreigners on the beach.

I've done rubber tapping, construction work and have also grown vegetables, both for the family to eat and to sell at market," she added.

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Facing page, top: Mae-Pa Damrongprasert outside her home in Rawai. Below, left, Boon Limpawittayanond's 11 remaining children have given her 18 grandchildren. Above, Prapai Jankaew with her son (right) and grandson.

Before her death, Prapai's daughter earned a degree from Phuket Rajabhat University. She chose not to study in Bangkok so she could stay with her mother in Phuket. She married and had a son, Phum, before being washed away by the tsunami. Her body was never found. Prapai has looked after her grandchild since he was orphaned. "I'll never forget my daughter. She'll always be in my heart," she said.

"My son is a very good boy. He knows we are poor, but fortunately he received a scholarship to study at Bangkok University. When he went to Bangkok, I begged him to be good and not to make any trouble

for himself. He managed to complete four years there with hardly any money," she added.

Prapai explained that throughout her son's time at university, he had no furniture and never bought new clothes for himself. "He saved everything he could so as not to be a burden to me," she said.

"When he came home from university on holidays, he always wore his uniform. He didn't have enough money to buy new shirts for himself like his friends," she added.

Prapai sent her son between 3,000 and 5,000 baht a month, telling him to manage as best he could and knowing that

living in Bangkok is expensive. "I know it wasn't easy for him. I'm very proud of him for sticking it out," she said.

"He shared a room with other students, but one day he told me he wanted to move into another room because he could not study with all the disturbances. I sent him money to buy a computer.

"I went to Bangkok to see him for his graduation day. All he had in his room was a picnic mat, a rice cooker and an electric frying pan. I felt sorry for him that he had to live like that for four years without any furniture, but I was overjoyed to see him graduate; I never had the chance to

study when I was young."

Mother Prapai explained that she is the second of seven daughters. Her father was a policeman who demanded that she work instead of study in order to help support her younger brothers.

"My education went no further than primary school," she said.

When Prapai became a mother, she tired hard to ensure that her children had the opportunity to study. She worked as a masseuse to put her son through university.

"As long as I kept working we could get by. I wasn't afraid to be stingy. Sometimes, I feel

weary because my son is in Bangkok, not here with me. It's worse when I think about my daughter and that she'll never come back to me, but I will do my best to raise her son as I raised her. He's four years old now," she said.

Eighty-two-year-old **Boon Limpawittayanond** is a Phuket native whose Chinese ancestors settled in Cherng Talay. The mother of 13 children, she now has 18 grandchildren. She said that having a large family has meant a house that is always full of love. Eleven of K. Boon's children still live with her or very close by.

"I've raised them all myself and we've always been a very happy family. We have never argued. I've always taught my children to love each other and help each other out," she said.

The family home is actually now a compound with several houses. Some of the grown-up children still live in the same house as their mother, others in extended family units live in other houses in the compound.

Every evening they all get together. One of K. Boon's favorite family activities is watching her grandchildren put on performances. The family even hire a music instructor to teach their children to play traditional Thai instruments for their grandmother.

K. Boon said that having so many children has not been as stressful as some might imagine. "We've always lived harmoniously as a big family, and I've never worried too much about what each of them gets up to.

"I've never forbidden my daughters to have boyfriends or been concerned about who they want to marry. I believe that if they can be faithful to each other, they can love each other and be happy together forever," she said.

K. Boon added that all she has ever done to teach her children good behavior is to lead by example. She stuck by her husband over the years and still makes merit every morning. It is therefore fitting that her name "Boon" simply translates as "merit".

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This week



TREE TROOPS IN THE TRENCHES: Two hundred Laguna Phuket staff volunteers, led by Fredrick Arul (front-row center, wearing cap), Assistant Vice President-Hospitality Services, Laguna Resorts & Hotels, and Peter Komposch (holding sign at right), General Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, planted 3,000 mangrove saplings at Baan Wichit on July 16 to raise environmental awareness.



YOUTH SPORT SUPPORT: Pierre Desjoyaux, Executive Director of Desjoyaux in Thailand, and Wongkarn Kanjananopini, Managing Director of Desjoyaux Phuket, present a sports shirt and gift to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit on July 15 during the Phuket Games, a sports competition for youth from the 14 Southern provinces vying to compete in the nationals in December, for which the company



BEAUTY SECRET SUMMIT: Phuket hair stylists descended upon the Phuket Merlin Hotel on July 25 to learn color and perming tips and tricks from the joint forces of Unicause Beauty and Revlon




TOASTING TUSCANY: Robert Wigman and Eric Smulders (standing), owners of Wine & Taste, hosted Giuseppe Mazzocolin (seated, center), owner of Felsina Winery, at a recent tasting event featuring the Tuscany-based wine at Limon-



HEALTHY HOEDOWN: Anurak Tansiroj (center stage), Managing Director of Phuket International Hospital, welcomes his 500 employees at the hospital's annual staff party, held at Thainaan Restaurant on July 26.



SPA STUDY: Somsri Maimard (2nd from left), Sales Manager of Sukkho Spa, joins her team in welcoming Asst Prof Dr Chuklin Oonvichit (6th from right), Dean of the Faculty of Management Science of Rajabhat Chiang Rai University, and staff who came to learn about spa business management on July 22.



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Cetaceans swim into crisis

When whales beach themselves, most people assume that it's because they have lost their way, but the causes are many. The reasons can be temperature conversion layers, human sonar systems or, increasingly, chemical disruption of a whale's sophisticated sonar system.

While there are many reasons for these incidents, one cause is rapidly increasing on a worldwide basis – one that is caused by humans and therefore, preventable: marine rubbish and chemicals.

It's obscene that nations such as Japan, Norway and Iceland continue to hunt whales in the 21st century. In my mind, this is a clear case of genocide, which unfortunately many of us conveniently ignore.

Whales are intelligent animals. This has been proved by several intelligence indicators, including the size of their vocabulary and cits complexity. This points to intelligence in whales that is surprisingly similar to human intelligence.

Knowing whales as intimately as I did while kayaking in Hawaii, I have no doubt that whale hunting verges on cannibalism. It reminds me of war crimes.

The unnatural loss of cetaceans in any way is a tragedy, but we may actually be losing more whales to marine rubbish than to whale genocide. According to Dr Sontaya Manawatthaha of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), an average of 20 whales and dolphins beach in Phuket every year or die because they cannot survive in our polluted waters.

The cetaceans we can count are the ones who survive long enough to make it to our shores. For every whale or dolphin that makes land, an untold number die at sea. Non-biodegradable petroleum products are the major culprits. Ironically, instead of using less plastic bags or recycling more in an era of soaring petroleum costs, we throw used plastic into the sea, where it ends up in the stomachs of whales, turtles and seabirds, dooming them to long, painful and frustrating deaths.

While many readers may doubt the scientific fact that many cetacean species have larger working vocabularies than humans, the fact is that marine mammals are highly intelligent and certainly realize they are dying, lacking the power to remain

afloat as they slowly starve. Only the lucky ones make it to the beach, where hopefully, they end up in the care of Dr Sontaya and his colleagues.

Successful rehabilitation has its downside though, because there is only one option: returning the lucky marine mammal right back into the increasingly polluted marine environment it was trying to escape from.

In June, the *Gazette* reported the news of a dwarf sperm whale that died after beaching on Patong Beach. Photographs taken during an autopsy conducted at the PMBC show that the whale's entire stomach was packed solid with plastic rubbish, including 25 large black plastic trash bags.

The *Gazette* would not publish these images for the sake of its younger and more sensitive readers, so I encourage you to go to www.johngray-seacanoes.com to see for yourself the great stewardship our "civilization" practices within our own home.

Have the courage to show your kids and tell them

they already have the power to speak out for their future as we elders obviously don't have the collective courage to do it ourselves.

Then think about those photos the next time a sales clerk offers you an unnecessary plastic bag.



DOLPHINS IN DANGER: Dolphins enjoying quieter times.

On the way back from the Philippines, I read that we had had more small cetacean beachings, including a full pod. These rescues were successful in returning the mammals to the sea.

But why would healthy whales and dolphins beach themselves when they still have the strength to swim? There are several possible reasons, but the one pertinent to this discussion is petrochemicals.

One of the greatest gifts in life is paddling a kayak parallel with a humpback whale with the huge eye and the kayak separated by less than two meters. The animal's intelligence combined with its gentle demeanor is inspiring. It's impossible to understand how humans can be so cruel to hunt these marvelous creatures.

At times, the kayaker has the chance to look straight down a whale's blowhole, watching it open and close like the glottal stop in the back of your throat. One certainly learns the value of Listerine when the whale sprays you with bad breath.

My point is that the blowhole is directly connected to the

sea. It doesn't take solid rubbish as efficiently as the mouth, but what about petrochemicals?

I thought of a whale's blowhole as I paddled the far side of Tapao Noi, near the Ao Makham tank farm back in 2002. As I circled the island, I paddled into the smell of petrol, which gave me an immediate and terrifying headache. In less than a minute, my paddling partner and I were in danger of passing out. We got out only by paddling in reverse.

Even though we weren't swimming in the slick, the chemicals hit us hard. Can you imagine how severely this oil would affect a cetacean?

First consider Phuket's lack of awareness regarding marine rubbish and the entrance to the Strait of Malacca being very close. For these reasons you can expect a lot of chemicals to be floating on the surface of the Andaman Sea.

Then stop at your neighborhood gas station, put a few drops of petrol in your palm, and clear your sinus cavities with a healthy snort of high octane – leaded, of course (Kids, don't really do this). As you become sickened and dis-

oriented, imagine how marine mammals must feel once they swim into a petrol or diesel slick that they can't find a way out of.

Tourist brochures won't tell you, but our oceans are polluted with both solid and petrochemical scum, and it's getting worse. A year ago, we departed by boat from Cape Panwa and ran through a huge rubbish swirl where Phi Phi speedboat trash and Phuket harbor scum intersect. The floating rubbish stretched as far as the eye could see, in every direction, but this slick is inconsequential compared to those in the pelagic oceans.

In Hawaii, we learned in the 1980s that albatross – the greatest mariners on the planet and a centuries' old symbol of the sea – are threatened by eating brightly colored cigarette lighters from China.

Today, there are at least three mid-ocean slicks hundreds of miles long and as deep as 300 meters. These are the world's biggest garbage dumps – all human created. Imagine yourself as a migrating whale, swimming your usual migration route, and swimming into this muck.

Add to this the fact that there are enough drift nets that have broken free to circle the globe three times – these are just the ones reported – and they are all still working.

Almost all the other rubbish is petrochemical-based. Do you still wonder why the price of fuel is so high?

Next month: Pelagic slicks, their composition and creation

John Gray is the founder of John Gray's Sea Canoe and an ardent advocate of eco-tourism. He may be contacted by email to info@johngray-seacanoes.com

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By John 'Caveman' Gray

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4	LD-Z15-0003	6 - 3 - 4.1	149	Cape Panwa - Phuket	Sea view	Hotel, Resort, Villa, Condo
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When you've made your own bath crystals (see facing page), drop them into your spa bath, turn on the jets and get that ultimate bathing-in-champagne feeling.

Photo courtesy of Land & Houses

Hydrotherapy in the home

When you've spent your life working towards building your dream home in the tropics and you're already spending a few million baht to have your house built just the way you want it, turning the en-suite master bathroom into your own private spa suddenly becomes an essential addition to the plans.

Ideally, everything is within easy reach of the bathtub, because once you're just getting

into the soak, the last thing you want to do is have to get out of the bath while covered in suds and dotted with rose petals.

"Jacuzzi" is often wrongly used to describe any kind of spa bath. Jacuzzi is simply the brand under which a line of spa tubs is manufactured and has the good fortune of being the word that most people have adopted to describe anything similar, much like the words Kleenex, Hoover and Band-Aids.

Hydrotherapy was once a word that appeared only on the menus of expensive spas, but makers of spa tubs for the home now use hydrotherapy when describing their latest home spa installations that do more than just blow bubbles up your backside.

The latest high-tech tubs making their way into Phuket's high-end homes are being hailed as hydrotherapy baths for completing the home-spa environment.

They have enough molded seats to fit a family of four plus intimate friends and panels to control the water jets, tub temperature and in-bath audio-visual entertainment.

A basic tub equipped to simply blow bubbles costs up to 30,000 baht, but if you go for the hydrotherapy hype, expect to pay 10 times that.

For about 300,000 baht, your spa bath will massage your whole body from your neck all the way down to the back of your legs with jets of water. You can also control the ambiance with colored LED lights fitted to the tub, plug in your favorite tunes to be piped through built-in speakers and even watch television.

Sales director of House & Home Paranyoo Banchuen is excited about their latest spa-bath import called Waree Bambat (water therapy). "This one

massages the whole body – the back, front, legs and feet – at specific massage points, and you can easily control the strength of the water jets," he said.

"It's popular with our customers because it can be set up in the home or under a sala in the garden and has many interactive functions, such as lights, which can be set to gradually change color. Customers can also choose to have audio and visual extras installed," Khun Paranyoo added.

He explained that modern spa tubs have good filters and are made of durable fiberglass – the same kind used to make boats – and can be customized to order, including the choice of color.

As they are virtually self contained, complete with built-in motors and heaters, the new hydrotherapy tubs take up much less space than previous incarnations of the jet tub, and so are an ideal alternative to a pool for smaller homes.

Spa bath supplier Vanlop Raksangob of Bangkok Pool and Spa said his company imports handmade spa baths that can be custom made to order. They are supplying the demand for high-tech home spas with tubs fitted out with LEDs that can produce 12 shades of colored light and even have aromatherapy functions.

"These days, customers have many choices and can choose the kind of spa bath that's best for them and their budget, whether it's big or small," he said.

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BUILDING A BOMB FOR YOUR BATH

By Nick Davies

Whatever kind of bath you have, whether it blows bubbles at your bottom or lights up your lover in rainbow colors, what you really need for the ultimate in luxurious bathing is a selection of bath oils, salts and bath bombs.

And for those who have spent all their money on the latest high-tech tub, no need to splash out any more with these cheap and easy recipes for home made bath enhancers.

Add bath oils to soften and moisturize skin. Adding them to a warm bath helps them get deeper into the skin for a nourishing soak.

The basic bath oil is a blend of a carrier oils, such as coconut, wheat germ almond, olive or canola oil mixed with a few drops of essential oil; the concentrated extract of a herb, root or flower.

Your choice of essential oil depends on the reason you're having a bath. If you simply want to relax so you can sleep, lavender and chamomile are good choices. If you're freshening up, however, add something zesty and energetic, like orange, lemon, ylang ylang or cinnamon. For a romantic soak, essence of rose is the obvious choice, and the scent of vanilla is very enticing.

Bath Oil Blend

Soaks: 7-10

1 1/2 oz olive oil
3 oz almond oil
1 oz coconut oil
1 oz canola oil
1/2 oz wheat germ oil
15-20 drops of essential oils

Put all the oils into a container and shake well. Add one

or two teaspoons at a time to your bath. You can experiment to find the fragrance best suited to you by blending different essential oils, but try not to mix more than four or five different kinds, otherwise it becomes overpowering. Try to find a balance between something citrus, sweet and musky.

Bath Bombs. The main ingredients for making a bath bomb are citric acid (one third) and baking soda (two thirds), a few drops of essential oil for the scent and some witch hazel in a spray bottle to bind everything together. Mix the baking soda and citric acid together, add your essential oils to give the mixture a strong fragrance and then spray it with witch hazel and quickly work the mixture until it becomes dough.

The mixture might fizz a little when you spray the witch hazel onto it, but just keep kneading it. Then divide the dough into ice-cube size bombs and leave them to dry overnight. If they continue to fizz, you've used too much witch hazel.

Bath Salts. These are simple to make. All you need is epsom salts, baking soda, table or sea salt and a selection of essential oils to blend in for your preferred aroma.

In a large bowl, mix three cups of epsom salts, two cups of baking soda and one cup of table or sea salt.

At this point you can add food coloring if you like, but if you blend colors, mix them together before adding to the bath salts for an even color in the salts.

Now add the essential oils, shake and get in the tub.

Hollywood hilarity



STELLAR SMILES for the launch of the newest club in town on August 1: Hollywood Discotheque on Soi Bangla, Patong. The nightclub opened its doors to bring an Italian flavor to the town's nightlife scene.

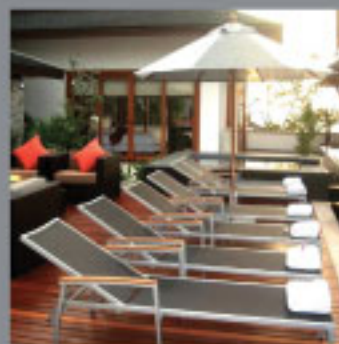


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On July 19, the All Seasons Nai Harn Phuket resort held the first in its "The Night" scheduled series of full moon parties at their Sammara Lounge.

The atmosphere at the bar and on the dance floor on the big night was superb. Being claustrophobic, I have an aversion to most bars. Fortunately, the Sammara Lounge has no confining exterior walls around the main floor and also has a large veranda with sofas and armchairs to chill in.

As the bar is just meters from the beach, the ocean air and sea breezes are wonderful. Come high-tide, the waves crash onto the shore. As darkness falls, floodlights turn the nighttime view from the bar into a magical light and sound show.

With full moon rising parties, a DJ takes the stage at about 8 pm and another impressive sound show begin. It's not "hey, Mr DJ" though. Rather, it is petite Caroline Laleta Ballini, aka DJ Miss Caro from Paris, who takes to the turntables where she will mix tracks throughout the night during all the Full Moon parties at Sammara Lounge until the end of the year.

All Seasons seems to be a secure and safe environment, so I was glad to get the opportunity to go see her in action there. Miss Caro started spinning on the decks of "Le Bus Palladium" in Paris, later coming over to Thailand as a writer for *Gavroche* magazine.

In the past one had to get a boat to Koh Phangan to be seduced by her sexy house music mixes. Now she is far more accessible and the venue location is quite unique. At Phuket's south end, Nai Harn beach with its big monsoon-season waves and cool breezes might not always be per-



Left: A hairy partygoer at Sammara Lounge. Above, Percussionists jam with DJ Miss Caro.

Bongo fury, gorillas and cool sea breezes

fect for swimmers, but it is a real treat for those after a real dance floor on a beach.

It was not just the music that impressed me about Miss Caro, but how effortlessly she managed to get everyone boogying on down on the dance floor—not always an easy task in Phuket. And when I say everyone, I mean it; even infants left their orange juices on the table to get funky on the floor with old-age pen-

sioners who were made to feel 50 years younger again. As the night went on, the very young and very old retired to their rooms and Miss Caro delved deeper into her collection of vinyl classics, working some interesting 12" singles into the mix. Among them was a remix of "Relax" by Frankie goes to Hollywood. The musical gamut ran from golden oldies to funky town and back to hedonistic house to keep the hor-

mones flowing.

After a few foreplay tunes, the moon worshipers were soon loosening up for a session that would stretch into the early morning and guarantee some multi-organic gyrations on the dance floor.

Helping the beat along was local Rawai hipster "Oye", who played percussion as Miss Caro unsheathed vinyls from memory lane. Whenever "Oye" felt like a break from the bongos, there was always a bopper on the floor ready to jump up and pound out some pent-up tribal instinct.

Some partygoers found the guy dressed like a yeti with bandaged fingers, plastic bag on head and a leaf on his nose a little scary, but like so many characters with an intimidating look he turned out to be harmless. In fact the only real danger at this club might come from getting a little moonburn or, in the worst case scenario, suffering from moonstroke.

At about 10.30pm, the beach floodlights were turned off and the kids and grannies were tucked up into bed. Then it was time for deep rhythmic beats and lustful lyrics, filling the air with pheromones that were sure to create some other kinds of moans after the party was over.

All Seasons bar really does seem to be blessed with good *fung shui*; it's claustrophobia-friendly open-plan area means that you can enjoy the party not only from the bar itself, but also from the large veranda or in the spacious lobby.

It's good value for money

on The Night as well. There was a free buffet and the pesto pasta was perfect. A standard drink is only 90 baht, a soft drink is only 45 baht and there are no taxes, service charges or entrance fees. The scene is clean, so you can safely bring your loved ones and enjoy all the fun.

Even the bar staff look hip and cool, which is not surprising since they are all kitted out by a shop called "The French Hype Bazar" near the Thavorn Grande Plaza Hotel in Phuket City, a handy little place to know if you are looking for something chic to add to your party wardrobe.

After her opening night success, the All Seasons management have signed Miss Caro up for a series of parties and so The Night will now become a monthly fixture on the following dates: August 16; September 20; October 18; November 15 and December 13. While the parties conveniently fall on mid-month Saturday nights, this purist notes that some of the parties fall pretty far from the date of the actual full moon.

Full moon or no, The Night parties appear to be the monthly highlight at this club. Heading down to Sammara lounge on a regular night, I found myself all alone in the bar listening to a Filipino band and realized that the drinks were much more expensive than those served on The Night.

The bottomline seems to be that Sammara Lounge is a great party on The Night, but otherwise is a slightly pricey establishment probably more suitable only for a romantic night out.

AFTER DARK

By Akbar Khan

The Soi Dog Foundation in conjunction with Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa

Saturday 13th September 2008

From 19.00pm until 01.00am

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Dress code - Casual



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"Tails at Twilight Annual Fundraising Bone a Fit" Beach Party



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Phuket Gazette

EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

August 10. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

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

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

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

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

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

In a change to the previously advertised Writers' Night, Frank Visakay, not James Newport, will give a presentation titled "How to Become a Published Author". He will talk about such subjects as the first sentence, writer's block, what sells and why, obtaining an agent, and how to write a best-seller.

Frank Visakay is a writer whose credits include *Adventure Cambodia – A Travel Guide*, *Everything But Die – a Thailand Novel* and his recently published memoirs *Jasmine Fever, Confessions of a Jaded Expat*.

After traveling around the world twice, Frank has called Phuket his home for the past 10 years and now lives in Rawai with his faithful companion, Look Chai, a German Shepherd. The show starts at 7 pm

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



Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat Exhibition

August 22-September 26

August 22 sees the opening of an exhibition by Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat, a famous Thai painter with a 28-year painting career. His works have been shown in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, China, Taiwan and Indonesia. The exhibition is at Art Rendezvous Gallery in Phuket City. Contact Patrick Bois for details. Tel: 076-219095. Email: art.rdv@gmail.com Web: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com

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 madcap night of laughs.

September 29 - October 7. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar,

which normally falls in late September or early October. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict diet of 'vegetables only' will pu-

rify mind and body and constitute merit-making.

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

October 9. Wine Tasting at Wine Connection Chalong.

Wine tasting with the Chilian Winery TerraMater from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Includes tapas buffet and live band. 500 baht. Free for club members.

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

October 23. Chulalongkorn Day (Public Holiday)

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 19-22. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament 2008.

Registration at Captain Hook on November 19 from 6 pm onwards. Fishing days are November 20, 21 and 22, starting at 8 am.

Free food and beer for all anglers. For more information, please contact Uwe Schitteck. Tel: 081-719 5766. Email: uweschitteck@yahoo.com

November 29. Phuket International Women's Club Annual Ball.

The Phuket International Women's Club Annual Ball will be held at The Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa.



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ON THE MOVE

Pieter Van Der Hoeven has been appointed General Manager of Outrigger Enterprises Group resort operations in Phuket. Mr Van Der Hoeven is responsible for the implementation and development of hotel operations at the Outrigger Serenity Terraces Resort in Rawai and West Sands Outrigger Resort in Mai Khao. His experience includes three years as General Manager of the Evason properties in Hua Hin and Vietnam, and five years with The Peninsula Bangkok.



Nathee Rungchat has been appointed Executive Sous Chef at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. He previously worked at the Sila Evason Hideaway & Spa Samui, The Racha Resort Phuket, Banyan Tree Phuket and Bangkok, Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa, One & Only Royal Mirage Dubai, JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, and Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa.



Englishman **Robert Gunnel** has been named Country Manager of Bovis Lend Lease (Thailand), joining the Thai business from Bovis Lend Lease in Dubai. In more than 30 years in the construction and property industries, Mr Gunnel has worked in a wide variety of places including the UK, Nigeria, Hong Kong and China. His experience in Phuket includes projects at Trisara, Movenpick Resort & Spa, and Katamanda Residential Villa. His current projects include the Jumeirah Private Island project.



Speedboat service to Yao Yai launched

RASSADA: A new speedboat service from Phuket to Koh Yao Yai set to launch at Rassada Pier on August 10 will make the island more accessible to tourists and provide an additional source of income for Koh Yao Yai residents, said Damras Plukmaidee, owner of DJ PIT Travel Agency Co, which will operate the service.

Two boats, which can each carry 50 passengers, are scheduled to leave Rassada Pier daily at 10 am and depart from Lo Jak Pier, Koh Yao Yai, at 4 pm, said Khun Damras, a native of Koh Yao Yai.

Each single journey costs 200 baht per person and takes 25 minutes.

The aim of the service, which is operated in conjunction with several tour packages, is to help promote Koh Yao Yai as a tourist destination. "Koh Yao Yai is an interesting place for foreigners to experience the Muslim community's way of life and their good nature. They welcome visitors warmly," he said.

"I want to see a lot of tourists and investors visiting Koh Yao Yai. It is an attractive destination because it is quiet and safe. The community is like one big family, so there are rarely reports of crime there," he added.

K. Damras explained that when he moved to Phuket City five years ago, he found that transport between Phuket and Koh Yao Yai was limited to a

single ferry service operating two trips each way, taking one hour each.

"We plan to add more boats to the service in the high season to increase the frequency of trips between the two piers, but we must first see how popular the service becomes," he said.

Somchai Padungphol, an officer of Pru-Nai Public Health Station on Koh Yao Yai, said the new boat service is a much-needed convenience for locals.

"Koh Yao Yai has about 4,000 residents and supports about 9,000 people in total. In emergencies, such as people needing medical attention, we need a quicker way of transporting injured people to Phuket. With the current ferry services, people sometimes have to wait until the boats are full of passengers before they can depart," he said.

"In comparison, ferry services between Phuket and Koh Yao Noi, which is more developed than Koh Yao Yai and is the site of many government offices, are more frequent with about 10 trips a day, whereas ferry services from Phuket to Koh Yao Yai still only operate twice-daily trips," Khun Somchai added.

The new boat service between Phuket and Koh Yao Yai offers commuters a new departure point; current ferry services leave only from Bangrong Pier in Pa Khlok, he said.

— **Sompratch Saowakhon**

Fishing Port to be new regional hub

By Janyaporn Morel

RASSADA: Phuket's seafood processing and tourism industries are set to receive a boost with plans to develop Phuket Fishing Port, Thailand's first certified "hygienic" fishing port, into a regional hub for the fishery industry.

Port Manager Pramual Rakjai told the *Gazette* that the recent allocation of a 300-million-baht budget from the Fishery Department to improve the port's facilities will enable the port to adhere to standard regulations for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and gain recognition as a hygienic and convenient location for fishing boats to transfer their loads and process seafood.

"The additional services offered at the port will boost the local economy, creating new jobs and generating extra income for the island," he added.

Plans include further developing the port's facilities and land around it to eventually allow about 30 boats per day to berth at the port, added Khun Pramual.

Over the next three years, 150 rai around the port will be developed to become a fish market that will support the fishing and tourism industries, he said.

"Plans for the seafood market include dividing the area into three zones. The first zone will offer fresh seafood for retail vendors, high-standard processed seafood and live aquatic animals.

"This will help promote the port [and Phuket] as a seafood center as there are only a few relatively small fresh markets dotted around the island. The second zone will contain seafood restaurants while the third zone will be a landscaped recreation area," said K. Pramual.

Developing the 150-rai area would cost about 40 million baht. "So far, we haven't decided whether to request financing from the Fishery Department or from a private investor," he added.

Other plans include developing the port to become a regional center for foreign fishing boats to transfer tuna.

"Taiwan-registered fishing boats make up about 20% of the vessels that currently use the port's services," he said.

"The aims of the development plan are to continue to run the port as a hygienic port, which we have already been doing since July 2006, and to ensure that it is a convenient location for transferring catches brought in

by boat so they can be processed and transported to local markets quickly and hygienically, reducing the risk of pathogenic contamination of seafood before it reaches consumers," he added.

"The port's GMP process includes supplying clean water for processing fish and cleaning equipment to ensure that consumers are offered clean and fresh seafood," he added.

The port also has a wastewater treatment system to clean water that has been used in seafood processing before it is released into the sea, said K. Pramual.

The quality of treated water released at the port surpasses the standard set by the Department of Pollution Control, he said, adding that water treated at the port has a Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of 80 to 90 parts per million (PPM), while the Department of Pollution Control considers BOD levels of up to 200 PPM as acceptable.

"Before the waste-water treatment system was in place, waste water released from the port had BOD levels of up to 800 PPM.

"This dramatic improvement in waste-water quality has enabled us to accomplish our initial aim of becoming certified as the first hygienic fishing port in Thailand," he said.

K. Pramual said that he is confident the combination of fishery-industry services and trade from tourists would be worth the initial investment and would put Phuket on a par with other countries offering similar services.

Achieving such a status, however, requires co-operation from other sectors, such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Phuket provincial authorities, he added.

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Student spending power keeps fund growing

Many investors are faced with the common problem of most investments being cyclical in nature; they go through good and bad times and investors have to be either astute or lucky enough to avoid the bad times.

The accompanying graph/chart compares the Brandeaux Student Accommodation Fund to the FTSE 100 TR (IN) which in full stands for the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Total Return Index, which is also famously referred to as the Footsie. The comparison is for a period of just over eight years and, obviously, it does not show the stock market in a good light. This is unfortunate as it was not the intention to show that an eight year investment in the stock market as only yielding 7.4%. This could not be described as anything but sub-normal returns because, obviously, it does not include the excellent profits during the bull market of the 1990s. The reason for this is because the Brandeaux Student Accommodation Fund only started in 2000.

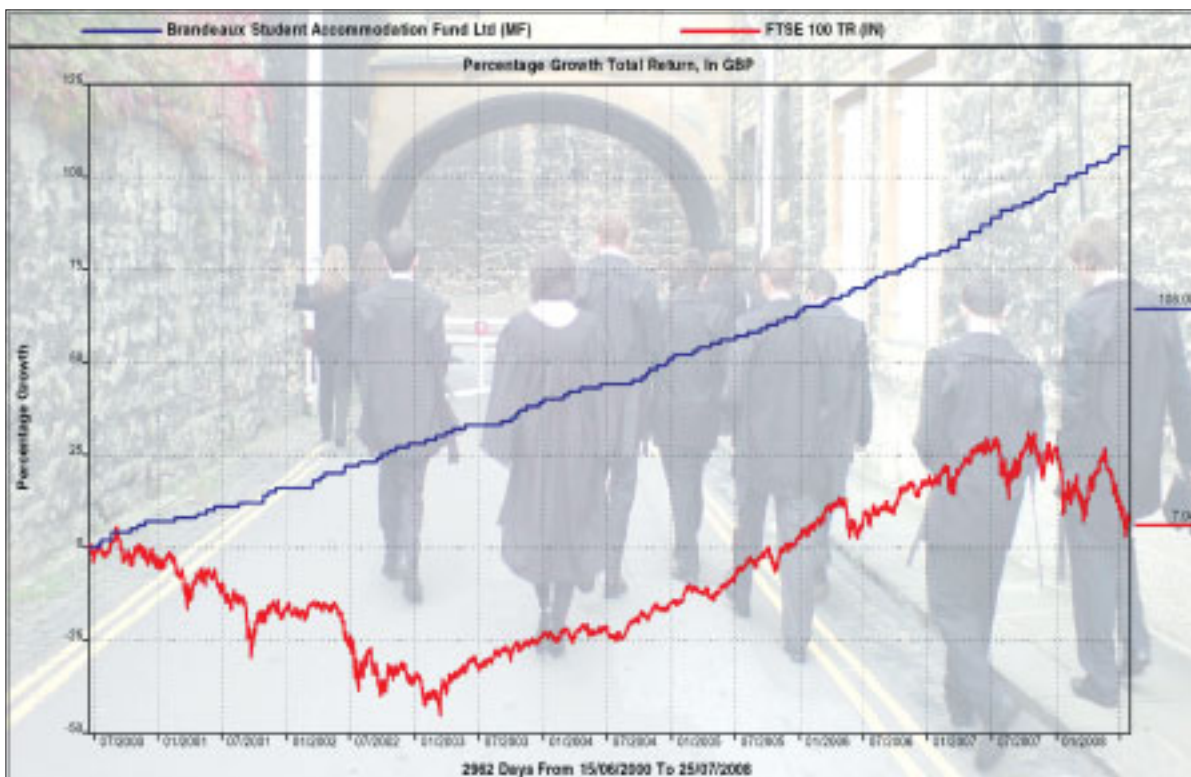
However, the Footsie chart is realistic in showing the highly volatile nature of stock markets. Very few private investors can deal with such volatility unless they have the ability to ignore the state of their investments, such as pension funds, and the returns they are receiving from them.

The Brandeaux Student Accommodation

Fund, on the other hand, is a completely different type of investment. It has extremely low volatility and any movement of it tends to be upward, but those returns will never be very high, as the targeted return is between 8 to 10% per annum (net of charges). The latest one-year return to end of June 2008 was 10.05%, which is well in excess of deposit rates.

I have mentioned the Brandeaux fund in this column before but it is worth talking about again because it has been a continually successful fund, which is completely abnormal in the current economic climate, and it also allows me to talk about inflation.

The fund is a success for a several reasons, the main ones being that in the UK, there is always demand for university education coupled with demand for quality accommodation for local and international students.



The Brandeaux Student Accommodation Fund's inherent stability is clear when its returns are compared with the Footsie's jagged rise over an eight-year period.

Background photo by James Bezzer shows students at Oxford University.

The UK currently has a university population of more than 2 million students and the numbers are growing every year between 3% and 5%.

The accommodation available for students varies from structures dating back from the 19th century to government-built student accommodation that was built in the 1960s and 70s. Most of this accommodation has one thing in common, it is hopelessly out of date.

University students are often perceived as being youngsters who have just left school and haven't, but have not yet embarked on their careers. In reality, however, many people return to university later in life in order to gain the extra qualifications they require to make changes in their careers.

The CEO of Brandeaux Roger Boyland once stated: "There seems to be an inexhaustible supply of lawyers in their 30s wanting to become accountants and accountants wanting to become lawyers." More recently, he said: "The stress that other sectors of the UK property market are experiencing is not affecting the Brandeaux portfolios and we do not expect it to. The strength of Brandeaux lies in the non-correlation of its ground rent, reversionary and student housing portfolios to the current troubled commercial markets."

The inflation-beating mechanism inherent in the Student Accommodation Fund is simple. The rental charges that students pay for accommodation increase every year in line with the rate of inflation plus 2%.

The current situation is actually working to Brandeaux's advantage. One of the directors, Adrian Perry, told me some months ago that they are now seeing properties that they passed on in 2007 being offered at lower prices. Adrian was quick to mention that they feel genuinely for those suffering as a result of the current situation in the UK property market but that Brandeaux is in a different position.

Student accommodation properties are spread throughout the UK from Aberdeen to London and they now play host to well over 10,000 students. The Fund invests in affordable, secure, en suite apartments that are of sufficient quality to allow universities to use them as confer-

ence accommodation when they are not occupied by students.

The buildings range in size from the recent acquisition in London of a purpose-built 353-bed development in January this year to a 900-bed landmark estate, which was purchased in 2006 from the University of Birmingham.

Most of these properties are being run in partnership with universities, who outsource the accommodation under nomination agreements.

UK universities are not wealthy organizations. Their principal activities are teaching and research. Accommodation, whilst essential for many of them, is an area universities cannot afford to supply.

Student accommodation occupancy rates for 2008-2009 are expected to be identical to 2006-2007 at more than 98%. Hoteliers can only drool at such figures.

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

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By Richard G. Watson

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Map showing locations: Bang Tao, Surin, Kamala, Patong, Tesco Lotus, Wine Connection, Siam Legal Phuket.

The Porsche 911 has been around for 44 years, yet it is still one of the most desirable sports cars in the world. The story began in 1964 with a two-liter motor, but over the years, engine size and, with it, performance has been improved.

The latest incarnations that have just emerged from Zuffenhausen feature 3.6- and 3.8-liter flat-six engines and 345bhp (254kW) and 385bhp respectively. The updated motors now feature direct fuel injection for the first time – contributing to increased power and lower exhaust emissions – while Porsche's new dual-clutch transmission, Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK), is available as an option.

The PDK dual-clutch system was pioneered and developed in Weissach by Porsche and offers significant advantages, particularly in the area of smooth gear shifts, but it also gives better fuel economy. Porsche's successful 956 and 962C Group C race cars benefited from the PDK transmission.

The PDK transmission is based on pioneering work by Porsche that began in the 1980s. The system has a choice of manual or automatic mode and seven forward gears. The complex gearshift combines two "semi-gearboxes" in a single casing that are selected using two separate clutches. Whichever gear is engaged, the next gear is always ready for selection. As a result, each gearshift is virtually instantaneous, with zero interruption in drive.

In addition, PDK offers better acceleration than a standard manual gearbox while retaining similar levels of fuel consumption. The response is much quicker than the previous torque-converter automatic and without the power losses.

Comfort levels are comparable with the previous system while fuel economy has been improved. In manual mode, gears can be changed by hand using two ergonomic gearshift buttons on the special sports steering wheel. Push forward with the thumb to shift up, pull back with the index finger to downshift. Ei-

Still groovy after all these years



Launched in the 1960s as a supercar, the Porsche 911 is still one of the most desirable sports cars in the world.

ther button – left or right – can be used.

Alternatively, the PDK gear selector can be used in the same way as the steering wheel controls: push forward to shift up, back to shift down.

Porsche introduced the double clutch on racing cars more than 20 years ago, but this is the first time the system has been made available on road

models. Acceleration is stunning. Equipped with the PDK transmission, the 3.6-liter coupe completes

the sprint to 100kmh in 4.7 seconds, while the larger-engined Carrera S model lops a further two-tenths off this time and reaches a top speed of 300kmh.

Porsche buyers are rarely worried about fuel consumption even with high gas prices, but the PDK-equipped

Carrera manages 9.8 liters per 100 kilometers. This is a performance supercar.

The manual gearbox and PDK cars are fitted with a start-assist mechanism that holds the machine on an uphill gradient, allowing the driver to set off smoothly with no risk of rolling backwards. Active suspension is standard on the Carrera S and available as an option on the other models. A firmer suspension setup lowers the car by 20 mm and also features active dampers.

All models are now fitted with bi-xenon headlights, with

active headlamps that follow the direction of the steering are optional. As well as the bi-xenon lights the cars are fitted with LED daytime lights integrated into the front apron above the air intakes at the side. The rear lamps also incorporate LED technology.

Almost forty-five years on and the 911 is as fresh and vibrant as it was back in the Sixties. For more information go to www.porsche.com/thailand/en

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted by email to jhc@netvigator.com



By Jeff Heselwood



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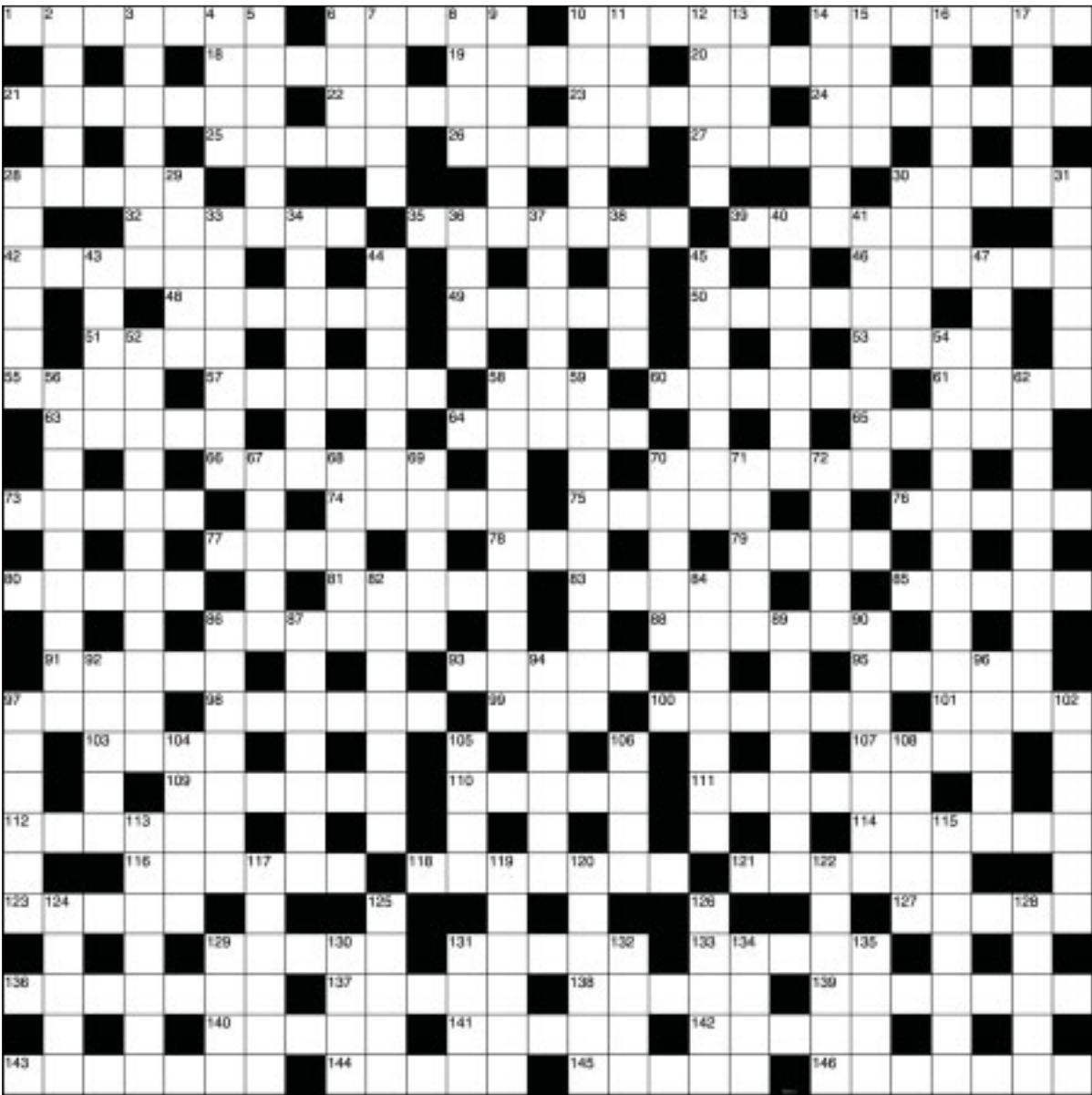
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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are up to 25 words related to the Batman movies. 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.

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



The BIG Crossword

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Across

- 1. Student
- 6. Felt pain
- 10. Prison rooms
- 14. Made faulty billiard shot
- 18. Unexcitingly
- 19. Prevent entry of
- 20. Below
- 21. Hide
- 22. Showy flower
- 23. Diva, prima...
- 24. Bullfighter
- 25. Center
- 26. Titles
- 27. Kitchen garment
- 28. Skeptic
- 30. Cap
- 32. Double-edged knife
- 35. Books of maps
- 39. Geothermal spring
- 42. Blood component
- 46. Rinsed
- 48. Actor, ...Norton
- 49. Groom's partner
- 50. Grumbled
- 51. Stepped (on)
- 53. Colored (fabric)
- 55. Dueling weapon
- 57. Country, Saudi...
- 58. Writer, ...Fleming
- 60. AD, anno...
- 61. Elderly
- 63. WWII's...Hitler
- 64. Speak off the cuff
- 65. Grate
- 66. Frozen polar cover
- 70. Fire (rocket)
- 73. Unforeseen obstacles
- 74. Utterly exhausted
- 75. Toast
- 76. Irish people

- 77. Prosecuted
- 78. Snack, afternoon...
- 79. Hard timber
- 80. Thick lump
- 81. Sheikhdом, Abu...
- 83. ...mortis
- 85. Tale
- 86. Choked with sweetness
- 88. Made speech
- 91. Italian dish
- 93. Unfortunately
- 95. Stadium
- 97. Small island
- 98. Paddock
- 99. Set (table)
- 100. Uselessly (2,4)
- 101. Bargain sell-off
- 103. Border
- 107. Essence of matter
- 109. Debauched parties
- 110. Two-footed
- 111. Wrap around
- 112. Canada's capital
- 114. Predatory birds
- 116. Unrecognized
- 118. Tumbling athlete
- 121. Glitzy
- 123. Uncontrolled slides
- 127. Australian gems
- 129. Lumpur
- 131. Member of religious order
- 133. Leaps
- 136. Rattling sound
- 137. Computer data
- 138. Renown
- 139. Inner layers
- 140. Garden ornament
- 141. Breeds (with)
- 142. Rejoice (in)
- 143. Make unhappy
- 144. Sadder
- 145. Witness box

- 146. Enthusiastic (cheer)
- Down
- 2. Old friend
- 3. Exotic blooms
- 4. ...& Eve
- 5. Governing
- 6. Regrettably
- 7. Bladders
- 8. Unspoilt paradise
- 9. Send off tracks
- 10. Trainee officers
- 11. Greek love god
- 12. Of the moon
- 13. Click (fingers)
- 14. Remembrance
- 15. Persian Gulf republic
- 16. Volcano depressions
- 17. Call up (feelings)
- 28. Gangster, Al...
- 29. Raised carving on brooch
- 30. Small & shiny (eyes)
- 31. Neatened
- 33. Libyan leader, Colonel...
- 34. Come forth
- 36. London underground
- 37. Zoo inmate
- 38. Smooth
- 40. Avoidance
- 41. From Stockholm
- 43. Performed
- 44. Naval head
- 45. Sinful
- 47. Plant fence
- 52. Rearranged
- 54. Seriousness
- 56. Pawnbrokers' premises
- 58. Equal
- 59. Miserly

- 62. Newspaper opinion column
- 67. Heartless
- 68. Tea container
- 69. Answer court charge
- 70. Foreign language
- 71. Extreme
- 72. Mania
- 82. Courage
- 84. Citrus fruits
- 86. Photo devices
- 87. Great applause
- 89. Weepy
- 90. Hangs loosely
- 92. Warn
- 94. Moisten
- 96. Former South African province
- 97. Eskimo shelters
- 102. Survives
- 104. Robes
- 105. Competently
- 106. Says further
- 108. Potato variety
- 113. Accounts examiner
- 115. Itinerant caravan folk
- 117. Direction changes
- 119. Bricks &...
- 120. Stirs from sleep
- 122. Fuller (figure)
- 124. Singer, ...Minogue
- 125. Jury
- 126. Tennis ace, ...Borg
- 128. Connect to the Internet (3,2)
- 129. Wooden barrels
- 130. Leg
- 131. Seethe
- 132. Corrode
- 134. Hand-me-down
- 135. Grain store

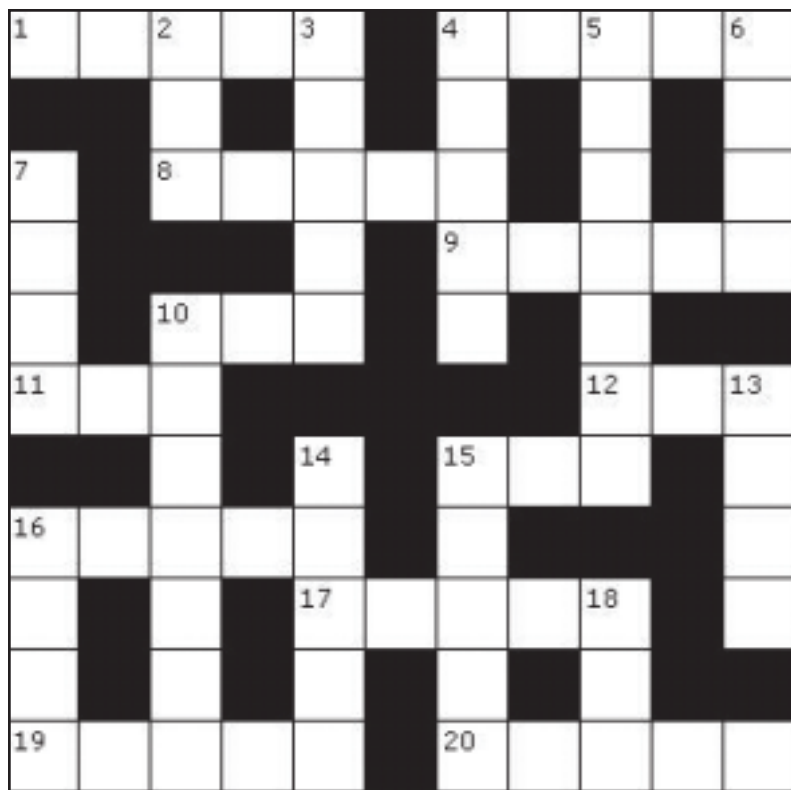
Solution on next page

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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. Bird
4. Ghost
8. Furniture
9. Not dead
10. Edgar Allan...
11. Chopping implement
12. Fresh
15. Tax collector
16. Prickly bushes
17. Breeze
19. Card game
20. Boat

Down

2. Animal doc
3. With honor
4. Fantastic
5. Choices
6. Large water pool
7. Fish
10. Colorful pheasant
13. Stroll
14. Apple drink
15. Country
16. Pitch tents
18. ...Tac

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. With which sport would you associate Tonya Harding? | 8. In which city was Bram Stoker born? | 15. How many in a gross? |
| 2. What is <i>el helado</i> ? | 9. Who sold Louisiana to the USA in 1802? | 16. In which opera would you find Lieutenant Pinkerton? |
| 3. Who has won the most Oscars? | 10. How old is Jack Nicholson? | 17. What do you call a print made from an engraved copper plate? |
| 4. In which book does Henry Higgins teach Eliza Doolittle? | 11. Margaretha Zelle was better known by what name? | 18. Which of these does not use a ball: NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB? |
| 5. If you were served <i>cuy</i> in Peru, what would you be eating? | 12. Who played the lead role in <i>Dante's Peak</i> ? | 19. In which city is the HQ of the Central Bank of China? |
| 6. Who is the lead singer of The Cure? | 13. If you kiss the Blarney stone, what will you get? | 20. What is the sum value of "D" and "G" in scrabble? |
| 7. In which city is the Alhambra? | 14. Which is the largest breed of dog? | |

Answers below

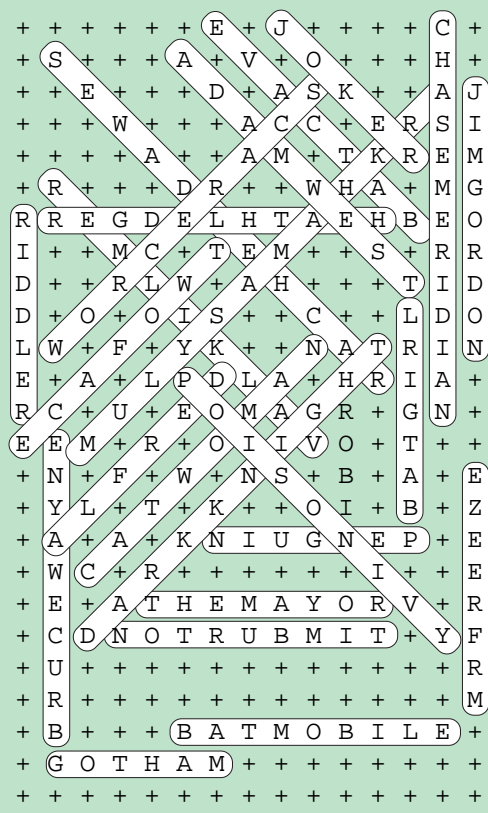
The Monster Quiz is provided by John Aldous, Quiz Master at the Green Man Pub. He can be contacted at Southern Wholesale Meat, procurer of local and imported products. Email: info@swmeat.com

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

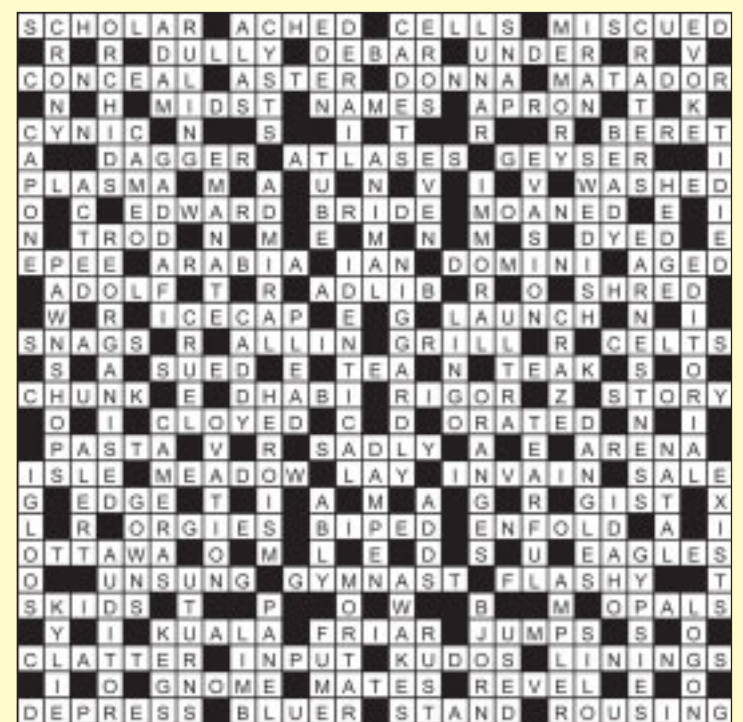


Hidden Words SOLUTION



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Ice skating; 2. Ice cream; 3. Walt Disney (26); 4. *Pygmalion*; 5. Guinea pig; 6. Robert Smith; 7. Granada; 8. Dublin; 9. Napoleon Bonaparte; 10. 71; 11. Mata Hari; 12. Pierce Brosnan; 13. "Gift of the gab" (grand eloquence); 14. Irish wolfhound; 15. 144; 16. *Madam Butterfly*; 17. An etching; 18. NHL; 19. Taipei; 20. 2.



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

The fall of the great dynasties

After that turgid, slovenly, self-important tome *Johnny One Eye* reviewed last week, it was such a delight to abandon myself into the hands of a true prose master, Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian author of fifteen novels. I confess to have read only three of them but I put him on a level with that other South American master Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

His latest is *The Bad Girl* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, New York, 2007, 276pp). This deceptively slight novel covers a romance spanning 40 years, moving from Peru to France to England to Japan to Spain.

Ricardo Somocurcio first meets "Lily" in Lima where the precocious 14-year-old beauty pretends to be from Chile, speaking in the Chilean accent and introducing Chilean dances. Ricardo courts her and begs her to go steady with him but she remains aloof and refuses to introduce him to her home and family. Later she's exposed as a fraud. The year is 1950.

Over a decade later, Ricardo is working as an interpreter and translator in Paris, a city that he loves. He is apolitical, through his best friend Paulo is organising a revolutionary group in Peru. Who should turn up in Paris but "Comrade Arlette" who is off soon for revolutionary training in Cuba.

By now, Ricardo is accustomed to calling her, "the bad girl". She remains aloof, calling him "the good boy" and

pissant" but consuming their romance. She becomes the mistress of a high-ranked commandant in Cuba. She next turns up in Paris again, the wife of a French diplomat, Madame Arnoux. Ricardo and the bad girl pick up their romance again. She disappears again, this time with the French diplomat's Swiss savings.

Far from being a magical realist like Marquez, Llosa's novels are solidly grounded in history:

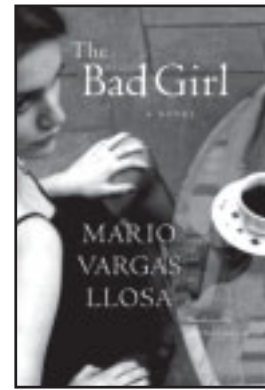
"In the second half of the 1960s, London displaced Paris as the city of styles and trends that moved into Europe and then spread all over the world. Music replaced

books and ideas as the center of attraction for the young, above all with the Beatles but also including Cliff Richard, the Shadows, the Rolling Stones with Mick Jagger, other English bands and singers, and hippies and the psychedelic revolution of the flower children. As they had once gone to Paris to make the revolution, many Latin Americans immigrated to

London to join the partisans of cannabis, pop music, and the promiscuous life."

And who should Ricardo find in London but the bad girl, now Mrs. Richardson, wife of a tycoon of the race horse social set based in Newmarket. She likes being rich but hates the constant talk of horses. She and Ricardo resume their affair again.

"And then, suddenly, she was sincere with me in an unexpected way, as if she could no longer keep everything inside. She despised horses with all her heart, along with her friends and acquaintances in Newmarket, and the owners, trainers, jockeys, stable boys,



grooms, dogs, cats, and every person who directly or indirectly had anything to do with equines, damn monsters that were the only topic of conversation and concern of the horrible people who surrounded her."

There's an ugly divorce when the ugly girl is revealed to be a bigamist. She next flees to Japan.

By this time, we're only a third of the way

through the novel. The girl's picaresque takes a horribly dark turn in Japan. When Ricardo tracks her down, she's the sex slave of a sinister Japanese gangster and smuggler. She sets up a tryst with Ricardo and as they're making love...

But I'm giving too much away. Ricardo meticulously describes the many complex moods and sensual beauty of the great love of his life. When Ricardo returns to Peru after three decades, he learns of the bad girl's impoverished past.

He finally understands why the bad girl "had to go far away and become rich – that above all, rich, very rich – through to accomplish this she would have to engage in the worst escapades, run the most awful risk, do anything at all until she became a cold, unloving, calculating, and cruel woman."

But this doesn't prevent Ricardo from loving her. Nor the reader.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

The girl's picaresque takes a horribly dark turn in Japan. When Ricardo tracks her down, she's the sex slave of a sinister Japanese gangster and smuggler. She sets up a tryst with Ricardo and as they're making love...

I've long wanted to write you concerning "all right". My very fine high school English teacher back in the '50s pointed out that as we would never write "alwrong", we have no reason to write "alright". Let's stamp out "alright".

Ann Christenson
Iowa

The police's premises are moving, all right?

Barbara replies:

I'm with you that "all right" is the spelling to use in anything even slightly formal.

Dictionary entries for "alright" include words such as "variant" and "disputed." But I think we'd both better start preparing ourselves to give in gracefully in the future.

What your English teacher didn't mention is that "already" and "altogether" are long-accepted words on the same pattern as "alright". "Already" doesn't mean the same thing as "all ready" — and "all right" doesn't mean that all is right.

Alright has a distinct meaning of its own, so it would make sense for it to have its own spelling.

The use of the word "premise" when the intended meaning is "premises" sounds like fingernails scraping down a blackboard to me. I have heard this mistake on TV and in radio commercials, and have seen it written on websites. Please help slow this butchering of the English language.

James Kenny
New York

Barbara replies:

People are saying "premise", which means "a basic assumption", when they mean "premises" or "property"? Good heavens. Yes, I see on the Internet that they are, particularly in the combinations "on-premise" and "off-premise". That's ridiculous.

"Premises" are as different from "a premise" as "glasses" are from "a glass". Everybody who's mixing the two up, cut it out!

A sign recently posted outside the city police headquarters reads: "Kingston Police is moving to..."

Should it not say: "The Kingston Police are moving to..." or "The Kingston Police headquarters is moving to..."?

James Griffith
Ontario

Barbara replies:

The person who made that sign must have thought that "police" doesn't end with an "s", so it must be a singular noun — and so it is.

Nonetheless, the Oxford Canadian Dictionary and the

New Oxford American Dictionary specify that it should be "treated as plural".

The Oxford English Dictionary also includes a note to that effect — so I think we're safe in calling "is" in that sentence just plain wrong. And of course you're right that "the" is usual with "police", though perhaps we should forgive the writer for leaving it off a sign, where space is limited.

So, yes, "The Kingston Police are moving" would be an improvement. If you bring



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.

"headquarters" into it, that's a different story. "Headquarters" is derived from the plural noun "quarters," meaning "residence" (which in turn is derived from regular old "quarter," meaning "a fourth", though this is probably not the place to get into why).

"Headquarters" itself can be either singular or plural, according to both the Oxford Canadian and New Oxford American dictionaries. Now, that's handy. Either "The headquarters is" or "The headquarters are" would be correct.

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Low-cost flight lull spells trouble for tourism

Although low-season cuts in flight services to Phuket are an expected part of the island's seasonal tourism industry, the drastic reductions in low-cost flight services over the past few weeks is particularly worrisome for Phuket and its tourism economy.

The first shock came with the government-ordered grounding for safety reasons of all One-Two-Go flights in Thailand. While this might not have come as much of a surprise given that carrier's track record and current legal problems, the double-whammy came with the subsequent announcement by Nok Air that it would suspend all of its Phuket services in favor of less-competitive routes.

While Nok Air has since announced that it will resume a limited service on weekends (see Page 1) starting this week, the inescapable fact is that the current low-season demand for flights far exceeds supply. This is clearly evidenced by the unprecedented number of passengers recently seen queuing up for standby flights to Phuket at both Don Muang and Suvarnabhumi airports in the capital.

Meanwhile, the seemingly unstoppable expansion in the resort industry has seen the number of registered hotel rooms in the province hit 50,000, stretching occupancy rates thinner year-round.

Unfortunately, there is little the government can do about current high fuel prices. Carriers that continue their BKK-HKT routes can do little but pass the costs on to travelers and adjust flight schedules to ensure that every seat is filled – thus the five-day wait for flights that is currently the norm.

One answer would be for THAI and Thai AirAsia to put more capacity on the routes, but they are unlikely to do this until they know for sure if One-Two-Go and Nok Air are out of the equation for good.

They could put more planes on or, in THAI's case, bigger planes, but they may only find that they cannot get good economic load factors. Carriers generally need around 70% load factor before they can turn a profit.

In the meantime, Phuket will miss out on some visitors until it is clear if the low-cost carriers will be back up and running.

As cheap-but-uncomfortable bus services are generally not an option for the kind of well-heeled tourists the Tourism Authority of Thailand says it wants to attract, perhaps it is time to seriously consider building a high-speed rail service linking Phuket to Bangkok via the existing line through Surat Thani. State Railways of Thailand has for decades wanted such a route; perhaps rising fuel costs will finally make it a reality.

– The Editor

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

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In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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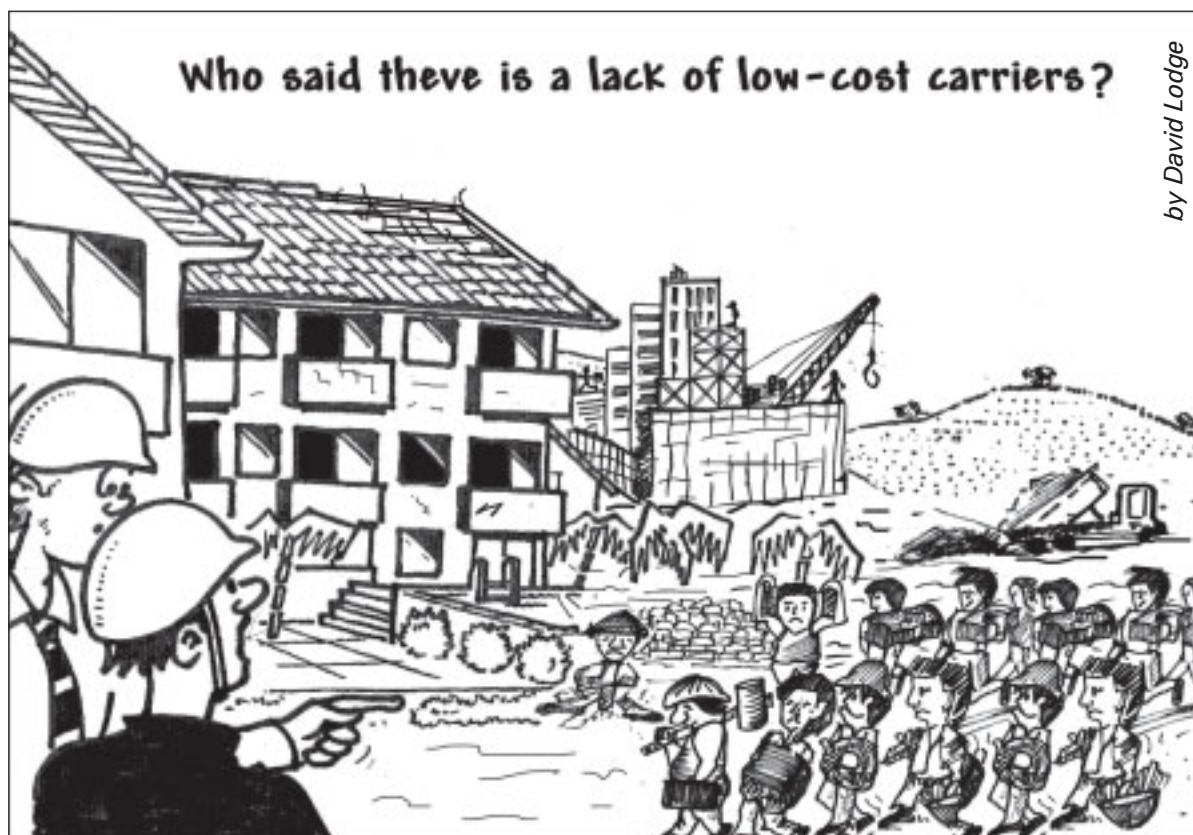
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Letters

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.

Harmin' Brahmin

Your July 26 story "Being Brahmin" contains several misleading statements that need to be corrected.

No orthodox Theravadin believes that "Buddha is only one of the reincarnations of Vishnu". Hindus have been promoting this notion since the Puranic era (around 350 CE). I'm surprised that any Thai Buddhist would fall for it. The Buddha was an extremely articulate individual. If he had been an incarnation of Vishnu, he would have said so.

Nor is Theravada Buddhism "essentially one of many Hindu sects". This is another idea that Hindus would like Buddhists to believe. It was promoted in the late 19th century by the great Hindu reformer-monk Swami Vivekananda.

Buddhism cannot be considered a "sect" of Hinduism for two major reasons. Hindus by definition accept the authority of the Vedas; the Buddha did not. Hindus believe in an eternal, all-pervading, universal soul; the Buddha explicitly rejected any kind of enduring soul structure.

There are other misstatements, but these two are the worst. Your reporter seems to have accepted without question everything her interviewee told her. Next time, she should double-check her facts.

William Page
Bangkok

Brother in arms

I have just read online the article about my dearest friend ("Soldiers of fortune found dead in Rawai", Gazette Online, July 31).

Such a man you only get the opportunity once in a lifetime to meet. I miss him. The last time I

saw him was very briefly in Baghdad and he was looking forward to his usual Rawai vacation.

Jim was and is still loved by many worldwide. His only fault was his generosity. Jim had not one ounce of bad blood in him. He was all too generous and dearly loved by many many people all over the world.

Whoever sold him the foul, putrid materials that claimed one of life's heroes should be hung, drawn and quartered.

This was totally out of character for Jim. For a man who had seen so much, it is an ending that I cannot understand. All the reasons will never be known.

One thing I do know though, Jim Howe loved Thailand. He was a man of great honor and shall never be forgotten.

RIP my brother. God bless you and keep your soul. All that separates us is time.

Andy Norris
Phuket

Where have all the sausages gone?

It's become rather disheartening to see the number of restaurants and businesses around the island that seem to be closing their doors. What's going on?

For the past few days, the Drunken Monkey in Rawai has looked decidedly quiet. I've asked around and the general consensus seems to be that broken hearts have caused the business to be abandoned, which is shame because there are now very few places to eat decent sausages.

Another one I've noticed is O'Malleys in Phuket City. After advertising in the Gazette for goodness knows how long, the pub seems to have closed its doors for good.

So that's yet another place where I now can't eat sausages that aren't hot dogs. As you can tell, my real gripe here is with hot dogs. I hate hot dogs.

Fish Johnson
Phuket

Yes, Rolf is here

G'day readers. A friend of mine who works on Phuket gave me a little nudge and pointed out a couple of letters in your newspaper speculating about whether I had come to the island and was now living here. You know me, I'm a humble guy, but I just wanted to say how grateful I am for the well-wishing that I've come across in this paper and on a number of web forums.

The rumors are true and I have now moved to Phuket, where I will be based for about six months to a year in between filming commitments for the BBC and other projects that I've been working on.

I have also been putting the finishing touches to a new album that I've been working on, so stay tuned for that.

This blues festival you have down here sounds like a lot of fun.

If the organizers want to get in touch with me, the lovely folks at this newspaper have my email address and can pass on your details. It would be an honor and a privilege to take part.

Even though I'm an Aussie, I'm not a big fan of the beach, so you probably won't see me out there cutting up the waves, but I might wobble along for a bit of a sunbathe with the missus now and then.

I'm really excited about my time here in Phuket and look forward to meeting you all.

Rolf Harris
Phuket

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

Theme and water parks needed to keep 'em coming

Phuket has long enjoyed its position as a popular tourist destination. The island's hospitality industry has weathered natural disasters, political upheaval and a slowing global economy, among many other predicaments, each time emerging stronger than before.

The number of high-end hotel properties slated to enter the market in the next five years clearly signifies the faith that overseas investors place in Phuket's potential for a thriving hospitality industry.

However, with the growing popularity of other tourist destinations in Southeast Asia, Phuket cannot afford to stagnate, but must continue to move forward with its efforts in establishing the island on the world map as a leading high-end tourist destination.

Phuket has always had distinctive high and low seasons. The line dividing the two seasons has blurred in recent years in terms of hotel occupancy, with low-season occupancy rates sometimes almost as high as those achieved during the high season.

This can be attributed to the growing number of tourists visiting Phuket from the regional markets of Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and Australia. We are now seeing more tourists from new markets, such as the Middle East, during the traditional low season.

I strongly believe that an increase in destination marketing efforts from governmental institu-

FIRST PERSON

Michael Ayling is the Managing Director of Laguna Phuket Resorts and Hotels. While tourism in Phuket has been steadily reaching out to new markets, Mr Ayling is looking to a future in which tourism blooms with a focus on high-end travelers rather than the mass tourism that the island has become accustomed to in the past.

For this to happen, Mr Ayling places emphasis on investing in new attractions for the island, such as theme parks and water parks, to keep visitors interested and keep the tourism scene fresh and exciting. Here, he explains how this can be achieved.



tions and organizations would help to further increase these numbers.

It is imperative that we raise the awareness of Phuket as a high-end tourist destination in new markets, such as India, the Middle East and China in particular – huge markets with enormous future potential that are also conveniently a mere few hours' flight time from Phuket.

While destination marketing efforts by the hotels and businesses in the private sector may help, a co-ordinated and comprehensive effort by the government sector to promote Phuket would have a larger impact and more

credibility than the disparate campaigns of individual hotels.

We must not allow ourselves to be lured into a false sense of security. Other destinations are coming along to compete with Phuket and we must maintain and enhance the brand awareness of Phuket in all markets. Destination marketing in these developing markets is critical to the continued growth of tourism in Phuket.

The private sector can also contribute to enhancing Phuket's future as a leading high-end tourist destination. The natural beauty of Phuket's beaches and rainforest jungles, as well as the

colorful and service-minded local culture, will always be a main attraction, but there is a need for attractions other than sun, sea and sand, especially during low season.

Theme parks and water parks now need to be added to Phuket's repertoire of attractions, providing visitors with more activity options during their stay. This would take Phuket to the next level as a tourist destination and would provide a further differentiation from our competitors within the region.

The meetings, incentives and conference (MICE) business is also critical for the low season

as this business is not particularly weather-sensitive and the expenditure of the groups tends to be high.

A convention center would certainly be an attraction for MICE groups. Plans to build a large convention center in Phuket have long been in discussion; hopefully they will be realized soon.

Direct flights to Phuket are also essential, especially for those from our regional markets. Visitors from these markets tend to take short vacations of four to five days. When having to transit via Bangkok, which significantly increases the traveling time from the short-haul destinations, the appeal of holidaying in Phuket is diminished.

We now have direct flights from Japan, Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Australia, which helps a great deal, but the more direct flights we have coming to Phuket, the better.

However, new attractions, additional hotel rooms and an increased number of visitors will be for naught if Phuket does not have the general infrastructure to support them.

The new expansion at Phuket International Airport is a step in the right direction and indicates that the local and national government is aware of the importance of providing the necessary supporting infrastructure.

Centrally planned developments on other essential aspects, such as roads, water supply, waste disposal and improved public transport systems, now need to follow to mitigate the risk of Phuket becoming a myriad of ad-hoc developments that cannot be supported by the island's infrastructure.

The hospitality industry is what fuels Phuket's economy, which in turn greatly contributes to the national revenue of Thailand. Phuket has come a long way from its rubber plantations and tin-mining origins and is now evolving from a mass-tourism base to becoming a high-end destination.

To ensure that this evolution becomes a reality and not just a remaining aspiration, we must maintain the level of attractiveness that Phuket already possesses and add new attractions, supporting infrastructure and increased brand awareness of Phuket in new markets.

The private and public sectors must work together to achieve this common goal; it would be unrealistic to expect for either to achieve it alone. If this can be accomplished, Phuket's hospitality industry will continue to grow and thrive in new and better directions.

Car purchase paperchase

I bought a car from a dealer in Phuket. Before I bought it, I was told that I would be issued the registration book, license plates and insurance. Now I have only the minimum compulsory insurance, no registration book and no plates. The dealer tells me that I will receive nothing else. How can I be issued the book and plates for the car?

Jerome Thibaut
Patong

Rattana Osotsapha, Administration Officer at the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office replies:

Car dealers usually transfer the ownership of the car for their customers, regardless of whether the car is new or secondhand.

The car insurance policy documents are usually handed to the buyer the same day the car is bought, but it takes about three days to be issued the registration

book and plates after we receive the transfer of ownership documents.

If the customer buys a car on finance, he or she might receive only a copy of the registration book as the finance company will keep the original book until all the repayments have been made. However, the customer will be issued the white license plates to fit to the car.

Some local dealers might take some time to get all the documents from their company's head office in Bangkok before filing the documents with us, which could cause quite a long wait before the registration book and plates are issued.

If you have a purchase receipt for the car that includes a description of the car and its engine and vehicle identification numbers, then you can bring the car and the receipt to our office and we will help complete the

transfer of ownership documents for you. However, you will still need the signature of the person authorized to sell the car to transfer its ownership to you.

An officer at the Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs replies:

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

If you have proof of purchase of the vehicle and the dealer continues to refuse to sign the transfer of ownership application, you can file a complaint with the Commercial Affairs Office at 1/1 Montri Rd, Tambon Talad Yai, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-212017.

Never too old to be president

I see from the papers that people are wondering if John McCain is too old to be president of the United States. My answer to that is a hearty "No, sirree, Bob!"

Senator McCain is a youthful 71, and I'm sure he gets plenty of fresh air, exercise, and vitamins to keep himself in peak form. I myself am a mere 70, and thanks to Geriatric Pharmaton and my five daily naps I'm spry as a tadpole, with a mental acuity equal to Einstein at his best. Just to prove it, let me show you how a typical day would go if I were president:

Scene: President Tsow totters into the Oval Office at one o'clock in the afternoon. He is greeted by his chief of staff, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and his secretary, Jessica Alba. He has hired them because he knows they will always keep him awake, except during nap time.

President Tsow: Eh, good morning, ladies, what's on my schedule for today?

Catherine: Good early afternoon, sir, you have an appointment with the president of France at three.

PT (collapsing into his chair, wheezing): Coffee. Coffee. I need coffee. (Jessica rushes out to get him some.) Eh, the president of where?

C: France, sir. That's in Europe.

PT (crossly): Consarn it, woman, I know where France is! Somewhere around Russia. Or China. It's where they have all those different kinds of cheese.

Who's the president nowadays? De Gaulle, isn't it?

C: No, sir, Sarkozy.

PT: Eh? What happened to de Gaulle?

C: He died, sir.

PT: Eh? Died, did he? Well, that was a rude thing to do. I was looking forward to having a brisk conversation with him about his role in the Korean War.

C: Sir, that was World War II.

PT: Oh? I always liked the way ole Charlie stood up to the Viet Cong. Or was that the Red Guards?

C: Sir, it was the Nazis.

PT: Oh. Say, where's that damned coffee? (Jessica rushes in with his coffee; PT gulps it down). So brief me on this guy Sarcastic.

C: Sarkozy, sir. President Sarkozy wants to strengthen the Franco-American alliance. Oh, and here's a photo of him with his new wife, Carla Bruni. (Shows him a photo.)

PT: Woooo-EEEE! With a wife like that, tell President Zorkasty he can have anything he wants. He can even have the Louisiana Purchase back. Hot diggity-dog, where are my heart pills? And what else have we got on the agenda?

C: Sir, the chairman of the Federal Reserve wants to know what you plan to do about the falling dollar.

PT: Eh? The chairman of the what?

C: The Federal Reserve, sir. That's our central bank.

PT (slapping his forehead): Oh, yeah, right, of course. Who's the Fed-head now? Volcker, isn't it?

C: No, sir, it's Ben Bernanke, and he's deeply concerned about the falling dollar.

PT: He is, is he? So what's the problem with the dollar? What is making it fall?

C: Sir, we have a whopping national debt.

PT: Well, tell him to pay it off.

C: We don't have enough money, sir.

PT: Well, tell him to print more,

dammit! Why do I keep these economists around, anyway? Can't they figure out anything for themselves? What else have you got to waste my time with? Hurry up, nap time is coming.

C: Sir, the Democrats are calling for us to open talks with Iran.

PT: Eh? What for? They let those hostages go, didn't they? Who's running Iran nowadays, anyway? The Shah, isn't it?

C: No, sir, the Shah died.

PT: Well, who's the new guy?

C: This gentleman, sir. (Shows him a photograph of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.)

PT (staring at the photo): Well, the Shah looked a lot better than this guy. Tell him if he gets a shave and puts on a tie, I'll talk with him. What am I supposed to talk to him about, anyway?

C: Sir, the price of oil is sky high, Iran has lots of oil, and it would be really good to get some of it, but they want to wipe Israel off the map.

PT: That's easy, we just bring Kissinger out of mothballs and send him over to sweet-talk ole Mr Iran. And now it's nap time...zzzzz.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@ymail.com, except during nap time.



By S. TSOW

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Snap out of that daydream, Leo

LEO (July 24-August 22): Dreaming of change is not enough to make it happen. Leos will see progress if they are prepared to take action. Support from those close to you is nearer at hand than you imagine. If you are single and would prefer not to be, a Gemini friend is keen to become involved. The number 4 can be lucky on Wednesday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your luck is gradually improving. Those born under the sign of Virgo who are suffering from financial worries will see these ease this week. Where romance is concerned, there is also

an upward trend. A relationship with Taurus has the stars' support. August is an auspicious time for widening your circle of business associates – contacts made this month will be helpful.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those looking for opportunities to increase assets should find a tempting project this week. A Cancer could become an ideal business partner, but avoid collaboration with a Capricorn. Single Librans will enjoy flirtation this weekend, but proceed further only if your heart is really in it. Romantic game-playing could be a waste of your precious time.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpios shouldn't give in too easily this week. You are not usually an easy target, but distraction could prevent you from agreeing to the best deal possi-

ble. Personal relationships are also likely to be affected by your lack of commitment; taking others' understanding for granted could lead to problems. If you're looking for a shoulder to cry on, a Libran friend can be trusted.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A minor wake-up call leaves you wondering who is really reliable in the world of work. You are advised to see this event as a learning experience and it will soon become plain which colleagues can be trusted. Thursday is the best day for a talk to clear the air. Your luck in love is well-starred until the end of this month and Taurus is ready to respond to your romantic overtures.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns can't get enough of a good thing this week. Your sense of adventure will be

satisfied by what is on offer and new acquaintances will lead to new activities. An extra sprinkling of stardust on your love life should mean someone you've been admiring from a distance comes closer. The number nine may bring some luck on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You must face up to a bureaucratic issue. As long as you keep your cool and have your facts straight, the matter should be less stressful than you anticipate. Tuesday is the best day for arranging this important appointment. Leo can be relied upon to give useful advice, but Scorpio is too hot-headed to be helpful. The number 4 can bring some good fortune this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The stars suggest that a long-term romantic relationship needs attention. If you have been commitment-shy for too long you may receive a wake-up call this week. This is not a good time to listen to friends' suggestions – take some time out this weekend to consider what is really important in your life. The scent of jasmine can encourage better insight.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your artistic talents are about to be noticed by someone with influence. If you had given up hope of being able to support yourself by creative endeavors, there could be a big surprise around the corner. Love looks likely to flourish with a Cancerian if you make

allowances for this person's shyness and sensitivity. The number 8 can be lucky next Thursday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your reluctance to take a chance could prevent success this week. But as long as you have done the groundwork, there is every sign that a new work prospect will bring satisfaction. Your down-to-earth perspective on romance encourages a Sagittarian to make true feelings known. Sunday is the perfect day for an easygoing date. Wear charcoal gray to encourage a more open mind.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Someone you impressed earlier this year is about to reappear on the social scene. If you are unattached you will be ready to rekindle romance. If you're already committed, there are signs that your partner's jealousy could be activated this week, so be understanding. At work your tendency to go for gold ensures success before the end of August.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you are tiring of carrying someone else's burden you will find a way to be relieved of this responsibility this week. The astral atmosphere during the rest of August will support your efforts to become stronger and your fear of disappointing others is about to magically dissolve. Your worries about being a wallflower at a social gathering this weekend are groundless – romance is forecast with an attractive Arian.

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AMBROSIA'S

ambrosia@phuketgazette.net



SECRETS

I suppose I'm guessing here, but few of us actively want to be old or fat. I don't, that's why I have remained the same weight since puberty, and am sitting writing this piece over a bowl of my boyfriend's specialty mash potatoes and peas, wearing a gray T-shirt, combat pants, Nike trainers, my hair tied up in a ponytail and an Audrey Hepburn-style neckerchief, as if I am not over 40 - as if, ha ha - but still at university.

Ooops! Did I just say neck? I should never have mentioned my neck. As we all know, it's the neck and hands that give us away - and reveal that middle-aged women are fighting a losing, expensive, boring and ultimately life-destroying battle to pretend we are, on average, a decade younger than we are - or in the case of Madonna two decades younger.

Madonna looks 50 to me, but swears her biological age is 26. I have it checked regularly, she says in my brain-dead weekly gossip literature, as we (forever forties, disco dads, 50-is-the-new-30 suckers) gurggle in unison with pleasure at poor old Madonna's tragic lack of self-awareness. And mature women in particular don't want to be old or fat. In fact we want people to tell us how slim and great we look, preferably all the time.

Our partners are longing for us to live a little, our children don't care what we look like, plus everyone knows that women past a certain age look stringy and scraggy if they don't eat apple pie, but we don't care.

We don't want to stop wearing the skinny jeans, the pencil skirts and move into the smock-like world of the high-street stores and the elasticated waist. We won't allow middle-aged spread into our lives, and when it comes to it, we don't want to become the storybook grandma with gray hair in a wispy bun, below-the-knee skirt and pillowy bosom either.

Given this reluctance to yield to gravity and time, it is therefore no surprise to me that the news in every newspaper I picked up in London recently, there was one story or another about how anorexia is increasingly hitting older age groups.

The founder of the National Center for Eating Disorders was quoted saying, "There is a new pressure on women to stay young."

"Previously, people simply

Ambrosia on Age



grew old gracefully. Today, people do anything they can to stave off getting old."

And a large eating-disorders charity said that the very public existence of older role models, such as Sharon Stone, Madonna, Jane Fonda and Carla Bruni were putting extra pressures on women a certain age, leading to a rise in eating disorders.

I can't agree. I don't think it's the fault of older role models any more than I think it's the fault of men. I think the only ones we can blame are ourselves.

The only reason that women's magazines, month after month, year after year, try to persuade us - using these genetic freaks/plastic-surgery victims as models - is that we can all stay young and thin, against compelling evidence to the contrary, is because this is clearly what we want to hear.

"Giving your age away? 42 stay-younger solutions!" promises *Good Housekeeping*, with some little known under-30 model - "Fearless and facing 50" on the cover. Meanwhile, *Woman & Home* offers us look-younger treatments (with Kylie on the cover). Over at *Red*, a full-lipped, dewy-skinned Angelina Jolie is plugging, "The smart woman's guide to younger-looking skin." *Cosmopolitan* blares,

"More energy! Look younger!" and *Vogue* announces, "New season, new you," as if it's not good enough being thin and young looking, we also have to re-invent and update our look every three months.

Lastly, *She* magazine has Uma Thurman and an exclusive preview of something called the 10 Years Younger diet.

And over on the men's shelves? Nothing about being young at all, but lots on carving out a solid six-pack, how to lose your beer gut and how to attack-proof your heart.

They don't buy any of the other rubbish because men know that time waits for no one and they are much keener on having a life than pretending it's not already half over.

So what we have here is evidence, I'm afraid, that it is us women who are imposing the or-

dinance that women are not allowed to get old and fat on themselves, buying into it, just as women decided that mummies had to be yummy!

I decided today that we should all make a particular fuss

of our orthorexic, starved-looking, overexercising female friends, and warn them that they're turning into MILFs no, no, not that, sadly. It stands for Mothers I'd Like to Feed - not you know what."

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THE CHEDI PHUKET

Killer Queen back on top of Patong Darts League

PATONG: The standings in the Patong Darts League changed again, with defending champs Queen Mary coming back from a bye week to reclaim the top spot with a decisive 8-2 win over former leaders Offshore. Queen Mary sharpshooter Billy took high score with 180, while teammate Timor helped out by closing on x1 in the beer leg.

In another key matchup, the Piccadilly and Market Bar contest ended in a points draw. In Shakers win over Sick Buffalo, Oli took high score with 140, while Shaun was consistent with several tonnes and a one-dart close.

Greg was the hero, however, closing the beer leg for Shakers with x10. Going into the last week of play in the first half of the season, both the fight for the championship and the struggle to avoid the toilet seat are as tight as ever.

Tuesday, August 12, is a national holiday, so teams may have to reschedule their matches.

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

July 29 results: Offshore 2 - Queen Mary* 7; Piccadilly 5 - Market Bar* 4; Sick Buffalo 4 - Shakers* 5; Dogs Bollocks 7 - Beach House* 2; Celtic* 6 - Hilltop 3; Simply Red = bye (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (59 pts.); 2.= Piccadilly, Market Bar (56); 4. Offshore (55); 5. Shakers (46); 6. Sick Buffalo (45); 7.= Dogs Bollocks, Beach House (42); 9. Celtic (38); 10. Hilltop (32); 11. Simply Red (29) (Celtic is the only team missing a bye week).

August 12 match-ups: Simply Red vs Queen Mary; Piccadilly vs Shakers; Beach House vs Market Bar; Hilltop vs Sick Buffalo; Celtic vs Dogs Bollocks; Offshore = bye (home team first).

PATONG POOL LEAGUE

League standings after August 2

	Team	Pld	Won	Lost	Beer	Pts
1	Offshore Bar	12	8	4	20	83
2	Anchor Bar	12	8	4	14	79
3	Black Dragon	12	8	4	14	78
4	Shakers	12	8	4	18	73
5	Frog Club	11	7	4	14	70
6	Montes	11	7	4	10	64
7	Skylight II	12	7	7	8	62
8	Thunder Bar	12	3	9	10	61
9	Kata Spa Club	12	2	10	8	49
10	No Name Bar	12	1	11	2	30

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

Twenty years ago, the pioneers of diving tried to present an image that the sports should be a men-only activity since women were thought to be incapable of handling the strenuous training and stress that accompanies putting your head in murky waters with a tonne of steel and lead loaded onto your body.

Early diving classes included months of training in a pool, breathhold diving and dragging your "unconscious" buddy from dark depths.

The result was that while females showed interest in the sport, the market was 90% dominated by men. Subsequently, the sport was highly uncomfortable, with ill-fitting equipment in horrendous colors, rubber wetsuits without lining, canvas bands to carry the tanks that would then cut into your skin, no back support, uncomfortable buoyancy devices and so on.

Divers had to be big. If you didn't look like Rambo after weeks in the gym or years with paratroopers, you made sure you at least acted big by hanging out in the bar after your underwater adventures.

Thanks to the few brave females who didn't care about the sport's macho image, diving courses and equipment have become much more user-friendly.

More than 10 years ago, we saw a huge drop in the time needed in training and its intensity. Harnesses and inflatable toilet seats were replaced by comfortable padded jackets to carry your tank. Fins and masks are no longer leaving scars.

Now that female divers are catching up with their male colleagues, would it be safe to presume that both are equal in the water? Not quite.

Unfortunately, more female divers show up at our decompression chamber than males, while there are still a lot more male divers in the water. Does this mean that women are more at risk while diving? Yes and no.

First of all, males have a huge handicap: ego. Men will often allow themselves get into situations unsuited for the level of training they have done. A lot of the time, this happens through peer pressure. The newbie in the group won't show his fear when the more experienced guys go deeper or swim harder against the current. When problems arise, the



While diving used to be a male-dominated sport, advances in technology have made the activity more accessible for females, who are often the safer of the two sexes underwater.

Underwater Battle of the Sexes

male diver might not report this to the rest of the group until it is too late: panic, cold, exertion, decompression illness and so on.

Denial is huge in male divers; the more experienced, the greater the denial. "I can't have decompression sickness because I did everything right," is a common quote when a diver stumbles into our clinic, pointing to his brand-new dive computer.

If you take your vitamins every day, does that mean you will never get the flu?

Females tend to accept their own mortality and have less trouble with ego. When something feels wrong, they will report it or simply abort the dive.

Isn't that just too easy? When you have nothing to prove? And you're actually diving for fun? Sorry guys, but that's the way it is.

Females tend to avoid dangerous situations. So why do they still account for a large percentage of divers affected by decompression illness? It's because they will actually come and ask us for help. Males will sit at home

feeling sorry for themselves, hoping the feeling will go away after they've ignored it for a while.

Despite being more cautious and aware, females still have a few disadvantages.

Women have a higher proportion of body fat than men. Body fat needs only a fraction of the oxygen that muscle mass needs and hence the air supply in a scuba tank will generally last longer for a female diver.

The problem with the extra amount of fat is that it is a "slow" tissue.

When we dive, the gas we breathe slowly dissolves into our body due to the pressure, just like in a soda. When the cap comes off, the soda is released. The same thing happens with diving. As soon as a diver surfaces, the gas comes out of the body. Fat tissue releases that gas slower than muscle, which may cause problems at the surface when the gas can form bubbles in the bloodstream, causing decompression illness.

But when compared with the handicap of the male ego, such physiological differences are insignificant.

Ben Reymenants can be contacted by email at ben.reymenants@tdisdi.com

Beneath the SURFACE
By Ben Reymenants

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Local athletes bound for National glory

PHUKET: The Phuket Games were held July 20 to 29, with 3,300 young athletes from the 14 southern provinces battling it out in 28 sports.

Earning a place on the Southern region squad for the 37th Thailand National Games, to be held in Phitsanulok from December 14 to 24, were 197 of Phuket's 296 representatives.

The action took place at Surakul Stadium; Loch Palm Golf Course; Phuket Rajabhat University; Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus; Chalermprakiat Somdejprasarakin Phuket School; Sanaam Chai; and Satree Phuket School.

All athletes who finished first or second in their respective event will represent Southern Thailand at the National Games. This year, 1,900 southerners made the cut.

Phuket athletes walked away with 128 medals in 20 sports, including 65 gold medals in pétanque, taekwondo, shooting, pencak silat, badminton, athletics, futsal, golf, tennis, mountain biking, swimming, wushu, baduk, boxing and table tennis. Also making an appearance in this year's games was ballroom dancing.

The Phuket participants also won 47 silver medals and 16 bronze medals.

Next year's Thailand National Games will be held in Trang province, while playoffs for inclusion in the Southern Thailand team will take place in Ranong.

All photos by Kampon Taweekan, www.konthamkhao.com



Left: Wipoo Charoenkamhaeng and Kamolwan Techasiriphan of Phuket waltz into first place.

Above: The Yala team celebrate victory over Krabi in the final of the men's football.

Below: Sayantree Awapak from Phuket came out on top in the pencak silat competition.

Nurturing tennis stars of the future

Over the years, often I have been asked what is the best age to introduce children to tennis. There is no exact answer. A lot depends on concentration and the natural co-ordination of the child in question. After all, every child is unique.

What I will say is that tennis, with recent advances in technology, has allowed many more children with lower co-ordination skills to be able to play the game.

When a beginner comes to me, the first three things I assess and look to implement are the three Cs: co-ordination, concentration and control.

Co-ordination can be assessed with throwing and catching exercises. To be able to catch and throw is so important because it's the fundamental skill of many sports. You are looking to see if the child watches the incoming ball and can catch and pass.

When some parents see their child struggle with this exercise, they cite the whole thing as pointless and move onto other activities. This is a big mistake because, when children are young, they are not easily disheartened and they have friends who support and encourage them.

As children age, the teasing can begin and they become far more self-conscious and are more susceptible to quitting. Learning these basic skills young sets them up well for future endeavors in many sports.

Concentration varies greatly with the personality of a child, the teaching style and how much the child really wants to play. Some children can play tennis from as young as four or five years old, but by age six, most children can play with some degree of success.



Maria Sharapova is a top tennis star, but even for the dazzling Russian, it all began with the three Cs: co-ordination, concentration and control.

After co-ordination has reached an acceptable level and you have a satisfactory degree of concentration, then it is time to tackle control.

There are many basic exercises to assess control. When you have control you, will feel more relaxed and comfortable with the ball. The aim in tennis is to feel this way all the time.

Many exercises that tennis coaches ask children to do are to show that the children can perform them successfully. The exercises may look basic, but they're vitally important.

A coach hitting basic shots to a child can sometimes give a false impression of the child's ability because coaches can put the ball on the strings of any partner, making a player appear better than he or she may actually be.

If you have two children playing with each other, even if it looks too basic, it is a more accurate way of evaluating how good a player each child is.

Having control gives players the feeling of being able to put the ball where they want, at the speed they want.

When a player develops the control required to put the ball where his or her partner needs it, that player also has the ability to put the ball where an opponent wouldn't want it, thus giving the skill to move an opponent into awkward areas during play.

This comfortable feeling with the ball provides the perfect foundation for developing techniques of how to hit strokes smoother and with less effort.

Children should play and enjoy a variety of sports. Racket sports tend to be unbalanced between young players, so activities such as swimming, bike riding and horse riding are recommended to even the playing field a little.

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

**On
the
court**
By Darran Ferre



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Design

by Semacote Suganya

Squirreled away at Layan Beach is Villas Aelita, a private development that will house seven villas in contemporary Balinese style situated on 4,027 square meters of lakeside land. The project is a blend of design concepts from Tony King, marketing and sales director of John Anthony Group, and his Thai wife.

"My wife and I designed the villas. I was a builder in the UK and my wife is an engineer, so we put our ideas together," he said.

The showhouse for the project is about 80% complete, expected to be ready by the end of August, while the entire project should be finished early 2009.

In the construction business since he was 18, Mr King picked up design ideas for Villas Aelita, named after Mr King's daughter, during his travels, staying in hotels and resorts throughout Asia and Europe. "The design process took about a year and a half, putting it all together and creating concepts as we went. It's something I would have designed for myself," he said.

"The recessed ceiling will be made of quality cedar and high-set in Thai-Balinese style," Mr King explained. "The high ceiling gives the room a sense of more space, rather than a low ceiling, which would make the room look more closed and not so nice. The high ceiling also allows good airflow," he added.

Wooden doors and door frames make a villa look good and feel warm, but Mr King has chosen not to use wood, simply because of Phuket's climate. "We use aluminum instead of wood for the door frames as I was advised by engineers and other people that there are many problems with using wood. For example, during the wet season, the weather damages the wood," he explained.

Lucky seven spice up Layan Beach



This computer-generated image shows what the homes in the Villas Aelita project will look like when the project is finished at the beginning of next year.

"We also chose aluminum doors as they last longer and have less problems. In England, we use PVC doors. Wooden doors were standard [in the UK] many years ago, but there were a lot of problems with the wet weather. And here, in Phuket, when it's hot, the wood contracts and the door will not close and lock

properly. I don't want customers having problems like this six months after they move in, so we decided to use aluminum," he added.

In keeping with this ideal, Mr King has deviated from some ideas on the original plans to make sure the villas are easily maintained and built with long-

lasting materials. "We are now using sandwash decks around the pool because wood is affected by strong sunshine and hard rain. The boards warp and require more maintenance. Similarly, the living-room floor is made from local tiles," he said.

As with most high-end homes, it is the attention to detail

and the finishing touches that set off the villas' rich ambiance. "We use down lights to make the rooms feel warm and romantic, and in the master bedroom, the lounge and dining area we have Thai-style lights that were made in Chiang Mai as main features," Mr King said.

Lining the swimming pool are handmade tiles. "We chose them because they look very natural and we have tried to use as much natural material as possible. They also match the Balinese entrance, which features natural black stone," he added.

Even the roof of the sala, which is set in the pool, is covered with thatch imported from Bali. "Many projects use the same kind of materials for roofs, we just wanted to do something different," Mr King said.

The Balinese grass will last 15 to 20 years, he said, much longer than the local variety. "The Bali grass is the best. In Bali, they use it for the house as well, not just the sala. It keeps the sala cool and matches the Balinese entrance," he said.

Atop each of the pavilions, the roofs are made from taken thong wood, "which is strong and good quality", said Mr King.

Providing continuity throughout the home are matching interior and exterior floor tiles and the use of white. "I like to use white because it creates a look of open space and makes the home bright and feel bigger than if we used a dark color," he said.

Similarly, light-colored sandstone surrounds the swimming pool, he said.

A final touch is the water feature, he added.

"When you sit in the lounge and you have the TV on, the sound from the water feature triggers the down spotlight. It's a nice feeling, relaxing while watching and sensing all the things around you," he said.

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Quality, luxury and privacy are just some of the highlights of this new five-villa estate on Thalang's quiet east coast. Villas are 578 square meters in size, each set on plots of Chanote-titled land ranging from one to 1.5 rai.

The design style is contemporary Balinese over a single-story layout. The theme is certainly Bali but with an overlay of grandeur. Every detail has been designed with care, from the classic entranceway to the materials used throughout.

Set in the gardens is a large 68sqm swimming pool. Not only for splashing about, the pool's 17m length allows those seeking a more rigorous workout to swim laps. For cool comfort all day, the pool is surrounded by large poolside area with sun beds.

Inside, quality materials including teak, terracotta tiles and granite are combined with modern conveniences combining beauty with functionality.

In all, each home boasts five large bedrooms, two with built-in teak wardrobes and four with bathrooms ensuite. Large



Each of the five homes has a 17-meter-long swimming pool right in the center of the property.

living areas are provided, along with two dining rooms – one on a terraced balcony.

The Western kitchen is modern and sleek with black granite surfaces and a cooking island that can also be used as an informal dining area.

Ducted air conditioning and ceiling fans are set throughout the home and all windows have insect screens to keep out the unwanted pests. A laundry room is also provided.

Each villa is equipped with satellite TV, telephone lines,

broadband Internet, hot water heater and plumbing, solar power and three-phase electricity. The estate is fully secured 24 hours a

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PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Over the past few years, there has been a definite trend of international budget brands successfully entering the marketplace in Thailand, be it the hypermart concept with Lotus Tesco, Carrefour and Makro, or low-cost carriers (LCCs) such as Tiger, AirAsia and JetStar.

These types of volume and value-for-money offerings are garnering legions of loyal consumers. Within the hotel industry, the opening of the first Ibis property – a venture in Patong between Thai developer Erawan and the giant French chain Accor – is looking to change the mass accommodation market. There is already a second Ibis under construction in Kata, while in Bangkok, a multitude of new properties in this sector are being built.

Two of the main proponents of the budget brands are the Intercontinental group (Intercon, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn) with their Holiday Express Model and Accor (Sofitel, Pullmann, Novotel, Mercure) with Ibis. There are also other global brands in on the game with Carlson (Regent, Radisson) targeting Park Plaza, Hilton, Hampton Inn and regional chains such as Hong Kong's Langham promoting a no-frills Eaton product.

Asian hotel owners, developers and consumers in the region have traditionally resisted budget offerings because they are seen as downmarket or cheap, but perceptions are now shifting.

In North America and Europe, the budget segment has been around a long time. Budget establishments are often located in areas with low land costs and rely on transportation links, such as the inter-state highways in the US and nearby railways in Europe. Here, expensive land costs in central business districts



Within the hotel industry, the opening of the first Ibis property – a venture in Patong between Thai developer Erawan and the giant French chain Accor – is looking to change the mass accommodation market.

Budget brands shake up the scene

(CBDs) has long been a deterrent to this modeling.

Looking at a normal hotel operating model, although operating trends vary from market to market and between city-center and resort properties, guestrooms make up the most profitable element in both these markets. Direct profitability in a well-run operation with a stable occupancy is in the region of 80-85%, whereas profitability for food and beverages tends to be 20-25%.

Comparing a budget hotel to a four-star property, gross operating profits for a four-star hotel may be in the region of 40-45%, whereas a budget hotel can see profits of 55-60% and above.

With greater revenue in the higher-yielding-rooms segment and less income from food and beverages and other segments, there is a superior flow through of profits to the bottom line. In most cases of branded hotel models with good overseas distribution, rate-effective models trade at higher occupancy than full-service hotels. For example, a four-star hotel can run effectively at 60-70% occupancy, whereas a budget property would have to run at 70-80% occupancy.

Here in Phuket, the likely average room rates for a budget model would be 1,500 to 2,000 baht per day.

For a hotel owner, the bud-

get type product has contained development costs. Guestroom size averages 16-18 square meters with a gross floor area (GFA) requirement for the whole building being approximately 34-36sqm. Food and beverage offerings are usually just a lounge, which offers breakfast only, to a single limited-service café for simple all-day meals.

Ancillary facilities, such as swimming pools, fitness centers and function rooms, are not included. Staffing ratios range from 0.25-0.30 staff per room. Compare this to a full service four-star hotel, where guestrooms are 40-45sqm and the total GFA is in the range of 80-100 square

meters. For these types, the GFA is increased with the addition of multiple restaurants, meeting spaces, spas and other facilities. Staffing in four-star hotels also moves up drastically to between 1.0 and 1.2 staff per room.

On an investment model, successful execution of pro forma and budgets can mean the difference between success and failure in the venture. Many of the variables are eliminated in this level of product because guestrooms are standardized, the skill set of interior design and architecture is contained, and the focus on the budget is geared to maintaining high-revenue areas.

Overall, GFA relates to the total build area for the project and impacts the hotel cost, so if you can contain this successfully, the returns will be enhanced. In a nutshell, if a budget hotel can obtain 60% of the average room rate of a four-star hotel's superior flow through rooms sales and gross operating profit with a fraction of the development budget, then this looks to be a wise financial model.

As we move into a different worldwide economy in the next few years, it's logical to expect short-haul tourism and travel to increase with the key markets in close proximity to Thailand, such as those of China and India.

These remain rate sensitive and will certainly see raw numbers at the lower end of the spectrum. Here in Phuket, moving upward from budget into mid-tier, we are seeing a revolution in hotel operating models with Marriott's Courtyard brand opening three properties this year in Surin, Kamala and Patong. These hotels are cost-efficient units that rely on lower operating costs and reasonable rates to keep occupancy high.

This is no doubt going to give the existing hotels out there a run for their money. For the consumer, all of this signals a great new trend in value and choice – a bright ray of sunshine indeed.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Let's just call it what it is: a weirdo

I'm not sure about weirdos. Can I still call people weirdos, or have they now been transformed into "persons of an unusual or eccentric disposition"? Some weirdos are of course easier to cope with than others.

We all tend to respect the inevitable neighborhood nutter without actually admitting it. We have no problem with him wandering down the street mumbling to himself, pointing a twig at cars as they pass, or sauntering past naked except for a red sarong and carrying a battered guitar. Totally harmless.

It's the sane weirdos, the kind who do whatever they do deliberately, who are far more annoying. Bodybuilders, for example, spend their lives developing huge biceps using any means they can, then don a pair of Speedos and do that ridiculous muscle-flexing thing in competitions. Very weird.

A punk rocker once verbalized me for "looking at him". It was a few years ago. He had a bright pink Mohawk haircut, Doc Marten boots almost up to his knees, and a lot of safety pins. What did he expect people to do? Come up to him and congratulate him on his magnificent appearance? He was impossible to ignore.

And what about those gentlemen who fit little blue lights to their vehicles or attach colored fluorescent lights underneath the car. It's most considerate of them to make it easier for the mechanic called out at midnight, as he can just crawl straight under there and get to work.

In order for this forward thinking to work, though, we need to assume that his body is only



Punk rocker of the plant world. The strange *Amorphophallus sp* has a look – and scent – that scream for attention.

three inches thick, because the same weirdos are likely to have chopped away a chunk of the suspension springs.

Apart from making the car or pickup look ridiculous, lowering the suspension has the added bonus of an extremely uncomfortable ride and the inability to go over speed bumps without ripping off the bolted-on front spoiler. Genius.

You knew it was coming – plant weirdos. A few weeks ago

a *Gazette* reader emailed me a picture of a plant and asked if I had any idea what it was. He said that it was one of only two specimens on a hillside at the back of Bang Tao and that it was 50 centimeters tall and lasted only a few weeks before dying.

Initially, I hadn't a clue – I had to ask. It was an *amorphophallus sp* – one of the true weirdos of the plant world. I don't know if the "sp" part is a shortened version of something else or if that's all they could come up with. My Latin is hardly extensive, but the name is certainly a spur to the imagination.

Amorphophallus is a fair-sized genus of about 170 species

from the Old World tropics, which means they've been around for a while. Belonging to the Aroid family, they grow from a corm-like tuber that usually produces just a single dramatic leaf. This leaf comprises a strong, spotted or marbled petiole topped with an umbrella-like leaf lamina – the technical name for the blade or expanded portion of a leaf.

On most varieties, the lamina is divided into three divisions, but these are divided again and again to give an extremely complex leaf shape.

The inflorescences (clusters of flowers), which can be quite big, are among the weirdest in the plant kingdom, perhaps appealing most to those with a taste for the decidedly odd. Depending on your sensitivities, one possible drawback is that the plants use flies and beetles as pollinators and to attract them, the mature inflorescence often smells of rotting meat.

This can be somewhat off-putting in a confined space, but removing the inflorescence before it blooms neatly solves this "problem" and allows you to enjoy the leaf, which has no smell at all.

Apparently, specific fragrance profiles attract specific insect pollinators. For example, the titan arum (*amorphophallus titanum*) and carrion flower (*stapelia giganteum*) attract beetles and flies that feed on or lay eggs in rotting flesh. Nice.

This may well be why the plant is also called the voodoo lily, devil's tongue, snake palm and corpse flower.

The flowers' smelly tendencies are hardly surprising then.

These specific scents also help to encourage insects to visit flowers of a similar species, increasing the potential for successful cross-pollination.

Plant smells probably make it easier for insects to find the visual cues of the flowers. There are those who say that plant fragrances may well have evolved before visual flower signals. From a long distance, fragrance is more effective than visual signals at attracting a potential pollinator, especially to a small or hidden flower.

Anyway, back to the weirdo, the *amorphophallus*. I can't even begin to suggest where the Bang Tao *amorphophallus* might have come from, as they grow from tubers, but I presume you can buy these locally – though I have to admit I've never tried.

If you do get hold of any *amorphophallus*, put on some latex gloves before handling them. *Amorphophallus* plants and tubers contain oxalic acid that may be harmful to your skin.

In theory, tubers will grow without soil, but they generally grow faster when they are potted. The usual coconut husk compost is fine, but don't over-water them – and make sure there's plenty of space in the pot to allow for growth. Let it do its thing for a while; it won't take long to produce a few smaller weirdos.

If it came to the choice between a smelly plant and a fat, Speedo-clad bodybuilder in your garden, I think the choice is fairly clear.

Were it human, this plant would probably be a punk rocker, come to think of it – it seems to want to attract attention while at the same time trying to blend in. They're all weirdos.

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Property Gazette

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in Than Thong 3 estate. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah on Phattana Thongtin Rd, near Khao Khad viewpoint. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

LAND AT NATAI

near Khao Pilai Beach. 20 rai with Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach, road, electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Tel: 081-5399269.

VILLA & LAND

Villa near Heroines' Monument, built 2007, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, pool, fully furnished. Living space: 450sqm; land: 1,400sqm. 12.9 million baht. Also, 1,100 sqm of land, 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

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

HIGH-END POOL VILLA

220,000 euros. Tel: 076-381351, 081-8920750. Fax: 076-280094. Email: gunther@nirvana-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.picasaweb.google.com/gunther2551/KlausHaus

SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

996sqm: 8 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

KHAO LAK INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Land beside Kempinski hotel, Khao Lak. 5.5 rai. Chanote. 50 million baht total (negotiable). Contact Gak. Tel: 081-840-2448.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 7 estate. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

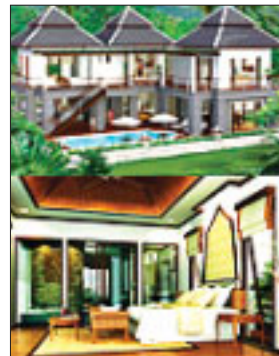
RAWAI VILLA WITH POOL

Brand-new, 3 bedrooms, salt-water pool, steam sauna. 650sqm land, 220sqm villa, Chanote, outstanding, double walls, tropical garden. Must see, great price. Finance or trade is possible. 5% commission for agents. Tel: 085-7831890.

WOODLAND HOUSE

Largest lot: 1,320 sqm. Private corner villa, 5 bedrooms, 2 stories with open loft. 52 million baht. Infinity salt-water pool, large sala, guest house, 10 min walk to BIS, 28.5 million baht ono. Tel: 089-6527818. Email: kevindad@netvigitor.com

SPECIAL PROMOTION SALE



11 big new luxury villas in Kamala with private pool. Modern Thai-Balinese style. 24-hour security in a gated community. Exclusive location a few minutes from beach and town center. Built in natural surroundings on flat land with a very good hill view. Chanote. 4 bedrooms. Large, fully fitted modern kitchen. All bedrooms with separate bathrooms and built-in cupboards. Jacuzzi. All rooms have aircon. Freehold or leasehold. 2 show homes fully furnished. Ready now. Prices from 21 million baht. Tel: 076-279-289, 086-2742308. Email: kamalaparadise@yahoo.com Website: www.kamalaparadise.com

RAWAI, 2-STORY HOUSE

160sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 40m from beach. Price: 1.7 million. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-5399269.

PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-9442065, 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

in Srisuchart Grand Villa 3. 47.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, some furnishings. Located in Phuket City, near Tesco-Lotus. 2.8 million baht (negotiable). Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978.

HOUSE NEAR BIS

2-story house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ample parking space and nice landscaping. Total area: 336sqm. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7247073. Email: jutima021@hotmail.com

2-STORY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Contact K. Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahnies@hotmail.com or okika_j@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1/2 rai up to 5 1/2 rai. Good road, electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

GARDEN VILLA AT BAAN SAKOO



on 1 rai with 3 big bungalows and 1 big house. 7 bedrooms & bathrooms in total, swimming pool, fully furnished, 2km to Nai Yang Beach and 5 minutes to Phuket International Airport. Only 9 million baht. Tel: 087-2709093, 087-6899679. Email: png.

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@

KHAO KHAD, AO MAKHAM



Chanote. 16 rai with panoramic view near Ao Makham, towards Cape Panwa. Wide road access direct to the site. 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-539-9269. Email: talayjan@

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-

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.

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-

12 RAI OF VACANT SEAVIEW LAND

in Kata area. Serene, peaceful atmosphere of the surrounding environment and comfortable local, beautifully surrounded by hills and wonderful sunset view overlooking Chalong Bay. Ideal for a housing, resort, hotel or condominium project. Only 8 million baht per rai.

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land, Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel:

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Priced from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@ka-

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.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE



For sale. 5 rooms with bathrooms. Can use for a business or restaurant. Nanai Rd. Tel: 081-

PATONG LAND

5 rai in heart of Patong, close to Simon Cabaret, on main road with 45m of road frontage. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-4095175. Email: patongland@gmail.com Website: www.

KRABI LAND

10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

100 RAI OF SEAVIEW LAND

in Kamala. Perfect for resort. 7.5 million baht per rai, has Chanote. Tel: 085-

NICE LAND, RAWAI

Half a rai in peaceful residential area, hill view, concrete road. 3.8 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 087-

1.5 RAI IN PASAK

Laguna area at 6.5 million baht. Chanote title, square-shaped plot, good location, road and utilities access. No agents please. Tel: 081-5399269.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please contact www.phuket-properties.com. If you are a real estate developer or owner you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360,

2 HOUSES

for sale. 2km from Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, near swimming pool, security. 2.3 and 3.1 million baht.

FOR URGENT SALE

24sq wah. Chanote, 3 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bathrooms, double story. Asking price: 3.5 million baht. Owner is leaving country. 109/21 Pisit Goronee Rd, Patong. Contact Imran. Tel: 076-345027,

SHOPHOUSE

for sale on Bypass Road next to Hino and Chevrolet dealership. Call 081-3707953. Email: jgkg24@

HOUSE IN KAMALA

132sqm, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. For sale at 2.2 million baht, or can pay 750,000 baht over 3 years. Tel: 081-5377137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

BEACHFRONT, 5.9 MILLION BAHT

Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180m of beach frontage. Quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel:

LAND, HOUSE & HOTEL FOR SALE

House: 220sqm, 10 million baht. Karon hotel: 40 rooms, 120 million baht. Patong. Contact Ms Mam. Tel: 089-

TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel: 080-5358767, 0011-760-7808584 (US). Email: phuketone@gmail.

LAND IN NAI HARN

1/3rai: 2.9 million baht. 1/2rai: 3.74 million baht. Also house for rent/sale. 25,000 baht per month. Sale: 5.6 million baht. Tel:

KAMALA CONDO

1-bedroom, serviced flat, 65sqm, common pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

HOUSE, NAI YANG

for sale, airport area, 800m to beach, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, new, 300sqm. Tel: 080-5358767, 0011-780-8584 (US). Email: phuketone@gmail.com

FAMILY HOME, KATHU

In managed estate, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Only 7.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

HIGH-END POOL VILLA

220,000 euros. Tel: 076-381351, 081-8920750. Fax: 076-280094. Email: gunther@nirvanaphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.picasaweb.google.com/

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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at www.phuketgazette.net

Property Gazette

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote. Can be divided. All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Priced from 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

HOUSE IN KATHU

2 stories, 3 bedrooms, car park, pond, 330sqm, ADSL, partly furnished, good location. 3 mins to Central. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8954112.

1 RAI OF LAND

only 5.7 million baht, 200 meters off main road, good location in Chalong. Tel: 089-6513479.

LAND IN AO NANG

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

CHIANG MAI LUXURY HOME

Exquisite 4-bedroom home in landscaped estate, 10 minutes from town. Fully furnished and adorned with antique art pieces. 17.5 million baht. A unique investment opportunity. Tel: 053-862450, 081-4726494. Email: chris@chiangmailifestyle.com Website: www.chiangmailifestyle.com

KHAO LAK RIVERFRONT LAND

2 rai about 5km from central Khao Lak. 1.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2811945. Email: mike@ethailand.com

KOH SAMUI SEA-VIEW LAND

Hillside sea view on Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm (2 rai). Chanote. Tel: 02-2771992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-961-0072. Email: phara wee@yahoo.com For details, visit www.lovesamui.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 guestrooms and 1 conference room. 50 rai at 39 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner's representative. Email talayjan@yahoo.com for more details.

TRADITIONAL THAI HOUSE

Big garden, very quiet area. Tel: 083-1036578. Website: www.oriental-realestate.com

HOUSES, KARON

Karon Beach: 2 houses, both have 2 bedrooms and each on 107sq wah plot with garden. Tel: 084-5292037.

GOLF COURSE VILLA

3 bedrooms at Kathu country club. 280sqm, pool. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 087-7839062.

KRABI LAND

10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

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AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai, Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. From 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

HOUSE, AO NANG



3 mins to sea, quiet area, 1 year old. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8502499.

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

SALE/RENT, KAMALA

Single house near beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 086-2773381.

KHAO LAK HOUSE/VILLA

1 rai of Khao Lak land (Chanote) with house/villa for sale. Top residential area close to Bang Niang Beach. For details call 081-7874043 (Eng) or 081-8825069 (Thai). Email: wolly.woerner@subaqua-khaolak.com

HOUSE IN NAI YANG

for sale, airport area, 800m to beach, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, new, 300sqm. Tel: 080-5358767, (US) Tel: 0011-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

KAMALA TOWNHOUSE



near Phuket FantaSea, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carpark. 3.2 million baht, negotiable. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

82 RAI WATERFRONT

Beautiful land next to the sea on Racha Yai island. 10 million baht per rai. No brokers. Tel: 081-9786700.

EUROPEAN VILLA: B6.9 MILLION

Kathu, near Loch Palm Golf Course & British International School. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms, Wi-Fi. Jacuzzi, garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: seeyaagain@gmail.com

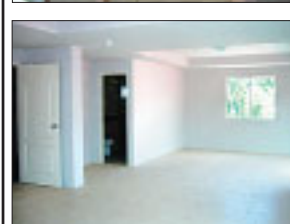
RAWAI VILLA WITH POOL

Brand new, 3 bedrooms, salt-water pool, steam sauna. 650sqm land, 220sqm villa, Chanote, outstanding, double walls, tropical garden. Must see, great price. Finance or trade-in is possible. 5% commission for agents. Tel: 085-7831890.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

House located in desirable and secure estate for sale at 6.9 million baht. 3 bedrooms (2 with en suite), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen/diner, storage/laundry room. Verandas up and downstairs, fitted furnishings, ADSL & True TV. Fenced garden, approx 500sqm, use of estate clubhouse and swimming pool nearby. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

- * 4 stories
- * 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
- * Chanote title
- * Electricity, water
- * 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price:
52 million baht.

Tel: 087-2709093,
081-8687676.

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, house on small development with 24hr security and swimming pool. Only 5 mins from Heroines' Monument. Fully furnished with solid teak furniture throughout and with all appliances, curtains and blinds. Full security and fly screens, 3 aircon, 5 ceiling fans. True TV/Cable TV, phone, ADSL. Walk-in condition with great potential for extension and/or private pool. Now 3.8 million baht. Tel: 085-7823273.

LAND PLOT, 2.3 MILLION BAHT

900sqm. Land plot with underground electricity and water supply in quiet, secure community next to Mission Hills golf course. For sale at only 2.3 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 081-2712825.

PATONG CONDO

Condo for sale. Refurbished, gardens, large pool. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



Owner selling to
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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NEW RAWAI POOL DUPLEX



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 10,000 baht per month. 300m to the beach. ADSL. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

JUNGLE COTTAGE HIDEAWAY



Beautiful 1-bedroom home, peaceful area of Chalong. Convenient location, beach and shopping nearby. Fully furnished, hot water. 17,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-492-6883. Website: www.unclechaihome.com/model1.htm

CONTEMPORARY VILLA

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms (master w/double Jacuzzi), 4m x 12m pool w/ Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden on a 1,606sqm plot with over 400sqm of living area. Good price. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

Patong, on the hill (80m high) 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, fully furnished luxury apartments for rent. Terrace. Internet (ADSL), carpark, lift, room service, laundry. Restaurant and pool. Tel: 076-296888. Email: contact@prince-edouard.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

2 bedrooms, partly furnished, aircon. Tel: 087-2832285, 086-5958512. Email: surfess2004@yahoo.com

LUXURY PRIVATE VILLA

for rent in Patong, panoramic sea view, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished with private swimming pool, price negotiable. Call 086-9405187 (Eng) or 086-9522070 (Thai).

APARTMENT AT KATA BEACH

Cable TV, furnished, Internet. Tel: 086-5958512, 081-9704638. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

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-collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

CONDO FOR RENT - RAWAI

New 2-story condo, private pool & Jacuzzi. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fully furnished, 24hr security, aircon, high-speed Wi-Fi, True TV, garden & pool maintenance included. Available long and short term. Contact Peta. Tel: 081-0909296. Email: jonesgirls3@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Singthao Village in Kathu. Long term: 9,000 baht/month, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 1 TV with cable. Phone line with ADSL. Contact Toom. Tel: 089-724-6958, 081-7746699.

VILLA FOR RENT

in Bangjo, 10 minutes to Laguna, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-8976984 (Eng), 089-6995136 (Thai).

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms in great location with aircon. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-512117. Email: denelson3395@yahoo.com

RENT A HOUSE IN PHUKET

Contact Wellta, born and raised in Phuket, she has many houses for rent. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

LUXURY VILLA, RAWAI

5 bedrooms, large pool and garden, fully equipped. Tel: 086-2790837.

THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong, new 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht per month. Contact K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.

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

35,000 BAHT PER MONTH



Rawai pool villa. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, ADSL, near the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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, CHALONG

2-story home; 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, hot water, aircon, car park, furnished, True TV, telephone. Long term: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-7417260. Email: rattapia453@hotmail.com

RENTALS FROM B15,000

Long term. 2.7 million baht. Professional service. Call Khun Bua at Tel: 085-7955383, K. Sue at Tel: 087-8974421. Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn, Land & Houses Park.

HOUSE FOR RENT - THALANG

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for rent immediately at Pa Khlok, Thalang, 800m from Heroines' Monument (located at Baan Suan Neraimit 5 Moo 8). Fully furnished, kitchen fitted with Fagor oven, ADSL, laundry, garden. 23,000 baht/month or 21,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Call 081-851-2280 (English/Thai). Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com



• Located on Chaofa West between Chalong Bay and Central Festival
• With spaces from 45 to 200 sqm, ideal for offices, shops, restaurants, showrooms, etc.

FOR RENT

Tel: 086 988 7668 E-mail: inf@pacificrealphuket.com

NEW HOUSE (BAAN DON)



For sale or rent, near Laguna, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, just bring your bag. 23,000 baht/month, 1-year contract. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pvvarunee@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT, ONLY 28,000

Close to Laguna and Surin Beach, this new 1-bedroom villa is up for long- or short-term rental. Comes with full True TV, telephone, ADSL Internet, maid service and gardener. Fully fitted modern kitchen, aircon and teak furniture in all rooms. Tel: 076-239112, 081-5976911. Fax: 076-238943. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

LAND & POND

Good view near the sea at Ao Sapam, Phuket. 8 acres (20.2 rai), long-term lease. Tel: 086-6893289, 083-0526696.

VILLA, RAWAI

5 bedrooms, large pool and garden, long- or short-term rental. Tel: 086-2790837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

HOUSE AT CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

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

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE

only 10 mins from British International School, amazing sea views, 3 bedrooms/4 bathrooms, maid's room, big garden, swimming pool, security, quiet location. 80,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2796283.

KAMALA

Private 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom bungalow, built to international standards, walking distance to shops and the beach. Sat TV, aircon, ADSL, phone line. No pets. Tel: 076: 385293, 081-8931360. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

STUDIO APARTMENT, KAMALA

Aircon, True TV, near beach, pool, kitchen, private car park. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon, True TV, ADSL, furnished. 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

PATONG APARTMENTS

Sea view, beach road. 12,000 to 30,000 baht. Tel: 084-8473304. Website: www.selectphuket.com

BEACHFRONT CHALONG

2-bedroom furnished apartment, swimming pool, garage, ADSL. Tel: 089-4706104.

HOUSE IN LAND & HOUSE

for rent. In Land & House area, fully furnished. Telephone line & Internet, 3 bedrooms, reasonable price. Tel: 089-7280577.

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.

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Boats & Marine



CATAMARANS FOR SALE

10-meter sailing catamaran, no interior, ready to sail, 580,000 baht. 20-meter power catamaran, not finished, 1.4 million baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

BRAND-NEW BOAT

Brand-new flybridge boat. Fiberglass. Offers. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

NEW TRAILERS

We build new trailers. Whatever size, we can build it. Tel: 084-6891568.

LIVEBOARD FOR SALE

20m/6m, 7 cabins, 3 toilets, 3 showers, 330 Hino 20kw generator. Just back from shipyard. Make an offer! Tel: 081-7874690.

SAILBOAT WANTED

Racer/cruiser, 35 to 40ft to charter for King's Cup. US\$3,000 or nearest offer. Negotiable. Contact Neil. Email: air2cure@yahoo.com

17.5-METER DIVING BOAT



For sale or charter. Width 4.5m. Diesel engine, 320hp generator at 20kw. Capacity: 30 people. Great buy. Price: 490,000 baht. Tel: 081-9680571.

2 SPEEDBOATS FOR SALE



*38-foot, fiberglass body (1 year old). Location: Royal Phuket Marina. Engines: 2 x 250 Yamaha 4 stroke. Fuel tank: 600 liters. Onboard toilet, fresh water tank. Carrying capacity: 2 crew + 24 pax.

* 35 foot. Location: Workshop in Phuket City, waiting to kit out and fit engine (included in Price). Engines: 2x200 Yamaha 4 stroke (New). Fuel tank: 600 liters. Onboard toilet, fresh water tank. Carrying capacity: 2 crew + 20 pax. Offers around 5 million baht. Tel: 081-0868041.

FIBERGLASS SPEEDBOAT

for sale. Thai registered, 11-meter fiberglass hull, perfect condition, 3 years old, 2 engines: Yamaha V6 200HP. 990,000 baht. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-8955628. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com



PRE-OWNED BOAT SELECTION



Hanse 315

Thai flag for sale with charter license. Fully equipped and very well maintained.

Reduced Price at 3,500,000,- THB ex VAT



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Year of construction 2006.

Asking Price at 123,000,- EURO



Catana 431 - 2003

Privately owned and maintained to perfect condition since purchased - lying in Phuket

Asking Price 440,000,- EURO



Schionning 44' Wilderness

A fast - sleek and good looking Catamaran designed by Schionning. Only sailed from Indonesia to Phuket

Very Well Price at 420,000,- USD

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Email: broker@asia-marine.net
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Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruijn / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 884 1530 / 01 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 881 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: yacht@leemarine.com

Patthaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 7879408
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com

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J-130

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Hanteras 32

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"Boats & Marine"

at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

PHUKET IT AND SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS
GROWING BUSINESS PARTNER

Phuket IT & Software Solutions Co., Ltd.

Graphic/Web Designer
Job Summary:
• Create graphics for our online travel booking websites
• Update mockups as needed for developers to work from
• Develop graphics into HTML
• Flash, HTML, PHP knowledge required
• SEO & general IT marketing knowledge an advantage
• Create ad and Banner designs

Marketing Manager/Co-Ordinator
Job Summary:
This person should be a high-caliber executive capable of managing and co-ordinating with the IT Team. He/she will be assisting other trade partnership related functions and marketing activities in the region, help to identify market trends and optimize supply sources. This person will be supervising a team of hotel contractors in Phuket Head Office

www.phukettechnology.com/employ
100/18 Cha/emprakiat Rd., Tambon Rasada, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Email: hr@phukettechnology.com
http://phukettechnology.com
Contact Khun Mai 081-8941162.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Chedi Phuket is a well-established resort with 108 cottages and 3 F&B outlets. The resort is currently looking for dedicated professionals to fill the following positions:

THE CHEDI PHUKET

- Reception staff
- Beach staff/lifeguard
- Waiter
- Housekeeping attendant
- Demi-Chef De Partie
- First Commis

.....

- Thai national
- Male/Female
- Experience in the related field in a deluxe resort
- Friendly and great personality, team player
- Good command of English

Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photo via email: personnel@chedi-phuket.com

The Chedi Phuket
118 Moo3, Cherng Talay, Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-324017-20 Fax: 076-324083, www.ghmhotels.com

WANTED
Hotel Manager

Savisa Properties Co Ltd is opening a new high-class bungalow-resort in Khanom, Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Building will start on September 2008 and the resort will be open for customers in August 2009.

Employment will start in September-October 2008.

Hotel Manager responsibilities:

- Staff supervision
- Staff training
- Supply and Service Provider relationships
- Customer Service
- General Management tasks
- Continuous Business Development of the resort

Requirements:

- Fluent in written and spoken English and Thai (other languages ++)
- University/higher education degree in Hotel and Tourism field)
- Former experience in Hotel Management
- Good understanding of Western and Thai culture
- Good people skills
- Creativity and Initiative

Please post your application and resume (CV) via email to: atte.savisa@savcor.com and atte3000@hotmail.com

ellezza Bio Latex Co Ltd
(Phuket branch)

We are currently seeking

Sales Person (Sales to customer)

- Russian nationality
- Minimum 3 persons to Maximum 6 persons
- Work Permit
- Accommodation
- Salary upon experience (first 3 months 70% + accommodation) (after 3 months 100% + accommodation + commission)
- Working time - 9:30am to 5pm
- Phuket

Phuket Spa

We are currently seeking

Administration Manager 1 position

- Female, Thai nationality
- Salary upon experience
- Good English language skills
- Experience in hotel and property would be an advantage

Please send CV, recent photo and references to:
Email: ellezza-phuket@hotmail.com
kennyvasumoto@gmail.com
Tel: 076-352013, 081-8937162 Fax: 076-352133

TAWAN PROPERTIES

require a
Salesperson

To work with our network of real-estate agents in a sales and support role for our residential developments in Phuket.

Applicants must have experience in real estate sales, and have a high standard of spoken and written English.

Please contact Khun Ha for further details.
ha@tawanproperties.com / 081 787 5340
www.tawanproperties.com / 076 617 104

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

ARTIST

- Thai national
- Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker and Photoshop
- Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication skills, team player
- English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

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Looking for a change? Would you like to work in a dynamic and global environment? Would you like to live on a beautiful island with all the comfort of an international destination?

HotelTravel.com is a leading international online travel information and hotel reservation service. We are a multi-cultural company, employing experienced and knowledgeable staff from six continents. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide unparalleled Customer Service in eight different languages.

We are currently accepting applications for the following position:

Travel Writer (Contractual Basis: 15 Positions)

Job Responsibilities:

- Create/Edit Travel Guides
- Administer a Travel-related forum (answering customer's travel-related questions)
- Write Articles for Tangent E-zine, online monthly travel magazine
- Create/Edit Hotel information

Qualifications:

- Native English-speaker
- Excellent Creative Writing skills with a firm grasp of correct grammar and spelling
- Curiosity and passion for travel
- Ability to work on a deadline
- Internet research savvy
- Travel Industry, Marketing, or Journalism experience would be an advantage.

Only motivated, positive individuals should apply for this exciting opportunity to work in HotelTravel.com's professional and supportive environment.

Interested applicants should submit an application, CV, including writing sample, to jobs@hoteltravel.com or call +66 76 282 808 Mr. Anupab Satakorn, Human Resources Manager for further information.

Anantara
PHUKET • THAILAND

Anantara Resort Phuket, Mai Khao Beach
Opening October 2008

Are you a spirited individual who believes in delivering luxurious heartfelt hospitality? Do you want to ensure every guest leaves with an amazing story to tell? Then Anantara wants you to apply for a career at our new flagship property.

To be part of the Anantara story, you must like using your initiative, show genuine and natural warmth to colleagues as well as guests, act with honesty and integrity at all times, and be proud to deliver the unparalleled experience that is Anantara.

We are seeking qualified, experienced and passionate candidates who can speak English for the following positions:

<p>Front Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night Manager • Resort Host Supervisor (Front Desk) (2) • Resort Host • Japanese Resort Host • Villa Host (Guest Relations) • Villa Personal Assistant (Butler) (5) • Reservations • Bell Captain • Bellman (4) • Telephone Operator (4) <p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villa Supervisor (2) • Guest Area Supervisor • Housekeeping Administrator • Villa Attendant (6) <p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Finance Manager • Cost Controller <p>Reservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Receptionist • Reservations Agent <p>Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Shift Engineer • Carpenter 	<p>Spa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aryurvedic Senior Therapist • Reception Supervisor • Receptionist (2) • Spa Attendant <p>Food & Beverage Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurant Supervisor (Female) • Food & Beverage Concierge/Event Co-ordinator • Hostess (2) • Bartender (6) • Wine Guru • Food & Beverage Attendants (18) <p>Recreation & Sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifestyle and Fitness Manager • Lifestyle Attendants (Recreation) • Lifestyle Attendants (Kids Club) <p>Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Sales Manager (Bangkok based) • Public Relations and Sales Executive (Phuket based)
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All associates will enjoy a 5-day work week (average 45 hours per week). Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided.

Submit your CV by email with a covering letter stating the position you are applying for and the reasons you would like to be part of Anantara to: recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good luck with your application!

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart

British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading International day and boarding school (18months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. For August or as soon as possible, we require the following:

Senior Accountant - A/R (Urgently)

- Male or Female
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field
- Minimum 3 years experience in A/R area
- Experienced in computerized accounting system and ACCPAC is preferable
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Detail - oriented with high accuracy in work
- Service - oriented, energetic, flexible, and hard - working
- Able to work under high pressure and meet deadlines

A/R Accountant

- Male or female, age over 25 yrs
- BA in Accounting or Finance
- Good command of English
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Familiar with accounting software with knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and Thailand taxation systems

Art Assistant

- Male / Thai Nationality
- Ability to communicate in English
- Interest in the visual arts and the workings of art department
- Able to work in team and independently
- Able to use equipment in the design technology area to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076 238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111 Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: patcharakorn@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th

TEACHING ASSISTANT

for Act & Art Tiny Tots. Thai female, must love kids and speak English. Artistic skill a plus. Call Kru Pla after 5 pm. Tel: 076-238147, 087-2707163. Fax 076-238147. Email: evakinnaree02@yahoo.co.uk

WEB DESIGNER WANTED

Experienced web designer/webmaster required in Patong. Contact for info. Tel: 076-293061. Email: david@freedomleisuregroup.com

MARKETING STAFF

Prince Edouard Hotel and Apartments seeks marketing staff. Excellent language skills (English mandatory). Computer & Internet skills needed. Experience an advantage. Tel: 076-296888.

TEACHERS REQUIRED

ECC requires teachers for local schools. Must be TEFL qualified. Email: neilg@ecc.ac.th

STAFF WANTED

A hotel in Surin is hiring the following personnel: 1 cook, 2 cook's helpers, waitress, room maid, night watchman. Contact Anto. Tel: 089-7284005.

EXPERIENCED SALES EXEC, 75,000 BAHT +

UK company now recruiting expat sales staff for Phuket office. Great salary/commission. Email or call if interested. Tel: 089-5118012. Email: simon.munroe@smart-traffic.co.uk



Exotiq Real Estate
Exotiq Real Estate is South East Asia's largest brokerage and consultancy. We only focus on property located in highly attractive and desirable holiday destinations, including Phuket.

Junior Sales Staff

- Qualifications:**
- ◆ Female/Male
 - ◆ No experience is required (fresh graduates welcome)
 - ◆ Training provided
 - ◆ Service orientated, and able to work under pressure
 - ◆ Good command of both spoken and written English
 - ◆ Computer literate
 - ◆ Good interpersonal and communication skills
 - ◆ Presentable, outgoing personality, goal-oriented
 - ◆ Self-motivated
 - ◆ Driving license and own car preferable

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume with photo and salary expectation to: jsinhuhong@exotiqrealestate.com
Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Dee Jai Jung Co., Ltd

19/43-45 Moo 7, Srisoonthorn Rd., T.Srisoonthorn
A.Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-620015

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

50,000 BAHT/MONTH

We require English speakers (Thai + foreigners). Please contact Marc for further information. Tel: 086-6833526. Email: marcjonker_69@hotmail.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

TOUR GUIDE WANTED

Tour guide wanted for speedboat company. He/she must have tour guide/TAT license. Tel: 076-289044, 087-2818990. Fax: 076-289044. Email: gsmith100@gmail.com



THE PARADISE KOH YAO

island hideaway near phuket

www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room Boutique Resort, is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking an outstanding personality to be a key member of our motivated team that is committed to personalized, superior customer service.

Front Office Manager

In charge of Front Office and Reservations directly reporting to the EAM

- At least 3-5 years' experience in 5-or 4-star Hotel/resort operation in similar assignment
- Fluent in English (written/spoken) and a very good command of FO computer systems
- Exposure and personal strength in front office, reservations
- Energetic person, pleasant personality and excellent guest relations skills
- Strong presence in day-to-day operations
- Thai national female/male 30 to 40 years of age

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate

Send your latest resume with recent photo, references and expected/current remuneration by email to: gm@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao - Boutique Beach Resort & Spa (Phuket Office)

12/39 Moo 2, THEPKRASATTRI RD, KOH KAEW, MUANG, PHUKET 83000

Tel: 076 238 081

Website: www.TheParadise.biz

Staff Required

- 1 x Hostess
- 1 x Deckhand

A luxury motor yacht charter company is looking for 2 English-speaking Thai national staff to fill the above positions.

A background in five-star service is essential as is a fun personality.

Please contact prue@tawancruises.com or phone 081 894 3234 for further information.

Prize of Wood Industry Co., Ltd.

Our company is a leading supplier in real estate and construction materials. Due to our expansion, we are looking for a

Sales Executive (based in Phuket)

- Thai nationality, female, age between 24 and 38
- A minimum of 2 years' sales experience in any field
- Outgoing personality

We offer good benefits for the right applicant. Interested? Send your CV with a recent photo and current salary to: christophv@hotmail.com
www.Prizeofwood.com Tel: 66 (0)86-7779833, 66 (0)89-7807558



Audio Visual Creations Co., Ltd

Electrical Engineer

1. Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering
2. Experience with AutoCAD
3. Experience with hotel/ villa design

Please send resume to namphueng@avcphuket.com

Audio Visual Creations Co. Ltd.

9/78 Moo 4, Bandon Rd. (HWY4030), Chermg Talay, Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-615810 Fax: 076-615811 www.avcphuket.com

Staff Wanted Urgently

Thais that speak English well

- To work in the marketing department and provide information on real estate to tourists.
- No experience necessary.
- All educational backgrounds welcome.

Send resume to: Eleanor@nsre-thailand.com

Tel: 076-346282.

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

FRONT OFFICER AT SKY HOTEL

Good English and can use Microsoft Office well. No experience needed. Please contact for additional details Tel: 081-2963413. Fax: 081-2963413. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

FOREIGN FEMALE

Long-term resident in Phuket looking for job. Nationality: Russian. Has bachelor's degree, good computer skills, driver's license. I do translations from English to Russian. Please contact for more details. Email: phuket@list.ur and arkadia2000@gmail.com

AMERICAN WITH WORK PERMIT

Reliable, trustworthy and has work permit. Please contact for further details Tel: 083-5907871. Email: imp_2u2007@yahoo.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

SUBWOOFER FOR SALE

High-end subwoofer for sale, good for home cinema or stereo. Built-in 150-Watt amplifier. Driver 10", fully adjustable. Size 50 x 50 x 50cm. Black color. Price: 7,000 baht. Call Robert at 089-8719152. Email: orita-ozone@usa.net

TO SELL

Complete restaurant with professional kitchen equipment for sale. Secondhand but only 3 months old. Almost new. Good price... first come, first served! Freezers, refrigerators, dishwasher, Boncafé espresso machine, microwave, grill, racks, tables, chairs, complete bar equipment, restaurant dishes, plates, glasses, cutlery, lamps, speakers, desks, office chairs, electronics: Mini Mac with Samsung screen, stereos, CD-DVD players, amplifier, etc. Also staff-house equipment, beds, mattresses, closets, Philips TV, 1 complete bedroom with large bed with frame, also motorbike – all in good condition. Please call 089-7256994 (Eng), 086-7453359 (Thai).

GYM EQUIPMENT

Brand-new, secondhand, cheap. Bang Tao area. please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5350078.

SEWING MACHINE & OVERLOCK

- Bernina 1000 Designer sewing machine, Swiss made, 10 years old, excellent condition, 6,000 baht.

- Bernette Overlock 134DL, Swiss made, 8 years old, excellent condition, 5,000 baht. Tel: 076-285307, 087-265-8801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com

SIERRA WIRELESS AIRCARD

4,000 baht, call after 2 pm. Comes with CD software. Not for Vista; XP is OK. Tel: 076-296351, 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

40-INCH PLASMA TV

6 months old. 22,000 baht. (60,000 baht new). Tel: 085-0300612.

KINGSIZE MATTRESS AND ANTI-MITE

Kingsize Carnation mattress with Anti-Mite. Size: 6'6"x5'6" (1.83m x 1.98m x 15cm). 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: bastelman1@hotmail.com

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

YAMAHA PIANO

Baby grand, black, 3 years old. Tel: 089-2121254.

PANASONIC LCD

projector. Watch DVDs/football on 100-inch white wall with 2m screen. 35,000 baht. Call Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

MAHLE, ELGAR

Bach, Brahms? 300-400 used classical CDs for sale, many spares, good condition. Contact Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

AIRCONS

15,000 BTU, 8 months old, 7,000 baht. Tel: 085-030-0612.

AIR CONDITIONER

We have a 13,000 BTU Sapphires air conditioner for sale. About 3-4 years old, serviced annually. 10,000 baht. Come take it away. Tel: 076-330967, 081-8920474. Fax: 076-330990. Email: john@siamdivers.com

Articles Wanted

SURFBOARDS WANTED

Anything considered, 6'8" +, any condition, must be cheap. Tel: 085-7829020. Email: marcus@puriti.org

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

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

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 wendytalitha@yahoo.com

TO ALL FILIPINO

I am here to help you. Call Emelda. Tel: 084-3050963.

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 Email: carol.fryer@piwv.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwv.info).

Business Opportunities

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-5399269. Website: www.jan-property.com

RESTAURANT

with fully respected reputation, Nai Harn. 24 million baht. Contact Marc. Tel: 085-7839062.

MOVING SALE (FAST)

Office and restaurant equipment from computers to refrigerators. Tel: 081-2945441.

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3 places for sale, great location, good return. Tel: 084-4452831. Email: howsmymy dudu@hotmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

and bar/restaurant for sale. 18 rooms, long lease, close to the beach and Bangla Rd. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 080-6971744.

TULIP INN GUESTHOUSE

for rent. 10 rooms, fully furnished, 2 minutes walk to Patong Beach. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-8289329.

NEW SHOP FOR RENT

154sqm, very good location, speciality restaurant (entrance to Laguna, Cherng Talay). Tel: 081-0915919.

NICE SHOP, KATA CENTER

Shop for rent near bar zone. 5m x 15m. Change hands: 250,000 baht/6,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-3826479.

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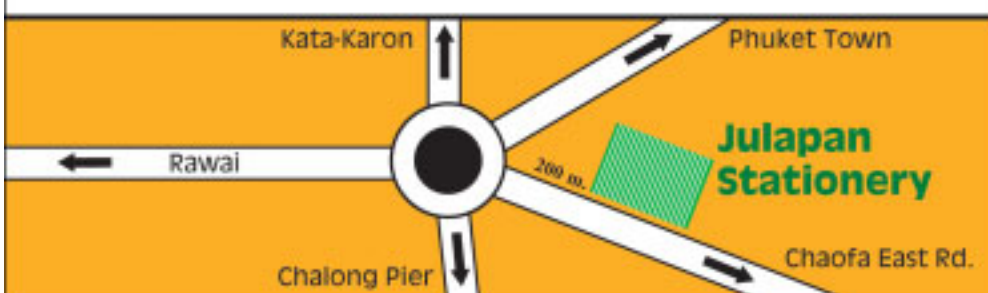
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