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INSIDE



Supermodel Cindy Burbridge Bishop was in Phuket to celebrate her third wedding anniversary recently. Read what the sexy celeb and her husband, Byron Bishop, had to say in our exclusive interview on pages 12 & 13.

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Police seize weapons cache on luxury yacht

By Sompratch Saowakhon

AO MAKHAM: A man has been arrested by Phuket Marine Police officers after the discovery of several guns and ammunition stashed aboard the luxury yacht he was operating.

The arrest came after Thalang district volunteer police saw people disembarking from the multi-level boat carrying guns and informed the marine police what they had seen.

When police boarded the Thai-registered yacht *Meditation* at Phuket Marine Customs Pier, Ao Makham, they discovered a high-powered rifle with a telescopic sight, an automatic pistol, a sub-machine gun and several cases of ammunition, including about 100 M16 rounds, 233 rounds of 11mm bullets and 180 rounds of 9mm bullets.

During their search of the vessel, police also discovered a receipt from Kathu Shooting Range for the purchase of 150 9mm bullets and a collection of



ROUND UP: Police officers display some of the weapons seized from a luxury yacht during a raid by Phuket Marine Police.

paper targets. They did not, however, find any documents pertaining to ownership of the weapons or anything to prove that the guns were registered.

The yacht's operator, 46-year-old Permsin Petsawas,

was questioned by police, but denied having anything to do with the weapons. He told police that they belonged to a friend of the yacht owner, whose name police would not reveal.

Police have charged the

suspect with possessing weapons and ammunition without a licence and will investigate his claim that the weapons belong to someone else.

Permsin has also been charged for operating the boat without holding a valid captain's licence and for the vessel's registration certificate being out of date.

Meditation is a Thai-made boat comprising four levels. The yacht measures 37 meters in length and, according to police, was being rented out as a charter vessel.

Investigating Marine Police officer Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Prasert Sriunrat said the yacht's owner is French national Pascal Wu, who has already presented himself to police.

"However, we must first investigate Preecha's claim that the weapons belong to a third party and confirm whether or not that person is legally entitled to possess the weapons seized," he added.

Community malls arrive on the island



PHUKET: Shoppers are being offered a park setting in which to shop with the introduction of two new "community mall" shopping centers.

The open-air malls Vichit @Park (opened August 8) and Rawai @Park (set to open next month) comprise a Tesco Lotus Talad store, banks, restaurants, cafes and a variety of other retail outlets.

See Business page 20.

First fringe festival planned for Phuket

PATONG: Performance artists from around the nation are preparing to take part in Phuket's first annual "fringe festival".

The 10-day event – set to take place from October 4 to 13 at the Playhouse Phuket in Patong – "will feature a spectacular array of contemporary and folk fringe acts from local and international artists, with live performances, art exhibitions, dance spectacles, cultural exchanges

and international cuisine also on the menu", said creative director David Shrubsole.

By offering a diverse range of performance arts appropriate for all ages, organizers aim to put Phuket on the map as a cultural center for southern Thailand.

Organizers added that proceeds generated during the festival will be donated to local charity organizations chosen by the festival artists.

Police seize almost 3,000 ya bah pills in drug bust

Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Provincial Police on the afternoon of August 9 arrested four men for possession of almost 3,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills with intent to sell.

One of the suspects told the police he had ordered the drugs by mobile phone from his father, an inmate at Klong Prem Central Prison in Bangkok serving time on *ya bah* charges.

Phuket City Police Investigator Pol Lt Salan Reedeng identified the four suspects as 27-year-old Mana Tiamjittaraksa of Bangkok, Phattalung natives Prajuab Kaewkong, 28, and Charnwit Yodchum, 25, along with Arthit Yuokthong of Suphanburi, age 27.

All four men were arrested at around 1 pm following a search of their rented rooms at the Sun West Apartments on Phun Pol Rd in Phuket City.

Seized as evidence in the case were 2,893 *ya*

bah pills, a .45 caliber pistol with seven bullets, 90,000 baht in cash and three mobile phones.

The raid was led by Pol Lt Col Theeranat Ketmee of the Phuket Provincial Police drug suppression unit, Lt Salan said.

Mana and his friends had been renting out apartments 305, 309 and 407 at the apartment block as a place to sell the narcotics, keeping most of their stash hidden away at a house on Soi Tapakhao, off Sakdidet Rd in Tambon Wichit, he added.

Some of the seized pills were recovered following a search at that location, he said.

"Mana ordered 4,000 *ya bah* pills from Bangkok by calling his father Thavorn Tiamjittaraksa, an inmate at Klong Prem Central Prison, who arranged for the order to be sent to Phuket by bus," he said.

Upon arrest all four men confessed to selling the drugs, but later denied the charges and said they will fight them in court, he said.

Belgian hospitalized after roadside incident

PHUKET CITY: A morning cycle ride turned into a nightmare for a 68-year-old Belgian expat who was hospitalized after allegedly being knocked off his bicycle by a pickup truck and then set upon by the driver.

Paul Cassiens was cycling along Chao Fa West Rd on the morning of August 5 when at 6:30 am his bike collided with a Toyota Vigo pickup truck, sending him to the ground, said Mr Cassiens' wife, Khun Rattana, who rushed to the scene after receiving a phone call from a doctor based at Bangkok Hospital Phuket who had stopped to assist Mr Cassiens.

A nearby shop owner said the driver of the pickup proceeded to kick and punch the elderly Belgian, alleged Khun Rattana.

K. Rattana said the pickup driver fled the scene after she asked if the police had been called.

Mr Cassiens was treated in Bangkok Hospital Phuket's intensive care unit for a broken hip, internal bleeding, a ruptured kidney and several fractures, she added.

Captain Krirkkrit Ritnueng of Phuket City Police Station said that police are now waiting to speak with the owner of the pickup to determine who the driver was.

— By Akbar Khan

Resort chills out with renewable energy

KOH YAO: Installation of a bio-mass system as an alternative energy source began on August 13 at Evason Phuket and is set to be operational by August 25.

According to the resort, the new bio-mass furnace is the first to be installed at a resort in Asia. Once complete, the energy system will be able to run a 20-ton absorption chiller air-conditioning unit to service storage areas at the resort by burning up to 140 kilograms of organic rubbish per day.

Area Environment Conscience representative for the resort Arnfinn Oines said that garden waste will be burned in a furnace connected to an absorption chiller, which converts heat into steam to drive a turbine and power air-conditioning.

"We use garden waste from dead plants or trimmed trees to fuel the furnace, which is a carbon neutral renewable energy source. This is part of our initiative to become a resort with carbon neutral status," he explained.



School children, government officials and local resort staff celebrate Mothers' Day by releasing 337 baby turtles at the Third Naval Command, Cape Panwa.

Phuket celebrates Mothers' Day

CAPE PANWA: More than 300 baby green sea turtles were released into the sea at the Third Naval Area Command, Cape Panwa, on August 12 as a way of celebrating the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit, which is also Mothers' Day in Thailand.

Students from schools in the Panwa area helped naval officers, municipality officers and staff from local resorts to release 337 turtles that had been raised at the Turtle Preservation Center of the Third Area Naval Command in an attempt to re-establish dwindling turtle populations in the region.

The turtle release was led by Admiral Supot Prueksa of the Third Naval Command and began at 10 am with a ceremony to honor Queen Sirikit.

Elsewhere, in a gesture of Mothers' Day goodwill, staff at the Bel Air Panwa Resort gave deserving children from the Duang Prateep Foundation in Bangkok a taste of luxury living with a day and night's stay at the resort's high-end suites on August 11 to 12.

On August 11, staff at the resort put on an afternoon of fun activities for 54 kids from the foundation, including a splash about in the resort's pool, and then took the children to experience a performance at Phuket Fantasea.

The children spent the night at the resort and were filled with a sumptuous five-star breakfast the next day.

For more information about the Duang Prateep Foundation visit: www.dpf.or.th or email: dpffound@ksc.th.com Alternatively, call the foundation at 02-6714045-8, 02-493553 or 02-494880.

Doc directs treatment over Skype

KOH YAO: A doctor at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket City used popular Internet audio-visual communication software Skype to help treat a patient at Koh Yao Hospital on Koh Yao Noi after she was stung by a stingray on August 9.

The victim, a female tourist from Hong Kong, was vacationing with her family on Koh Yao Noi and was swimming near one of the beaches when she was stung.


She was taken to the island's hospital, where a nurse treated the victim by following instructions given to her over an Internet connection from a doctor at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

The patient recovered within a few hours of the treatment and was in a good spirits and feeling well enough to attend a buffalo festival on the island the following morning.






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Best Western given all clear for floating dock

PHUKET CITY: The provincial committee on waterways has approved a request by Best Western Premier Supalai Resort & Spa in Pa Khlok to construct a 200-meter floating dock to give resort guests access to the sea.

The committee, chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, met at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 7 to discuss the license application.

Its members include representatives from provincial offices of Public Works and Planning, Fisheries, Marine Transport, Natural Resources and Environment.

Nalinee Thongtham of the Phuket Marine Biological Center was the only committee member to express reservations about the 2m-wide plastic pier, which the resort says is only intended for swimmers and not as a berthing site for watercraft.

Worrying about the effect on coral in the area, Khun Nalinee asked the committee if the length of the dock could be limited to 150 meters.

She noted that local people had protested other pier projects in the Ao Por area.

In the end, the committee approved the 200m construction in principal.

Supalai Resort General Manager Chokdee Chunpoon said that the dock has already been built and that the resort is still waiting for all the documents to be formally processed and signed by the governor before beginning installation. — **By Natcha Yuttaworawit**

Funeral ceremony held for former servicemen

RAWAI: Friends of Australian Jason Gerrard Flynn and James Plunkett Howe from the UK, whose bodies were discovered at a guesthouse in Rawai on July 28, attended a Buddhist funeral ceremony for both men on August 10 at Wat Sawang Arom temple in Rawai.

The ex-servicemen were in their early 30s. They died unexpectedly overnight from suspected drug overdoses, after celebrating during their last few days of R&R together before returning to Iraq, where they had been working for a security company.

Friends attending the joint funeral expressed their disappointment at the negative media coverage of the circumstances surrounding the men's deaths and requested that their families now be allowed to mourn in peace.

Turtle given fighting chance

CAPE PANWA: An immature Olive Ridley sea turtle whose badly infected front left flipper had to be amputated by veterinarians at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) in early June is recovering well at the center.

Named Hope by members of the Mai Khao Sea Turtle Foundation that rescued the turtle, the 13-kilogram turtle is thought to be about 10 years old.

Whether or not Hope is a male or female has yet to be determined. PMBC veterinarian Sontaya Manawattana said he suspects Hope is a female, but that it is still too early to say for sure.

Found washed up on Mai Khao Beach last month, Hope is having trouble relearning how to swim with just three flippers.

"We would say the odds for her to be able to swim normally and be released is fifty-fifty. We will know the outcome in a few months," K. Sontaya said.



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Police bust bikini shop for secret B10m counterfeit-T-shirt stash

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: A bikini is normally donned to cover up a woman's private parts, but a bikini-vending operation in downtown Phuket was found concealing something of a different kind of value: a stash of more than 90,000 counterfeit T-shirts that were seized by police over the weekend.

Officers from the Police Region 8 Investigation Center raided a secret warehouse in the center of Phuket City Saturday afternoon, seizing more than 10 million baht in counterfeit designer goods, police said.

Police Region 8 Investigations Inspector Lt Col Witsanu Chamroonroj, who led the raid, said the discovery of the warehouse followed an investigation into the illegal sale of knock-off CDs, DVDs, baseball caps and similar items on the island.

At about 5 pm, officers presented a search warrant to the female manager of a shop selling bikinis on Montri Rd Phuket City.

The operation was apparently just a front, as a subsequent search of some five three-story shophouses connected to it uncovered 90,503 counterfeit items, mostly T-shirts, bearing such well-known labels as Lacoste,



These shophouse units were allegedly used as a base to resupply vendors across the island with counterfeit designer-label goods. Police put the value of the T-shirts seized at about 100 baht each.

Adidas, Nike, Diesel and Polo.

Police arrested the woman, who told them she had been employed by the owner to look after the goods.

She identified the owner only as "Hia Moo" (Brother Moo), whose name indicates he is a wealthy man of ethnic Chinese descent. Soon after the raid, top local police officers were at the scene.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers were called in to assist in moving the garments to the

Phuket Provincial Police Special Operations Unit storeroom in Phuket City.

The suspect was taken for questioning to Phuket City Police Station. She was charged with the sale of counterfeit goods and released on 400,000 baht bail the following day, he said.

Lt Col Witsanu said he intends to liaise with Pol Maj Nanon Pitakkulthorn of the Phuket City Police who is now in charge of finding out the whereabouts of the mysterious Hia Moo.

Patrols help reduce illegal trawling

PHUKET CITY: The number of fishing boats illegally trawling within Phuket's three-kilometer exclusion zone has been greatly reduced thanks to stepped up patrols by authorities and good co-operation from local fishermen, the local Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) office has announced.

Paitoon Panchaiyapoom, chief of the DMCR Region 4 Office in Phuket, said there have been just three arrests for trawling within the exclusion zone since nightly patrols by DMCR officers be-

gan at the beginning of 2008.

"We still get complaints from the local fishermen at Bangtao and Maikhao beaches that there is still some illegal fishing going on, but there are no reports of trawling further south along Patong and Karon-Kata beaches thanks to the good co-operation between locals there and DMCR officers," he said.

Most of the violators are from other provinces, he added. Despite the sharp decrease in illegal trawling, the DMCR will continue its patrols, he said.



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BELVEDERE

Labor pains: the life and times

A routine visit to Phuket's Immigration Detention Center (IDC) prompted *Gazette* Chief Reporter Akbar Khan to dig deeper into the issue of human trafficking and how the construction of some of the island's luxury developments may be causing suffering in the camps of the workers who build them. Islanders living near these septic sites may also find themselves unwittingly affected by the camps' unhygienic conditions.

At the Phuket IDC in Saphan Hin the *Gazette* saw more than a full house of detainees waiting to be processed for deportation.

There were 133 young males packed into two small confinement areas and around 60 older men, women and children bringing the total number of illegal immigrants held at one time to almost 200.

The detention of so many illegal immigrants followed comments made by Immigration Commissioner Lt Gen Chatchawan Suksomchit when he spoke to the *Gazette* on July 29.

"I do not deny the fact that

the integrity of government officials across the board must now be more closely monitored and action taken against those involved," he said, adding that immigration laws would in future be strictly enforced.

Judging by the sudden influx of illegal aliens at the IDC, it was clear that someone was getting serious about the issue.

Pol Maj Neti Khanbun who heads interrogations, investigations and inspections of illegal aliens in Phuket allowed the *Gazette* into the center to meet the detainees. However, he asked the *Gazette* not to take pictures inside the two small cells holding 133 young Burmese men but did allow photo-



A group of illegal immigrants who were rounded up and taken to Phuket Immigration Detention Center wait to be processed and sent back to their homelands.

graphs of other detainees who were held outside the cells.

Speaking to the Burmese

laborers the *Gazette* discovered that 80 of them were laborers that had been arrested at their camp adjacent to the West Sands construction site where they said they had worked. The arrests were reported in the *Gazette's* online news on August 7.

"They came at 5 am and took us away. We did not have a chance to collect our belongings and now we hear from visitors that there are people going into our rooms and looting our possessions," said one of the detained Burmese men.

One woman said that living at the camp was a nightmare. "I could not save any money with all the extra 'fees' that I had to pay the contractor. I was told that I was legally employed but that

my documents were held by my boss," she said.

"Why am I smiling now? Because now my dream has come true. Someone will take me from that camp and help me get back to my motherland with my undocumented baby that was born here," she added.

"It's always the same," said another. "We save a little money, our compatriots are arrested and we are supposed to help bail them out."

"I don't want anyone to pay for me to escape from the police and go back to the camp," another detainee said. "I would rather go back to my country and have real freedom."

Upon inquiring about the cramped, smelly cells that they

A Burmese laborer shows off his ID card and employment document.





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were now inhabiting the general consensus was that conditions there were no worse than at the camp.

"This is like paradise compared to the labor camp we lived at," said one. "Even the food that immigration feeds us is better than what we had to eat at the camp," said another.

The initial news of the arrests was based on telephone interviews done with government officials.

In an earlier interview, Thalang District Chief of Internal Security, Palad Thammarong Chuay-Aksorn, told the *Gazette* that he'd learned about the large number of Burmese workers at the camp near the Mai Khao beachfront from nearby villagers.

"We don't know who they are working for. I went there with about 40 Thalang District officers in my team as well as some village volunteers and police officers from Tah Chat Chai Po-



A worker cooks fish at one of Phuket's construction worker camps.

lice Station. About 50 people worked on these arrests. We arrested all 82 Burmese before noon.

They were doing their daily activities. No one resisted or ran away, but we could not arrest their employer because nobody saw him there," he said.

The arrested Burmese were taken from their camp and initially held at Tah Chat Chai police station.

Once immigration officers discovered that the illegal migrants were being held by local police, they transferred the aliens to Saphan Hin to be processed before being sent back to Burma.

Pol Lt Col Jamroon Plai-duong of Tah Chat Chai Police Station told the *Gazette*, "The employer has done no wrong because the workers were arrested outside of a construction site. We did not arrest them, it was the district chief and the volunteers."

Back at the camp next to the construction site at Mai Khao, the foremen at the site seemed worried about the presence of the *Gazette*.

They explained that the Burmese did not work for them directly but for a sub-contractor. The camp for Burmese laborers is adjacent to the building site and

separate from the tin shacks where Thai laborers are living.

There were Burmese workers remaining in the camp. Some of them had documents issued and stamped by the Department of Labor stating the worker's and employer's name, whilst others said that their bosses claimed to be looking after all the necessary documents for them.

Those still at the camp confirmed that the raid in fact took place at around 4 am.

They were bitter that they had paid all the "fees" collected by their Thai employer to "take care" of them.

Looking around the camp,

there were festering cesspools behind the latrines; perfect breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Different types of hemorrhagic fever are carried from Burma by many of these immigrants and the mosquitoes then help to spread it around neighboring communities.

The workers showed evidence that they had paid their agents for "health insurance" as well as other fees. However, some of them looked far from healthy.

Although the police said they did not know which contractors were responsible for the illegal migrant workers who were arrested at the camp, the *Gazette* was able to obtain the phone number of one of the contractors. When asked to comment on the arrests, the contractor replied, "We don't want to talk to the media....And how did you get my number anyway?"

When we buy our coffee from Starbucks we get a guarantee that the farmers were treated well and paid fairly.

Why, when we buy a home don't we ask, was it built by Burmese laborers who have been severely exploited to the point that their dream is to be picked up and deported?

The 133 men in the cells were Burmese, 80 of them from the camp by the West Sands construction site, the other 60 living in the center but outside the cells were Burmese, Lao and Cambodian.

As there are many agents and sub-agents involved in the development of large building projects, the companies that eventually operate the developments when complete may not have any knowledge of the working and living conditions of the construction workers.

However, this does not change the fact that wealthy foreigners buying these luxury homes are inadvertently helping to support the trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers.

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Queer News

Sugar daddies' pockets hit by phantom pregnancies

Attractive women having relationships with much older and considerably less attractive men for financial benefit is certainly nothing new.

In Isarn, however, some girls have allegedly started using an ingenious method to extract more money from their stingy sugar daddies: having their stomachs injected with chemicals to make them appear pregnant.

Pukki, a 20-year-old college student from Ubon Ratchathani, said some students were using this method to get extra money

from businessmen or government officers they have relationships with.

Usually the sugar daddies would give them pocket money of only 300 to 500 baht a month, which is hardly enough for a modern girl these days, she said.

Friends studying in Maha Sarakham province, one of the main student centers of the northeast, had told her that certain clinics would inject chemicals into girls' stomachs that would make them swell up as if they were pregnant, Pukki said.

This method worked especially well with men who were well known in society, particularly high-ranking officials. When the girls say they are pregnant, almost all of the men are happy to give them as much money as they need for an illegal abortion, she said.

Most of the men want the problem to disappear out of fear that their wives will find out and because of the future costs of having to support an illegitimate child, Pukki explained.

Another Ubon Rachathani college student, 21-year-old "Em", said that while she had heard of many cases of girls claiming they were pregnant to extort money from their sugar daddies, she had yet to hear of anyone using chemicals to inflate their stomachs.

Em explained that girls' sponsors would often give excuses and use delaying tactics when the girls asked for money to buy essentials, such as motorbikes, cars and brand-name fashion accessories.

Falsely claiming pregnancy is the surest way to get what you want and students have learned the sure-fire method from TV soap operas, she added.

Dr Wutikrai Mungmai, a doctor with Ubon Ratchathani Provincial Health Department, said that he had not as yet come across the practice of faking pregnancies through stomach injections.

He had, however, heard of a number of clinics offering abortions. These would be cracked down on very soon, he said.

Phuket Animation Festival

PHUKET CITY: The Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) Phuket branch will host the third annual Phuket Animation Festival 2008 on the first floor of Central Festival Phuket from 11 am to 7 pm daily until August 17.

The festival, designed to showcase animation and multimedia talent in Phuket, will feature examples of outstanding design work, video game development and software programming, with exhibits from private and government sectors.

This year's event promises to be the best ever, with 200,000 baht up for grabs in a variety of live- and short-animation contests in primary school, secondary school and open categories.

A real crowd pleaser will be a "Cos Play" contest where contestants dress up like and mimic the actions of their favorite cartoon characters, which will get underway at 6 pm on August 16.

Award presentations for short animation, live and Cos Play contests will start at 3 pm on August 17.

There will also be a professional demonstration of "trick & techniques" of net design.

For more information or a complete schedule of events visit: www.sipaphuket.org



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STAMPS



Thailand Post is celebrating its 125th anniversary with these new stamps detailing some of Thailand's long-forgotten

Thai Post rolls out currency collection

Thailand Post recently celebrated its 125th anniversary with an event from August 1 to 10 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, when a new set of stamps with a monetary twist was unveiled to the public.

The new set is all about solos – the currency used in Thailand during the era of King Rama V. One solos is the equivalent of 1/128 baht by today's standards.

There are five designs in this collection. The first stamp shows 1 baht, equal to 2 solos. The stamp was printed in such a

way as to imitate the very first stamps printed by Thailand Post.

The second design features 1 siew, equal to 2 baht. On the third stamp you can see 1 sek, equal to 2 siew.

These three stamps are available for the equivalent of 384 solos, or 3 baht to you and me.

One stamp priced at 10 baht features 1 saleung. In Thailand, 25 satang used to be known as 1 saleung.

A stamp printed using holographic techniques shows another image of 1 solos and can be yours for 25 baht.

Each stamp was printed using a stochastic screen technique, which creates images using very fine, small pixels.

The stamps measure 30 by 49 millimeters and one million of each has been printed.

Thailand Post's Udon Niyomtham did the design work and Gather Security Printing Co Ltd in France printed the stamps.

A five-stamp set, complete with two commemorative envelopes, is available for 70 baht.

All 10 of Phuket's post offices have stocked the stamps since August 1.



Soi Dog Foundation

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Conference call on copycat killing

Following the stabbing murder of a Bangkok cab driver by a school-boy acting out a scene from a violent video game, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) will host a conference on what to do about violent video games popular with young people.

After his parents refused to give him money to buy the latest version of the video game Grand Theft Auto, 19-year-old school-boy Phalawat Chinno on August 9 decided to rob a cab driver.

In the space of eight hours, Phalawat calmly purchased two knives then went and selected his victim, 54-year-old Khuan Phokaeng, because he was "old and less strong".

Phalawat said the the murder was a robbery gone wrong, claiming Khuan fought back, hitting him with a wrench when he produced a knife and demanded cash.

When the driver sounded the horn and then tried to flee on foot, Phalawat continued the assault. After the fatally wounded driver collapsed, Phalawat dragged his body into the back seat and tried to drive off.

Although he couldn't drive, the boy thought making off with the taxi would be a cinch, based on his game-playing experiences.

Saying "killing is not a difficult thing to do", Phalawat admitted to police he got the idea for the robbery from the Grand Theft Auto series of video games.

Following the incident, the company that distributes Grand Theft Auto IV in Thailand ordered sales of the game to be halted.

Cyber Force. The DSI is also recruiting youths to help detect cyber crimes. DSI official Lt Col Pattana Sukornsut said the agency had approached youngsters via its Cyber Force project, which shows Internet dangers, how to protect oneself and how to help others through training. The project has already trained more than 2,000 students from 20 schools.

Sinking feeling. Thirteen townhouses in Nonthaburi's Bang Bua Thong district suddenly subsided on the morning of August 4, prompting residents to hurriedly move belongings and run for safety.

Municipality officials put up a "No Entry" sign to prevent people from getting hurt from further subsidence.

The estate headman discussed with the affected residents the possibility of demanding compensations from the estate developer, who paid out 300,000 baht per home to 13 homeowners following a similar incident in 2004.

The estate was passed on from the original owner, a bankrupt businessman, to Sin Asia Co and later Bangkok Commercial Asset Management Co Ltd.



The remains of a No. 365 bus that was damaged in an explosion when it was refilling NGV gas at a gas station in Samut Prakarn province on the morning of August 8. A gas station attendant was injured in the blast.
Photo by Monthien Intaket

Strong ties. Despite ongoing economic woes, a survey has found that most people say they can adjust to the problems they encounter.

Of 4,478 respondents polled by Mahidol University research center, some 57% say their family ties have remained the same throughout the slowdown while 39% claim they have actually improved. Only 4% say their family ties have worsened.

Some 39% say they are fully financially independent, while 55% put their financial independence at a "medium" level. The rest are struggling.

According to the survey, rural people have a greater ability to adjust to the economic slowdown than their urban counterparts.

Conspicuous consumption. A recent study by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) has found the government's "Million Baht Village Fund" has only increased consumption among villagers.

Academics, including

UTCC Assistant Professor Sawanee Thairungroj, said it would be better if policy makers worked on teaching people how to save and invest rather than providing them with handouts.

Policy makers should also address the problem of people defaulting on credit, the study also showed.

Conducted between 1997 and 2003, the survey was based on data collected from 960 households in 64 villages spread over four provinces: Chachoengsao, Lopburi, Srisaket and Buri Ram.

Dengue disaster. The Rayong provincial administration announced that the province is a dengue disaster zone, with 1,397 people infected with dengue and two dead from the disease so far this year.

Rayong deputy governor Siripong Hantrakul said declaring a disaster zone allowed the provincial administration to spend its emergency fund of 50-million-baht to fight the dengue spread. Rayong, which borders Burma

and is home to a large illegal alien population, remains on top of the provinces with the highest incidence of the disease.

Hub dreams. The Public Health Ministry is targeting 2 million foreign patients and annual medical receipts of 80 billion baht from abroad by 2010.

To achieve the target, the ministry has drawn up its strategy to promote Thailand as a medical service hub to the international community, said Health Services Support Department Director Dr Supachai Kunarattanakpruk.

The strategy includes continual improvement of services and infrastructure as well as introduction of "one-stop service centers" to fast-track the issuance of visas, help find accommodation for foreign patients and their relatives, and develop reim-

bursment systems with health insurance agencies abroad.

The number of foreign patients increased from 630,000 in 2004 to 1.5 million in 2007. Revenue from this segment also grew, from 16 billion baht in 2004 to 40 billion last year.

Private hospitals have mostly enjoyed an increasing flow of patients from Japan, the US, Europe, China and the United Arab Emirates.

Rural reality. Thirty public community hospitals have only one doctor each, one fewer than the minimum two required to take care of 30 in-patients, a senior medical official said.

Doctor Itthipol Khanacharoen, assistant secretary-general of the Medical Council, said the 30 hospitals were in provinces including Nan, Trat, Loei, Samut Songkram and Chanthaburi.

Dr Itthipol was speaking during a seminar of 250 medical personnel from both private and public hospitals.

Opening ceremony. Five people were injured, three severely, when a set of fireworks exploded prematurely on the morning of August 9 in Nonthaburi.

The fireworks were lit at 9:30 am during the opening ceremony of a boat race on the Chao Phya River in Nonthaburi's Muang district. The organizer of the race lit the fireworks and nine of them flew up to explode in the sky, but the last exploded inside the metal pipe used to fire it.

Five audience members were injured by the shrapnel and rushed to the Krung Siam St Carlos Hospital, police said.

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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Suffering from chicken and egg

Most of Koh Lanta's mom-and-pop businesses have the art of working down pat. They work like mad for half a year during the high season (November to April), then relax for the next six months and plan how to make more money during the next high season.

However, this practice doesn't help low-season tourism on the island, especially for large hotel groups that need to stay open – if only to retain their staff for the coming high season.

It's a classic chicken-and-egg situation on Lanta; businesses don't stay open in green season because there are no tourists and tourists don't come to Lanta because the island has a closed-down feeling.

The problem is complex, according to one of the island's top hotel managers, but the core causes – dirty beaches, closed businesses and poor low-season promotion – have existed for almost a decade.

"Having been here for eight years, I can say very little has changed," said Franck de Lestapis, general manager of Pimalai Resort and Spa. "It's a shame, because green season is wonderful on Koh Lanta and businesses like Pimalai need to operate as an all-year-round destination, but we can't exist in isolation," he added.

Pimalai is situated at Kantiang Bay, at the far south end of the island, where the beach is cleaned daily and businesses are open in low season. The beach also has the benefit of being in a protected bay so the majority of the monsoon garbage flows past without entering the bay. On the island's other nine beaches, some hotels clean the beach area immediately in front of their own resorts, but are still surrounded by their neighbors' garbage.

"Every year during low season, we remind our beach neighbors how important it is to keep the beach clean and to keep businesses open," said Mr de Lestapis. "I believe the entire beach has benefited from this, so why not make it an island-wide program and promote that fact?" he added.

Also compounding the problem is the negative feedback tour-



LOW TIDE: The beach at Koh Lanta's Kantiang Bay is virtually deserted during the low season.

ists in Ao Nang and Phi Phi receive when inquiring about going to Koh Lanta in the low season. Ao Nang and Phi Phi compete against Lanta to fill their own rooms and boats in low season.

"The island is closed until November," said one travel agent when I inquired about a room on Lanta.

Lanta Old Town, the cultural heart of Koh Lanta and a historically important harbor and trading post, is becoming a popular destination for Andaman Sea travelers. When the fishing village was officially registered as a Thai town 150 years ago, it was a busy sea port with large junk ships registering with Thai Customs as they entered Thai waters from ports in Malaysia, Singapore and China.

Lanta Marine Services is now helping the local government to install and manage 50 new moorings, three of which have already been set and are occupied. The company will also offer marine support services for short-stay visitors and for long-stay yacht storage.

The project also involves

creating ways to help local fishermen and small island communities from surrounding islands access Koh Lanta in a safer and more efficient manner. Currently, Lanta Marine Service is looking at ways to build loading docks next to the main cement pier to soften the impact on the wooden longtails and to make it easy to offload passengers.

Graeme Belshaw, managing director of Lanta Marine Service, has been sailing in the area for nine years and lived on his yacht in Phuket, Langkawi and Penang before making Lanta his home. He approached the local authorities last year about starting the project to assure the added marine activity takes on an eco-friendly approach.

"This is a wonderfully safe harbor with a surrounding infrastructure to support a secure mooring area," commented Mr Belshaw.

"We'd like to help it develop in a sustainable manner," he added.

New shuttle service. Locals are happy to hear about the new transportation option for tourists in Phuket traveling to Lanta. The

new direct minibus was started a few months back by Southern Transport, a respected VIP bus operator.

Any private transport initiative like this is welcome as local tourist authorities seem determined to undermine Lanta hotel operators, who have some 4,000 rooms to fill every day.

Last high season, in a move that defies all logic, one of the two daily passenger ferry boats from Krabi Town was canceled, putting an added strain on the already weak car-ferry link from the Krabi mainland to Koh Lanta.

The inexpensive (213 baht) shuttle between Lanta and Phuket leaves daily every hour from the main bus station in Phuket City between 7:30 am and 2:30pm, and from their Klong Dao depot on Lanta between 6:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Travelers must find their own way to these departing locations because the minivans are not permitted to pick up guests from other locations. Reservations can be made by calling 075-684408 or 080-1449549.

Wine and dine. One of the world's top vineyards is planning a special night on Koh Lanta. Herve Berland, the co-managing

director of the famed Chateau Mouton Rothschild winery in Bordeaux, France, is making a special appearance on August 23 at the Seven Seas Restaurant for an evening with Baron Philippe de Rothschild's wines.

Berland is enjoying a well-deserved holiday, but has agreed to spare one of his evenings to share his passion for some of the world's greatest wines. Only 40 guests will be treated to an evening of delicious food paired with superb wines, including a Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1986.

The set price for this exclusive Seven Seas Restaurant event (including wine) is 6,500 baht per person – a definite bargain when you consider that a bottle of Mouton Rothschild 1986 would set you back more than 1,000 euros. Tickets are available by calling Miss Wan at 075-607999-1102.

Duane Lennie is an international marketing and public relations consultant based in Koh Lanta who owns and operates www.kohlanta.net, www.kohlantarealestate.com and the Mango House Boutique Resort. You can contact him at duane@kolanta.net

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By Duane Lennie

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International media rights group Reporters Without Borders has issued a statement condemning the killing of Athiwat Chainurat, the Nakhon Sri Thammarat correspondent for *Matichon* newspaper who was shot dead in his home on August 1.

In the statement, released August 4, the group said that it was “outraged” by the murder and added: “We call on the competent authorities to act quickly with the aim of shedding full light on this murder and bringing those responsible to justice. It is vital that the investigation should concentrate on those who masterminded this clearly premeditated killing.”

Meanwhile, Region 8 Police Commissioner Lt Gen Thani Tawitsri, a personal friend of K. Athiwat, said that the case was progressing well. Gen Thani said that before his death, K. Athiwat told him about some people who he believed wanted to kill him for his reporting, and police were following up these leads.

Gen Thani added that the gun used in the killing, a .32 caliber pistol, and the method of the attack indicated that the killers were not professionals as that type of weapon was very rarely used by professional killers.

Deadly gunfight. A Tambon council member was shot dead and a wanted assassin seriously injured in a shootout outside the councilman's house in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Thung Song District August 5.

Witnesses reported that as Somkiat Ratanaburi, 35, was about to go into his house after returning from a neighbor's wedding in the early hours of the morning, a man stepped out of the shadows and shot him in the chest with a shotgun.

The gunman then walked up to K. Somkiat who was lying injured. Somkiat drew his 11mm pistol and fired seven shots at his attacker, who turned and fled.

Neighbors rushed K. Somkiat to Thung Song Hospital, but he died on route.

At 7 am that morning, Col Thamanoon Faiju, Superintendent of Thung Song Police Station, received a report from a villager of a large pool of blood next to a rubber plantation near K. Somkiat's house. Col Thamanoon led a team of officers to the spot, and in the plantation found an injured man hiding.



Khunying Dr Pornthip Rojanasunan, director of Central Institute of Forensic Science, collects evidence in a residence inside a private Islamic school in Pattani's Yaring district on Tuesday. Police fought with insurgents there on August 4.

Rights group slams journalist's murder

On seeing the police, the man opened fire with a pistol and a gunfight ensued. No one was hit in the exchange, and when the shooting stopped officers managed to subdue the man, later identified as Charoen Suankul, 38.

Police took Charoen to Thung Song Hospital to be treated for multiple gunshot wounds from K. Somkiat's 11mm pistol.

Col Thamanoon said that Charoen was a Forestry Department employee responsible for preventing encroachment on forest land in Krabi's Khlong Thom District. Apart from this, he was also a gunman near the top of the wanted lists of Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Region 8 police.

K. Somkiat was a former Assistant Chief of Village 12 Tambon Khuan Krot, Thung Song, and at the time of his death was a member of Khuan Krot Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

He was due to stand for re-

election on September 8 this year. Despite this, police said that they believe a personal dispute and not local politics is likely to have provided a motive for the attack as all the people standing in the election against K. Somkiat were his relatives.

Ambitious plans. The mayor of Satun Town has announced plans to spend 403 million baht improving tourist infrastructure in the town, including building a 70-million-baht planetarium.

Mayor Phibun Rachakijapran said that in budget year 2009, he would request a 50-million-baht budget from the Local Administration Department to redevelop two parks in the town — Khao To Phayawang and Khao To Yongkong — and build a road connecting them.

The layout of the shops and restaurants surrounding the attractions would also be redone to make it neater, he said.

The Mayor said that he had also been studying planetariums

and would like to build one in Satun so that local students and school children would have a chance to improve their knowledge of the night sky.

The proposed developments are part of a three-year plan to encourage tourism in the town, which will be complete by the time his term ends in four years, Mayor Phibun said.

Dirty business? A Nakhon Sri Thammarat traffic police squad leader has been ordered to an inactive post after a leaflet campaign in the city accused him and his squad of corruption and called for a public demonstration to demand his dismissal.

On August 3, Commander of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Major General Krajang Suranarat issued an order for Senior Sergeant Major Arun Tobai, a Traffic Squad Leader at Muang Police Station, to be transferred to an inactive post at Thamphanra Police Station for 180 days with immediate effect.

The order came after in the preceding few days, leaflets appeared in the city accusing Sgt Maj Arun and his squad of taking bribes and “inhumane and merciless” enforcement of the law, as well as using foul and abusive language when dealing with the public. The leaflets called for people to join a demonstration outside the provincial governor's residence at 10 am on August 3 to drive out the officer. The would-be demonstrators were, however, pre-empted by Gen Krajang's order.

Sgt Maj Arun said on August 3 that he had received the order and would report to his new posting that day. He denied all the allegations against him saying that he had always enforced the law strictly but honestly and blamed the campaign against him on groups who may have lost out because of his application of the law, especially the leaders of some groups of motorcycle taxi drivers.

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

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



A villager hacks off the blackened exterior of a bamboo tube after the rice within has been heated. The end product (right) is then rushed out to be sold in time

Sticking it to the locals

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Bamboo tubes crammed with sweet sticky rice, known as *khao larm*, are a treat seen at temple fairs and fresh markets all over Thailand.

Much more than a simple snack, however, *khao larm* is a handmade creation borne out of the hard work of three generations, where community and

tradition are bound together in a neat little package.

Several hours before dawn breaks on the island, a number of villagers in Soi Hin Rui, on a little corner behind Thalang Hospital, rise and begin preparing a fire with wood placed along a narrow strip on the ground.

Sticky rice, which has been soaked in water for about five hours the night before, is stuffed into dozens of bamboo tubes.

Coconut milk, sugar and salt are added, then the tubes are sealed with a stopper made with coconut shell covered by banana leaf.

The tubes are placed upright on a rack that runs alongside the stretch of low-burning fire, where they are left to be heated by the smoke and flames for 90 minutes.

Once cooked, the tubes are taken from the rack, and the blackened outside of the bamboo is shaved off with a machete. The freshly exposed bamboo is then smoothed and cleaned by hand.

Each tube is stamped with "Khao Larm Hin Rui" to mark where they were made. By 8 am, all the tubes are loaded up onto the back of a motorbike and delivered to markets and shops around the island.

In the past, 17 families in

the village were involved in the production of *khao larm*. Villager U-sa "Dang" Intaraseni, 40, said, "Now there are only seven families left in the village who still cook *khao larm* and I know this occupation will be finished soon because the younger generation is not interested in doing it.

"But I will go on doing it until I lose my strength," he added.

Fellow *khao larm* maker Wilaiporn Ratchapon, 32, said, "I've been cooking *khao larm* since I was young and my mother told me that we are the third generation to do it. Now the economy has changed and production costs are higher.

"We cook 20 kilograms of sticky rice per day. About 10kg of sticky rice is mixed with 4kg of coconut milk, 250 grams of salt

and 1.5kg of sugar. Including the bamboo that we buy from Phang Nga or sometimes Surat Thani, the daily cost is about 1,300 baht. And then we also have to pay for transportation and workers," she said.

The selling price of the snack depends on the width of the bamboo tube, but K. Wilai-porn explained that a bunch containing five or six thin tubes is 50 baht. The current best seller is black sticky rice, she said, whereas in the past white rice was more popular.

Hin Rui sticky rice is now promoted with the help of Thepkasattri Municipality, under the "One Tambon, One Product" community development initiative. The "Khao Larm Hin Rui" stamp has now become a source of pride for the village and it ensures that those indulging in the sweet snack will come to know the distinctive taste of the Hin Rui product.

In a world where everything, especially food, is turning into a bland, machine-made commodity, it is hoped that these seven families will stick it out with their efforts in making the island a sweeter place to live.

Those interested in seeing *khao larm* being made are welcome to call Thepkasattri Municipality at 076-311378 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Be prepared to get up early, however, since the families usually start cooking at about 2 am.

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On a full-moon night you wouldn't want to be dining anywhere but Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa's Into the Med flagship restaurant. With its pastel-colored, soft-lined design, low lights and the background swell of the sea, to say nothing of views out over southern Chalong Bay to Koh Bon, this place is serious magic.

The Evason is located on the site where Phuket's first hotel opened. The story goes that the original hotelier's sanity was seriously questioned by his family when he decided to uproot his orange grove down in Rawai and build the Phuket Island Resort (PIR) in its place.

Thankfully, he persevered, prospered and wasn't locked away in the loony bin. When Evason took over some years back, they gave the place a serious facelift and an overhaul with the result that Evason now boasts probably the most atmospheric torch-lit lobby on the island, several themed restaurants and the feeling that the resort fits perfectly into the 64-acre rolling and verdant grounds.

We leave the Bentley in the bowl-shaped carpark and stroll up to catch one of the hotel's cyclops-like trolleys that ferry guests down to the lower level of the resort. The car park is situated where the PIR used to hold its Christmas and New Year's dinners.

I shall never forget the sight, some 10 years back, of several hundred dressed-to-the-nines guests eating their festive fare, stubbornly ignoring a steady and unrelenting tropical drizzle while we, the band, played our set, bone dry under the shelter of the stage's awning. Thankfully, Evason covers this base during the silly season festivities. Phew...

And yes, it's a rainy night, but we slip unscathed through the maw of one of the day's several squalls blustering in from the Andaman, bullying through Nai Harn and emptying its load over Rawai. Into the Med is cozy and in no time we're sipping Martini Rosso and perusing the menu. As if you have not

Once more Into the Med, dear friends



The roasted chicken breast with thyme in a bed of juicy veggies is one of the stars of the show at Into the Med.

Photo by Stephan Audiger.

guessed, the fare here is Mediterranean (although some readers might be tempted to think that Into the Med has something to do with a chemist's dispensary).

We come armed with a bag of crayons, blank A4 pages and the foreknowledge that the little guy wants a hot dog, light-medium rare. It's served up pronto, along with salad, fries and fresh orange juice. He looks askance at the salad and tucks into the carbohydrates.

I can't wait for the day when kids ask for, instead of being forced to eat, green vegetables of their own volition. But by that time, hens will have grown teeth, pigs will nonchalantly fly in a V-formation past Mai Khao Beach and England will have won a major international football tournament. Dream on.

There's complementary house bread along with humus, pesto, olive oil and sesame seed dips – and we sip on a robust Italian

La Segretta 2003 (1,900 baht). This wine is the Sophie Loren of Italian whites; full bodied, full

tasting and, at 13%, just a little naughty.

Cameraman Stephan orders an Angus beef carpaccio rolled in

sesame seeds and hazelnuts (870 baht) and is suitably impressed. We have a go at a couple of amuse bouches, the most notable being a scallop-with-stock combination on potato.

For the main course, the Atlantic salmon (490 baht) is sensational. This is tender salmon at its best, wrapped in sesame seeds. It is, for me, the star of the evening. Stephan, from the Atlantic Coast of France, says that his roasted chicken breast with thyme in a bed of juicy veggies (780 baht) is just perfect.

A tasty Grenache 2000 red (2,200 baht) has accompanied this and savvy sommelier-cum-Beverage Manager Monika Bielka-Vescovi is on hand to explain the finer nuances of the many labels on offer. Oh, and it wouldn't be fair to write about Into the Med without mentioning the excellent service. These girls work hard to ensure optimum service.

For locals, this restaurant is maybe a little salty in the wallet factor, but for all lovers of good food, with a great setting and good service, Into the Med is quite the culinary experience.

Into the Med is on the lower level of the Evason Phuket Resort's grounds. Open 6 pm until 11 pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays. Tel: 076-381 018. Website: www.sixsenses.com/evason-phuket

The story goes that the original hotelier's sanity was seriously questioned by his family when he decided to uproot his orange grove down in Rawai and build the Phuket Island Resort.

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Model citizen keeps

When a gangly teen took to the stage and won over the judges' vote at the 1996 Miss Thailand World beauty pageant, the pro-Siamese contingent raised their eyebrows at how a Eurasian could strut away with the title. With a look that turned heads from an early age, 29-year-old Sirinya "Cindy" Burbridge Bishop broke the mold in the Thai entertainment industry, turning the tables on her adversaries and using her newfound celebrity to take her to where she is today.

Given the celeb treatment at Indigo Pearl resort, Bangkok-based Burbridge and husband Byron Bishop were in Phuket to celebrate their third wedding anniversary.

"We're a pretty boring couple really," said Burbridge. "There's not much scandal. We don't like to be in the news for the news' sake. If there's something I'm working on, that's one thing, but I don't like being famous for being famous."

Burbridge's "celebrity" has seen her star in TV shows, play a part in the movie *The King Maker*, work as a VJ for Channel V and be the face of ad campaigns for brands such as Channel, Gucci and Fendi. Bishop is an actor and model and the pair met through their work in the entertainment industry.

"I recently started designing a line for Jensen swimwear. It's done very well and they've approached me to do next season, too. We are also bringing in a line of sportswear from Australia called La Rue. Other than that, it's been a lot of modeling and of hosting and both of us just re-signed for the Samsung campaign," she said.

As one of Thailand's most recognizable faces, Burbridge has played the fame game from day one. "At 17 I was in heels and a crown. I lost a lot of my privacy early on, but with that came so much more," she said.

Cindy Burbridge Bishop is one of Thailand's top models and is a former Miss Thailand World. In Phuket with husband Byron Bishop to celebrate their third wedding anniversary, the couple had time to give an exclusive interview to the *Gazette's* Matt Crook.

"I was financially independent from an early age and I've always been able to make my own way."

On the way to becoming a supermodel, actress and beauty queen, Burbridge had to rise above taunting of what would ironically become her defining quality: all 1.77 meter of her height.

"I was tall at school and the only farang around. Growing up in Pattaya, I got a lot of teasing. People in the street would wonder where this foreign kid was from, but I would retaliate loudly back that I could speak Thai and I was very proud of that," she said.

Burbridge's parents live in Pattaya where her dad runs a dive business. With an American father and an English-Thai-Indian mother, Burbridge is a true child of the world.

"I think I'm Thai," she said. "I don't know anywhere else; I've never lived anywhere else. But I have to throw it in there because my dad's American and my mother's Eurasian. When I first got my title of Miss Thailand World in 1996 I think that people



Cindy Burbridge Bishop and husband, Byron Bishop, enjoy some cake while on vacation celebrating their third wedding anniversary.

were a bit confused because I obviously don't look Thai, but as time went by I think they accepted the fact that I am. The whole scene has changed and if you have any other nationality in you it's much more interesting."

Burbridge was thrown into the limelight at age 13 when she was enlisted by an associate of her father's for an underwater photo shoot. Her love of diving made her the obvious candidate. Far from losing her head in the clouds at the top of her towering frame, Burbridge managed to keep her feet on the ground, sharing an outlook on life with her husband that appreciates the nature of celebrity.

"I always had a good head on my shoulders. If I partied and

went out, I always pulled straight As at school so my parents couldn't get upset with me. I was a smart partyer," she said.

Bishop added, "Being in the entertainment business is one of those things where your work is your play. The thing about modeling is that the work is fun. It may be difficult sometimes, but you're always around your friends."

"If you're a new model and you don't get along with the people, then you won't get very far in the Thai industry," he said.

While a number of celebrities have been very vocal with regards to the recent standoff between the People's Alliance for

Democracy and the government, Burbridge has her doubts as to the motives of using star power in such a way.

"I think the celebrities that have gone to the protests," said Burbridge, "have been made examples of. I'm not saying don't stand up for what you feel, but if one day something happens and I feel that strongly about it then I'll make that decision then. If there's something I felt very strongly about then I would use my celebrity for that, but I tend to



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it real



focus more on my charities.”

The charity that Burbridge and Bishop devote most of their time to is the Camillian Social Center (www.camillian-rayong.org), a home for about 50 children born with HIV/Aids.

“The center is in Rayong and we have been running it for more than 10 years now. We started out more visiting and going and seeing the kids, but as the years have gone by we’ve done quite a few fundraisers and activities,” said Burbridge.

“I think it’s very unfair for

a man to go out and contract Aids and then give it to his wife and pass it onto a child,” added the supermodel.

Bishop shares his wife’s outlook on celebrity when it comes to the center. “Maybe it’s purely selfish of us,” he said, “because we see the children and get something out of it just being able to make them happy.

“We feel as if they have never had a chance to experience the simple things and we take them on excursions and trips to the beach and other places,” added Bishop.

“We recently held a big gala dinner in Bangkok and raised 1.5 million baht,” said Burbridge. “We did it with the Italian chamber of Commerce. I organized an auction of designer dresses.”

“Whatever you choose to do isn’t important,” said Bishop. “If you have celebrity it’s a tool and because of that, we are connected with a lot of people who are able to do things.

“If you have the Italian Chamber of Commerce, that’s an institution, which compared with the individual is so much more. But then as an individual, if you have celebrity then you’re able to connect with these institutions and network and bring people together – and then you can do something big.

“We’ve seen the center grow from one little center to something much larger with a much wider scope and we’re just blown away by it,” he added.

Burbridge added, “Obviously with the fame you get a lot of perks, but you have a responsibility as well, so why not use that – and I know it sounds really cliché – to make a difference. You can either choose to be a role model or you can choose to waste it.”

Looking to the future, Burbridge said she hopes to star in another movie should the right script be presented.

“The past few years have been retail, now I’m getting into designing and maybe next year will be more movies,” she said.

“Our careers just ebb and



The happy couple clink glasses of champagne during a romantic evening in Phuket.

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DESERVING SCHOLARS: Members of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) recently presented educational scholarships to 49 students in the Khao Lak area, many of whom lost family in the 2004 tsunami. The PIWC continues to support these and other needy students, both in Khao Lak and Phuket. They depend on the funds they raise from monthly lunches, private donations and events such as the annual Gala Ball. This year's Gala Ball, subtitled "Diamonds are Forever", will be held on November 29 at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.



IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NOW: Managing Director of Kata Group Resorts Pamuke Achariyachai (center) and his management team recently welcomed Gerry Vette (3rd from right) of Directions Marketing, who was appointed as the hotel group's representative for Australia. Mr Vette visited Phuket and Samui for a business and hotel familiarization trip.



SOUTHERN COMFORT: Executives from the Asia regional office of Silk Air pose during their annual Silk Air Regional Meeting 2008 at the Club Andaman Beach Resort in Patong recently. The executive participants also enjoyed group-relations activities in a friendly and cozy atmosphere.

This week



YES YAMU: From left, architects Nash Johari and Jean-Michel Gathy, of Deniston International Architects, and Ian Henry, CEO of Campbell Kane, proudly display the three CNBC Asia Pacific Property awards for their work on the ultra-luxury project, The Yamu Phuket. The project received awards for its architecture and interior design, and was also named best development.



HOWZAT: John Young (center) from Angus & Arfur O'Tool's presents a check for 30,000 baht to Nachai Khemnipatt (right), president of The Phuket Cricket Union, as part of their sponsorship of the Phuket International Cricket Sixes 2008 run by the Asian Cricket Sixes Tour. These funds will go towards the development of youth cricket in Phuket. Also present are Supattra Jarumoon (left), Bill Brown (2nd from left, back row) and Richard Brown (2nd from right) from the PCU and members of Angus & Arfur O'Tool's staff.



SWEET SIXTIES: Managing Director of Indigo Pearl resort Wichit Na Ranong (seated), celebrated his 64th birthday on July 30 with Indigo Pearl staff and



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A stroll along the boulevard of the sea

By Pathomporn Kaenk-

From the Cape – check. Khao Rang – done that. Laem Singh Beach – been there every Sunday. An Indonesian boat that looks like an oversized wooden toy? Ahoy there! If you're looking for somewhere new to watch the sun set, this could be just the thing: a 28-meter wooden boat that wouldn't look out of place stuffed into an enormous whiskey bottle.

The *Bleu Blanc* has space and cushions for 30 people to loll about on deck while the vessel drifts out over the sea, giving seafarers a chance to see Phuket from a different angle. Captain Julien, 25, a Frenchman, is in charge of the vessel and he's out to convince Phuket that the best sunsets are to be viewed out at sea.

While the boat looks as if the blue sails should be hung from the 4.8m masts in order for it to move, the wonders of modern technology mean that the vessel can be propelled across the sea thanks to an engine. If the wind is sufficient, the sails can be raised for an authentic aquatic adventure.

People congregate at Chalong Pier at about 5 pm. Everyone then boards the boat, takes their shoes off and then the fun begins.

As the trip begins, staff serve cocktails to take the edge off a long

day. The boat takes a route from Chalong Pier around to Patong. As the boat cruises past Rawai, the engines are cut and the drifters are served dinner and drinks while the sun bids farewell for the day. As the sun sets, candles on the tables illuminate the deck and throw those on board into a slick bohemian light.

The buffet dinner presents an assortment of Thai and Western dishes, while wines, beers and all manner of fruit juices are on hand to wash it all down.

Casual melodies are provided by the in-boat band, Classic Jammed, who are familiar faces around Phuket. Expect to hear renditions of *Let It Be* and the Boyzone-massacred *Words*, originally by the Bee Gees, of course.

From then on, it's a casual cruise to Kata-Karon, onto Patong to watch the twinkle of the night-time activities in the distance before returning to dry land at Chalong at about 10:30 pm, or later if the guests are so into the cruise that they don't want to go home.

The price of a trip on the old *Bleu Blanc* is 4,900 baht per person, or 3,000 baht during low season from July until mid-November. The boat leaves from Chalong Pier at about 5 pm every Wednesday.

For more information about the *Bleu Blanc's* sunset trip, call Captain



The *Bleu Blanc* looks more like a toy boat than a fearless seafaring vessel, but looks can be deceiving as the boat saunters around Phuket's west coast, serving up dinner and an unforgettable view of the sunset.

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Tattoo protégé gives thanks to ink master

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Phuket based skin artist Wichathorn “Bond” Sonsap, 28, started tattooing in 2002.

He was taught the finer details of this art form by his mentor, Sid Siamese 1 – a veteran tattooist who now works from his studio in Karlstad, Sweden.

“I have been lucky to know Sid Siamese 1,” said Khun Bond. “He showed me the proper techniques for tattooing. Sid took a person like me, who had no prior knowledge of art and tattooing, and he gave me the skill and appreciation that I now have. It has made me realize that this is what I was born to do.

“It’s not simply tattooing; it’s body art,” added Khun Bond, who is part of the Siamese “family” of tattooists. Sid, who lives in Sweden, is the head of the family, while Khun Bond is Siamese 4. Four of Sid’s students have gone on to join the family. Sid took Khun Bond under his wing in 2002 and the pair have never looked back since.

The Siamese family style is distinctly Asian. Although many clients request other styles, Khun Bond prefers to ink what he has been trained to do without compromising his techniques. However, if a customer is persistent and adamant about wanting him to work with a different style, Khun Bond will work harder to achieve the end results, he said.

Having an Asian artist work on Asian tattoos is enough for many of Khun Bond’s customers to fly to Thailand specifically for his unique talents.

Khun Bond’s work has seen him pick up a number of international accolades. While in Swe-



Oriental style: Although K. Bond will do Western-style tattoos, he prefers to stick with Asian motifs, such as this fish – a sketch produced before doing the tattoo.

den, he won Best Tattoo of the Day at the Dalaslaget Tattoo 2 convention; Best Tattoo of the Show at the 2005 Wermland Tattoo Expo 3; and two awards – Best Tattoo of the Show and Best Small Tattoo – at the 2006 Wermland Tattoo Expo 4.

Clients and friends usually hang out with Khun Bond at Kroom Krim, his small tattoo studio in Soi Romanee – open from about 7 pm until 1 am.

Khun Bond juggles his time equally between his work in Phuket and his other tattoo par-



Going swimmingly: An adaptation of the Asian fish motif takes shape

lor, Fetto Tattoo, in Borlänge, Sweden. If you want to have a piece done by Khun Bond, you have until January to seek out his services before he returns to Sweden for six months.

Most of Khun Bond’s clients are Thai-Chinese, who prefer Chinese and Japanese styles, with an emphasis on curves and spiral shapes. Asian tattoos tend to focus on images of dragons, fish, Eastern devils and so on, while Western styles can cover

anything from images of buxom ladies to Harley-Davidson logos.

One of Khun Bond’s customers, Khun Note, told the *Gazette* that he trusts Bond’s ability and that he always works in a professional manner.

Khun Note’s body has been a canvas for Khun Bond’s work several times, with his upper arm covered with Oriental patterns.

Although Bond is very young, he has good skills, so I prefer him over other artists. I



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Very Thai: This tattoo depicts a giant (yak) from Thai mythol-

came to him to fix an old tattoo and now he has done one that is bigger and better, going from my upper arm across my chest."

A small tattoo about three inches long normally takes Khun Bond no more than 30 minutes, whereas a larger tattoo, on a client's back, for example, could

take anything up to 50 hours to complete. Khun Bond's prices start at 500 baht.

For more information or to arrange a consultation call K. Bond at 087-8889191.

Keeping firm with aquasise



WATERWORLD: New-age health fanatics were introduced to the calming and healthy benefits of aqua aerobics and aqua yoga while floating beneath the stars at Sukko Cultural Spa & Wellness with an evening aerobics and yoga session in the wellness center's pool last week.

Aqua instructors at the spa said the feeling of weightless exercise created by water's buoyancy is marvelous as it supports your weight and protects joints from injury. This kind of exercise in the water also allows more flexibility of movement and boosts circulation.

Aquasise sessions are conducted for individuals and groups by the center's in-house instructors. Guests can book one-off sessions or sign up for a course.



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The first thing that struck me about my home town was how clean, orderly and systematic everything seemed after 12 years of continuous exposure to chaos – Thai-style. Even the one-hour drive home down Massachusetts Route 24 seemed surreal.

Phuket's roads are lined with all manner of visual distractions: sleeping dogs, sidewalk vendors, old men weaving perilously on bicycles, trucks filled with invisible alien workers and layer upon layer of signs covering every possible surface.

In stark contrast, all you get on a Massachusetts highway is a generous breakdown lane and trees – lots of them. It is no wonder falling asleep at the wheel accounts for such a large percentage of the traffic accidents in the Bay State.

Compared to Phuket, there are hardly any motorcycles on the roads in Massachusetts, even though there are signs put up that read, "Be careful! Motorcycles are everywhere!" In Massachusetts, they worry about non-existent problems while in Phuket we ignore real ones.

Sitting in the back seat of the car on our way to the Cape was my wide-eyed Thai wife, on her first-ever visit Stateside, and our whining and squirming two-year-old daughter. The child was less interested in the arboreal landscape outside than in finding a way out of the car seat into which she had been strapped, in compliance with Massachusetts State Law, by her grandparents.

"When did this become mandatory?" I asked them, explaining that the only safety rule we use in our beat-up Suzuki Caribbean in Phuket is that she has to sit down when the traffic light turns green.

"I don't remember, but the police here will give you a big fine if they catch her not sitting in one," they replied.

During my stay, Massachusetts raised the car-seat age from five to eight. If this trend continues maybe next time I go back I'll have to sit in one too.

As I pondered this, I could clearly imagine the scene 12 time zones away in Phuket: a family

Impressively down in the dumps

Stool Pigeon recently flew home to his native Cape Cod, Massachusetts, for a long-overdue, one-month vacation. Upon his return, he was asked to reflect on how things have changed in the States over the 12 years since he last visited. One of the things he came away most impressed with was the town dump.



Staff at the Town of Falmouth Waste Management Facility display sculptures and other works of folk art made from trash near the entranceway to the swap shop.

of five all perched precariously atop Honda Clicks and Suzuki Smashes in the rain at the Tesco-Lotus intersection, drawing not a single raised eyebrow of interest from Phuket's finest.

The gap between safety awareness in my home country and my adopted one is not only huge, but it is expanding. Another new law that came into effect in Massachusetts some time while I was away is that all vehicles traveling in both directions are required to stop as soon as a pedestrian steps off the curb onto a crosswalk – and they do.

After so many years of trying to sprint nervously across three lanes of high-speed, one-way traffic in Patong, or having to resort to the go-halfway-and-pray routines elsewhere in Phuket, I should have felt a brief sensation of how royalty must feel riding in a motorcade.

But I didn't, because as the Brits like to say, all this stopping for the pedestrian (me) really "did my head in". Even though the road looked clear as I stepped timidly off the pavement, I kept expecting a 1,000-pound weight to fall on me from out of the sky,

à la the opening scene of the old Monty Python TV show. Even after three weeks I couldn't get used to it, much in the same way I was still clinging to the sidewalks of Soi Bangla six months after they turned it into a nighttime walking street a few years ago.

The other thing that immediately struck me was how clean and litter-free the house and neighborhood I grew up in seemed after so many years away. Where was the dust? The lizard shit? The cockroach carapaces?

Re-adjusting to a place where respect for the environment doesn't end at the front gate is certainly not easy after such a long time away.

After I quit smoking in Phuket about three years ago I developed an equally disgusting (albeit healthier) habit: chewing on plastic dental flossers. In Phuket, I thought nothing of clandestinely spitting the tiny plastic remnants onto a sidewalk or anywhere else I could get away with it – after all, plastic biodegrades though exposure to sunlight.

In my old neighborhood on Cape Cod there was literally not a trace of litter to be seen anywhere – even though the town does not employ a single street-sweeper. I would be Public Enemy #1 if caught.

Of all the places I visited during my holiday, the most impressive was what used to be the town "dump". The landfill was capped in 1999 and replaced by a nearby waste-management facility where every scrap of refuse is sorted and stored for eventual disposal elsewhere.

The same place I remembered as a smelly, seagull-infested expanse of pits crawling with diesel-belching front-end loaders was transformed into not-unattractive grass-covered plains, with the odd pipe sticking out to safely vent methane and dangerous gases.

In the waste-management facility is a small storehouse called "Pick of the Litter", a sort of swap shop where people drop off things they don't want to throw out but feel they have to.

The things that people throw out on Cape Cod are the same things burglars will break into your home to steal in Phuket. There was a wide assortment of electronic appliances that still worked, furniture, luggage and shelves upon shelves of good, hardcover books in like-new condition, all free for the taking.

We even found a perfectly good bicycle helmet for our daughter to use while on vacation – something I had planned to go out and buy until

I came across the freebie.

The only thing I really missed about Phuket was spicy food. We discovered that Thai restaurants in the US are abysmal – hopelessly bland, criminally overpriced and with dish after dish that we had never heard of. One restaurant even gave us a fortune cookie after our meal.

Another change in Massachusetts State Law is that they have done away with a statute forbidding weddings between same-sex couples from states where such unions would not be legally recognized, ie, every other state except California.

While Massachusetts is indeed a progressive state, the real reason for the change was so that more gay couples would travel to the state to be wed, thus increasing tourism revenue. Perhaps Massachusetts and Phuket do have one thing in common.

Stool Pigeon can be reached by email to: stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

August 17, 24 and 31. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

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.

As always, from 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

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

August 22-September 26. Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat Exhibition.

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 at Art Rendezvous Gallery in Phuket City will remain open until September 26.

Contact Patrick Bois for details. Tel: 076-219095. Email: art.rdv@gmail.com Website: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com

September 7. PC Group Therapy – Patong.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Patong.

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

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

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

The ticket price of 2,000 baht includes a buffet dinner,



RIB TICKLERS

SEPTEMBER 16. PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY: The Punchline Comedy Club in association with the London Comedy Store presents a night of International Stand-up Comedy. In true comedy tradition, the night of laughter is brought to you by an Irishman, a Welshman and an Englishman, pictured above, – Greg Davies, of whom the *Daily Telegraph* of London wrote, "Superb! Controls the audience with such flair! Hilarious too!". The others are Neil Delamare ("One of the funniest things you'll see at the Fringe this year." - *Edinburgh Festival Magazine*), and Rhod Gilbert ("Rhod Gilbert makes me laugh like a pitiless idiot" - *The Scotsman*) respectively. Tickets are 960 baht in advance from Woody's Sandwich Shoppes (see www.khunwoody.com for locations), or 1,200 baht on the door. A night of fun-filled laughter guaranteed! Adults only.

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 29 to October 7. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, which normally falls in late September or early October. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict

diet of "vegetables only" will purify the 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 Chilean Winery Terra-Mater. Includes tapas buffet and live band. Tickets are 500 baht each. Free for Club members. From 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm.

For more information 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. Banks, government offices and many private businesses will be closed

November 12. Loy Krathong Festival.

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month.

A krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks that is set afloat in a canal or river.

The idea is to worship the river's goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck.

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,

contact Uwe Schitteck. Tel: 081-7195766. 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. This year's theme is "Diamonds are Forever".

This is the main fundraising event for the PIWC Scholarship program. PIWC has helped more than 550 students and young people to receive an education.

Further details to be announced in the Gazette soon.

For more information contact Sue Arnulphy. Tel: 087-2776948. Email: arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th

December 5. HM The King's Birthday (Public Holiday).

HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Fathers' Day in Thailand.

December 7. 2008 Laguna Phuket Triathlon.

Southeast Asia's premier multi-sport event, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, presented by Thai Airways International, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Herbalife, is now in its 15th year.

The 1.8km swim, 55km bike ride and 12km run offers a US\$20,000 pro prize purse.

The event expects to attract some 800 athletes from more than 30 countries competing in both the individual triathlon and the Herbalife Corporate Challenge Team Relay.

A 6km fun run for 500 participants will also take place.

For further information call 076-324060 or visit www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com

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ON THE MOVE

Penprapa Chooklin from Srisaket was recently appointed Marketing Communications Executive of Allamanda Laguna Phuket, Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort and Laguna Phuket Holiday Residences. Khun Penprapa graduated from Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, majoring in business administration and hotel management.



Phuket native **Salisa Limsakul** has been appointed as Assistant Sales Manager of Outrigger Thailand's properties. She began her career as a Catering and Convention Associate at Boca Raton Resort & Club in Florida and most recently held the post of Assistant Managing Director at Secret Cliff Resort. Khun Salisa earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and hospitality management from Glion Hotel School, Bulle, in Switzerland.



Ooi Shie Ching, from Malaysia, was recently appointed to the position of Front Office Manager for I Pavillian Phuket Hotel following completion of renovations at the hotel on Satun Rd. She held the position of Hotel Manager at Imperial One hotel for more than five years before joining I Pavillian Phuket Hotel.



Phuket seen as 'fertile ground' for community mall concept

By Akbar Khan

RAWAI: Phuket is seen as the second largest growth area after Bangkok, say Tesco executives, as two new branches of the retail giant's stores prepare to attract expat and local customers with smaller "community mall" formats.

The new shopping format called @Park is designed to reflect a community market and give shoppers more choice of stores and places to relax in tree-shaded areas. The concept follows the Tesco Extra format that has become popular in the UK.

Two @Park malls are set to be fully operational in Phuket next month. One on Chao Fah East Rd in Wichit and one on Wiset Rd, Rawai.

The @Park community mall format is an indoor-market style outlet, which is surrounded by several other independent retail outlets in order to offer shoppers



Vichit @Park on Chao Fah East Rd was given a soft opening on August 8. The new 'community mall' concept has already been a success in the UK and in urban areas of Bangkok. Tesco executives also see the @Park format as being an ideal place for Phuket's local and expat residents to shop.

"We see Phuket as having great potential for expanding the community mall concept. Phuket is a large island with a strong tourist trade with many high-income earners residing here. In terms of sales, our Tesco-Lotus hypermarket in Phuket ranks as one of the top-five stores nationwide. Other big retailers have also opened new stores in Phuket," she said.

"We plan to upgrade our Talad Lotus in Cherno Talay to follow the community mall concept in the near future," Khun Veena added.

"Expanding smaller community malls is easier and requires less investment than creating large malls. The biggest challenge facing operators of community malls is proper research to understand the needs and requirements of consumers living in catchment areas.

"These malls support the growing trend of people not wanting to travel far to shop, which is mainly due to rising fuel prices," she said.

a variety of stores to shop at rather than a standard warehouse-style supermarket.

The Wichit-based mall was the first of the new malls to be

opened with a soft opening on August 8, allowing Phuket shoppers to get their first taste of the new shopping experience, which has been popular in suburban areas of Bangkok for several years.

The Wichit mall is set on more than six rai, with the main store set at the back of the plot and taking up just 875 square meters of the total shopping area.

In front of the store is a two-story mall with an open-air veranda. The mall section comprises 30 independent shops, including four bank branches, a bookshop and Thai and Western restaurants and cafes on the ground floor, while the upper floor comprises fashion boutiques, a spa, beauty salons and computer and mobile phone shops.

Rawai @Park is currently under construction in Rawai and is set to open its doors to customers some time next month. A definite opening date was yet to be confirmed at the time of going to press.

The Tesco store at Rawai @Park will be called Tesco Lotus Talad (market) and will be the same size as the Wichit store. The total land area covered at this site is just under six rai.

Rawai @Park will also have 22 shop units available for

independent retailers to lease from Tesco and is said to be geared toward attracting foreign tourists and expat residents in the Chalong, Kata and Rawai areas with a pizza restaurant, an ice-cream parlor and a bookshop with an expansive English-language section.

Government Relations Manager for Tesco, Orawan Sirichottirat, told the *Gazette* that Tesco has more socially responsible projects in the pipeline for Phuket following the success of pilot projects in Bangkok but is not authorized to talk about them or make an official statement.


Mall & Media Director for Tesco Veena Arunyakasem was, however, able to elaborate on the potential seen in Phuket to continue adding retail outlets.

VITAL STATISTICS

Flights down; passengers up

Type	June 2007	June 2008
Domestic passengers	222,187	226,675
International passengers	119,479	147,436
Domestic aircraft	1,856	1,659
International aircraft	1,068	1,158
Domestic Cargo (tonnes)	717	855
International Cargo (tonnes)	381	395

Source: Phuket International Airport



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Economic woe reaches the far side of the planet



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

The economic slowdown that is so evident, especially in the US and Western Europe, is making its existence felt worldwide.

Evidence of this is the slowdown in the New Zealand economy, resulting in a reduction of 25 basis points (0.25%) in the official lending rate. This is despite the inflationary pressures common to all countries. It is possible that New Zealand is already in recession.

Any hopes that this would not reach across the Tasman Sea to its large neighbor, Australia, seem to have been unduly optimistic. Australia is also showing some signs of cooling. The stock market, as measured by the ASX 200 index and virtually every other relevant index, is down 25% from its highs of less than one year ago.

The currencies of both countries have fallen rapidly against major world currencies, especially the US dollar. This has provoked sell-offs in the famous "yen carry trade" where investors either invest their yen in Australian dollars, New Zealand dollars or both in order to increase their interest-rate return, which is almost non-existent in Japan.

That is one type of yen carry trade. The other is where the investor is not Japanese, but based in a third country. Often this type of investor is a fund or a financial institution that invests by borrowing funds in yen and then converting them to higher-yielding currencies.

This often results in high levels of borrowing (400% to 500%). Because the lender is in a position to recall the loan or ask for immediate additional security, these levels of borrowing are tolerated. This is known as "leverage" or "gearing".

The result of this is that any bad economic news from the targeted country of investment, ie Australia, leads to a rapid downward shift in the value of the Australian dollar. The saving grace of this currency versus the Japanese yen is that the Japanese government reported in August that the economy is deteriorating.



It is widely believed that the world's second largest economy has fallen into recession, which has allowed the yen to weaken.

It was commonly believed in the middle of this year that it was only a matter of time before the Australian dollar (A\$) reached parity with the US dollar. The Aussie dollar rapidly moved from around 97 US cents to 89 US cents as traders and investors abandoned positions.

The central bank of Australia – the Reserve Bank – indicated in early-August that the economic situation allowed for a

"less restrictive" economic policy.

James Shugg, a senior economist with Australian banking group Westpac, stated on the television business channel CNBC that they interpreted this to mean that the central bank would cut interest rates as soon as September this year. Previously, they had only expected rate cuts to start in 2009. This is a major factor in the decline in the value of the Australian dollar.

After 15 years of uninterrupted economic growth, falling share prices, combined with falling property prices have left the

average Australian feeling as though debt levels are unchanged.

However, it is interesting to see how quickly the world in general reacts to changing commodity prices.

A good example is the oil price. If anyone had suggested at the beginning of 2008 that commentators would be expressing relief that oil would be below US\$120 a barrel by August, their sanity would have been open to question. However, that is exactly what has happened.

It is where we go from here

that matters. According to Deutsche Bank, oil will be around US\$100 a barrel by Q1 2009 and even lower by the end of 2009.

Goldman Sachs, a prominent US banking group, sees the oil price at US\$149 by the end of 2008, a new record; the previous high was US\$147. Goldman Sachs first targeted the oil price at US\$100. It seemed an ambitious price at the time but history shows Goldman Sachs "got it right". It is also one of the few Wall Street banking giants that did not become embroiled, to any marked degree, in the sub-prime fiasco.

There are conflicting signs in the oil markets. There is what economists refer to as "demand destruction" taking place, especially in the US and Europe, as people spend less on oil as the price rises. This can be combined with reports that OPEC members have increased oil production.

The "emerging giants" – China and India – are not actually experiencing the "real" price of oil as their governments subsidize and control retail prices.

This may seem a humane approach and to an extent that is true. But the reality is that it is simply political in nature and sub-market pricing in the longer term encourages higher consumption.

One prominent US economist, Diane Swonk, believes that there is light at the end of the tunnel and the US economy should improve in 2009 and recover thereafter. She did remark, however, that "they" will find another way to "screw up" in the future.

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



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My legs are sore and my arms are tired after spending a long time shopping in my favorite mall. Unfortunately, I forgot that I should wear some kind of sports shoes when shopping instead of the very high heels that I'm in now.

I sneak out of the crowd in the shopping center, looking for a place where I can get some help to release the tension in my body, especially my feet. My eyes turn to a sign of one spa not very far from the shopping mall. Being a spa addict, I tell myself, "Let's try it."

I arrive at Siriwan Spa, which is located in the Royal Place project opposite the Billion Plaza project on Pra Phuket Kaew Rd. I meet Siriwan "Tew" Boontuanpitak, the spa director, who welcomes me with smile and a hot ginger drink.

K. Tew says that earlier this year Siriwan Spa relocated from its previous location on Yaowarat Rd, near the Samkong bridge. With more parking spaces available, she has been able to better accommodate all of her clientele who followed her to the new location.

K. Tew is a true spa lover with many years of experience in the spa business. She tells me that although her spa is not big and luxurious like other spas on the island, she has found that hers is popular among those who want to be pampered in a warm, cozy and private place.

Her care and attention are clear when looking around the spa. Although located in a small building, it is pleasantly decorated, clean and fitted out with quality equipment.

K. Tew tells me that I can choose any kind of body massage, facial massage, aromatherapy massage, foot massage or even a foot-and-hand spa treatment performed by any of the spa's five therapists.

The spa has also launched a new treatment that is already proving popular: a manicure and pedicure with nail art decoration, painting or color polishing.

I look around and see that there are three chairs for foot massage on the ground floor. On

Putting the spring back in your step



In addition to soothing worn-out legs, Siriwan Spa specializes in glamming up nails.

not only relaxed, but also very clean and soft; and my skin looks brighter.

My arms are then given a similar treatment. With the very good care that my feet and hands are given here, I realize just how much I neglect these areas when rushing about in my daily life.

I then have my nails polished with my favorite color. K. Tew says that she chooses high-quality nail products, using the brands EZFlow, ibd Gels and China Glaze, which are popular among professional manicurists.

The total cost of my treatment is 1,650 baht, including 650 baht for my 60-minute aromatherapy and 1,000 baht for my hand-and-foot spa treatment.

Spa membership is available, which offers discounts and other privileges. Currently on promotion: pay 2,800 baht and get 10 Thai or foot massage treatments, plus another two treatments free. Or you can purchase a gift voucher for 4,000 baht and receive treatments worth 5,500 baht.

I consider the membership, which would be well worth it for a spa addict like me, but for now I'll have to leave to show off my new fingertips to my important person.

Siriwan Spa, Royal Place commercial building, 96/47 Pra Phuket Kaew Rd, Kathu. Open daily from 9 am to 10 pm. Tel: 076-612619, 085-0682100. Website: www.siriwanspa.com

the second floor, there are four beds for foot massage and foot reflexology treatment, two beds for Thai massage and two beds for facial massage, while the third floor has two beds for oil massage or aromatherapy.

With the tension I feel in my body, legs and arms, I ask K. Tew how she can help me. She suggests that I should start with a 60-minute aromatherapy massage to relax my body and mind and then finish with the hand-and-foot spa treatment.

I follow my therapist, Pailin "Thip" Phong-ampai, to the third floor of the building. After a 10-minute shower I get on the bed and lay down on my stomach.



**Spa
MAGIC**

By Janyaporn Morel
Cheraim Spa

Khun Thip takes off my robe and starts her massage slowly by ap-

plying my favorite essential oil scent – lavender – onto my body.

The one-hour aromatherapy massage seems to be over in no time and the full-body pampering helps to melt away the pain from my tough shopping day.

I then come down to the ground floor where a therapist who specializes in the hand-and-foot treatment is waiting for me.

Nuengkamol "Natt" Daengkamsarn tells me to sit on a comfortable massage chair and put my feet in a warm bath. She starts the treatment by scrubbing my feet with spa salt, followed by cleansing and massaging treatments in various stages.

When finished, my feet are

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PUZZLES

The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



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



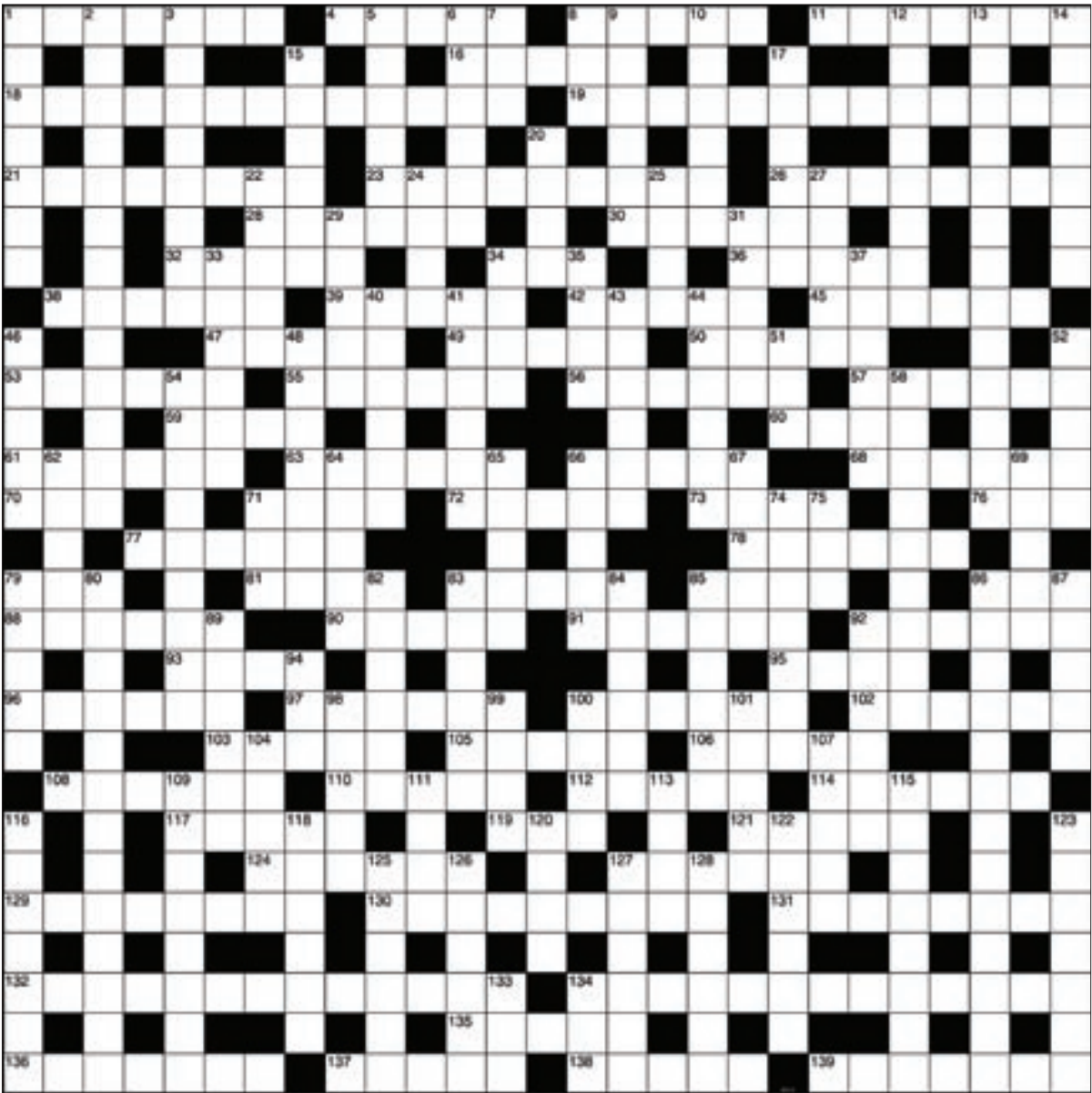
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.



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- Across

1. Party decoration

4. Travels by air

8. Bird homes

11. Vagrant

16. Lethal

18. Government employees (5,8)

19. Moody

21. Inopportune (3-5)

23. Attend to (4,5)

26. By hand

28. Light-bodied beers

30. Procedure

32. Soup-serving spoon

34. China's...Zedong

36. Hush money

38. Melted cheese dip

39. Sample

42. Zest

45. Waffling talker

47. Previous

49. Nitpick, split...

50. Pungent bulb

53. U2 album, *The...Tree*

55. Fired (at) from cover

56. Simpler

57. Chatter

59. Actor, Robert De...

60. Respectfully, on bended...

61. Parks official

63. Gazed lustfully

66. Works at (trade)

68. Most parched

70. Delve

71. Car race city, Le...

72. Precious fur

73. Monitors, keeps... on

76. ...of Galilee

77. Bring into exis-
- tence

78. Rewrite on ma-

79. Antagonism, ...will

81. Office casual

83. Lebanese wood

85. Arum or Madonna flower

86. Poet's word for before

88. Cut first teeth

90. Affirmative votes

91. Humanitarian, Mother...

92. Pester

93. Tibetan monk

95. In comparison to

96. Eels

97. High standards

100. Sewing tool

102. Dwindle

103. Fortune-telling card

105. Take place

106. Kind of duck

108. Andrew Lloyd...

110. Steam bath

112. Rests

114. Sexual drive

117. Eventuated

119. No score

121. Hesitate

124. Indian port

127. Tightened (muscles)

129. Expert shooter

130. Battery pole

131. Recovered

132. Daringly

134. Children's doctor

135. Blackboard stand

136. Elongate

137. Warning

138. Apart (from)

139. Betrothed
- Down

1. Supporting

2. Rail/road intersection (5,8)

3. Petroleum-rich area

5. Legally responsible

6. Electronic payment for goods

7. Anti-terrorist group (1,1,1)

8. ...King Cole

9. Opts

10. Thin candles

12. Drink chillers (3,5)

13. Gossips (6-7)

14. Broadcasted

15. Of weddings

17. Undercoat

20. Long story

22. Church senior

24. Spheres

25. Views speculative-

27. Mexican friend

29. Climb aboard (3,2)

31. Steak cut (1-4)

33. Overseas student nanny (2,4)

34. Honey liquor

35. Cruel man

37. Barred

40. Crops up

41. Common threads

43. Serviceable

44. Lavatory

46. Norwegian inlet

48. Enforce solitude on

51. Aggravate

52. Star, ...Garbo

54. Ethereal

58. Jetliner

62. Gangway

64. Adversary
65. Denmark natives

66. Fold (in skirt)

67. Hindu gowns

69. Burns surface of

71. Floor rug

74. Overdue

75. Pig enclosure

79. Single articles

80. Novice motorist (7,6)

82. Spanish pre-Euro currency unit

83. Sri Lanka's old name

84. Venerate

85. Dull & overcast

86. Listening covertly

87. English county

89. The...Bunny

92. Entertainer, Rolf...

94. LA suburb, Bel...

98. Treated with medicine

99. Peruse

100. Invalid

101. Speaks with impediment

104. Fragrance

107. Avoid (capture)

109. Crib

111. Russia's... Mountains

113. Beaten by tennis serve

115. Alluring

116. Clashing instrument

118. Actress, ...Bullock

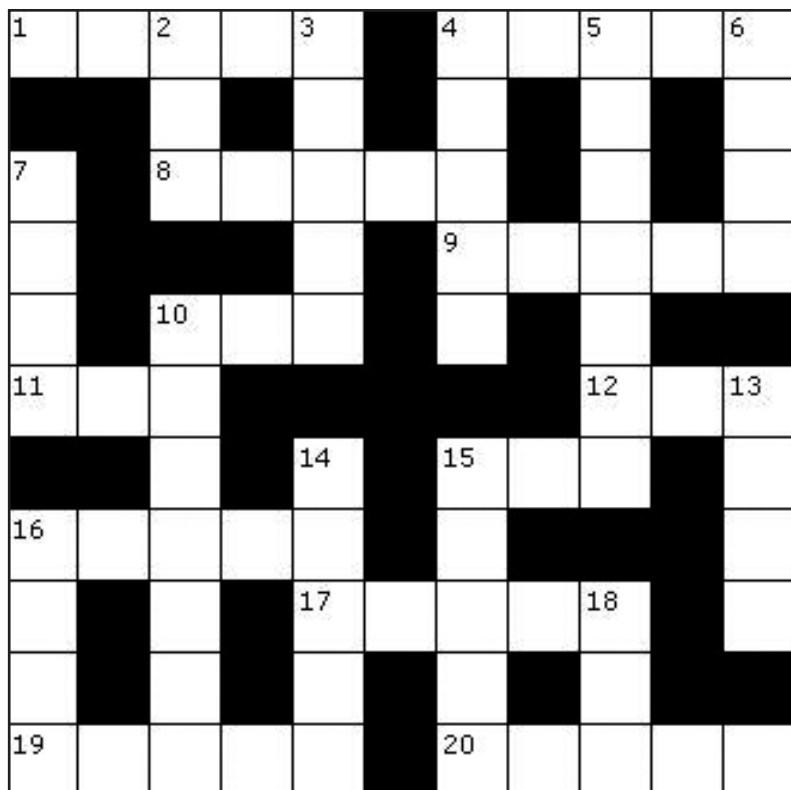
120. Towards the inside of

122. Antenna

123. Dilated

125. Stop for gas

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Correct
4. Intelligent
8. Catwalk star
9. Divide
10. Plaything
11. To and...
12. Container
15. Bruce...
16. Brag
17. Forbidden
19. Emotionless
20. Take it easy

Down

2. Place to work out
3. Furry bear
4. Dance
5. Sports person
6. Dessert
7. Bread
10. In a cigarette
13. Hit
14. Loft
15. Work
16. Person in charge
18. Slick and black

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. Who was the only female athlete at the 1976 Olympics not given a sex test?
2. Who directed the *Lord of The Rings* movie trilogy?
3. Who wears the Fisherman's ring?
4. How many classes of seating were on Concorde flights?
5. In the books by Enid Blyton, what was Noddy's occupation?
6. Which British boxer went 15 rounds with Muhammad Ali?
7. Which Russian city's name means "Rule the East" in Russian?
8. In which series of books does Gringotts Bank encourage young people to save?
9. In which Motown group did Cindy Birdsong replace Florence Ballard?
10. Where can you marvel at the wonders of Registan Square?
11. What do the letters GAA stand for in sport?
12. What floats on top of an Irish coffee?
13. What is the local name for the illicit Irish whiskey (moonshine)?
14. Who took Ethan Hawke on a Training Day in 2004?
15. Alfresco, Big Boy and Alicante are all types of which popular fruit?
16. Which sport uses the lightest ball?
17. Which sport uses the heaviest ball?
18. Which convicted bank robber did Roger Daltrey play on film in 1980?
19. How many bones are there in an elephant's trunk?
20. Which drink company has a black bat

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
The Gazette's quizmaster on July 12 mistakenly labeled Istanbul, not Ankara, as the Turkish capital.

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Princess Anne; 2. Peter Jackson; 3. The Pope; 4. One (there was first class only); 5. Taxi diver; 6. Joe Bugner; 7. Vladivostok; 8. Harry Potter; 9. The Supremes; 10. Samarkand, Uzbekistan; 11. Gaelic Athletic Association; 12. Cream; 13. Poteen; 14. Denzel Washington; 15. Tomato; 16. Table tennis; 17. 10-pin bowling; 18. John McVicar; 19. None; 20. Barcadi.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

B	A	L	L	O	O	N	F	L	I	E	S	N	E	S	T	S	D	R	I	F	T	E	R		
A	E	I		B	I	F	A	T	A	L	A	P	C	I	E										
C	I	V	I	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	S	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	M	E	N	T	A	L
K	E	F	I		B	P	S	C	E	I	C	T	A												
I	L	L	T	I	M	E	D	L	O	O	K	A	F	T	E	R	M	A	N	U	A	L	L	I	
N	C	E	L	A	G	E	R	S	G	S	Y	S	T	E	M	B	E	E							
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Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Peek into a hidden world

A recent newspaper story reported that a high school in Loei has set up a separate bath room for kathoey students – 200 out of an enrollment of 1,200. Two hundred? In Loei?

As in American movies about high school, there are similar factions in Thai schools: the jocks, the brains, the nerds, the cheerleaders. But here you also have the kathoeyes.

There have been several academic studies about kathoeyes. But reading them would be like chewing marbles. A few years ago, a readable account called *The Third Sex* was published. The author followed three friends from high school in Chiang Mai through their respective careers: cabaret performer, prostitute and bank clerk.

Ladyboys casts a wider net. Subtitled "The Secret World of Thailand's Third Gender" (Maverick House, Bangkok, 2008, 291pp), the book presents intimate profiles of nine kathoeyes ranging widely in age and occupation. Authors Susan Aldous (who wrote *The Angel of Bang Kwang Prison*) and Pornchai Sereemongkonpol spent many hours in in-

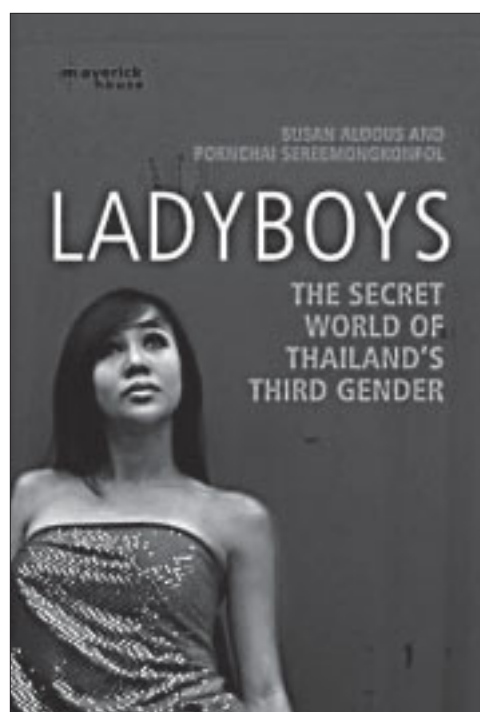
terviews with the nine and have written their stories in the first person. Of their impressions about their interview subjects, they write:

"There were certain outstanding qualities that never ceased to amaze and delight us, and they were the willingness, warmth and openness shown to us by all the ladyboys we met. They often seemed way ahead of their Thai non-transgender counterparts in their ability to openly discuss such sensitive and personal issues.

We were truly humbled to have been admitted onto what felt like sacred ground – the naked and vulnerable hearts of our subjects."

The first is Mali, a Patpong go-go dancer and prostitute. She grew up as a buffalo herder in Isarn, but as her sexual life bloomed, she headed for Bangkok and got a job as a waiter and, eventually, a dancer in a bikini and high heels. "Kathoeyes are like trees that grow wild," she concludes. "I don't know what else lies in store for me, but I'm proud of this: I'm my own gardener, watering, pruning and shaping my own tree – my own life. How could I ask for more?"

On the other end of the social scale, Mimi is a fashion columnist. She grew up



in a supportive Sino-Thai family in Bangkok and graduated from a prestigious university. Her first job was as a translator for a women's magazine and she began taking hormones and dressing as a woman full time. "I know physically what I am, but in my mind I am absolutely female and desire a romantic relationship with a straight man."

Pui is a star performer at Bangkok's

Calypso Cabaret, a profession that demands a great deal of talent, practice and discipline. "Being a part of Calypso is a privilege," she says. "Not only have I learned to be an artist instead of a mere imitator, but I have also gained a family. Here, we help and accept each other."

A sadder case is Lily who has been a Bangkok streetwalker all her life and now at age 60 is still plying her trade hand-to-mouth on Khao San Road.

Unlike the others, Patchara did not become aware of his sexuality young in life. "My story is different to that of the other ladies because my desire to become a woman does not come from within. I regret having my penis removed."

He fell into a relationship with a go-go boy who encouraged his feminization. Under peer pressure from fellow kathoey dancers, Patchara had the operation: "It took two months for my body to recover from the operation, but my mind was a different matter altogether."

Sarah also had a sex change and ran a gay hotel in Pattaya. Nicky became the first transgender air hostess. Nong Toom became famous as "The Beautiful Boxer".

With fame and fortune, however, Nong Toom became disillusioned with her sponging kathoey friends. "In my opinion, ladyboys need to start listening to each other before we can expect others to do so," she said. "We've already been isolated by the first two genders so we need to unite and work together. We have enough obstacles to overcome as it is."

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



Garbage verbiage

In a previous article I asked readers to help me assemble a rogues' gallery of "awful prepackaged sentences" – ones that come up in everyday life and set our teeth on edge, or worse. I expected to receive mainly examples of corporate-speak; I'll come back to these. I was surprised to also get complaints about things individuals say to each other.

"No problem," "Do you have a problem with that?" and similar "problem" sentences were popular targets. And Betty Deter, of Madison, Wisconsin, wrote, "The one I hate is, 'I am doing this [meting out a punishment] for your own good.'"

As it happens, the syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman discussed this phrase in the past year – so why don't I let her describe what's wrong with it?

Goodman wrote, "There are few phrases in the book of parenting that raise more suspicions among the young than the pronouncement that, 'I am doing this for your own good.' It comes in a close second only to the declaration, 'This is going to hurt me more than it will you.'"

As for corporate-speak, the "awful", "awkwardly worded" sentence the largest number of readers sent me is, "Your call will be answered in the order in which it has been received." Kenneth G. Maluchnik, of Lincoln Park, Michigan, commented that other

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



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.

companies "just tell me to hold for the next available assistant" and that this "sounds to me like the same thing".

Good point. Corporate communications departments – are you listening? We like it when you talk to us the way you would talk to someone you know.

Mr Maluchnik was on a

roll. He also wrote, "Crest toothpaste famously bragged, 'Crest has been shown to be an effective decay-preventive dentifrice that can be of significant value when used as directed in a conscientiously applied program of oral hygiene and regular professional care.'"

Whew! They could have just said, 'Crest helps fight tooth decay with regular use and routine dentist visits.'"

I thought I'd ask somebody official why this wording, which Crest still uses on some of its packaging, is so over-the-top. It's accompanied by the seal of approval of the American Dental Association (ADA), which, I quickly discovered, is to blame for the verbiage. Versions of the sentence are the highest praise for commercial products such as toothpaste and mouthwash that the American Dental Association allows to be associated with its name.

An email inquiry to the ADA about why its approval needs to be expressed in such a rococo manner went unanswered. The ADA may not be listening, but

let's hope other organizations are.

Pamela McClennan of Kingston, Ontario, wrote, "When I call Bell Canada, the service reps come on the line and say, 'How may I provide you with excellent service?' This is particularly infuriating because on several occasions recently I have had reason to call them to discuss the abysmal service they provide."

All right, Pamela, that one takes the cake – or, rather, the autographed copy of my book *Your Own Words* I offered to the reader who sent me the worst prepackaged sentence. We can't blame the service reps. They've been told to say that. But could whoever writes those scripts for them please, please stop?

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Meandering bus services needs straightening up

The announcement by Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising that the *OrBorJor* is planning to improve its Green Bus service in and around Phuket City comes as good news for city residents fed up with high fuel costs and the highest taxi fares in Thailand, courtesy of the island's deeply entrenched transport syndicates.

The *OrBorJor* service, which began amid great fanfare with a free trial period on April 1, 2002, has gone through many changes since that time. It started out using 12 leased Mercedes-Benz buses that proved to be mechanically unreliable and far too large for the narrow city streets that make up much of the service's two route systems. These were replaced in the second year by the fleet of 16 green and yellow minibuses that still run the route today.

Other changes in the service have included a series of different operators contracted to run the buses and the terms under which these contracts were offered. Despite all the changes, however, the fundamental problem that has plagued the system since its inception remains the unacceptably long wait between arrivals typically anywhere from five to 30 minutes, but with reports of waiting up to an hour not uncommon.

The mechanical reliability of the buses continues to be a leading cause for these unacceptably long waits, but another big reason is that both routes plied by the buses meander through the city in ways designed to maximize the system's coverage area all at the expense of getting from point A to point B in anything remotely resembling a straight line.

The route that starts from Big C and eventually reaches Phuket Vocational College, for example, can take more than 30 minutes after passing through Samkong and then making a detour up Mae Luan Rd and then back down Wichit Songkhram Rd.

While these circuitous routes conveniently pass many schools, the initial long wait, coupled with ever-worsening traffic congestion, makes it a poor option for students who need to get to class on time.

The idea to monitor the buses for a period using GPS technology and to add songtaews along the same route to cut down on the wait time seems like a good first step in improving the bus service. Hopefully this *OrBorJor* administration will simplify the confusing route system and take the steps needed to give Phuket City the public transport system it needs and deserves before going on to do the same in other parts of the island.

— The Editor

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

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Letters

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

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

It's time for Patong to go green

I read in the *Phuket Gazette* in April that Patong would have a clean-up along the beach road. It's good news and very pleasant for all the tourists in Patong.

Yet today the beach road is simply a big parking place for about 300 tuk-tuks and taxis. The guests in the Phuket Graceland Hotel and other hotels nearby risk their lives every day to cross the beach road, while trucks, minibuses and cars drive at 70 to 100kmh. It's not acceptable.

When cleaning up the beach road you could also start to clean up on the beach and turn it into a "green zone".

Jets-skis are the biggest environmental scoundrel in Thailand. They produce a super-high greenhouse effect.

For example, one hour of driving a jet-ski produces 120 pounds of CO2. One hour of driving a car produces only 30 pounds of CO2. Governments all over the world are trying to stop the greenhouse effect – but not in Patong.

Why? Take some responsibility for Patong's environment. Tourists are not coming to Patong Beach to sit in a smoke-bomb of carcinogenic exhaust fumes from jet-skis. They want to have fresh air and sun.

The small "kings on the beach" who rent out jet-skis, will have no risk of unemployment; tomorrow they can start a new career in the Thai building industry.

Thai building firms are looking every day for Thai workers – not only for Burmese.

You have to clean up Patong Beach and the Patong roads now.

Make Patong "green" and the "quality tourists" will come back.
Ronaldo Vichera MS.c
Milan, Italy

Keep on dancing

In an attempt to keep on dancing, I went down to Patong on Saturday night to give a little love to the nightlife down there.

I met a girl named Manana in one of the local girly bars – nothing out of the ordinary there. We were chatting away and then out of nowhere she said, "I want you to love me like I love you." The bar seemed to go silent.

Don't stop the music now, I thought to myself, so I told the girl, "I'd like to give a little love to you, but my wife, Mary Anne, is at home with the children."

"Don't worry, baby," said the buxom girl. By this point, I understood that it's a game and that yesterday's hero is tomorrow's loser.

If you ain't got no money, honey, then you're just another washed-up summerlove sensation.

I felt as if all of the world was falling in love, so I moved onto another bar.

You get nothing if you don't have dedication. At this point, the heavens opened and it felt just like another rainy day in New York City.

I longed to be back there to turn on the radio. Life on the radio is so much simpler than in reality – there's no doubt about it – but when you find out that your piece of the action is nothing but a stranger in the wind, you start to feel as if wishing once upon a star might be the only way out.

If you ever feel like this, wouldn't you like it better some-

place else, where you don't feel as if you are trapped in an elevator?

Terry
Phuket City

Watching cars go by

On any given day, try and watch the traffic on any of the major roads in Phuket. In this example, I will use Thepkasattri Rd, near Boat Lagoon.

In the space of 10 minutes, from 5:20 pm to 5:30 pm on August 8, I counted 23 motorcycles riding the wrong way on a three-lane, one-way street – the side of the road that leads towards Phuket City. Out of these 23 riders, 17 were not wearing helmets.

Another 47 motorcyclists heading the right way towards Phuket City were not wearing helmets. I also counted a total of seven motorcycles with illegal sidecars passing by.

When the police are out to regulate traffic at the hazardous U-turns along Thepkasattri Rd, they let all of these motorcyclists through without even a comment. If the police made any effort whatsoever in pursuing these offenders, the fines would pay for the extra police it would take to enforce traffic laws, thus making the roads a bit safer.

Why is it that this can be done in Bangkok but not in Phuket?

Peter
Phuket

Who is this guy?

Why is everyone so excited about the arrival of Rolf Harris? I mean, who the hell is this guy? Maybe it's a British thing like Marmite.

Billy Badger
Rawai

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

The negotiator

My job is to ensure that section 39 of the Consumer Protection Act is adhered to. This part of the act is to help people who have bought something or entered into a purchase agreement and believe they have been treated unfairly or not received the services or goods they were promised.

We help individuals and groups seek justice if they believe they have not received the services or goods they are entitled to or have been promised in advertising.

When consumers have been mistreated and they wish to file a case against a retailer or service provider our officers can help appoint a public prosecutor who will fight their case in court. The service is free and complainants are not asked to pay court fees no matter who wins the case.

About 90% of the complaints brought to me are issues about property purchase, followed by complaints about products, retailers and services. I also have to deal with issues concerning electronic contracts and advertising.

Property issues can be anything from a developer not informing the public of construction work start and finish dates to volatile land disputes. With those kinds of disputes we primarily focus on negotiation to achieve a compromise or reconciliation between the parties involved, otherwise, they have to wait a very long time for a verdict from the board if a case is filed.

If an issue can't be resolved through negotiations, then the case has to be submitted to the 23 committees that make up the

FIRST PERSON

When he's not negotiating a peaceful end to warring factions in the cruel commercial world, smooth-talking Passakorn Tanthong, officer of the Phuket provincial branch of the Consumer Protection Board (SorkorBor), is out on billboard patrol and inspections. He said he would rather see both sides go away happy than go through the grief of court cases. Here, he tells the *Gazette* why.



central unit of the Consumer Protection Board (CPB), which is in Bangkok.

As a provincial unit, we don't have the authority to pass judgment on cases brought to us by consumers. Cases are not filed with us. We file cases on behalf of consumers and we have to file them in Bangkok. If a case is filed in Bangkok, all we can do is collect all the evidence here and present it to the committees in Bangkok.

In my first five years here, I only saw one property-dispute case go through this lengthy process. It was not until two-and-a-half years after the case had been submitted that Bangkok finally responded just to say that they had accepted the case. By this time the complainants had already

passed away.

Imagine what it would be like if every single complaint was sent to Bangkok, where there are only 44 qualified officers on duty and 280 temporary staff.

Part of my job is to get out of the office and inspect places such as construction sites, business premises, car-repair shops and retail outlets, plus we have to check the content of advertising on billboards. We have to plan the inspections with the relevant government organizations, of which there are many, so we are limited in the number of inspections we can carry out at a time.

In 2006 we dealt with 49 consumer complaints. Most of them were about bad service, broken contracts and problems with direct sales. We managed to help

resolve 47 of those cases and two were submitted to the committees in Bangkok. In that year, a total of 2,661,461 baht was returned to consumers who had filed complaints with us.

Since 2007, we have handled 38 consumer complaints and managed to help resolve 26 of those cases. One of those issues is still being worked out between the negotiating parties and two of the cases have been handed over to the appropriate boards to be investigated. Just over 2 million baht has been returned to complainants this quarter.

Our provincial office is understaffed. There is only one officer assigned to handle land disputes but there should be at least three officers in that department.

Foreigners sometimes come to us after buying something, such as an Mp3 player, that they thought was genuine only to later discover that it's a replica. In cases like that I talk with the vendor and the customer usually gets his money back. Those kind of negotiations are usually quick but sometimes it can take months for parties to come to an agreement by themselves.

Our work is always appreciated and we're told we are angels when complainants get their way, but when we can't help them, we are called "useless" and asked why we can't do our jobs properly.

All the issues we deal with can be resolved with a bit of give and take on both sides and it's our job to help everybody feel as if they've gained something from negotiations; it's just about knowing what each side wants and what will make them happy.

I don't recommend filing civil cases because they can take years to be processed and the

parties lose their power to negotiate. It wastes everybody's time. Finding a compromise is better.

The most difficult issue we have to deal with is when housing estates are planned, sold and built on land that has not been properly registered. New home owners often find they don't get everything they were promised when they first bought their house because the developer has made changes since then.

This happens because many properties are sold off the plan before building permission has been given by the land department for a housing estate to be built there.

Complainants can present misleading advertising as evidence if it shows that what they have ended up with is not what they were promised in the brochures and on the billboards.

Loan agreements for car payments can lead to all sorts of problems. Money-lending companies have the right to reclaim a car if repayments of the loan haven't been made for three months. These days – because of pressure from the Consumer Protection board – the company has to send a warning letter first. They used to be able to take your car without any warning.

In such cases, there's little we can do to help whoever is paying for the car, except recommend a more convenient repayment program.

Issues about mobile phones and the promotions that come with them are a constant source of consumer complaints, which usually occur when people buy phones from unlicensed dealers, who are not able to support the promotions advertised.

We received five mobile-phone related complaints last month and we've had four more so far this month.

If consumers come to me with a complaint and they have a lawyer with them, I will not discuss anything as it would give the lawyer an unfair advantage and he would be able to make more money out of the situation. This would be against our reconciling system of balancing policy.

For certain issues, people should file complaints directly with the offices that deal with them, such as the Provincial Public Health Authority for medical-treatment issues; the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office for product pricing disputes and the Industrial Office for issues about car repairs.

The Phuket branch of the Consumer Protection Board is in Room 5 on the second floor of Phuket Provincial City Hall.

– Compiled by
Semacote Suganya

What's up with that building?

On the short stretch between Nanai Rd and Jungceylon there is an unfinished building blocking half of the road. This causes traffic jams. There has not been any work done on the building for many months.

How come someone started to build there on a road that is being developed? And how come the unfinished building is still standing? What is going to be done?

Mr Westgard
Kathu

Phunsak Naksena, Patong City Clerk, replies:

That building was legally built about a year ago on private

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

land. The road you are talking about is actually not a public road, but a private road that is used by several businesses there.

The road was recently paved with concrete after funding was provided by the businesses, who also donated small sections of their land for the road to be laid.

The building in question is belongs to the one business that didn't donate part of its land to the road, which the owner is perfectly within his rights to do. I don't know why the building still hasn't been finished, but I expect the construction work to start again when the economy improves.

On the long and winding road to court

An international investor, Mr A, came to Phuket on holiday and saw opportunities to invest in property on the island. He had a Thai friend, Mr B, who also had his own company in the property business. The two investors agreed to form a joint venture to buy some properties that they could develop together.

To do this, they agreed to register a new company so they could ensure that everything was done correctly and legally. Mr B was the active party in the joint venture with 51% of the shares in the new company.

However, before the company registration had been completed, there was a change in the concept of their joint venture. They decided to purchase properties together, but not through the company they both held

shares in. Instead, they bought properties by dividing the cost equally between their two existing companies.

At this point, Mr B decided he did not want to be part of the new joint venture anymore, so he signed his shares – and those of the other shareholders – over to Mr A, who then had to look for a new Thai investor to take on Mr B's old shares as Mr A could not hold those shares himself.

Until Mr A could find a new investor to buy Mr B's old shares, those shares remained registered with the Ministry of Commerce as Mr B's shares. Mr A was left

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

with little time to find another Thai investor, but eventually found one and went about transferring

Mr B's old shares to the new investor and amended the share register.

By this time, the relationship between Mr A and Mr B had soured and upon learning that his old shares had been transferred to a new investor, Mr B made the claim that he and the other former shareholders had been illegally taken off the share register of his company.

Mr B filed charges against Mr A with the criminal court, claiming theft of shares by Mr A.

The court made an appointment with Mr A and the other shareholders to decide if there was sufficient evidence for the

court to accept the case. After hearing from witnesses, the court decided to dismiss the claim on the basis that because the shares were not physical documents, it was not possible to steal them.

Mr B then tried a different approach. Using the share transfer documents as evidence, he filed charges against Mr A for misappropriation of shares.

The court again dismissed the case, stating that Mr A had done nothing illegal and had correctly executed share transfer.

The lesson to learn from this is that filing a criminal or civil case is a long, drawn-out process. Even before a case is accepted or dismissed by the court, the court has to hear from all witnesses and look at all the evidence presented before a decision can be made.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Time to have more fun, Leo

LEO (July 24-August 22): Those of you who will celebrate a birthday this week should appreciate the range of opportunities available during the year ahead. Your zest for life will be satisfied this week; the emphasis lies strongly on having fun and meeting more like-minded people. Romance also glows under these auspicious astral conditions. Another fire sign is predicted to blow your hair back this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your patience comes in useful this week as delays are due. These will mostly affect work-related appointments, but crossed wires can be avoided due to careful planning. Wednesday could be a particularly trying day as someone born under an air sign is forecast to forget an important appointment. Where love is concerned, a newly formed relationship benefits from an honest discussion this weekend. The number 6 can bring some luck this Saturday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The final two weeks of August should bring improvement to your financial situation. A debt is forecast to be repaid and there are signs that a salary increase is imminent. Your spendthrift inclinations will be easily controlled when someone proposes an exciting trip for later in the year. Opening a savings account could be the ideal way to prepare for this holiday. Wearing the color hot pink can enhance your attraction.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those of you who have been suffering from stress during the first half of August will be grateful for a calmer countenance this week. Personal problems are forecast to ease and your energy levels begin to rise. However, it would not be advisable to accept extra commitments until September. Thursday is the best day for asking a close friend for a favor, but don't push your luck. Wearing the color aub-

Your zest for life will be satisfied this week; the emphasis lies strongly on having fun and meeting more like-minded people.

ergine can encourage better balanced emotions.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The stars predict that many of you will be affected by others' lack of responsibility this week. You will need to make it clear that there is a limit to your generosity before the situation really gets out of hand. Gemini has begun to notice your presence and could make their intentions known this weekend. Where finances are concerned, a discrepancy is likely to arise mid-week. Wearing the color silver gray can encourage sharper observation.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Most of you will be content to skip around in familiar pastures this week, but friends probably have more challenging plans. Be open to their ideas as an outing on Saturday could prove that the grass is greener on the other side. Someone born under the sign of Pisces is interested in getting to know you better; Tuesday is the most auspicious day for a date. The number 5 can be lucky this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Business affairs will proceed smoothly as long as you do

things in the right order. Getting ahead of yourself is sure to result in disappointment. The social scene is set to glow this weekend and you will enjoy being on the receiving end of complements. Someone born under the sign of Taurus is particularly impressed, but won't wait for too long to be noticed. Wearing the color buttercup yellow can encourage patience.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Those of you who have been pretending you have what it takes to impress others could come down to earth with a bump this week. Honesty is the only viable policy where new work possibilities are concerned and promoting your true talents will guarantee success. The stars suggest that a change of career should take place next month. Virgo would like to include you in their romantic plans, but it's likely your heart lies elsewhere.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You aren't normally recognized for your shyness, but an alluring air sign could cause you to be tongue-tied this week. In the world of finance, it seems that you have been expecting too much too soon. Be prepared to build slowly on firm foundations and rewards

will follow. Your relaxation could be disrupted by a friend's request for assistance this weekend – being too helpful could lead to cause for regret.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those of you stuck in the mud should be stimulated by a meeting with a water sign this week. Your creative spirit is in need of a boost and this person should help you to see that your talents are true. In the world of romance, an established relationship is put to the test when your partner receives an offer of work elsewhere. Monday is the best day for a heart to heart discussion.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): The answer to a financial mystery becomes clear this week. Those of you who have begun to suspect someone's motives will be reassured by what you discover. Trust is forecast to be strengthened. Personal affairs shine under auspicious astral conditions and commitment is highlighted. Wednesday is the best day for applying for a new job. Wear the color hibiscus red to encourage the right amount of confidence.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you're tired of being viewed as salt of the earth, the stars are ready to back your efforts to become more exciting. Those of you who aren't sure whether to proceed with a romantic situation will see a green light. Money matters will improve during the second half of August, but a high level of productivity needs to be maintained. The number 8 can bring good fortune this weekend.



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Greetings from Low Yat Plaza, Kuala Lumpur. I just spent a couple of hours getting malled at Malaysia's premiere computer center and found a few things that may interest you.

Permit me to start with the boring stuff. Kuala Lumpur's selection of computers, accessories and the like isn't much different from Bangkok's. With three notable exceptions, I didn't see anything in Low Yat, Kuala Lumpur, that I couldn't find in Panthip Plaza, Bangkok.

Prices are roughly the same on everything I compared, although iPods in Low Yat seem to run 1,000 baht or so less than in Phuket. There's less reason than ever to fly to Kuala Lumpur to buy electronics – unless you want to indulge in the 20-baht-or-so difference in, ahem, pre-recorded CDs and DVDs. KL still has the edge in pirate movies and software.

The three items on offer in KL that we can't yet get in Thailand, though, are real stunners.

You remember how I've been talking about HSPA and its close cousin, HSDPA? I mentioned the new wireless broadband technology in my columns on May 23 (tinyurl.com/5fecko) and July 25 (tinyurl.com/6bwnd5).

While Thailand is floundering in a regulatory vacuum that makes it impossible for any of the telephone companies to build an HSPA or HSPDA network, Malaysia has charged ahead. Right now, for the handsome price of 990 baht a month, anybody in Kuala Lumpur can get a wireless Internet connection rated at 3.6Mbps download speed – and that price includes the hardware modem ("air card"), too.

Both Maxis Broadband and Comcel are competing fiercely for customers in KL.

The HSDPA network doesn't yet extend outside the city, but if you happen to be in a location that doesn't have an adequate HSDPA signal, the HSDPA modem automatically falls back to EDGE/GPRS.

At least, that's what the brochures say. I decided to put Comcel to the test. I borrowed a notebook running Vista Home Premium and the standard 990-baht monthly Comcel service and pointed the browser at the Speedtest site we've been using here in Phuket for almost a year. (You can test your own system and compare your speeds with other people on the island by going to www.live-access.com/PhuketInternet.aspx).

The real-world result: Comcel's wireless service in Kuala Lumpur is as good as the fastest wired Internet lines in Phuket six months ago. I saw solid 1.4Mbps download speeds on multiple tests to San Francisco.

That's both good news and bad news. The good news is that Kuala Lumpur's HSDPA runs twice as fast as the fastest wireless service in Phuket (CAT's EV-DO). But at the same time,

Phuket versus Kuala Lumpur

Comcel is so over-subscribed at the moment that it runs at one-third of its rated speed.

HSDPA service has only been available for a couple of weeks. Both companies are getting swamped with customers. The same thing will happen here, mark my words.

I was surprised to see how the HSDPA competition in Malaysia reacted. Look at it this way: If you work for a phone company in Kuala Lumpur selling GPRS or EDGE technology – stuff that runs maybe one tenth as fast as HSDPA – what do you do? Why, you market, of course.

The also-rans in KL's online speed competition are pushing reams of glossy brochures, running TV and radio ads, and putting pretty ladies in malls, trying to convince potential customers that their dead-end technology cuts the mustard. It doesn't.

The people pushing GPRS and EDGE in Malaysia talk about "4G" technology, which must obviously be better than the "3G" HSDPA. Popycock. No doubt we'll see the same mindless marketing drivel in Phuket, if the Thai government ever gets its regulatory act together so we can catch up with KL.

I won't hold my breath. There's a lot of money at stake

and plenty of politicians in the middle. By the time we have HSDPA, I bet

Thailand will be playing catch-up with such technological powerhouses as Cambodia and Vietnam – both of which already have HSDPA frequencies assigned – and maybe even Laos and Myanmar.

The other two surprising discoveries in KL were both ultra-portable computers, a horse of an entirely different color.

Many of you know about the ASUS EEE – the very small, very light computer that uses an SD card (like the kind you may have in your camera) in place of a hard drive. EEEs have taken the world by storm, particularly among people who need a lightweight laptop, in all senses of the



MSI's new Wind Notebook will appeal to anyone who wants a small, ultra-portable computer that can run Linux or Windows. Standard equipment includes 1GB of memory and an 80GB hard drive. But you can't find one in Thailand – yet.

word. Even Microsoft is getting in on the act, offering special dispensation for Windows XP to companies selling ultra-portables.

Microsoft officially discontinued sales of Windows XP a couple of months ago. While it's true that you can get Windows XP installed on a (very limited) number of new computers – Dell offers several – you actually have to buy two operating system licenses: one for Windows XP and one for Vista.

While you pay for both, Microsoft allows just a handful of companies to sell just a handful of new PCs with Windows XP pre-installed.

Except Microsoft made an exception for ultra-portables. Why? Because these tiny PCs won't run Vista and Microsoft didn't want to voluntarily give up the ultra-portable market to Linux. Thus, most ultra-portable ma-

chines are now being offered with a choice of Linux or (for about 500 baht more) Windows XP Home.

While at Low Yat Plaza, I had an opportunity to actually touch a new ASUS EEE 1000, the latest and greatest – and at 21,000 baht or so, by far the most expensive – addition to the EEE

line. The new 10-inch screen and considerably larger keyboard make a big difference. You can't find EEE 1000s many places in the world just yet, but one dealer had them in Kuala Lumpur.

The real eye-opener in Low Yat, for me, was the new MSI Wind Notebook. It's an ultra-portable, too, with a nine-inch screen, but it ships with a real 80GB hard drive. I also like the MSI keyboard better than the 10-inch EEE.

If the name "MSI" sounds familiar, it's because it is best known as a manufacturer of motherboards and other under-the-cover hardware. The Wind Notebook represents MSI's first assault on the main consumer market – and you can't find one in Thailand just yet.

In my opinion, MSI has a winner: I plunked down 17,000 baht and brought one home, complete with SuSE Linux, OpenOffice and 2 GB of main memory. Yes, you read that right; I'm using Linux now, at least while traveling.

When I have more experience with Linux (and Firefox running on Linux) I'll give you a complete rundown. For now, suffice it to say that with the sole exception of Outlook (which I hate, and love to hate), I've found the tiny, nimble MSI Wind to be a tremendous traveling companion.

Woody (www.askwoody.com) has written several dozen computer books, including a bunch "For Dummies". He's also a Contributing Editor at Windows Secrets Newsletter, a Microsoft MVP and a bagel fanatic.

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PC Group Therapy. Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On August 17, 24 and 31, the PC group convenes at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one kilometer north of Chalong Circle next to Wine Connection. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at www.khunwoody.com

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Chonlatarn on the prowl for title fight

By Scott Mallon

One Songchai Promotions has been desperately trying to make a world title fight between WBA world champion Chris John of Indonesia (41-0-1, 22 KOs) and their own fighter, Chonlatarn Piryapinyo (26-0, 13 KOs). Unfortunately, events surrounding John's last bout may delay the bout or nix it altogether.

Chonlatarn has been patiently biding his time, slowly moving up in the world rankings. Currently ranked third by the World Boxing Council (WBC), and eighth by the World Boxing Association (WBA), Chonlatarn and his camp feel he is ready to challenge for the title.

Whether or not the challenge comes off depends on whether John remains champion. John had been scheduled to face Jackson Asiku (22-3, 12 KOs), an Australian-based Ugandan who is currently the British Commonwealth champion.

However, the promoter failed to come up with the necessary funds, forcing a last-minute cancellation. This is not the first time this has happened; in fact, on at least two other occasions Indonesian promoters



New WBA world champion Chris John is hoisted upon the shoulders of his entourage.

have failed to meet their payment deadlines.

When the fight failed to come off, a rumor spread that the WBA had stripped John of his title. Exactly why is unclear, but one source claimed it was because John did not make weight. There was no official weigh-in however, so this seems unlikely, but the WBA will meet later this month to determine the fighter's status.

If John remains champion,

he will first face mandatory challenger Hiroyuki Enoki (27-0, 19 KOs) of Japan. The two have a contracted date of October 4, leaving little time for a proposed bout with Chonlatarn on December 5, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday. John, who fights an average of three times per year, typically needs six to eight weeks to prepare. The Enoki bout would leave him little time to rest if he were to win and then take on Chonlatarn.

In the last six years, John has rattled off a string of impressive victories: Ratanachai Sor Vorapin, Oscar Leon, Osamu Sato, Derrick Gainer, Tommy Browne, Jose Rojas (twice) and, of course, Juan Manuel Marquez.

John is Indonesia's champion and superstar, a cultural icon paralleling Manny Pacquiao. The only difference is that boxing fans worldwide recognize

Pacquiao, while John remains practically unknown outside his home country. Those who do know him certainly remember his controversial win over Juan Manuel Marquez.

If Chonlatarn were to defeat the Indonesian, it would be a huge upset and would bring much-needed attention to Thailand's flagging boxing scene.

The Indonesian press is acutely aware of the importance of John. When he fights, TV ratings skyrocket, newspaper and magazine sales increase dramatically and the entire country reorganizes its schedule.

"I've never seen anything like it," said John's manager, Craig Christian. "Indonesians want to know everything about him. They're very proud of him – and he is proud to fight for his country. He does not want to lose the title," he emphasized. "If he ever lost the title, he'd be more upset at disappointing his Indonesian fans than himself."

TV stars, singers, models, politicians and other boxers not only attend his fights, but also turn up at his press conferences. From housewives to factory workers to government officials – 250 million Indonesians know Chris John. What is perhaps even more startling is that in a predominantly-Muslim country, a Catholic boxer is the most popular sports figure in the country.

The *Gazette* first got a hint of John's popularity at the Balikpapan Airport in East Borneo, three days before his March 2006 title defense against Juan Manuel Marquez. While paying for the necessary entrance visa, the Immigration officer asked the purpose of the visit.

Boxing shorts

World title challenger Terdsak Jandaeng (30-3-1, 20 KOs) of Thailand just can't get a break and has become the epitome of the phrase "close but no cigar". He has challenged unsuccessfully for world titles on three occasions and his never-say-die ring attitude nearly prevailed in two of those fights.

When he traveled to Zamboanga City in the Philippines on July 27 to face undefeated Filipino prospect Eric Canoy (7-0-1, 5 KOs) in a bid for Canoy's lightly regarded WBO Oriental featherweight title, he went into the bout as the favorite.

However, once again, denial slapped Terdsak hard across the face. After a close opening three rounds, a headbutt between the two fighters caused a nasty gash to the eye of Canoy, prompting referee Bruce McTavish to stop the fight.

Under WBO rules, a bout stopped before the completion of round four can only result in a technical draw. Canoy retained his title and Terdsak came home to Thailand empty handed.

Also on the card, Samransak Singmanassak won a six-round decision over Felix Tanamor and Narindech Kokietgym dropped an eight-round decision to Federico Catubay.

"To cover the Chris John fight."

"Oh," he said with a smile. "Chris John – the boxer. Are you a journalist?"

"Yes."

"Please sir, come with me," he said, grinning. Seconds later, we bypassed the lengthy queue and cleared Immigration.

In 2002, John took a major step in his development when he faced 53-fight Ratanachai Sor Vorapin of Thailand. Wary of the Thai's reputation and power, John fought tentatively. He eked out a decision win, but the victory was less than satisfying.

"I admit I was nervous before the bout," said John. "It was an important fight and he was very experienced. I didn't perform my best because my conditioning was less than optimal, but fortunately I won the bout."

When the WBA bumped Juan Manuel Marquez from regular champion to super champion, John was automatically elevated from interim champion to regular champion. The Indonesian press was unforgiving, however, referring to him as a paper champion. John responded with typical humility, saying, "It's all right they're calling me a paper champion. I must work harder."

More than two years after defeating Juan Manuel Marquez, the debate among fans over who actually won the bout continues. Some say it was close and could have gone either way, some say Marquez was robbed and others think John outboxed the Mexican.

John, however, doesn't mince words. "The Marquez fight was definitely my toughest fight, but I think the decision was fair. He can say what he wants, but I beat him."

Chris John could have easily followed the same path as the majority of Indonesian boxers, fighting for next to nothing in relative obscurity, but he has capitalized on his opportunities and never looked back.

Chonlatarn Piryapinyo can only wait and hope he gets his shot at the world title. That's only the first step. He'll need to wrest the title from the champion if it is to make a name for himself worldwide.

Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based boxing writer and freelance journalist. He is a member of Ring Magazine's ratings advisory panel. He can be emailed at shm1962@gmail.com

PATONG POOL LEAGUE

League standings after August 10

	Team	Pld	Won	Lost	Beer	Pts
1	Offshore Bar	13	9	4	22	92
2	Anchor Bar	13	9	4	16	89
3	Black Dragon	13	8	5	14	80
4	Frog Club	13	8	5	16	80
5	Shakers	13	9	4	18	79
6	Montes	13	7	6	14	76
7	Thunder Bar	13	4	9	12	69
8	Skylight II	13	7	6	8	65
9	Kata Spa Club	13	3	10	8	54
10	No Name Bar	13	1	12	2	31

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

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Junior League set for weekend kickoff

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) will launch the second annual *OrBorJor* Junior Football League on August 16.

Over the next five weeks, play will take place at Surakul Stadium, Sanaam Chai, the pitch in front of Kathu District Office, Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School, Phuket Wittayalai School, Phuket Rajabhat University and Wichit Municipality Office.

Matches will be played daily at 4 pm and will finish on September 24. Eight local schools have selected teams of players from 14 to 18 years old who will compete for glory.

The opening ceremony will take place on August 16 at Surakul Stadium, with the first match set to kick off at 2 pm the following day. Last year's champions Kathuwittaya School will play in the second match of the day at 4 pm against Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School.

First prize in the tournament is 30,000 baht, with 20,000 baht for the runner-up and 10,000 baht for third place.

Phuket youth scoops gold at amateur boxing finals

BANGKOK: As the whole world watches the exciting boxing competition at the Beijing Olympics, perhaps the next generation of Thailand's best amateur boxers will have a representative from Phuket. Five Phuket youths won medals, including one gold, at the Thailand National Youth Amateur Boxing competition held at The Mall Ngamwongwan in Nonthaburi last month.

The gold-medal winner was Suppanat Pongrai, who competed in the boys' 14-16 welterweight (64kg) division, winning the final



Suppanat Pongrai poses after his victory.
Photo courtesy of Surakit Gym.

when the referee automatically stopped the bout in the second round after he had built up an

unassailable 15-point lead over his competitor from Srisaket.

Taking bronze were Somsak Kubkokkruod (14-16-year-old lightweights), Tassayu Boonsop (17-18-year-old featherweights), Jakpet Papakang (17-18-year-old light welterweights) and Pinyo Kadamduan (17-18-year-old middleweights).

The team is trained by Savirin "Masyter Jay" Pinkaew of Surakit Gym and supported by the West Sands Mai Khao Beach project, whose general manager, Joseph Mercer, attended the event.

Stars of the future



About 3,000 students from Phuket Wittayalai School took part in the school's annual sports days from August 5 to 8 at Surakul Stadium. Athletes competed in volleyball, football, basketball and table tennis. *OrBorJor* Vice-President Soratham Chinda was present for the opening ceremony.

Patong Darts League

PATONG: With half of the season played, Piccadilly remains the only undefeated side after a surprise 7-3 road win at defending champions Queen Mary.

In other matches, Offshore took care of Market Bar 8-2 to join Piccadilly at the top of the standings.

Send match notes to darts@phuketgazette.net

August 5 results: Queen Mary 3 Piccadilly* 6; Offshore* 7 Market Bar 2; Sick Buffalo* 9 Dogs Bollocks 0 (forfeit); Shakers 4 Beach House* 5; Hilltop 5 Simply Red* 4 (Celtic = bye) (*winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1.= Piccadilly, Offshore (63 points.); 3. Queen Mary (62); 4. Market Bar (58); 5. Sick Buffalo (55); 6. Shakers (50); 7. Beach House (48); 8. Dogs Bollocks (42); 9. Celtic (38); 10. Hilltop (37); 11. Simply Red (34).

August 19 match-ups: Queen Mary vs Hilltop; Celtic vs Piccadilly; Offshore vs Beach House; Sick Buffalo vs Simply Red; Dogs Bollocks vs Shakers; Market Bar bye (home team first).

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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

New police headquarters on verge of completion

PHUKET CITY: The new Phuket Provincial Police Office building currently under construction on Yaowarat Rd opposite the old police office building, is now about 90% complete and should be ready in time for a grand opening ceremony on October 13 – National Police Day.

Due to expansion of the police force, the new three-story office building will replace the 40-year-old building currently in use.

Pol Maj Chaturong Laddayam, inspector of general staff of Phuket Provincial Police Office, told the *Gazette* that construction of the new office is being carried out by Anda Phuket Construction Co Ltd at a cost of 21.4 million baht.

“Work should be all wrapped up by September 6, as was agreed in the original contract,” he added.

The new building sits on a three-rai plot near the Forensic Science building and has been funded by the Royal Thai Police. The building measures 41 by 15 meters, making for about 1,800 square meters of total floor space.

On the first floor there will be offices of administration, accountancy and general staff. The Phuket Provincial Police Commander and Deputy Commander’s offices will be on the second floor along with the Policy and Plan division and a meeting room large enough to accommodate 60 people.



The third floor will be the new home of the investigation section, operation center, the IT section and a smaller meeting room with capacity for 30 seats.

The building will be in the shape of an upside-down T, with extended areas on the first two stories.

Although the building work is almost finished, a schedule for transferring staff from the old

office to the new one has yet to be set.

“The budget will only cover the building structure and 10 air-conditioning units, so we will need additional funding for the interior decoration and office materials. We are unable to transfer our materials from the old building to the new one,” he said.

“We have to raise the money from local administrations and

the private sector. We have already found one company that has donated a fence. We will move all sections into the new building when we are ready, but this could be some time after the construction work is actually finished,” he added.

The current police building is set to be used as an additional office for the crime suppression and investigation teams.

The new Phuket Provincial Police Office building should be ready in time for a grand opening on October 13, but staff may have to wait a little longer before they can begin work in the new structure.

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Home of the Week

Kata

Sit back, relax and enjoy the view

This week's featured home, a two-bedroom suite on the upper floor of a two-story condominium unit, takes full advantage of spectacular sea views across Kata Beach.

Floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding glass doors, which allow natural light to gush through the home, lead to a spacious balcony that faces the sea.

The apartment has a large living room and Western kitchen complete with a breakfast bar for four people. Stainless steel appliances are complemented by counter tops in quality granite.

From the living area and kitchen is a wide balcony with sun loungers and a table for four – the perfect place to enjoy Phuket's famous west coast sunsets during an al fresco dinner. Both bedrooms are large and have bathrooms en suite with modern designer fixtures and bathtubs.

There is also a private study next to the second bedroom, which could easily be used as a family room or play room. Air conditioning, three-phase electricity with earthed wiring to all outlets, cable TV and ADSL Internet are all installed. As the condo is actually two units combined, there is parking space for two cars.

For a peaceful life, this home is located on a quiet street with no through traffic.

Brand new and just completed, the apartment is currently available leasehold for 15 million baht. Semi-detached with no adjoining walls, it is the only unit of its type in this new complex, which will have a community pool by the end of the year.

For further details, contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com



Main picture: Large windows span the length of this upper-floor condo, offering supreme sea views. Right: The kitchen is decked out with snazzy appliances and spacious storage and work areas.



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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

If you're the kind of person who likes to inspire a reaction from visitors to your home, why not try having a life-size sailfish head bursting through your living room wall?

No matter whether your friends think it's totally tacky or wonderfully wild to have fiberglass marine creatures suspended from your ceiling, poking through walls and floating over bookshelves, a brightly colored tuna suspended in an action pose is definitely going to be a talking point.

From a distance, these replica marine animals look like the real thing; only on closer inspection do you realize that they have been crafted from fiberglass and expertly painted to look as if they just jumped out of the sea and onto your living-room furniture.

The collection of crafted sea creatures in the Chalong workshop and museum of Marine Life Phuket includes manta rays, leopard sharks, blue marlin, barracudas and groupers.

The replicas are either hung from the ceiling, mounted on the walls, set in shields like trophies or they simply stand alone, ready to be placed on a counter top or shelf.

The idea of creating these replicas came about when an Australian sportfishing enthusiast – the late Ian Pike, who is a bit of a sportfishing legend Down Under – began encouraging other sportfishing enthusiasts to embrace a more eco-friendly way of displaying their trophy fish.

The usual practice among sportfishing enthusiasts who have caught a whopper and wanted permanent proof of their catch is to have the fish stuffed and mounted.

Ian Pike is credited with convincing hardcore sportfishing traditionalists to release their prize catches instead of killing them so they could be mounted.

The reason for Ian's success in converting the traditionalists was his ability to make life-like models of any fish, allowing replicas to replace the real ones and bask in a fighting pose of eternal glory – or about five years' worth if you keep them out in the sun.

Marine Life Phuket does a steady trade year-round but a lot more sanding and painting goes on at the workshop in November when Phuket hosts a number of fishing tournaments. Many of the competitors order replicas of the fish that they catch, which they have to release anyway.

The shop uses measurements taken of prize fish caught before they are returned to the water. Craftsmen then spend the next few days creating a mold based on those measurements.

Ian Pike founded Marine Life, but died recently. Mr Pike was mentor and close friend of Bancha Koypokaisawan, who now runs the workshop. Khun Bancha received his initial training in fish fabrication from Mr Pike in Australia 17 years ago.

Khun Bancha loves sportfishing, but spends his spare time studying books of different kinds of fish in order to recreate them. It takes Khun Bancha's team of craftsmen about three days to

complete an order.

The most popular order is for sailfish, but the largest sea creature he has created is a life-size whale shark now on display at Phuket Aquarium. Many of the other fiber fish at the aquarium have been made by Team Bancha.

The shop has many small models. Being so life-like, they are excellent props for teaching children about the basics of marine ecology. These range in price from 120 to 800 baht each, depending on their size and complexity.

"These three-dimensional ornaments look much better than flat pictures on the walls – and they last years," he said.

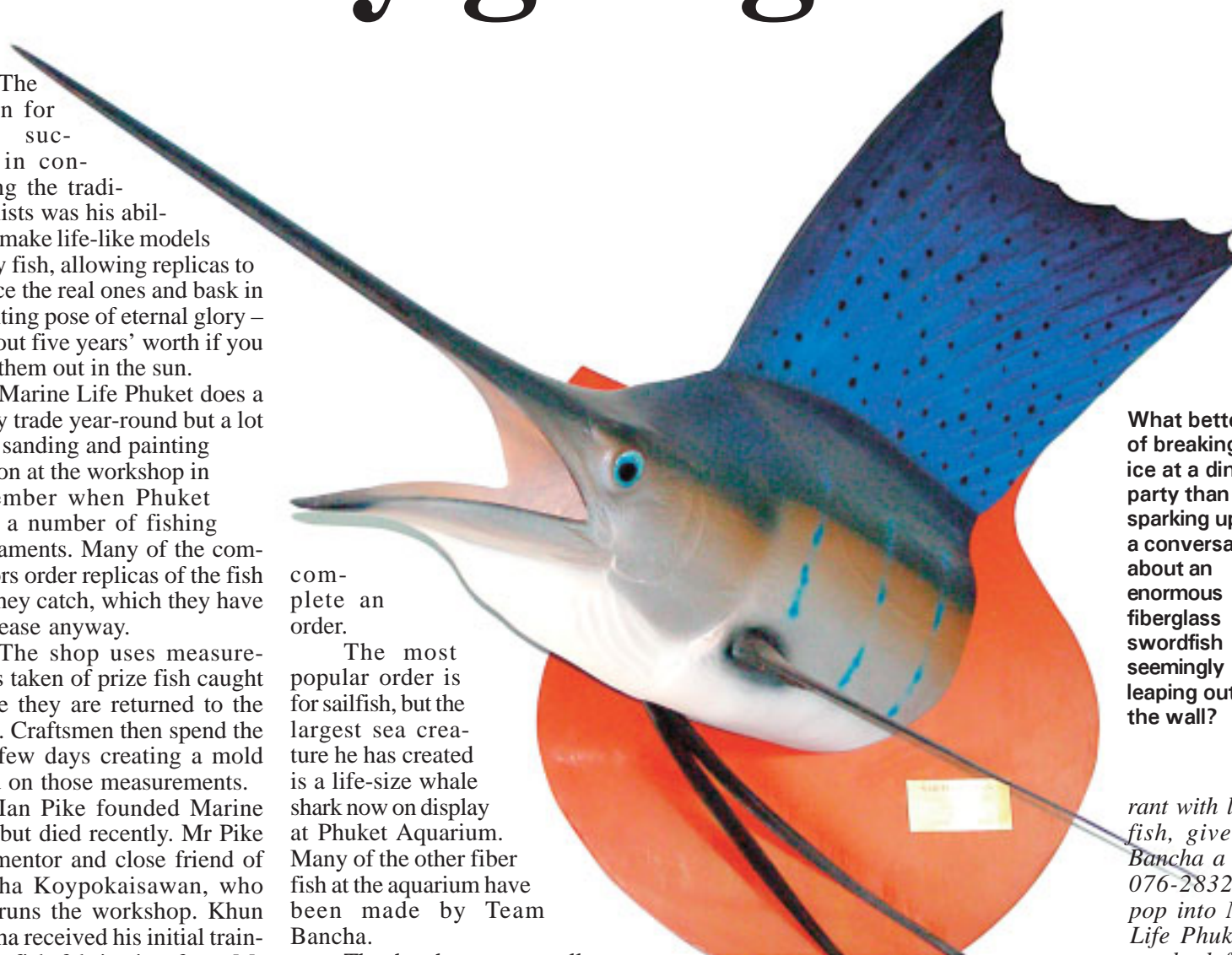
If you want to fill your house, or even better, a bar or restau-

What better way of breaking the ice at a dinner party than by sparking up a conversation about an enormous fiberglass swordfish seemingly leaping out of the wall?

rant with life-like fish, give Khun Bancha a call at 076-283238 or pop into Marine Life Phuket. It's on the left down

Soi Kritsada, about 200 meters from the entrance on Chao Fa East Rd. Open Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm. You can also email Khun Bancha at marinelife Phuket@hotmail.com or visit www.phuketfish.com

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

As bewildering as a bignonia

English is mad. Seriously. We must have one of the most ridiculous languages in the world – it's totally screwed up. No wonder people have problems learning to read or write in this ridiculous form of code – just look at the spelling. I mean, how is any word containing the letters "ough" actually supposed to be pronounced? Who decides?

"Off" (cough), "uff" (rough), "oh" (dough), "oo" (through), "aw" (fought) or, even for us Brits, "ow" as in 'plough'. How about the even more non-sensical "hiccough" or "thorough"? None of this makes any sense whatsoever – it's almost as if the original inventors of this language were having a bit of a laugh and making it up as they went along in a way that was guaranteed to cause maximum consternation among its future users. They definitely succeeded.

What chance do we stand with words like byte, bite and bight; sense, cents and scents;

their, there and they're or wheel, weal and we'll? What possible justification is there for the spelling of gnat, psychiatrist, pneumonia, isle (or aisle if you prefer), wrinkle, debt or listen? Just how do you pronounce wind, read or defect?

The daft thing is that spelling really doesn't matter, according to recent research done by people who seem to know what they're talking about. Read this:

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are; the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit too mcuh of a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by istlef but the wrod as a wlohe.

Even elementary speakers and readers of the Thai language understand that Thai people don't usually "spell" words as such – they just say them a bit more slowly to the person listening.



This purple-petaled climbing plant is a colorful addition to any wall or fence.

Why? There are very few ways it can actually be spelled.

We may get a bit confused over the letters that seem to be based on variations of Us and Os, but as far as Thai people are concerned there are very few different ways that most words in their language can be spelled. Remarkably sensible. What a shame that the high and mighty English language hasn't cottoned on to such an eminently logical idea.

The world of plants can often be as perplexing as the English language when it comes to spelling. The first time I heard the word "bignonia", I was convinced that the person providing the information was either dyslexic or a complete buffoon. Bignonia doesn't even sound like a proper word.

But it is. It has absolutely nothing to do with a drunken begonia, or even "nonias" that are above average in size, although it probably should. Unfortunately the people involved in naming plants are usually worryingly sober; something I have tried to address on occasion. Some of my best plant names have been beer-induced.

The unlikely sounding bignonia is actually named after a French royal librarian by the name of Jean-Paul Bignon who I understand was around in the 17th

century. He was some kind of royal librarian, apparently, and responsible for one of the silliest and most unlikely plant names ever. After all, he was French. Probably something to do with all that garlic.

Bignonia is the common name for a medium-sized family of mostly tropical woody climbers, the most common of which in this part of the world is probably the purple bignonia. Sorry, but it really is one of those plant names that you can't quite manage to say and keep a straight face. In Thai this daft-sounding plant sounds much more sensible – they know it as the *baan-burii-muang* or the *muang-mani-rat*.

The showy flowers we see on the purple bignonias are, not surprisingly, remarkably purple. Some varieties have creamy-white throats (the tubular part in the middle) while others are a bright yellow further down. It's one of those plants you probably walk past every day, as its spectacular colors just blend into the backdrop of plantlife in Phuket.

Here's where things get a bit technical. The corolla (a rather impressive word for group of petals) is fused together with five lobes and is funnel-shaped in the middle with two or four stamens attached to the inside surface. The vividly colored flowers have

adapted to pollination by a variety of flying animals, including insects, birds, and bats. Hummingbirds love these things.

Originally from Columbia, bignonias are mostly found in tropical areas; ideally suited to Phuket life. The greatest concentration of species is in South America, where they form dense climbing vines in the forests. Some of the tropical bignonia family members are exploited for timber.

It's unlikely that you'll find the bignonia sitting there growing on its own; by nature it's a bit of an idle beast. Although it grows vigorously and incredibly quickly, it does enjoy a bit of help. Being a climber, it much prefers to have something that it can clamber up for more than a little moral support. Its school report would have said "Tries hard, but needs to work a little more independently."

These things are perfect for covering trellises, fences and archways, and will even bound relentlessly up walls if you dingle a few lengths of wire between some of those masonry nails knocked in among the bricks. It gets a bit woody after a while and bush is the inevitable result.

It's happiest in full sun, and doesn't need a huge amount of water to stay content. Don't get too worried if the flowers drop off on a regular basis – it produces so many of the things daily that a mass of purple splodges on the ground will be a bigger problem than a naked purple bignonia.

Well, I think I've done rather well today. I've had a go at anyone who speaks English, along with the buffoons who invented the rules that come with it, as well as the inevitable go at the French. Time for some plant-naming inspiration, I feel. By the way, exactly how big Jean-Paul's non was has never been confirmed.

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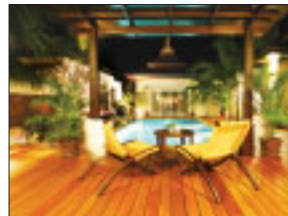
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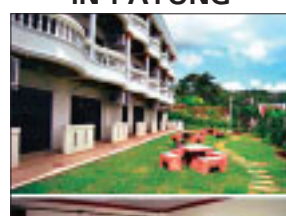
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Property Gazette

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for sale, airport area, 800m to beach, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, new, 300sqm. Tel: 080-5358767, (US) Tel: 0011-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE NAI HARN-RAWAI



3-story house villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 2 ensuite, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. Private pool 8x3.5m, 2 parking spaces. Chanote. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-6779837, 089-6464786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Priced from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@kamalaparadise.com

KAMALA LAND: 1,400SQM, B7.5M

900m from beach and Kamala center. Electricity & water. Chanote title. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

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. Tel: 083-1036578.

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

LUXURY TOWNHOUSE, KATA

Fabulous 3-bedroom townhouse with a separate 1-bedroom apartment with private entry downstairs. Best sea view in Kata. Price: 16.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

KOH YAO YAI

2 rai, water, electricity. Chanote. Price: 500,000 baht per rai. Also, 3.2 rai sea view, 2 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8208.

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Seaview pool villa overlooking Karon Beach. Sale direct from Swiss builder/owner. Very affordable price, favorable proprietary rights for foreigners. Documentation and pics available. Tel: 089-5938690. Email: ruen_narayan@hotmail.com

GARDEN VILLA AT BAAN SAKOO



on 1 rai with 3 big bungalows and 1 big house. 7 bedrooms & bathrooms, 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.phuket@gmail.com

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

3.5 million baht, 1 minute to Chalong Pier, 34sq wah, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, unfurnished, 3 telephone numbers. Nice, quiet & safe area. Contact Kay. Negotiable. Tel: 076-236590, 081-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH LAND

480sqm or 120sq wah. Price: 1.95 million baht. 5-minute walk to beach. Chanote title. Tel: 081-6913029.

HOUSE IN KATHU

2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, patio, garden. 86sq wah, 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-9565650, 089-6469278. Photos, map and more details at www.kathu-property.com

100 RAI OF SEAVIEW LAND

in Kamala. Perfect for resort. 7.5 million baht per rai, has Chanote. Tel: 085-7839062.

FAMILY HOME, KATHU

In managed estate, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Only 7.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

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. Priced from 21 million baht. Tel: 076-279-289, 086-2742308. Email: kamalaparadise@yahoo.com Website: www.kamalaparadise.com

EXCEPTIONAL BARGAIN

House located in desirable and secure estate for sale at 6.9 million baht. 3 bedrooms (2 with en suite), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen/dining, 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

LAND IN KATHU

Fabulous elevated block opposite national park in Kathu. 1,360sqm. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Comes with architect's plans for house and building permit. 6.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

VILLA FOR SALE

in Bangjo, 10 minutes to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 13 million baht. Tel: (Eng): 081-8976984. Tel: (Thai): 089-6995136.

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

BRAND-NEW SHOPHOUSE

Cherng Talay, on main road to Heroines' Monument. Only 5.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



Owner selling to imminent retirement.
New Serviced Apartment Building in Kata.
11 Apartments & One 250 sq m penthouse.

Including Restaurant, Swimming Pool with terrace, Gym & Parking area.

Investment required is 48 Million Baht, with absolute security Offered by ownership to the investor(s).

For a confidential meeting, please call David 08 40 63 92 23 or email to david.kbpd@gmail.com

Property Gazette

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for sale (27.5 million baht) or for rent. The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT, 5.9 MILLION BAHT

Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build on. Road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180m of beach frontage. Quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

3 BEDROOMS, 2 FLOORS, SEA VIEW

Relocating to Canada. Breath-taking sea view, private pool, exclusive location in brand-new development. Completion date: December 8. Prestigious multi-million-dollar neighborhood. Priced privately below listing. Email: stephancookca@yahoo.ca

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSE 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

12 RAI OF VACANT SEA-VIEW LAND

in Kata area. Serene, peaceful atmosphere of the surrounding environment and local community. Beautifully surrounded by hills and wonderful sunset views overlooking Chalong Bay. Ideal for housing, resort, hotel or condominium project. Only 8 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-8116191.

SALE/RENT, KAMALA

Single house near beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 086-2773381.

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land, Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.

CONTEMPORARY VILLA

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms (master with double Jacuzzi), 4m x 12m pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden on a 1,606sqm plot with more than 400sqm of living area. Good price. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

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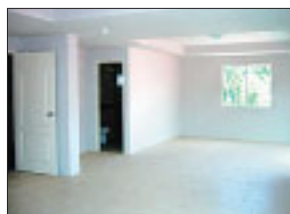
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NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



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.

SAIYUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



2-story house with additional living space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. A few minutes to Nai Harn Beach. 10 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 084-8475700, 087-8987642. Email: morn_48@yahoo.com

2.5 MILLION BAHT, CHEAP HOUSE



2-bedroom house in Baan Maneekram, fully furnished, cable TV, aircons, ADSL/phone. Have existing tenant on long-term rental. Tel: 076-264692, 086-2812115. Email: natasha223@gmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE



for sale. 5 rooms with bathrooms. Can use for a business or restaurant. Nanai Rd. Tel: 081-6767709.

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.

EUROPEAN VILLA: 6.9 MILLION BAHT

Kathu, near Loch Palm Golf Course & British International School. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms, Wi-Fi. Jacuzzi, garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: seeyaagain@gmail.com

LAND, HOUSE & HOTEL FOR SALE

House: 220sqm, 10million baht. Karon hotel: 40rooms, 120million baht. Patong. Contact Ms Mam. Tel: 089-7798270.

82-RAI WATERFRONT

Beautiful land next to the sea on Koh Racha Yai. 10 million baht per rai. No brokers. Tel: 081-9786700.

LAND IN NAI HARN

1/3 rai: 2.9 million baht. 1rai: 3.74 million baht. Also house for rent/sale. 25,000 baht per month. Sale: 5.6 million baht. Tel: 081-3709661.

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

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

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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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

35,000 BAHT PER MONTH



Rawai pool villa. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, ADSL, near the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

TOWNHOUSE RENTALS

3 bedrooms, fully furnished, near BIS school. Rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

GOLF COURSE VILLA

Beautiful home at Phuket Country Club with full furniture, pool, sala, gardens. Only 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

FOR LEASE

1 bedroom, small house, 2-minute walk to Patong beach and strip, cable TV, swimming pool, maid service. Tel: 076-344343.

PATONG



For more information email a.pueng@gmail.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

PATONG APARTMENTS

Sea view, beach road. 12,000 to 30,000 baht. Tel: 084-8473304. Website: www.selectphuket.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

SINGLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 60 sq wah. Fully furnished, in front of Meaju Garden Place Project. Aircon in big bedroom. For rent: 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-6912526.

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

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

HOUSE FOR RENT - THALANG

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for rent immediately at Pa Khlok, Thalang, 800m from Heroines' Monument (located at Baan Suan Naramit 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

HOUSE IN CHALONG for rent near Palai Beach. 2 and 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-7288311.

3-BEDROOM LUXURY POOL VILLA

Near BIS School & Boat Lagoon. 75,000 baht/month long-term. Includes gym, water, Wi-Fi Internet, cable TV, garden/pool maintenance, security. Tel: 085-4737847. Email: oggyovven@yahoo.com

CHAOFA HILLS Business Park



• 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

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.

NEW! COMMERCIAL BUILDING

New commercial building with residence, 4 bedrooms/3 bathrooms. The first floor is appropriate for a business. Tel: 081-3497656. Email: vfarisfaris@hotmail.com

KAMALA LAKE HOUSE

New, 2 bedrooms, phone, cable TV, furnished. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-8928208.

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

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

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).

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

Phase I houses for sale or long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669

NEW HOUSE (BANDON)



For sale/rent near Laguna, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, just bring your bag. Price negotiable, 1-year contract. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com For further details, please see http://phuket-on-tour.blogspot.com

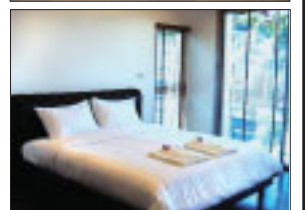
HOUSE FOR RENT

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.

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.

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

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

NEW SHOP FOR RENT

154sqm, very good location, special for restaurant (entrance to Laguna, Cherng Talay). Tel: 081-0915919.

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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

1997 FOUNTAIN 31



Sportfisher, perfect for diving, cruising, fishing or charter, 2x Mercury 225 HP, cabin and head, trailer 1.8 million baht. Tel: 089-8126515.

38FT TOUR CRUISER FOR SALE

All-fiberglass construction. Excellent fuel economy. On a trip to Koh Phi Phi you will save approximately 50% compared with standard twin-outboard-engine speedboats. Mercruiser inboard diesel engine, cruises comfortably at 27 knots. Very low hours on the engine. Toilet & fresh water shower, large sun roof, stainless-steel ladder at bow and stern for beach access. Commercial Thai registration. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 081-9790525. Email: bosch.michael@gmail.com

CHOLAMARK HYPERLON RIB

3.5 meters. New tubes 1 year old, condition as new. Save 45,000 baht. Cost new: 130,000 baht. Price: 85,000 baht. Tel: 081-539-9560. Email: oystcove@loxinfo.co.th

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33-FOOT WOODEN HULL

in perfect condition, 10 years old, 2 engines, Yamaha V6, 200hp, 250 hours, 900,000 baht. Contact Jano. Tel: 083-5905464.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

52-foot charter yacht, successfully run by couple in Phuket for 10 years. Price: US\$95,000. Tel: 081-677-1641.

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4.52m/15ft. Easy sail for husband-wife, parent-child combos. Outstanding stability and fiberglass hull. Designed to be sailed by a man and a woman. Can deliver exciting performance without using spinnaker or trapeze. Small class on island, so can race. Four hours free tuition with sale. 125,000 baht. Wind comes free. Tel: 081-539-9560. Email: oystcove@loxinfo.co.th

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.

SPEEDBOAT BUSINESS

Thai-registered, 12.9-meter speedboat in excellent condition. Takes 22 pax + 3 crew. Twin Yamaha 200hp V6 engines and 7 different inflatables to make it all fun for your customers. Comes with life jackets and snorkeling equipment, a registered company, a Thai captain and one boat boy. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 081-8914381. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

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WANTED Hotel Manager

Savisalo 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.savisalo@savcor.com and atte3000@hotmail.com

Admin & Account Officer

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or related fields
- English communication skills are an advantage
- Proficient in Microsoft applications, Quickbooks program
- Be responsible for maintaining effective accounting system, monitor voucher payment, taxation, accounts payable (AP) and accounts receivable (AR) cost control and knowledge of accounting programs

Please send a letter of application and updated resume, references, expected salary and recent photo to Works.Com (International) Co., Ltd.

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(Phuket branch)

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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

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, a member of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, would like to invite Thai Nationals to apply for the following positions:

Director of Human Resources Assistant Training Manager

We offer an exciting career for ambitious professionals along with a competitive benefit package.

Please submit your resume with recent photo by email to: nanumon.chanarirhanaj@lemeridien.com

Le Meridien
Phuket Beach Resort
29 Soi Karon Nui,
Karon, Muang Phuket 83100
T: 076-370100 F: 076-340479
Lemeridien.com

Le MERIDIEN
N 7°51' E 98°16'



Asia World, a leading inbound
tour operator dealing with
worldwide markets.

Accounting 2 positions
Reservation Manager/Officer 2 positions
Operation Manager/Officer 2 positions

Requires:

- Minimum 1-2 years experience in similar position in tour company or hotel
- Must be able to communicate in written English
- Able to use a computer (standard programs)
- Ability to work in team environment

Please contact Human Resources Manager for interview:
K.Pornpen (02) 611-1771 ext. 400
Email: pornpen@asiaworld-travel.com

SALES & MARKETING

Outgoing person required to assist with marketing and selling advertising space for an international newspaper company. Must be fluent in Thai with good English. Good knowledge of Photoshop or other design software an advantage. Good salary, commissions and great work environment. Tel: 076-346218, 084-7680536. Fax: 076-346232. Email: info@news-paperdirect-phuket.com Please see our website at www.newspaperdirect.com

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

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful, small guesthouse in Karon. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

HOUSEMAIDS FOR AUSTRALIA

We are seeking 2 ladies for separate families in Australia, to look after children, cook and clean. Will be required to live with the family. Experience with children necessary. Required to stay with family for a minimum of 6 months. Must have passport. All expenses paid for. All food and accommodation provided. Very good salary will be offered. Tel: 081-0909296. Email: jonesgirls3@hotmail.com

50,000 BAHT/MONTH

We require English speakers (Thai + foreign). Please contact Marc for further information. Tel: 086-6833526. Email: marcjunker_69@hotmail.com

ATTRACTIVE ASSISTANT

needed for property management. Must have good English skills. Tel: 085-7831890. Email: phuketprojectsale@yahoo.com

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, 087-270-7163. Fax 076-238147. Email: evakinnaree02@yahoo.co.uk

PHOTOSHOP EXPERT

To work on photographs of costume jewelry. Part time. Work from home. Good pay for expert person. Tel: 089-7291968. Email: jae@loxinfo.co.th

TEACHERS REQUIRED

ECC requires teachers for local schools. Must be TEFL qualified. Email: neilg@ecc.ac.th

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.

ENGLISH TEACHER

Satree Phuket School has an opening for a high school English teacher. The successful candidate will be a native English speaker, have at least a bachelor's degree and holds appropriate teacher certification. Applications may be emailed to ep@satreephuket.ac.th or satreephuketep@hotmail.com

LAW OFFICE

Seeks Thai and foreign lawyers, accountant, secretary and messenger. Email CV to jobs@siam-legal.com

GRAPHIC/WEB DESIGNER

Urgent: Web Design company requires a Thai national with experience: Develop graphics into HTML. Flash, HTML, PHP knowledge. Create ad and banner designs. Email: hr@phukettechnology.com Visit our website at phukettechnology.com/employ

DAY & NIGHT GUARD WANTED

No drinking, no sleeping. Between 20 and 40 years. Good salary. English recommended. Please contact for more info at Tel: 081-5376866.

ASSISTANT WANTED

Good written and spoken English. Basic accounting and computer. Please email: thaihome@rocketmail.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVE

Property Care Services requires a Hygiene and Pest Control service executive. Preferred applicants are degree-educated, have previous sales experience and own vehicle. Full technical and product training provided & very competitive salary package on offer. Tel: 076-376557, 081-958-6879. Fax: 076-376560. Email: scott@pcs.co.th Please see our website at www.pcs.co.th

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

SELL ADVERTISING

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai to sell web banner advertising space in Phuket. Must have outgoing personality and speak good English. Good commissions. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

MARINE AIR- CONDITIONING

electrician. Simpson Marine Phuket (SEA) Ltd (Service Department) dealer requires a qualified tradesman to act as marine electrician and air-conditioning service technician. Applicant must be fluent in English and hold relevant trade qualifications. Salary and remuneration package based on experience and qualifications. Inquire in person with CV to Simpson Marine (SEA) Ltd, Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-239-768. Email: greg.dick@simpsonmarine.com Please visit our website: www.simpsonmarine.com

GSL DIGITAL PRODUCTION

seeks a talented design/layout person experienced in graphic and/or web design. Skills in Design and Illustration are necessary. English would help. Please send artwork samples to GSL Digital Production Co Ltd. Tel: 076-226084. Email: jai@gsldigital.com

CLEANING LADY WANTED

Maximum 35 years old. Must speak some English and like cleaning. Tel: 085-7831890.

FRONT OFFICER AT SKY HOTEL

Good English and Microsoft Office skills. No experience needed. Tel: 081-2963413. Fax: 081-2963413. Email: prakaisiroj@hotmail.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better quality candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart



'The Bell' is an exciting new property development comprising 17 luxury pool villas. 'The Bell' is also opening its Luxury Private Pool Villa Resort, which will be fully serviced and managed like a 5-star resort.

Front Office Manager

1 position

In charge of all Front Office and Reservations management.

- Male/female, Thai nationality.
- At least 3-5 years' experience in Front Office, Resort Sales, Reservations, Reception, Housekeeping, etc.
- Pre-opening experience of a 4- or 5-star resort is a big plus.
- Excellent skills with Comanche.
- Service-minded.
- Energetic person, pleasant personality and excellent guest relations skills.
- Strong presence in day-to-day operations, leadership manner, good team player.
- Salary negotiable.

Candidate should be able to work under pressure and possess excellent problem-solving, organizational and management skills.

Villa Host/Receptionist (1 day, 1 night)

2 positions

- Female/male, age 23-30 years old
- Excellent command of both written & spoken English.
- Good personality, good communication skills, service minded, positive attitude, enthusiastic and honest and willing to help out in all areas.
- At least 2-3 years' experience in front office/reception/reservations.
- Experience with Comanche program.
- Must be flexible with work schedule, able to work in shifts.
- Able to work independently under pressure.
- Energetic person, pleasant personality and excellent guest relations skills.
- Must be able to work weekends and holidays.

The Bell,
41/31 Moo 5, Baan Hua Khuan,
Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120

Tel: + 66 (0) 76-279914-5 Fax: + 66 (0) 76-279412
E-mail: info@TheBellphuket.com
Web: www.TheBellPhuket.com



A six-star resort development on prestigious Bangtao Beach has open positions for a number of additional team members

- Human Resources Manager
- Financial Controller
- Executive Housekeeping
- Executive Chef
- Front Office Manager
- F&B Manager
- Spa Manager
- Executive Secretary

All positions offer remuneration plus attractive benefits. Applicants are invited to send their written applications with CV and recent photos as well as current and expect salary to info@thepalmbeachclub.com



The Palm Beach Club
35 Chongtalay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: 66 76 310 402/4
Fax: 66 76 310 405



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

TRAINER FOR GUARD FORCE

New security company in Phuket is looking for a Thai male, age not over 40, with strong English communication skills. Security background required.

Tel: 076-316244.

Email:

pornthip@sgsphuket.com
For more information, see our website:
www.siamguardianservices.com

SELL ADVERTISING

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai to sell web banner advertising space in Phuket. Must have outgoing personality and speak good English. Good commissions. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

SECRETARY TO GM

Need female native English speaker to serve as secretary to GM of Pornthip Sea Store. Send application via email: donnong@gmail.com

NANNY/ HOUSEKEEPER

20-30 years old, Thai and English skills, sporty, driver's licence. Good salary. Send CV; start job around August. Email: homeinphuket@yahoo.com

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

Live-in, English-speaking Thai native wanted for private villa at Surin Hill. Cleaning, some cooking. Dog lover. References. Tel: 081-8451492. Email: shrdbrkk@ksc15.th.com

Bupa Health Insurance (Thailand) Ltd.

Personal Medical Insurance Consultant (PMI)

We are an international company and market leader in specialist health insurance for both individual and corporate clients throughout Thailand. In order to support our business growth, we are now seeking qualified candidates with high energy, commitment, service mind and passion to join our dynamic team in many locations nationwide.

Qualifications:

- At least 1-3 years' experience in telemarketing and sales will be an advantage
- Excellent communication and telephone skills
- Knowledge of other languages as well as English will be an advantage
- Self motivated, result oriented, ability to work under pressure, positive attitude, creative and energetic
- Strong negotiation and communication skills

Please send CV with full qualifications and experience together with your current/expected salary and a recent photograph to hr@bupa.co.th or contact us at 02-2347755 ext. 508 or 715. Please visit our website at www.bupathailand.com

Bupa Health Insurance (Thailand) Ltd.
Phuket Branch
156/15 Phung Nga Road T Taladyai
A Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-355815 Fax: 076-355814



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

NURSERY/ PRESCHOOL

Nursery/preschool in Chalong is looking for a native English teacher, full or part time, as well as a Thai teaching assistant who must speak some English. A love of children and outgoing nature are required. Tel: 087-2785511.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING

lady for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Contact for info. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

THAI ENGLISH TEACHER

Thai national, fluent in English, to teach conversation to other Thai nationals working in the tourist industry. 10 hours/week, 11,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-6247060.

ITALIAN CHEF

needed for Italian speciality pasta. Dinner only. Tel: 087-8860448.

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

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

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

GYM EQUIPMENT

Brand new, secondhand, cheap. Bang Tao area. Tel: 081-5350078.

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. 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, bar counter with lighting, 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).

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). Please contact for more details. 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 Sapphire 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

MONEY TO GIVE AWAY

up to 1 million baht for you, if you sell my house. Tel: 081-8916412. Email: flamingo klaus@aol.de

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.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital

Phuket City

Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Hospital Phuket

Phuket City

Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong

Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun

at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health

Clinic-near Chalong Circle

Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English)

call 081-9564031,

081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group

Wat Karon School-Karon

Tue and Sat 7 pm

Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)

087-2795636 (Nor)

086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand

AA meetings inquire

at Tel: 02-2318300

(for Thai language press 3)

www.aathailand.org or

email info@aathailand.org

phuketaa@yahoo.com

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 Email: carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

Business Opportunities

SWIMWEAR BOUTIQUE

Highly profitable bikini & clothing store, open two years. Great location in Kata. For sale as fully operational. All stock and fittings, supplier details. Brand name, good reputation. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-0200128. Email: boutique phuket@yahoo.com

CONSTRUCTION CO LTD FOR SALE

Due to ill health in the family, we must return to my home country and sell our construction company in Phuket. The company is fully set up (good inventory) and running with future projects to be completed. Previous price was 6.85 million baht. Email: info@jntech.biz

INTERNET/COFFEE/ GAMES

Internet, coffee, computer games, bicycle rental. Purchase includes registered Thai Ltd Co. Good location, steady income. Tel: 076-333280, 086-2771046. Fax 076-333280. Email: jvfcoltd@aol.com

BARS, GUESTHOUSES

Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities at www.janepropertyphuket.com

26-ROOM GUESTHOUSE

for lease near Jungcelon. Includes company and long lease. Immaculate decor. Just 3.7 million baht. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

RESTUARANT IN KAMALA



The name of the restaurant is Nang Friendly Restaurant. Reason for sale: owner moving to Hua Hin. Selling price is 800,000 baht, but if you want to make a quick deal we can offer a discount for you. On the main road, easy to see on the left hand side if you come from Patong. Contact Rodjana and Thomas. Tel: 089-8847964.

OPPORTUNITY TO OWN

your own massage and spa shop from 2.7million baht. Complete turnkey operation, successful track record. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700

SKY

STEAKHOUSE.NET

Well established steakhouse including accomodation and all equipment, 3-year lease, for rent. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2656089.

GAMEFISHING BUSINESS

boat and company for sale. Ready to fish. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-1247528. Email: sailfish263@yahoo.com

BAR AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

Excellent location. Nanai Road. First 18 months' rent already paid 1.8 million baht will secure this business. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery Tel: 076-282254
Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-282403
Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

K.L. Mart Tel: 076-280400/3
Patak Rd, Chalong Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School Tel: 076-232398/9
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee Tel: 076-258369
Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521/2
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart Tel/Fax: 076-324312
Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Deli Supermarket Tel: 076-342275
Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344314

Property Information Center [PIC]
2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

5 PREMIUM HOTELS
for sale freehold. Outstanding locations in Patong. Prices starting from 150 million baht. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-304 7700.

INVESTMENT + INCOME

In chicken farm project. 8 rai of land, 15-hour drive from Phuket. 100,000 baht guaranteed. Email for info and details. Tel: 087-2781784. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain : 4-story shophouse with Chanote. There is a fully equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

BAR IN BANGLA

Well-placed bar already making good profits. 2.9 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-7300190.

GUESTHOUSE/BAR

available in excellent Patong location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

GO-GO BAR, PATONG CENTER

for sale at 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-0833231.

RESTAURANT

Well-established restaurant and bar. Live entertainment venue in premium Patong location. For sale at 14 million baht. Genuine buyers only. Tel: 083-1736521, 084-0782753.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with bookshelves. Quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-5399269. Website: www.jan-property.com

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Contact via email: a.pueng@gmail.com

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.

SHOP/OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

In front of Club Med hotel, 15m from hotel main gate on main road. 4m wide by 12m long. Rent for 25,000 baht per month. No key money. Tel: 081-4154883. Email: robin.khap@gmail.com

DOUBLE BAR

for sale. 3-year renewable lease, air conditioned, music system. Tel: 080-7179353 (Eng), 085-7917579 (Thai).

COFFEE LOUNGE

2-story shophouse set up as coffee lounge and ice cream parlor with Internet services. Rent: only 13,000 per month, including business premises & accommodation. All recently renovated. All house furniture & business inventory included in the price of 1.4 million baht - all you need is your suitcase. Currently has a 3-year renewable lease, no key money required. Tel: 076-342338, 084-6976840. Email: terryballphuket@gmail.com

NANAI GUESTHOUSE

for sale. 28 rooms, over 300 sq wah. 67 million baht. Contact Tuang. Tel: 081-7970679.

SALON & THAI MASSAGE



in Club Andaman Hotel, Patong. Sawasdee Style & Beauty Salon, 3 seats, 2 beds. Thai massage. Full options & furniture. CCTV. LCD TV, 3-year contract (2 years left). Special price: 800,000 baht. Call Khun Ole. Tel: 081-4667516.

BOUTIQUE GUESTHOUSE

Center of Patong. Excellent price: 1.29 million baht. Tel: 086-1588752. www.theplacetostayphuket.com

BIG SPACE SHOWROOM

Big showroom space for rent on main road to Patong. Across from go-kart track in Kathu. 15m x 21m (315sqm). Renewable lease. Key money: 1.5 million baht. Monthly rent: 15,000 baht. Lease: 4 years + 3 years. You won't find showroom space this big anywhere else in Phuket. Tel: 083-3888028.

GUESTHOUSE/BAR

Central Patong, long lease, great value for money. Long and short-term guests. Good returns. Quiet soi, short walk to beach. 3.9 million baht ono. Tel: 087-3836505. Email: property.thai@hotmail.com

BAR AVAILABLE

Soi Sea Dragon, Bangla. Good location, owned for 7 years. 3 rooms, 1st floor has good customer base, renewable lease. 2.25 million baht. Contact Jan. Tel: 076-323831.

SHOP, KATA

good location, with or without stock. Low rent, bargain price. Thai contact: 089-5748884. English contact: 081-0804702.

8-BEDROOM GUESTHOUSE

2 million baht secures you a 6-year + lease. Rent: 60,000 baht per month. 3-story building with beauty salon & office. Professional lease. Sainamyen Rd. 5 mins walk from beach. Email: mb99@ukonline.co.uk

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Boat Lagoon: Phuket souvenir gift shop, clothing boutique and secondhand book store. Terrific location opposite busy international hotel and nestled in an area with constant tourist trade. Tel: 081-9583046. Email: morn.carent@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT & GUESTHOUSE

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 1 restaurant. 55,000 baht. Nanai Road. Contact Jo. Tel: 089-0485695.

SPEEDBOAT CHARTER BUSINESS

The unique opportunity to purchase a fully-operational, well-established and reputable speedboat charter company. Assets include five speedboats, two minivans and one company car. The company holds two foreign work permits, has solid contracts with all leading 5-star hotels, and also offers island weddings and corporate programs. Owner wants to sell to focus on other interests. Price: 12 million baht. All serious offers will be considered. Tel: 081-8945822. Email: manager@coralseekers.com

MOVING SALE (FAST)

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