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INSIDE



MONKEY MAGIC

INSIDE STORY: Monkey business ahoy as South African conservationists start drawing up plans for Phuket's first primate park. See full story on pages 4 and 5.

NEWS: Supercheap killer caught; Navy takes on pirates; Gov backs plans for hotel school. **Pages 2 & 3**

AROUND THE ISLAND: Start your tour of Phuket's 'nine sacred sites' at Wat Pra Tong. **Page 10**

LIFESTYLE: What's in a number?; The Players are still playing. **Page 16**

AROUND THE SOUTH 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; AROUND THE REGION 8; GUEST CHEF 11; PEOPLE 12 & 13; HAPPENINGS 14; TALKING PLANES 15; SPA MAGIC 18; WHAT'S ON 19; BUSINESS & MONEY 20 & 21; YOUTH 'N ASIA 22; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; BOOKS, WORD COURT 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 26; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES & ANSWERS 27; PATTAYA, HOROSCOPES 28; MOTORING 29; SPORTS 30 & 31; CONSTRUCTION 33; HOME OF THE WEEK 35; DESIGN 37; GARDENING 38; CLASSIFIEDS 39-51.

Bars raided over copyright furore

By Akbar Khan
& Natcha Yuttaworrawut

PHUKET: Entertainment venues around the island were raided last week in a clampdown on copyright violations. Several bar operators were fined for illegally playing copyrighted music in their bars and ordered to obtain licenses allowing them to play music at their establishments.

The raids were instigated by a team of about 20 representatives from RPK Publishing.

Some bar owners were ordered to pay fines or given the option to buy a license, while others were arrested and taken to police stations.

On condition of anonymity, several Rawai bar owners told the *Gazette* that the amounts they were fined depended on various factors, including negotiation skills. Some bars were tipped off about the raids and managed to hide their computers before being searched.

According to bar owners' reports, that RPK representatives initially visited venues without police being present and later called police when they discovered that their clients' music was being played illegally.

Police then accompanied the RPK representatives on subsequent raids to other venues.

When the *Gazette* called Samarn Chainarong, superintendent of Chalong Police Station, several days later, he said he knew very little about the crack-down and was unable to say who bar owners should contact in order to obtain a license.

Many of the bar owners who had bought official-looking licenses issued by RPK Publishing following the raids told the *Gazette* they were unaware that



Bars around the island were raided over playing and having copyrighted music stored on hard drives.

those licenses applied only to the artists that RPK represents.

Sutthisak Prasatkrarukarn, Secretary of the Prevention and Suppression of Intellectual Property Infringement Committee (Private Sector), explained that people who buy CDs legally are entitled to use them for private entertainment.

"If the CD is to be used in a pub or restaurant, then one must ask the copyright owner - that is, the company that produced the CDs or their representative - for the right to use the CD in public," he added.

An RPK employee at the company's head office in Bangkok explained that RPK was trying to be reasonable. The official fine is anywhere between 40,000 and 200,000 baht. However, she added, many bars escaped the fines by agreeing to buy a 12-month license to make public playing of the music legal.

One bar owner who was arrested, however, had to pay

several thousand baht extra so that she could be released from detention and return to her restaurant.

RPK employee Khun Sanyan, who led the raids, told the *Gazette*, "5,000 baht buys a license to play the music of our clients publicly for one year."

"A lot of pubs, bars and clubs use music that we are supposed to protect. Karaoke bars, however, usually do not have the kind of music that we look after."

The RPK employee in Bangkok explained that although there are presently 15 agencies in Thailand that sell copyright licenses on behalf of copyright holders, only five are actively pursuing violators.

The other four that are expected to visit Phuket soon are copyright agents Likisit Center and Likisit Pleng and the recording companies GMM Grammy and RS Promotions, who carry out their own inspections.

Phuket protesters join Bangkok siege

By Akbar Khan

PHUKET: As the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) on August 26 made its final drive to oust Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and lay siege to government offices, media in Bangkok reported that NBT broadcast stations were being raided around the nation.

However, NBT reporter Chaiwit Pongsuwan told the *Gazette* that the NBT station in Phuket was safe and sound. "NBT in Phuket is located in a peaceful location and the staff are friends with ASTV, the station that belongs to the PAD leader," Khun Chaiwit said.

"NBT will suffer only in areas where they support the Samak regime," he added.

Phuket PAD leader Natjarong Ekpermsup said that some 4,000 PAD members from Phuket were protesting in Bangkok, rallying at NBT headquarters, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Transport.

The protesters from Phuket were moving to government house to demand Samak's resignation, he added late afternoon on August 26.

The local contribution to national anti-government protests continued to gain momentum over the weekend, with flights from Phuket to Bangkok on all airlines fully booked as PAD members flocked to the capital.

On August 22, a Patong resident and PAD supporter known as "Loong Pim" took to the PAD stage in Bangkok to

Continued on page 2



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Attendees dressed in white offer donations at the mass ceremony on Narisorn Rd, near Phuket Municipality Offices.

- Photo courtesy of The Metropole hotel.

Thousands take part in alms ceremony

PHUKET CITY: A mega merit-making ceremony was held in downtown Phuket City early on August 23, with thousands of Buddhist devotees offering alms to 1,000 monks.

Items collected during the two-hour event, non-perishable food items such as canned goods and instant noodles, are to be redistributed to needy monks, soldiers, teachers and laypeople living in the Deep South who have been affected by the violence there.

The event was organized by the Phuket Meditation Center and White Media Club of Phuket in conjunction with Phuket Provincial Office, Phuket Municipality and the Dhammaka Foundation. It was part of the Dhammaka Foundation's nationwide World Ethics Recuperation Program, which aimed to see a massive alms-giving to 500,000 monks in events in all 76 provinces.

From page 1

Phuket PAD joins Bangkok ranks

deliver 100,000 baht that he had collected to support PAD efforts to drive out the current administration.

The next day, Phuket PAD leader Natjarong Ekpermsup went up to Bangkok and told the *Gazette*, "We are going up to Bangkok for the endgame. We are going to drive Samak from power. I will be back next week, but in the meantime I have to look after the Phuket chapter in Bangkok. A lot of us will fly back to Phuket, too, so return flights will probably also be fully booked."

On August 24, two days before the siege of government offices, the first group of more than 5,000 Phuket-based PAD supporters joined the Bangkok protest after arriving in a convoy of cars, buses and vans.

Speed, guns and ganja seized in crackdown

PHUKET CITY: Following his order of a crackdown on crime, Phuket's top cop has announced that several drug- and gun-related arrests were made recently in different parts of the island.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong said that recent swoops in various locations had included the seizure of 390 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills that had been stashed in a hole in the ground, two homemade 12-gauge shotguns, a .38 pistol and a small bag of marijuana.

Two men have been charged with possession of a Class 1 narcotic with intent to sell following the seizure of the 390 *ya bah* pills after Tung Tong Police officers had monitored the pair closely fol-

lowing reports that they were selling the drug to students in the area.

The guns were found by police when they searched three men near the Bang Kon Tee Mosque on Wiset Rd in Rawai. Two of the men arrested were Phuket natives, who said they carried the unregistered weapons only for self defense but confessed to charges of carrying unregistered firearms in public. All three guns were loaded.

On the same night, Chalong Police arrested two men for being in possession of a small bag of dried, compressed marijuana, the weight of which was not disclosed. Both suspects confessed to possession of a Class 5 narcotic for personal consumption, police said.

- Sompratch Saowakhon

Man charged for shotgun murder

By Sompratch Saowakhon

RASSADA: Phuket City Police on August 20 announced the arrest of a man who confessed to the murder of his former boss at Supercheap on the bypass road on the night of August 19.

Most of the details of the arrest were read out to the press in a statement by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

The body of the victim, 34-year-old Supercheap employee Kanya Boonprajong, was found just after 8 pm lying next to her motorcycle along the northbound lane of the road, north of Tesco-Lotus and not far from the Phuket Namsaeng Rice Company.

She had died of a single shotgun blast to the chest.

K. Kanya's husband, an employee of Mission Hospital who was driving past at the time, recognized his wife's motorcycle and stopped. He cried as he hugged her lifeless body, which was later taken by Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Using eyewitness accounts, police at about 11 pm tracked down the alleged shooter, 31-year-old Korapat "Gus" Winawat, to a rented home on Songkhla Rd, near the intersection with Yaowarat Rd in Samkong, where he was living with his in-laws.

At the August 20 conference at Phuket City Police Station, Phuket Provincial Police



Confessed murderer Korapat, in white, told police he was drunk at the time of the shooting.

Commander Apirak Hongthong and Phuket City Police Superintendent Nos Svettalekha presented the suspect together with his relative, 19-year-old Tanongsak "Gate" Thongsong.

Police said Gate confessed to helping Korapat dispose of the murder weapon, a homemade pistol designed to fire a single shotgun cartridge, in a shallow drainage ditch behind their home.

He has been charged with one firearms violation and for hindering a police investigation.

Police collected as evidence from the home a single 12-gauge shotgun cartridge, the clothes the

suspect was wearing at the time of the murder and the Honda Wave motorcycle believed to be used in the killing.

Korapat planned the murder in advance and called the victim to ask her to meet him where the shooting took place, saying he wanted to "clear the air" over a previous dispute, police said.


Witnesses saw the couple meet, get off their motorbikes and begin arguing. Korapat then kicked Kanya to the pavement and stomped on her several times before drawing his weapon, firing it at close range and fleeing on the motorbike, police said.

Korapat answered "no" when asked if there had been any romantic involvement with the victim, as was reported by one Thai language newspaper.

He was motivated to kill Kanya out of revenge for incidents that took place several months ago while he was working under her as an employee at Supercheap, a position he eventually had to resign from, he told police.


Korapat has been charged with premeditated murder and one charge related to illegal possession and use of a firearm.

He also admitted that he was drunk at the time of the attack, police said.



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Governor voices support for new hotel school

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit yesterday voiced his support for an international hotel school to be opened on the island.

Representing Orion Hotel Schools, Swiss national Lothar Schudt of Jasmin Consulting Property Management on August 26 met Governor Niran at Provincial Hall to seek support and clear the way for plans to be drawn up and investors sought for the new school.

Orion Hotel Schools is a consortium of six hotel schools around the globe, including the Australian International Hotel School in Canberra, Australia, and the Academia Euregio Bodensee in Switzerland.

The schools offer hospitality and tourism industry education from diploma level up to and including postgraduate and master's degrees in fields including business management, hotel and resort management, spa and golf management, culinary arts, food and beverage management as well as eco-tourism, nature and adventure tourism management.

Students can also transfer between different courses and campuses among member schools.

Mr Schudt, an honoree member of the Swiss Hotel Association, said he is approaching strong Thai partners for the project because he foresees bureaucratic problems, such as obtaining work permits for foreign management and lecturers.

"The school would accept both Thais with acceptable English skills as well as foreign students. We cannot give our children much, but we can give them



Mr Schudt at his home in Baan Saiyuan, Rawai.

an education. Tourist numbers are continually increasing, which may sound positive, but we have to look at other concerns," Mr Schudt said.

"Many foreigners and locals on the island have 'tunnel vision' and are missing this important point. Thailand does not have any international hotel schools. In Switzerland, we have two. We need approval from the government now, at an early stage," he added.

However, Mr Schudt, who has lived on Phuket for 15 years, said that he would have to wait a week or so before moving ahead with any further commitments as the directors of the Orion Hotel Schools in Australia were coming to Phuket to discuss the project.

Gov Niran said that he would organize a meeting with all the relevant agencies so that project planning could start quickly.

Hanna Backlund murderer given life sentence

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Court today sentenced Akkaradej "Chon" Tankae to life imprisonment for the murder of Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund, who was stabbed to death at Mai Khao Beach in broad daylight on March 15.

The sentence was commuted from death to life imprisonment because Chon made a full confession, said the judge, who made reference to the negative impact the case had on the island's tourism industry.

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Navy to beef up regional security

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CAPE PANWA: Royal Thai Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Sathiraphan Keyanon on August 21 visited the Third Naval Area Command, where he announced the Third Fleet will on October 1 begin joint patrol missions in the Malacca Strait with strategic partners Singapore and Malaysia.

The patrols, which will have air and land-based radar support, are intended to boost security in regional waters.

The last reported act of piracy involving a Thai vessel was on April 28, when six armed men wearing balaclavas used a speedboat to board Thai fuel tanker *Patara Varin 2* as it was about to enter the Singapore Strait. The pirates handcuffed the 13 crewmen at gunpoint before making off with an estimated 13 million baht in cash and stolen goods.

Adm Sathirapan said the Navy will continue to arrest and repatriate poor Rohingya immigrants from Burma who enter Thai waters, most on their way to Malaysia in desperate searches for work.



FAREWELL SALUTE: Royal Thai Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Sathiraphan Keyanon reviews the Third Fleet ranks for the last time on August 21.

The visit was also part of Adm Sathirapan's farewell tour, as he is set for mandatory retirement on September 30. He was formally greeted by Rear Admiral Supot Prukha, Commanding Officer of the Third Naval Area Command.

Adm Sathirapan was promoted to Navy Chief on October 1, 2005. As he commanded the Navy in a time of peace, he will

perhaps be best remembered as the first deputy chief of the Council for Democratic Reform, which overthrew the elected government of fugitive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shanawatra in September 2006.

The Phuket visit was the last stop on his farewell tour, following a visit to the Songkhla-based Second Naval Area Command the day before.

Apirak defends slow progress in catching killers

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongthong has assured the public that investigators are working hard to bring to justice those responsible for a slew of unsolved murders that have shocked the island in recent months.

Speaking after a press conference on August 20, Gen Apirak said provincial police investigators and specialists from Bangkok were working hard on three unsolved shooting murder cases: the June 11 execution of former Kathu Police officer Decho Kaewnabon, who was involved in the smuggling of unregistered Burmese workers; the June 17 slaying of 99 Seafood Restaurant owner Siricahi "Yod" Chaikoo near the Tung Tong Police checkpoint, and the July 18 mafia-style murder of Jintana Shopping Plaza heiress Komkai Kositkoon.

All three victims' business interests were centered in Patong.

Investigators are also working hard to find the shooter of 57-year-old Dr Benjapol Thongton, owner of the Karon Center Clinic who survived a single gunshot to the upper torso as he was driving in front of Sengho Bookstore on Suthat Rd at 8 am on August 4, Gen Apirak added.

A family squabble over inheritance has been rumored as a possible motive in that attack.

The Thongton clan is said to be one of the richest families in Phuket and the victim was scheduled to appear in court the day of the shooting in an inheritance case against a relative, according to one local media report.

Gen Apirak said that his officers were "x-raying" several gunmen in the province and working closely with regional police to monitor the movements of suspects thought to be hiding in other provinces.

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South Africans confident of 'Monkey Island' plan

Two South African conservationists who hope to open a "Monkey Island" primate sanctuary off Phuket's southeast coast recently paid a visit to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, but their goal to open the center as a new tourist attraction by the end of next year still has a lot of red tape to clear before becoming a reality. The *Gazette's* Janyaporn Morel and Akbar Khan report.

Zambian-born Tony Blignaut, CEO of Primates Resort Limited, and his partner Ronald Derek Taurog of the Touch a Monkey's Heart Foundation met with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit on the morning of August 20 to follow up on an interesting application: one seeking the right to develop a "community-based" primate conservation project on two small islands located off Phuket's southeast coast: Koh Aew in Rawai and Koh Tanan in neighboring Wichit.

In describing his company's approach, Mr Blignaut said, "We

are a non-profit company, but we are not a run-around-with-our-hats-in-our-hands company – we are tourism and community based."

The project's primary goal is conservation of primate species and other wildlife, increasing environmental awareness and supporting Phuket's tourism industry, he added.

The pair hope to open an attraction similar to their Monkeyland and Birds on Eden sanctuaries in South Africa's Plettenberg Bay, both of which have become major tourist attractions since they opened in 1998.

The investors envision setting up Koh Aew as a world-class primate-research facility, where access would be restricted to primate academics, placing Thailand at the forefront of primate conservation.

Only academics from top research institutions such as Oxford University would be allowed on the island, he said.

"This project will put the island on the forefront – no buildings, only primates and their food. There will also be a Thai university involved, but we have not decided which one yet. Researching monkeys where people are hunting them, killing them and



Tourists could catch a glimpse of the primates at the tiny Koh Tanan, while access to the main sanctuary on Koh Aew would be restricted to primatologists and the animals they study.

eating them is not ideal for [our work]," he said.

The deserted Koh Aew has some natural advantages in this regard, he said.

"Koh Aew is beachless and no hotels or resorts have taken any interest. Monkeys, however, do not like beaches. The lack of beaches will also make it difficult for poachers to get on and off the island," he said.

Funding the research would be tourists, who would have access to view the primates only at tiny Koh Tanan in Chalong Bay, where a pier 60 meters long would serve as a sort of "shopfront" for the main sanctuary.

For a fee, tourists could view some 30 primates on display there or enjoy a meal or visit any of 40 stalls to be run by local people.

"Forty Thai families will have 40 little businesses on the

pier off Koh Tanan. This will help them, because the units will be free. The government would select which families would get them," he said.

The local community in Chalong has expressed strong initial support for the project, which would be of particular benefit to longtail boatmen in Chalong Bay, Mr Blignaut said.

"This is an add-on for the boating community in Chalong. As they will have another stop for tourists, they can say, 'Hey we can go to the Monkey Is-

land.' We don't have any boats; the only boat we will have is to cart sewage. The longtail boats are going to bring people to the sanctuary."

Mr Blignaut said he hoped to develop Koh Aew as a world leader in primate conservation and maintain healthy populations of various species there until such time as they can be successfully

The project's primary goal is conservation of primate species and other wildlife, increasing environmental awareness and supporting Phuket's tourism industry.

An artist's conception of what one of the monkeys would see from Koh Tanan.





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If the plans receive approval, Phuket's Monkey Island sanctuary could be home to 30 species of primates. INSET: Koh Aew's rocky shoreline would make it difficult for monkey poachers to access, the would-be developers say.

reintroduced into the wild – a process that could take hundreds of, or even 1,000, years, he said.

"Since our application last year, the governor has appointed a working committee to consider the project. The committee has already considered the environmental impacts of the project. We also have a top team from Prince of Songkla University in Haad Yai helping us study the environmental impact, both on land and in the sea," he said.

The researchers, who need to conclude two more surveys, are expected to submit their findings in September, he said.

"If we can get permission by October, then the island should be ready by April the following year," he said.

Strict environmental controls, similar to those that apply to the existing park in South Africa, would be put in place on both islands, he said.

"We have done extensive coral surveys. There will be minimal impact as we will only put non-destructive monkeys on the island. We try to make it as environmentally friendly as possible.

"People said to us, 'You've got to treat your sewage really well before you put it into the sea.' I said, 'What do you mean? We don't put sewage in the sea – treated or untreated. All the sewage effluent will be taken back to the mainland to be put into the municipal waste treatment system,'" he said.

As to what kinds of pri-

mates Koh Aew would become home to should the South Africans' vision become a reality, Mr Blignaut said there would be about 30 species of new- and old-world monkeys.

"We would probably have a few capuchins and other primates such as lemurs and persimmons. The golden-legged tamarin would be the smallest, as any smaller and they could get picked off by an eagle, apes or other animals," he said.

The pair have learned a great deal about such matters from their existing projects.

As to what kinds of primates Koh Aew would become home to should the South Africans' vision become a reality, Mr Blignaut said there would be about 30 species of new- and old-world monkeys.

"In South Africa we have Monkeyland and also bird sanctuary called Birds of Eden that has miniature monkeys. Three little monkeys can fit in a teacup. The miniature monkeys are kept in a 22-story-tall cage so that they are safe from predators.

"For the lemurs, there would be two males of each species so

they can hang out together and not cross-pollinate. It is supposed to be a natural environment; we don't want to be breeding mongrel monkeys there. The research island is more for breeding – so that the primatologists can study them. This research would be some of the best in the world as the primates would be in a safe environment," he said.

Strict quarantine procedures would be maintained to prevent the spread of simian diseases and guards with a patrol boat would be on duty around the clock to prevent poaching, he added.

To move forward, the project will need the support and permission of Wichit and Rawai municipalities as well as a host of other government agencies.

Another matter that would have to be worked out would be whether the islands would be rented or the government would allow them to be used under a public-private investment scheme.

Despite the obstacles, Mr Blignaut is confident of success.

"We expect that the project will be ready to open sometime between April and December next year," he said.

"We estimate the total investment at about US\$3 million. We are a non-profit organization, but we realize that conservation has to pay for itself. Our main goal is preserving primates, not return on investment, but whatever the cost is, we will find a way to come up with the money," he said.

However, speaking with reporters a short time later, Gov Niran said that completing all the bureaucratic hurdles would be a long and arduous process.

The South Africans might have become unduly optimistic of success after the committee to study their proposal was formed, he added.

Both Wichit and Rawai municipalities already have their own plans to beautify the two islands and develop them into tourist attractions, he said.

"In my opinion, tourism promotion and development is always a positive thing, but the Thai government's administrative system can cause many difficulties for potential investors," he said.

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A reporter and a rescue worker were killed and 18 other people injured in a double bombing in Sungai Kolok, Narathiwat, on August 21.

Police said insurgents detonated a homemade bomb hidden inside a motorcycle about 500 meters from a night market in Sungai Kolok District, near the Malaysian border, at about 9 pm.

No one was injured in the first blast, but when reporters, police and other onlookers converged on the scene a second bomb hidden inside a car exploded.

Channel 9 reporter Phadung Wannaluck, the assistant district chief of Sungai Kolok and several police officers were among the injured.

The *Thai Rath* reporter, Chalee Boonsawat, had survived several bomb blasts in the past.

Rescue volunteer Chakrit Chaladthanakij died in hospital the following day.

Following a review of CCTV footage and searches involving more than 200 security personnel, eight people were detained for questioning.

Also in Narathiwat, six soldiers were slightly injured on the morning of August 25, when insurgents detonated a bomb near the Ban Bang Khunthong School in Tak Bai district.

Police said the bomb exploded shortly after the soldiers, who escorted teachers to the school, stopped to rest at a corner inside the school compound.

The bomb, buried near the corner, was detonated with a mobile phone.

Road trip. Police arrested three men in possession of more than 5,000 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) after searching their car at a checkpoint in Surat Thani's Ban Nasan district August 20.

The men were identified as Sanit "Ung" Phlaichum, Thanetphong "Bao" Phuchitanon and

Two killed, 18 injured in Sungai Kolok bombing



Forensics experts sift through the wreckage left by the two bombs that went off outside a restaurant in Narathiwat's Sungai Kolok district on the night of August 21. INSET: Channel 9 reporter Phadung Wannaluck was rushed to Narathiwat Ratchanakharin Hospital for treatment.

Pvt Phichanut "Ja" Phromthip.

The men were stopped at a checkpoint on the Asia Highway in Village 2, Tambon Khuan Sri. In their car, police found 5,330 *ya bah* pills, a .22 pistol with six rounds of ammunition and 0.61 grams of cannabis.

Sanit admitted that he had got the car and the drugs from a man named Aekaphon, or "Aek", who lived in a flat in Bangkok's Huay Kwang district. He said he did not know the man's surname.

Sanit said that he was paid 4,700 baht to take the drugs from

Bangkok to a buyer in Phuket and that this was the third time he had made the trip, police said.

Thanetphong denied knowing anything about the *ya bah*, but admitted to possession of the cannabis while Pvt Phichanut denied any involvement with the drugs.

All three have been charged with drug and firearms offenses.

Dangerous business. Following the death of a 16-year-old schoolgirl in Krabi, a man and his daughter have been arrested for performing illegal abortions.

The girl, whose name was not released by police, died in Krabi Hospital at the beginning of August following a botched abortion. Public health officers notified police of the incident and a hunt for the practitioners of the abortion was launched.

The investigation led police to Samran Siriphan, 54, and his daughter Satha Siriphan, 32. After requesting arrest warrants for the pair, police on August 21 ar-

rested them outside Rainbow Hotel in Muang Krabi's Tambon Pak Nam, where they were allegedly on their way to perform another abortion.

Police also seized a selection of equipment used to perform abortions including lengths of wire, rubber gloves and birth control pills.

After the arrest, police searched the home of Samran's estranged wife, Phuangphaka, where they found more equipment used for performing abortions. Phuangphaka, who split up with Samran about a year ago, denied any involvement in the operations, but police are continuing to treat her as a suspect.

Samran confessed that he had been carrying out abortions for about 20 years and had probably performed more than 10,000 operations over the years.

He said that he was educated only up to Prathom 4, but taught himself how to perform the procedure, police said.

Samran said that most of his customers were in Krabi, but he also traveled to perform abortions in other provinces in the South including Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phang Nga, Trang and Phuket. His patients' ages ranged from 12 up to 47, but that most were teenagers, many of them Muslim.

He usually performed the procedures in hotel rooms, often taking no more than five minutes. He charged women 1,000 baht for each month they were pregnant. Most women found him by recommendations from former patients, he added.

Lt Col Chertphong Chiu-pricha, Inspector at Muang Krabi Police Station, said that Samran and Satha have been charged with causing death through performing an abortion.

Despite police appeals, no women who had abortions performed by the pair have come forward to testify or press charges.

Pricey pint. A monk in Surat Thani was sentenced to two months in prison for drinking in a temple on a holy day.

His drinking companion, a layman, was given a one-month prison term for his role.

Phrakhru Samuphanwisit Panyalo and Prasit Thaithong were arrested on July 17, Asarnha Bucha Day, a Buddhist festival commemorating the Buddha's first sermon, after villagers told police that the pair were drinking beer on the grounds of a temple in Phunphin district.

In delivering the verdict, the Surat Thani Civil Court judge said Phrakhru Samuphanwisit had been a monk for more than 10 years and had studied Buddhist theology to a high level.

As such, he should have been fully aware that drinking in a temple was a grave sin and in contravention of the Fifth Precept to abstain from intoxicants that cause heedlessness.

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

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Participants at a recent seminar in Haad Yai on child prostitution and human trafficking pointed their fingers at police inefficiency and corruption.

Student leaders in Songkhla's Haad Yai and Sadao districts asked police how it was possible that they were unable to locate brothels and karaoke bars offering prostitution, when such establishments were easily found by members of the public.

Both districts are used by traffickers to "rest" girls and women before they are smuggled into Malaysia.

The girls provide sex services to locals and foreigners during their brief stays.

The women and girls, who are either forced into or willing to enter the sex business, are from Burma, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and China, the seminar heard.

Chinese women are popular among Malaysian or Singaporean clients.

Willing local women are smuggled into Malaysia or Singapore through these channels.

Between 2004 and 2008, 532 cases of trafficking were reported to Malaysian authorities. Of these, 490 involved girls from Thailand.

Police occasionally receive complaints from trafficked women who escape from brothels, but in almost every case the women, instead of receiving help, are charged with illegal entry.

A woman official said she always had to be careful about "which police officers" she approached for help.

"We are never certain about police officers we deal with. Are they on the traffickers' side? But we have no choice. We need the police to make arrests," she told the seminar.

Anant Dissara, chief of the provincial Human Development And Human Security Office, said more and more women were voluntarily entering the sex business, hoping to find a foreign tourist who would keep them as a mistress.

Occupational hazard. More than 1,200 Thai workers seeking overseas jobs have fallen victim to placement scams in the past nine months, losing around 69 million baht, the Employment Department said.

Employment Department chief Phairoj Suksamrit said the

Police corruption allows prostitution to flourish



Tourist Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Atthakrit Thareechat recently questioned members of the Padaung "longneck" Karen tribe after 12 people were reported missing from villages in Mae Hong Son's Mae Tang district. Police suspect the villagers may have been abducted by members of a human-trafficking ring.

average job seeker loses 53,000 baht. The department has managed to recoup about half of the total money stolen in the nine-month period.

From December last year, the most applications for overseas work are for South Korea, with more than 5,200. Other popular work spots are Taiwan (more than 3,100) and Israel (some 2,100).

In the past five years, South Korea has been the top labor importer, with more than 149,300 Thai workers going there. Other big importers of Thai labor are Japan and Qatar.

Prehistoric prints. Experts have confirmed the discovery of 210-million-year-old dinosaur footprints in the Northeastern province of Chaiyaphum.

Speaking at a press conference, Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University rector Saowanit Saonanon said the discovery was significant because some of the prints were likely to be the oldest ever found for sauropod dinosaurs and carnosaurs.

"We have also found some footprints belonging to a previ-

ously unknown species," she said.

The ancient footprints, spread over a 50-square-meter area, were found early last month in Ban Nong Toom in Chaiyaphum's Nong Bua Daeng district.

A team of experts from the university's Petrified Wood and Mineral Resource Museum inspected the ancient footprints on July 26 and 27, she said.

The team classified the new prints after consulting with Dr Yoichi Azuma from Japan and Prof Dong Zhiming from China.

Khun Saowanit said her team would work with local authorities and the Mineral Resources Department to conserve the ancient footprints.

A dinosaur footprint exhibition will be held in Chaiyaphum from October 29.

Domestic debts. Low-income people with monthly salaries not exceeding 20,000 baht are the

hardest-hit segment of society, with mounting debt as their incomes cannot cover rising expenses, according to a survey by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

The university's August poll found that the level of household debts hit a record high of 2.46 trillion baht, up 16.6% year-on-year.

"The figure clearly indicates that people are having serious cash-flow problems mainly due to the fact that their incomes do not cover the rising costs of living," said Thanavath Phonvichai, director of the university's Economic and Business Forecasting Center.

The findings came from a survey of 1,232 respondents from August 8 to 17 nationwide.

The poll found people have borrowed more this year for daily living expenses, transport costs, household expenses, healthcare and investment.

Total household debt accounts for 26% of the total gross domestic product. Debt per household rose to 135,166 baht this year from 116,681 baht last year.

Yajai Chuwicha, head of the Chamber Business Poll, said that more people have started to take on debt this year compared with last year, with 45% of total respondents saying they had a debt burden, compared with 21.8% last year.

More people had also resorted to underground loans, 35% compared with 32% last year, he said.

Mothers' helper. A national guideline on the women's right to have children is being worked out to regulate specific public medical services for various groups of women, including those with disabilities or HIV/Aids.

Under the guideline, disabled women will be guaranteed technical advice from state hospitals to determine whether their unborn children are at risk of genetic disabilities. They will also get special government-provided care and support during pregnancy.

Dr Sophon Mekthong, a deputy chief at the Department of Health helping to draft the guideline, cited a successful case under his supervision in which a healthy baby was born to parents with Aids after the mother was given intensive anti-Aids medication during the latter months of her pregnancy.

"The guideline will serve as an assurance such successes are possible over the long term," he said.

The 13-point guideline covers maternity care, birth control, prevention of venereal diseases, teen pregnancy, family planning, sex education and abortion.

It is being developed by officials from the Public Health, Education, Social Development And Human Security ministries and police. The guideline is expected to be approved by Cabinet by December.

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

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ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

Row upon row of over-priced concrete blocks are shooting up like mushrooms all over the place here in Khao Lak.

While at least 50 or so shophouses in the area are still unoccupied, it appears to be trendy for local businesspeople to erect even more of them.

Several old shops and restaurants near Khao Lak center were demolished and are now replaced by either shophouses or, worse, so-called "plazas".

Plazas are being erected with the aim of squeezing maximum income out of as little space as possible. These plazas are usually designed in a U-shape, with a square block of shops in the center. The space is then broken up into tiny squares of approximately two-by-two meters, which are then rented out for a ridiculously overpriced fee that has to be paid for six months or one year in advance.

Some plaza owners even ask tenants for "key money", a lump sum to be paid in cash at the beginning of the rental period.

Key money is usually paid if one rents a rewarding walk-in location where a lot of business is to be expected. Looking at the location of some of these plazas, one wonders how anyone could even consider renting a shop there to sell T-shirts or souvenirs while paying at least 100,000 baht per year plus key money.

Obviously the plaza owners have not learned anything from the past. History has taught that usually the rows closest to the main road will be occupied, while the shops located further away will stay empty forever.

Making just half of the earnings expected, the plaza owners will then raise the rent for the frontage shops in the years to follow, causing even more tenants to leave. Once the plaza is empty, it is then demolished to be replaced by shophouses — an-

Block-headed building of concrete blocks continues



TRAVELING TOWER: This overloaded truck shows that many locals have yet to get serious about road safety.

other, as we all know, great and flourishing business.

Low-season lift. Khao Lak was as quiet as usual in July, although there were more low-season tourists here than in previous years.

The weather was unbelievably mild and sunny with calm seas, allowing visitors to swim and relax on the beach. More shops, restaurants, tour and dive operators stayed open through the rainy season, which is a positive trend.

Given all this, there will certainly be some happy and satisfied travelers promoting Khao Lak overseas as a worthy off-season destination.

Slip slidin'. "Upside down you're turning me, and you'll crash your car instinctively..." I made up this ditty from the good old Diana Ross song while driving along Petchkasem Rd in the rain. The few rainy patches were, of course, demanding enough to push some drivers over the edge.

Amazed as always to see people's lack of ability to properly handle a simple pickup truck on a wet road, I was able to shoot a new and exciting photo collection showing trucks lying upside down in ditches left and right of Petchkasem Rd.

Almost all of the trucks had flipped over onto their roofs. At some point I did not even bother to stop to take more photos since there were too many dramatic scenes to capture.

Although the police were

busy erecting temporary checkpoints along the highway, road havoc soared to new all-time highs any time the first raindrops fell.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and has since called Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted by email to avalon@loxinfo.co.th

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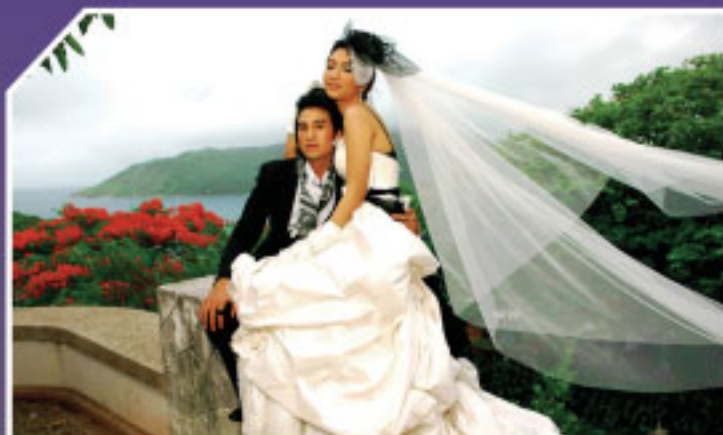
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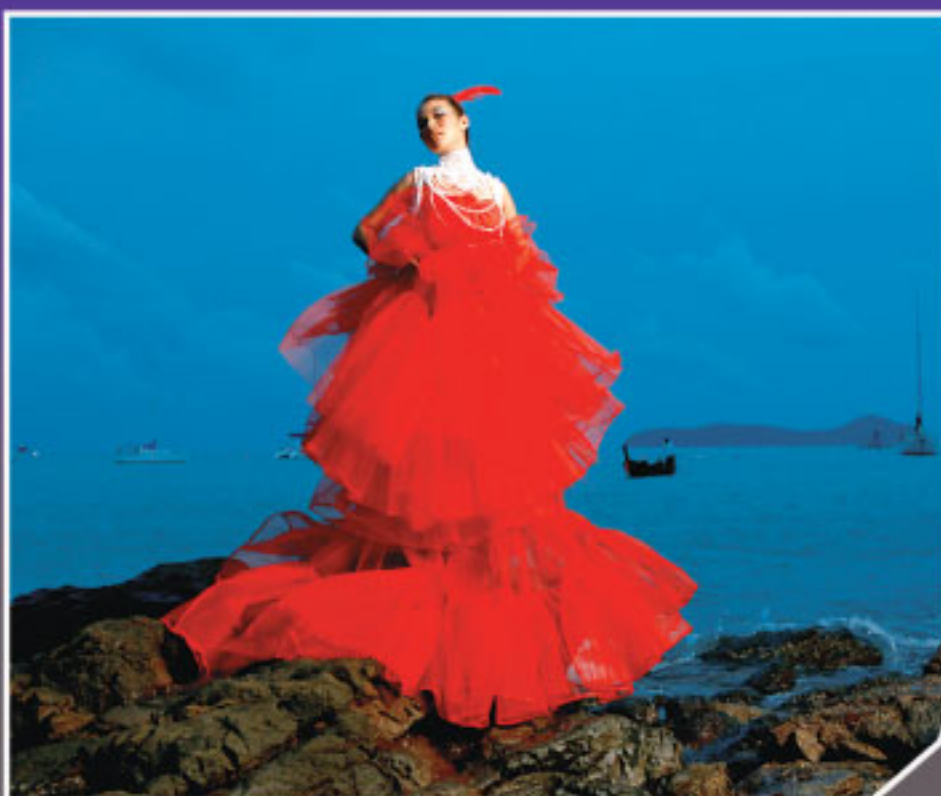
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By Akbar Khan

SACRED SIGHTS

As the number 9 is considered auspicious in Thailand, most provinces have some kind of nine-temple tour. Although these tours are very popular in Ayudhaya and Bangkok, Phuket has yet to have an official nine-temple tour.

What it does have, though, is a nine-sacred-sites tour, which makes for an informative trip around the island that introduces many aspects of the island's history to those who undertake it.

This week the *Gazette* looks at the first on the list of Phuket's nine sacred sites, Wat Pra Tong and will follow with more in later editions. Before we get into the story, just a reminder that when visiting temples one should dress appropriately, meaning that it's best to cover up with long-sleeve shirts and long pants.

Wat Pra Tong can be accessed via Soi Nanai or Soi Wat Pra Tong off Thepkasattri Rd. Coming from Sarasin Bridge, the soi to enter is about 300 meters past Thalang Hospital.

Wat Pra Tong has many curios to entertain visitors, some of them ironic choices to adorn temple grounds, such as the giant metal ball at the main entrance to the temple. Take a closer look at this and you'll discover that it is a World War II anti-submarine bomb.

The botanical gardens of the temple have interesting signs that explain the medicinal properties of each species of plant. Having a Thai person accompany you might be a good idea if you cannot read Thai and would like to understand all the explanations given.

There are several buildings in the temple grounds and two of them are particularly interesting: the main chapel with its bizarre half Buddha image and a quaint museum. If the museum appears to be closed, find the steps at the



Wat Pra Tong in Thalang, one of the stops on Phuket's official "nine sacred sites" tour, offers visitors a unique experience, with surprising additions to be found scattered throughout the temple's grounds.

side of the building and enter from the second floor. If the door is locked, you can just go and ask one of the monks to have it opened.

Dotted around the temple grounds are many other interesting things to see, such as ancient canons, the image of a cemetery guardian and Malaysian bantams strutting around.

The museum and temple are both free to visit. There is a souvenir shop in the main chapel where you can buy beautiful trinkets. A pendant for the day of the

week that you were born on costs 10 baht for a small one or 20 baht for a larger one.

Apart from the main Buddha images, there is also a series of Buddha images in poses, each representing a different day of the week. Visitors who know which day of the week they were born on pray to the Buddha image that represents their birthday.

The temple was originally built by a Hokkien man called Kong Leng who discovered tin in Thalang and traveled overland to Surat Thani and then by boat to Ayudhaya to bestow gifts before the king. He received the royal title Orkyasurintaraja and was appointed Lord of Thalang. He then acquired rights to a tax-free tin monopoly in Takuapa.

When he sailed back down

the Chao Praya River and out to sea, he took slaves with him to work in the mines.

He thought that another area nearby had fung shui suitable for accommodation for his workers and so he built Wat Pra Tong as a center for Theravada Buddhists and another Sarn Jao shrine for Tao Buddhists.

A half-Buddha image that locals call Phra Put is a local legend, which has it that a boy tied his buffalo to a mud-covered stone while out one day.

The next morning the boy died and then the buffalo died. His father dreamed that his son had tied the buffalo somewhere inappropriately and had a vision of a golden Buddha.

The next day he went to dig in the spot he'd dreamed about

and discovered a half-Buddha image.

Another legend has it that when the Burmese looted Thalang they could not carry the Buddha image, so then put it in gold before taking it to Wat Pra Tong. Any person who tried to remove the Buddha image was attacked by ants, hornets, wasps and bees.

It is believed that the original gold Buddha came from Tibet 2,000 years ago. After the son of King Rama VII came to Phuket, the golden image was encased in a larger image by the Department of Fine Arts to further protect it from would-be thieves.

There are some initials inscribed on the chapel. These are an abbreviated signature signed by King Rama IX when he visited the temple on March 11, 1959.

The *Gazette* will be covering the other sacred sites in forthcoming issues. Many tourists like to spend considerable time in the tranquil surroundings of these sites just soaking up the serenity, history and culture, rather than trying to race around all nine in one day. Phuket's official nine sacred sites are:

- 1) Wat Pra Tong
- 2) Heroines' Monument, Thao Thepkasatri and Thao Sri Soonthorn
- 3) Sarn Jao Seng Tham
- 4) Sarn Jao Bang Nieow/Sarn Jao Giew Tien Keng
- 5) Sarn Jao but jor
- 6) Sarn Jao Jewey Duey
- 7) Phraya Rasutana Pradit Monument (Ko Sim Bi Na Rayong)
- 8) Wat Chai Tararam (Wat Chalong)
- 9) Sarn Jao Kathu

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Amazin' Arabian

This week's guest chef is the female half of the husband-and-wife team, Israeli expat Shicartzy Ovadia and his Thai wife Benjama, or Ben, as she prefers to be called. The couple lay claim to opening one of the first restaurants to serve Israeli dishes on the island when they established The Family Mediterranean Restaurant in Chalong about eight years ago.

Since then it has become well known for its wide variety of Mediterranean dishes, such as falafel, hummus and Greek salads.

Over the years, Khun Ben has worked hard to learn how to cook a wide variety of Mediterranean dishes and to recreate them as authentically as possible.

Ovadia said that this hasn't been easy to do because in Israel, dishes such as hummus are made fresh every day and never kept more than a few hours.

Whatever is left over is given away because it will soon begin to go off.

He explained that The Family are able to ensure the freshness of their dishes – even in the tropics – not by using additives or preservatives, but by making batches of hummus that are frozen straight away then transferred to a fridge that was specially made for the restaurant that keeps the food cool enough to be scooped and served when ordered.

More recently, Khun Ben has been learning how to cook what Ovadia calls “pure Arabic” dishes, such as couscous, moussaka, stuffed vegetables and salads, such as tabbouleh and *laban*, which are made from cheeses and yogurts.

Their new specialty dish, however, and the recipe for which they have gracefully allowed the *Gazette* to publish, is Arabian kebabs, which are shaped like fat sausages and served on long sticks accompanied by a simple salad.

K. Ben said that most of the ingredients are readily available in Phuket, except for Arabic spices.

“We get our spices by asking friends to bring some with them when they visit us as we've never been able to find it anywhere else. People who can't find Arabic spices can try using other blends of mixed spice instead,” she said.

Guest chef

By Nick Davies



PURE ARABIAN: Arabian kebabs served with salad, fried potato and *Tahina*.

Arabian Kebabs Serves 4

200g Minced beef
Chopped parsley
A pinch of cumin
Chopped garlic
¼ Onion
½ an egg (beaten)
Roast cashew nuts (crushed)
Bread crumbs
Mixed Arabian spices
Black pepper (ground)
Chili (crushed)

Method

Simply mix all the kebab ingredients together in a bowl until the mixture can be shaped into individual kebabs and grill them on medium heat until cooked.

The garlic, pepper and chili do not have to be exact measurements. Anything from a pinch to a spoonful of each, depending on one's taste.

Arabic Salad Ingredients

1-2 large cucumbers (finely chopped)
1 onion (finely chopped)
1 tomato (finely chopped)
1 green bell pepper (finely chopped)

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Michael and Nipa Lawrence were married on July 25 at Michael's Bar in Phuket City.

Pornpimon Songkhun and Krissakorn Suesakulpaisarn were married at the Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 13.



Beauty before

Gazette: Aren't government workers supposed to retire when they reach 60?

Khun Prapan: I cannot stop working in the mortuary and forensic laboratory of Vachira Phuket Hospital. I continue to help the doctors carry out autopsies because I love my job and also because I do not want to burden my sons, forcing them to take care of me. Even though I officially retired two years ago, I'm still working so that I can support myself. I think I will keep doing this job until I run out of energy or maybe when my wife retires in a few year's time.

Gazette: When did you start working at Vachira Phuket Hospital?

Khun Prapan: I began in 1970. I started off in the operating room. They were short-staffed at the time, so I had to help out in the mortuary. I now have a lot more responsibility. I have to inject formalin into the corpses [to stop them from decomposing] and also dress and make up the bodies to try and make them look as presentable as possible.

Gazette: Do you ever feel scared doing this job?

Khun Prapan: I have seen many corpses of people who have all died in many different ways, such as in accidents, by suicide or from disease. I'm not afraid of the corpses, however, because they used to be alive just like us and nobody can avoid death – we are all mortals.

I think that if I make them look good, or at least look better, then they will find the stairway to heaven. I believe that the living can be more horrible than the dead anyway; the dead are just dead bodies and they don't hurt us.

I start work at about 7:30 am and finish at 4:30 pm. Sometimes I like to be on night duty [until midnight] and work alone

Nakhon Sri Thammarat native **Prapan Sriharan**, 62, graduated from high school in 1966 and came to work Phuket. His first job was as an embroiderer, but when he heard that Vachira Phuket Hospital was recruiting, he put his name forward and got himself a new job.

Instead of stitching cloth, however, his new career saw him stitching bodies back together so they would look as good as possible when relatives came to claim them. The *Gazette's* Natcha Yuttaworawit talks to Vachira Phuket Hospital's mortician.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE: Prapan Sriharan certainly has his work cut out for him, stitching the remains of the dead back together and making them look as good as possible before friends or relatives come to collect their bodies.

because I have no fear and I have never seen anything strange.

I have never seen a corpse wake up. If someone dies in a hospital then the body must stay there for at least two hours before it can be taken to the morgue. This is for two reasons. First, the relatives may wish to be with the dead body. Second is to remove any doubt as to whether the person is really dead.

Gazette: What if no-one comes to pick up a body?

Khun Prapan: There are many corpses that aren't collected by friends or relatives, so we just wash the body and wait for two weeks before we send it to the [Kusoldharm] Foundation. All of the corpses that are uncollected are now kept at the cemetery in Mai Khao.

Gazette: How many staff work in the morgue?

Khun Prapan: Now we have four staff, including myself and a doctor. Sometimes we have to work on one corpse at the same time, because there's so much to do if the person was in a serious accident.

We have Dr Somchai Yinprasert, a new forensic scientist at the hospital, who was trained by Thailand's famous Dr Pornthip. He just arrived this month and hopefully he can help minimize the time that bodies

must stay in the morgue.

Today there are more people dying from accidents, disease and murder, so we need to perform more autopsies. Although we might be overworked sometimes, there are actually some days when we have nothing to do.

Gazette: Are there any difficulties associated with your work?

Khun Prapan: Not really. We can always improvise and compromise. We only have 10 fridges here, each built to hold one body each. If we have more than 10 corpses then I have to make bunks for the bodies so that they can share a fridge together. We always make sure that they are in their own fridge if we know that someone is coming to pick up the body.

Bodies often come in from road accidents, cut in half, dismembered or decapitated, and so I must do my best to stitch the body parts back together. If a brain or heart is popping out then I try to put it back in again.

Sometimes people bring me a skeleton for autopsy. The clothes of the deceased are the best clue as to who they may be and sometimes relatives recognize the clothes.

Doing autopsies is not easy. If someone has been shot, for example, then we need to consult with police, doctors and rela-

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the grave



THE MORTICIAN: 'I have never seen a corpse wake up. If someone dies in the hospital, the body remains in the hospital for a minimum of two hours before it is taken to the morgue,' says K. Prapan.

tives before removing the bullets, as this could be a way of tampering with a murder case investigation.

Gazette: Are the corpses you deal with mostly Thai?

Khun Prapan: Not at all. We have all nationalities here. Originally this was the only morgue on the island. There is another one now, but this is still the main morgue. The large private hospitals usually send their corpses here too.

I pity not only the Thais, but all nationalities who die in Thailand. Some of them are alone with no relatives to claim the body, so that's when I really feel sad.

Cambodian and Burmese bodies are the most common foreign fatalities on the island. Most of them were laborers and usually they were murdered or were in a drunken brawl.

A lot of the time nobody asks for the bodies, so we just wash them and cover the corpses with white handwoven cloth before sending them to the [Kusoldharm] foundation. I feel depressed whenever some poor relatives say they don't have enough money to pay for the formalin, but at least I have my own private stash of formalin that I can donate to them.

If they are Buddhists then I can dress the corpse, but usually if they are Christians or Muslims we call a priest or mullah to perform these services. The methods of cleaning, dressing and placing the hands on the body are different for each religion.

After the tsunami, all four staff were working hard with so many corpses being sent to the hospital. Luckily there were na-

tional foundations that sent officers to help us. There were no problems with the limited area because there were containers for most of the bodies.

Some of the dead were decaying and could not be clothed, so we just laid the clothes on the bodies to cover them.

I don't get stressed with my work, even though there are conflicts. Sometimes we have problems talking to relatives of the deceased.

I have a lot of experience dealing with people and know about many races, nationalities and religions. In the end it's all the same, regardless of creed or color.

Gazette: Any advice for foreigners coming to pick up a corpse?

Khun Prapan: There are only two places that I know of here in Phuket that sell coffins. One is opposite Wat Saen Suk and the other is *here*, opposite the mortuary.

There are many old foreigners who pass away in their retirement homes and the relatives are often frustrated that they need the correct documentation before I can release a body from the morgue.

To collect the body of a foreigner the following documents should be brought to me: a death certificate, passport of the deceased, passport of the person collecting the body and a document from the appropriate embassy certifying that they are the correct person to be picking up the body.

Also, don't forget the nominal fees made for the formalin injections and cleaning of the body.

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This week

RIGHT: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya presided over the grand opening of the Millennium Resort Patong, Phuket, on July 29 during a visit to the province. She was accompanied by provincial officials and executives from Phuket Square Co and Millennium Resort Patong Phuket.

BELOW: Children at the Life Home Project show their appreciation for charitable contributions made by DirectRoom executives Managing Director Alex Lotz (5th from left) and Operations Director Graham Dewe (6th from left) on their recent visit to the charity foster home project.



BY THE BOTTLE: Mom Tri's Boathouse staff celebrate being awarded 'Best of Award of Excellence 2008' by *Wine Spectator Magazine* for the third consecutive year. Pictured are (from left): Mom Tri's Boathouse Executive Chef Tummanoon Punchun, Wine Director for Mom Tri's restaurants Georges Ciret, plus Mom Tri's Boathouse General Manager Louis Bronner and staff, including F&B Manager Pinyo Thippimas and PR Manager Lisa Sol.




GALA SALA: Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima hands a certificate to Ian Henry of Cambell Kane Co – developers of The Yamu and other real estate projects on the east coast – in recognition of the developer's contribution to the community in replacing the pavilion at Tha Rua-Muang Mai intersection in Pa Khlok (Route 4027). The previous pavilion had fallen into disrepair and was redesigned and built by Cambell Kane Co at a cost of 441,700 baht.



IN STYLE: President of Lifestyles Health & Fitness Co Gupindar Mahal (right), his wife Rajinder Singh Jasvinder Kaur (center) and Sales & Marketing Manager Pornsi Pringsuwan (left) celebrate the recent launch of the company's Pevonia Botanica spa products at Twin Palms Phuket's Palm Spa.



SUBURBAN BEAT: Veena Arunyakasem, Mall & Media Director for Tesco, and guests Phuket's Provincial Police Chief Apirak Hongtong and Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai were entertained by a tribal dance show during the opening of Tesco@Park community mall in Wichit on August 22.




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Phuket gets hauled into global aviation crisis

The airline industry is experiencing one of its worst tailspins since the 9/11 attacks and Phuket will not escape the fallout.

This doomsday scenario is shared by many in the industry because of the ongoing impact of rising oil prices. Airlines pay a lot more for refined jet fuel than the standard price per barrel quoted in the media.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents about 290 airlines, said that in Asia-Pacific, international passenger traffic growth fell to 3.2% from 4.5% in June. In cargo the situation is worse: Asia-Pacific led the world with a 4.8% drop year-on-year.

Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO commented: "The airline sector is in trouble. Losses this year could reach US\$6.1 billion, more than wiping out the US\$5.6 billion airlines made in 2007. Falling demand and rising costs are shaping the industry." Airlines including British Airways and American are talking merger to ensure long term survival and there have been a string of loss announcements, especially by US carriers.

To give you an idea of how much fuel has risen since 2003, here are some statistics. In 2003, fuel was 14% of an airline's operating costs, the average price per barrel of crude oil was US\$28.8 and the total fuel cost for the airline industry was US\$44 billion. Fast forward to 2008 (based on June figures) and fuel is 36% of operating costs, the average price of a barrel of crude oil is US\$122 (since reduced) and the total fuel bill is US\$189 billion.

The good news for Phuket could be that demand in the Middle East-Asia market remains strong compared with the rest of the world. Global economy travel continues to grow at 3.4% in June compared with the previous year, but the IATA said demands appears to be slowing.

From a Phuket perspective, while the overall global situation is depressing, with Phuket developers and hoteliers targeting the Middle East and lucrative Asian markets such as Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and China, the trends within Middle East-Asia are more encouraging.

So how is this affecting Phuket? The Nok Air grounding of six aircraft because of rising fuel costs was a typical example of what is happening worldwide. It had an immediate effect on passengers transiting through Suvarnabhumi Airport to Phuket, with many not being able to obtain flights for days, thus ruining

their holidays. Nok Air's subsequent decision to fly on weekends helps a bit, but it is only a sticking plaster.

Nok Air's dilemma underscores a deeper problem with the Thailand aviation environment. The airline opted, indeed pushed, to fly out of the old Don Mueang Airport to keep landing fees and other costs down as Suvarnabhumi was too expensive for its form of low-cost model. As a result, Nok Air was not picking up many of the hundreds of thousands of transit passengers coming through Suvarnabhumi and on to destinations such as Phuket.

There is now consideration being given to the airline going back to Suvarnabhumi so it can pick up this traffic in co operation with its nominal "parent", THAI Airways.

Even better than transit passengers through Bangkok would be an increase in direct flights to Phuket. With direct flights from Japan, Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Australia, and more than a dozen charter flights out of the far northern hemisphere, Phuket is well served. But if the continued growth in hotel rooms is to be profitably served, we need more. THAI has resumed Narita-Phuket flights, but with its current financial difficulties, its options to expand operations are limited in the short term.

Michael Ayling, managing director of Laguna Phuket Resorts and Hotels, the island's biggest hotel group, made the pertinent comment in a recent *Phuket Gazette* "First Person" column that Phuket must not allow itself to be lured into a false sense of security as a destination.

Mr Ayling wants to see more attractions built, such as theme parks and water parks, to lure visitors. These and other destination-marketing ideas are very good, but they will mean very little if air services to Phuket are reduced or seriously disrupted by the current aviation global crisis.

At this stage the most optimistic scenario for Phuket would be:

- One-Two-Go, grounded by the Department of Civil Aviation for safety and legal reasons, meets all requirements and receives its operating certificate back. One-Two-Go and Nok Air's groundings have put unprecedented, but profitable, pressure on Thai Air Asia and THAI Airways to meet demand with existing capacity.

• One-Two-Go re-emerges as a "unique" budget carrier with more full-service benefits. This is something the company is said to be working on.

• Nok Air continues its weekend flights and, in the meantime, undergoes a substan-

tial restructuring of the business by moving to Suvarnabhumi and adjusting its schedule and route network to co-ordinate with THAI Airways and to pick up more international transit passengers.

- THAI Airways increases capacity to cover the Nok Air shortfall, assuming One-Two-Go resumes flights. If it does not, THAI would have to look at increasing capacity through more flights or larger aircraft on some flights to cover the shortfall.

- Thai Air Asia is in a similar position to THAI. It would need to look at increasing capacity to get its share of a larger market created by the absence, or reduced services, of the other airlines. However, as a low-cost carrier it has more constraints on it to increase capacity quickly on such a short-haul route.

- The charter businesses in places such as Scandinavia and around Asia continue to come to Phuket despite the oil prices. Many hotels and short-stay condominium complexes are geared to this market, mainly from Russia and Scandinavia.

These scenarios, apart from the last one, are contingent on One-Two-Go getting airborne again – a 50-50. The results of the investigation into the crash are ex-

pected to be delivered to a high-powered committee in Thailand at the end of September.

So far, the Thai-based airlines have resisted taking the drastic action some US airlines have taken, or are considering, such as removing in-flight entertainment, charging for IFE headphones, virtually eliminating food on domestic flights and applying extra charges for baggage.

Even these airlines cannot escape the safety issue. Two of the biggest – Southwest Airlines and United Airlines – face stiff fines for allegedly breaching safety regulations.

It would be fair to say that this current fuel crisis and its impact on the aviation industry, including in Thailand, has been much more severe and long lasting than many other crises.

We can only hope that, coupled with a slowdown in world demand, the forces causing the oil crisis will pull back and we can get on with building Phuket, through aviation, as one of the world's premier tourist destinations.

Alastair Carthew is a freelance writer, public relations consultant, journalist and media trainer based in Phuket. He can be contacted by email to alastaircarthew@gmail.com

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Marrying by numbers 08.08.08

August 8, 2008, was considered a special day for those who believe in auspicious numbers, as it was the the eighth day of the eighth month of the eighth year of this millennium.

The day was especially significant for Hong Kong couple Alison Tam and Edmund Chan, who chose 08.08.08 as the day to make their marriage vows and tie the knot at Laguna Phuket.

A wedding ceremony was held at the Laguna Wedding Chapel and was followed by a Moulin Rouge-inspired reception ball at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, for which a total of 130 guests were flown in from Hong Kong, Canada, Malaysia, Japan and the UK.

Guests in costumes resembling dancers of the famous French dance show enjoyed free-flowing Moët & Chandon champagne before saying *au revoir* as the couple headed off for their first night together at Banyan Tree Phuket's romantic Double Pool Villa.



Lucky number 8

In Mandarin and Cantonese languages the words for the number 8 sound similar to the words for prosperity, while numerologists say that 8 has strong karmic implications; it is known as the "great balancer".

Many also believe that the eighth is a good day to start something new, such as opening a new business or moving house and, of course, starting a new life with your beloved.

August 8 was also selected as the opening day of the recent Olympics in Beijing, and for a bit of extra luck, organizers set 8:08 pm exactly as the moment for the opening ceremony to begin.

In Chengdu, China, the telephone number 8888-8888 was sold for US\$270,723 and the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that 9,000 weddings took place in the capital on Friday, August 8 – twice the previous single-day marriage record.

Many other cultures and religions, including Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Christians, also consider the number 8 to be auspicious.

In Buddhism, the path to enlightenment is called the eight-fold path and is symbolized by an eight-spoked wheel.

To Hindus, 8 is the symbol of wealth and abundance and the Hindu goddess Lakshmi has eight forms.

The Jewish religious rite of brit milah (circumcision) is held on a baby boy's eighth day of life and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe that humans are responsible for their actions by the age of eight, believing that before that age, children lack sufficient knowledge to commit sin and are therefore exempt from judgment for their actions.

In the Middle Ages, 8 was the number of unmoving stars in the sky and in Daoist legend there are eight immortals who have the power to give life and destroy evil.

In science, oxygen has an affiliation with the number 8. It is the element with atomic number 8 and makes up 88.8% of the mass of water. In music, scales are divided into eight notes – an octave.



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Mac bet he'd be unlucky in the Scottish Play

Arcane superstitions abound in the theater, but the one everybody remembers is about not wishing someone "Good luck", but that they "Break a leg" instead.

Now, I'm not a terribly superstitious chap, but, after accidentally mumbling "Good luck" before the Andaman Players took to the stage at the Playhouse in Patong, I thought I had better look into how to lay any possible curse I may have brought upon us. I vaguely remembered that it had something to do with spinning around three times, pinching my nose and throwing a cat over my shoulder... or something like that.

Not wishing to upset one of my cats unduly, I thought it best to do a bit of serious in-depth research first (translation: at least to the second page of a Google search) and what I found out left me staggered. There are almost as many web pages about theatrical superstitions as there are about Britney Spears, which makes me wonder if people are taking both subjects a little too seriously.

Most of these sites, akin to the ones about Little Miss Toxic, are annoyingly repetitious, basically spouting the same old superstitions and their histories and offering little in the way of curse-removal solutions. Worst of all, it left me wondering just how many superstitions we'd broken since we first took to the stage last December.

For instance, did you know that wearing green on stage is considered incredibly bad luck (apparently Moliere died wearing a green night shirt), unless you're in Italy where purple is the color sformato, while Spanish actors refuse to wear yellow (anyone know why?).

Fresh flowers on stage are also considered unlucky, but – as one sharp director pointed out – this is probably because fresh flowers need replacing daily and that's very bad luck for the producer's wallet.

My cats were relieved to find out that I wouldn't be lobbing them about anytime soon, because cats in theaters are considered very good luck... unless you kick one, which is very bad luck. Apparently this superstition dates back to the Pharaohs – and we all know what happened to them, don't we.

Then I remembered that Tony Kelsey-Stead's costume in the play *Adjoined* – in which he plays a drunken Italian hotelier – includes a pair of Garfield slip-

pers. Does standing on fluffy representations of cats count as a theatrical curse? Eek!

Still, only two more performances of that play and *Night in a Bar Room* to go – Royal Phuket Marina on August 30 and then our final show of these two comedies will be back at the Green Man on September 6. Extra milk rations for Tibbles between now and then should keep that curse at bay.

According to some sources, giving the director a bunch of flowers on opening night is very good luck for the actors, but the flowers need to be stolen from a newly filled grave. Ugh! And why is this good luck?

Because it saves those skin-flint actors from having to pay out for winning the director's favor.

But what about "Break a leg"? Well, there are so many ridiculous reasons for this saying

that I don't know where to begin. Some of the weirdest of these include a reference to John Wilkes Booth, who, having just shot Lincoln, broke his leg leaping onto the stage (yeah, that'll teach him to go around shooting presidents); Shakespearean audiences throwing the furniture about if they enjoyed the show (breaking many chair legs in the process?); and opining understudies wishing ill to their on-stage counterparts and thus causing the opposite.

The "Good luck" thing is even sillier, having something to do with theater faeries that prefer to do the opposite of what's been asked, although the astute director mentioned above does point out that egotistical actors who believe themselves imbued with good luck are more likely to fluff their lines.

So, following my research, it would appear that the Andaman Players have broken about half the superstitions that cause bad luck – although I have yet to catch anyone knitting backstage – and failed to do most of the things that guarantee a successful performance.

If there is anything to this superstition lark it hasn't done us much harm so far. Still, just to be on the safe side, I'll curb my desire to slip the name of the Scottish play into my next script ("I've finished laying the tarmac, Beth.") because I've just read about a theater company that called itself Defying Macbeth in an attempt to reveal the theatrical folly behind not mentioning that name. Terrible performances and poor audiences proved otherwise.

The Andaman Players are seeking new actors, backstage crew and anyone interested in being a part of this growing performance arts adventure. Must have own rabbit's paw. Email: andamanplayers@hotmail.com



Backstage

By Simon J Hand

Kids get deluxe day out



DELUXE DAY OUT: About 80 children from Baan Tharn Namchai orphanage in Khao Lak were treated to a fun-filled day and night of luxury at Bel Air Panwa Resort where they spent the day swimming and eating before being taken to Phuket Fantasea to celebrate Mothers' Day on August 11 and 12.

Several Phuket-based businesses and their employees helped support the the first in what is set to be an annual charity event, including Arfur O'Tools in Kata, Angus O'Tools in Karon, The Bamboo Bar Kathu, Victoria Orchids and PMA Screenprint. Bel Air Panwa staff also make monthly visits and donations to the orphanage and welcome contributions and offers of help from other local businesses and individuals.



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Looking younger is a real buzz

I woke up completely exhausted after taking care of my sick dog the day before. My face was covered with pimples, my eyes had rings around them and I looked at least 10 years older than my actual age. To put it bluntly: I looked ragged.

I was feeling miserable because my dog was on his death bed; I had to do something to feel better. I was looking and feeling old beyond my years, so I was in desperate need of a treatment to revitalize my face and make me look younger.

The Young Plus Beauty Center on the bypass road sprang to mind because I pass it every day on my way to and from work. I decided to pay the center a visit. I got in my car, drove over there and wondered what would be in store for me. As I entered the center I was greeted by the owner, Duangporn "Elle" Theerarungsarid, who welcomed me with a wide smile and a glass of water.

Khun Elle, 27, told me that she is a lover of all things beauty and that she likes nothing more than to look after her skin. A woman with high standards, K. Elle said that she hasn't found many beauty centers in Phuket that can fulfill her demands, so she decided to open her own – Young Plus – in November last year.

The skincare and beauty treatments offered at Young Plus use modern techniques and high-quality products that achieve fast and effective results, with K. Elle selecting her products from the Guinot Paris and Silhouette lines.

I asked K. Elle to give me a consultation regarding my tired and weary face. She recommended I have a face lift combined with an acne treatment. While a face lift might sound like



SHOCKINGLY GOOD: The dermalift treatment at Young Plus involves having your face massaged with electrodes.

portable at times.

After about 30 minutes, the first electric phase of my treatment was finally over. K. Kea cleaned my face and then placed a mask over it to soak up all the toxins and help soothe any acne. I then had my face massaged with the electrode sticks once again, which took about 15 min-

utes. something best suited to old people whose faces have become flabby, K. Elle assured me that the treatment can be beneficial for younger people, too.

"You don't need to wait until you get old before you have a face lift. If you start doing it now, you will stay looking young even when you are old," she said.

Target customers for Young Plus are working men and women looking for quick results to make them look younger. Unsure about the prospect of having a face lift, I scanned the spa menu for other treatments.

There were all sorts of

things on the menu: Dermalift Microface Caviar Vitellus Treatment, Beaute Nueve Treatment, Liftosome Treatment, Extra Luxury Body Treatment and Firming Aromatic Body Treatment. I eventually settled on the Dermalift Treatment.

"One of the most popular treatments is the Beaute Nueve Treatment, which uses fruit enzymes to help remove dead cells from the skin and make your face look radiant. This treatment is popular with soon-to-be brides who usually get a combo with the Extra Luxury Body Treatment, which will leave their bodies looking beautiful," said K. Elle.

I wished to be a bride again as I read about the treatments. It was almost too much to take in. Treatments were priced from 400 baht to 3,800 baht for the Botofusion Dermalift Treatment.

My dermalift began after I

followed my therapist, Maneerat "Kea" Prasaphan, to the facial treatment room. I laid down on the bed and then had several electrode pads attached to my face. K. Kea explained that the pads were placed over my 10 lymph glands to cajole the glands into action, which helps rejuvenate the skin.

After five minutes of receiving small electric shocks to my face, K. Kea removed the electrode pads and then applied an AHA solution to my face to stimulate exfoliation.

My face tingled for a few minutes, but I had no time to dwell on it as next up was my dermalift. I had a green collagen gel smeared over my face. K. Kea then took two small electrodes and moved them gently up and down over my face. Although I felt relaxed, the electrical zapping into my face was a little uncom-

utes.

After the treatment, I took a look in the mirror and almost didn't recognize the person looking back at me. I was back to looking my usual fresh self, maybe even with a few years trimmed off for good measure. All this after just one treatment. K. Elle hinted that the results would be even greater after two or three more sessions with the electrodes.

The dermalift course costs 2,700 baht, although members can get a 20% discount. Next time I want my face to look younger, I will be right back to Young Plus.

Young Plus Beauty Center is located at 96/3-4 Village 1 on the bypass road (next to The Royal Place). Open daily, 10:30 am to 8:30 pm. Tel. 076-304-106-7, 081-8292384. Website: www.youngplusphuket.com



Spa MAGIC

By Janyaporn Morel
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until September 26. Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat Exhibition.

Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat is a famous Thai painter with a 28-year painting career whose works have been shown in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, China, Taiwan and Indonesia. His exhibition at Art Rendezvous Gallery in Phuket City will be open until September 26.

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

Until August 31. Dusit Thani Laguna Double Tennis Tournament 2008.

The Annual Dusit Thani Laguna Double Tennis Tournament 2008 will be held at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, from August 29 to 31, with a view to promote tennis as a local sport as well as to strengthen relationships between tennis players in the hospitality business.

The awards presentation will be on August 31 after the final match.

The tournament, from 8 am to 9 pm, is open to the public although all applications have sold out.

Contact Vachira Thitahakul. Tel: 076-362999 (ext 7631). Email: dtlpgamgr@dusit.com

August 30. The Andaman Players present...

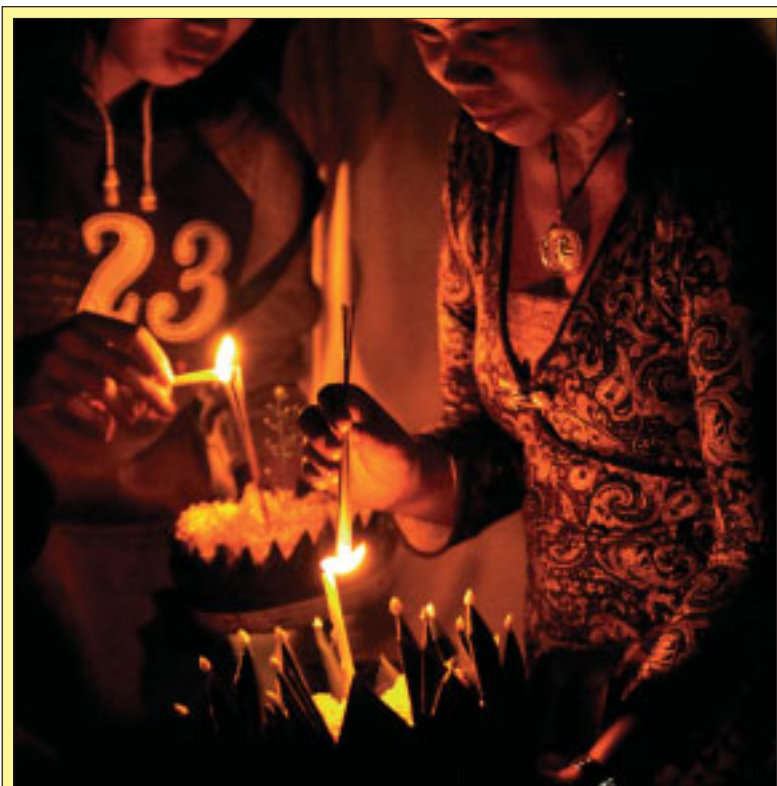
A Night at Royal Phuket Marina. Les Anges and Skippers introduce an evening of comedy theater with the Andaman Players. Dinner will be served at Les Anges, followed by performances at Skippers of the two short comedies *Night in a Bar Room* and *Adjoined*. The event is sponsored by Les Anges, Skippers and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Tickets are available from Les Anges and Skippers for 1,500 baht.

For more information contact Peter or Crystal. Tel: 081-9680738, 086-2820567. Email: peterw@royalphuketmarina.com

August 31. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

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

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

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

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

For more information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@KhunWoody.com Website: www.KhunWoody.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 included a buffet dinner, free-flow beer and wine, non-stop entertainment, and lots of fun at the beautiful venue.

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

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

The Punchline Comedy Club in association with the London Comedy Store presents a night of international stand-up comedy at the Holiday Inn Re-

sort Phuket, in Patong.

In true comedy tradition, the night of laughter is brought to you by an Englishman, an Irishman and a Welshman: Greg Davies ("Superb! Controls the audience with such flair! Hilarious too!" – *The Daily Telegraph*), 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*).

Tickets are 960 baht in advance, available at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes (see www.khunwoody.com for locations), or 1,200 baht on the door. A night of fun-filled laughter guaranteed.

For more information contact Pete. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Website: www.phuketcomedy.com

September 18-24. Photo Art by Dr Ilse Gibson at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Dr Ilse Maria Gibson is a full-time university lecturer on computer and business subjects, but she still finds time to indulge in her early passions: photography and writing.

Her interest in computer science and photography lead her to experiment with photos using various graphic programs, turning normal photos into pop art.

Opening cocktail reception on September 18 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

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

September 20. Underwater Cleanup.

Splash for trash on Interna-

tional Cleanup Day. Volunteer to help make clean waters a reality and join the biggest underwater cleanup of its kind. Green Fins Thailand (United Nations Environmental Program), Dive Asia, Sea Fun Divers & Scandinavian Scuba Doo are calling all divers to help clean up our oceans.

In 2007, a total of 358,617 recorded volunteers worldwide helped clean 34,560 miles of shoreline and remove seven million pounds of rubbish.

Only certified divers may join and all must be registered with the organizers. Only 100 places available.

Contact Juergen Schenker. Tel: 076-330598. Email: juergen.schenker@gmail.com Website: www.greenfins-thailand.org

September 20-October 5. Oktoberfest at Mövenpick Resort & Spa.

A Bavarian biergarten arrives in the tropics on September 20 when the Oktoberfest is launched at Pacifica Restaurant, Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach.

It starts with a grand German-themed barbecue including such specialties as pork knuckle, spätzle, knödel, grilled pork sausage and schwarzwälder kirschtorte – better known as black forest gâteau. Authentic beers, such as Hofbräu München's Schwarze Weisse Hefeweizen Dunkel and Münchner Hefeweizen, will be served.

Price: 990 baht for the opening barbecue.

Contact Patrick De Staercke. Tel: 076-396139-442. Email: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com Website: www.moevenpick-phuket.com

September 29-October 7. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

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ON THE MOVE

Panjaborn Limpanavisit has been appointed Spa Manager at Cheraim Spa Village. Working in the spa industry since 1999, Khun Panjaborn has been Spa Receptionist at Diamond Cliff Resort & Spa and at Mandara Spa at Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, both in Patong.

At JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, she served as Senior Spa Receptionist before moving to Royal Haven Spa in Rawai to work as Spa Manager. In 2005, she was appointed Assistant Spa Manager at Cheraim Spa Village.



Rodjalin Pongsuwan has been appointed Reservations Manager at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

Khun Rodjalin has managed reservation and front office departments in Phuket for more than 15 years, working with leading hotels and resorts including the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa and Laguna Beach Resort.

K. Rodjalin's academic and professional experience includes hotel management, leadership development skills and revenue management.



The new Director of Loss Prevention for the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa is **Viphob Pinviset**, who has been working in the hotel industry for 17 years. His professional background includes holding the position of Security Manager at Citilodge Hotel and Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok. He has been trained in fire safety, fire fighting, bomb safety and evacuation techniques, and he was Chief of Security for the Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok.



Sukko Spa swoons into new market

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Sukko Cultural Spa & Wellness, touted as Asia's biggest day spa, is pushing forward with the development of 28 honeymoon spa villas and the completion of its wellness center, which should be fully operational by early 2009.

Alongkorn Komonrujanant, Sukko Spa general manager, told the *Gazette* that Sukko Spa has invested 70 million baht in the expansion. "Since the first phase in 2006, we have invested about 50 million baht in Jantra Spa Villas, which are about 50% complete.

"Following the increase in demand for wellness facilities, we have invested a further 70 million baht to complete the project and to have our wellness center open by next year," he said.

"The wellness center is on a 32-rai plot. We have already opened the first phase of the center, while a number of facilities will be operational to serve Jantra Spa Villas customers with wellness treatments," he added.

The Jantra series comprises 28 villas complete with in-room wellness facilities. A soft opening for 14 of the villas was held



SUITE DEAL: The villas include facilities so that honeymooners can receive spa and massage treatments in their rented villas.

on August 9. All 28 villas will be ready in September, with the wellness center to follow.

Other facilities include a therapist academy, wellness-product factory, fitness center and swimming pool, all of which are available to guests staying in the honeymoon villas, he added.

A night in one of the villas will set you back 15,000 baht, although packages and promotional offers might be available in the future, depending on demand and market trends, K. Alongkorn said.

"We have been talking with travel agencies about packages

that will offer flexible rates depending on the market and the season. There will be many different packages, such as detoxification packages and rehabilitation packages for patients following hospital treatment," he said.

Treatments will be offered in-room, while other activities include yoga, aqua-yoga, Muay Thai, fruit carving and Thai cookery, said K. Alongkorn.

Most of the guests currently booked in to stay at the spa are Taiwanese, though the target nationalities for the spa also include Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

HomePro to expand with new Phuket branch

By Janyaporn Morel

CHALONG: Despite gloomy economic forecasts in property markets around the world, home products chain Home Product Center Plc (HomePro) is seeing rising profits across Thailand and is now expanding its presence in Phuket.

Under construction on five rai on Chao Fa West Rd near Chalongs circle, on the former site of an open-air night market, is a 10,000-square-meter HomePro retail center.

The project is expected to open in December, giving the island a second HomePro in addition to the existing branch at the Tesco-Lotus supercenter.

The project, which is valued at 500 million baht, will have a display area of 6,500sqm for HomePro household products and 3,500sqm of rental space for other businesses.

Financial results for Home Product Center Plc for the second quarter of 2008 (April to June) show net profits of 386.85 million baht, a 26.57% increase

on the same period last year.

The company showed second-quarter revenue of 8.668 billion baht throughout the country, a 14.59% rise over the previous year's performance.

HomePro Managing Director Khunawut Thampromkul said that HomePro's growth, despite operating under poor economic conditions, is coming from continued strong sales from its existing branches.

The expansion of new branches and the operation of HomePro Expo events have also contributed to the company's bottom line.

HomePro's profits from rental and service fees are also on the rise. In 2007, revenue in this area was 300.39 million baht, an increase of 21.55 million baht or 7.73% from 2006. Rental and service fees are earned from business operators who rent shop space at HomePro branches throughout the country and include income from Home Pro Expo events.

Other income, from non-retail areas including sales promotions and other services, was 259.78 million baht in 2007, an increase of 50.88 million baht or 24.36% from the previous year.

Khun Khunawut added that rising costs are expected to cut into profits during the second half of this year. Sales and management system costs for HomePro in the second quarter this year were 1.96 billion baht, a rise of 240.9 million baht or 14% over the same period in 2007.

Despite the rising costs, K. Khunawut said he expects sales revenue to grow by 15% this year.

The opening of the new Phuket branch will give HomePro a total of 34 branches nationwide.

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UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

Credit crunch enters second year

The credit crunch is now more than a year old and, presumably, many people suppose that it is an old story. Unfortunately, it is not as simple as it seems.

Not only is the credit crunch spreading globally, but it appears that what America has feared for so long is taking place: a Wall Street problem is turning into a Main Street problem. In other words, there has been a transition from a purely "remote" financial crisis to one that affects most people's lives.

The oft-quoted Art Cashin, the director of floor trading operations for UBS in the United States, has offered a new look at the situation on the television business channel CNBC.

His latest concern is the effect that poor-quality car loans and credit card debt problems are going to add to a badly stressed financial sector. He believes that it will be approximate to a "minor tsunami". This is basically credit crunch: part two – and it should not be assumed that it will be over any time soon.

One major US banking group reported to clients that it expects the Chinese government to shortly introduce a stimulus package of up to US\$58 billion. This may seem to be somewhere between improbable and ridiculous. The Chinese economy's latest growth figures reflect 10.1% growth, which is simply enormous and so rapid as to be almost out of control. And there have been rumors that the Chinese government will stimulate it further.

Should there be any truth in this rumor, and certainly the Shanghai stock market index rose 7.48% in a single day, then we can only assume that China is feeling the first effects of the slowdown in global growth.

China's main trading partners, the US, Europe and Japan, are either in recession or are extremely close. It then becomes possible that China wants to keep its economy growing rapidly, despite the fact that inflation at the consumer level is currently 6.5%.

China's government, unlike the aforementioned trading partners, is not a democracy. They are worried that a slowdown in



Just like the opening of the Beijing Olympics, China's economy is still a spectacular show, having avoided the financial crisis that is hitting most other major economies. But how long can the show go on?
Photo by Agencia Brasil

the economy will spark political problems so a higher inflation rate is an acceptable alternative.

The stresses in the global financial system are being felt in many areas and they have often

appeared where people thought they were safe. Investors in currencies such as the Australian dollar, New Zealand dollar, Swiss franc, pound sterling and so on suddenly found that the much-maligned US dollar showed strong signs of invigoration. In reality, it is not the US dol-

lar that is so strong; it is the others that are so weak.

The credit crunch originated in the US, but, as is usually the case, the US was simply ahead of the rest of the world in the economic cycle. This time, with an added twist (credit crunch), interest rates are probably at their lowest point in the economic cycle and they are likely to rise just as

other countries are reducing interest rates.

The US also has a great advantage over less-agile economies such as the Euro Zone block and Japan. The US will, with a number of mistakes, take the necessary pain and restructure whereas the Euro Zone and Japan will continue to avoid hard and unpleasant decisions.

Australia, on the cusp of reducing interest rates to cushion a falling economy, is fairly well positioned to meet the future. There is little doubt that commodity prices will continue to be relatively strong and, as a major exporter, Australia is likely to still be "the lucky country".

That is of little consolation to investors. One Phuket resident told me his Melbourne-based stockbroker had taken all his funds out of the Australian stock market and put it on deposit, stating that there appeared to be no investments worthy of attention. That may be a first in the history of stockbroking.

This is when the question of "home" currency becomes important. In this particular case, the investor did not have the Australian dollar as his "home" currency; his delight at now earning 6.5% on deposit was immediately turned into woe when it was explained that in a matter of days the Australian dollar had declined by around 10% against his "home" currency.

On the opposite side, many investors have now found that a rising US dollar has been profit-

able against many other currencies. However, the US dollar still has problems; a shortage of investment choices is one of the major areas.

The US residential housing market woes are well known but there are increasing concerns that the commercial property market is about to head in the same direction.

There are very few places to "hide" at present and, in most

cases, this is what investors need to do, but at least there are some places left. All is certainly not lost.

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.globalportfolios.com



MONEY TALKS


By Richard G. Watson

Vital Statistics:

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS DROP MORE THAN 25%

	July 2007	July 2008
Domestic passengers	278,980	271,956
International passengers	155,538	174,033
Domestic aircraft	2,037	1,473
International aircraft	1,204	1,253
Domestic Cargo (tons)	827	925
International Cargo (tons)	384	354

Source: Phuket International Airport



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Attack of the hungry cars

During my recent experience at the Miss Teen Thailand pageant, I had the chance to hear a lot of stories told by the models, who were, like me, there to compete against each other.

The most pressing issues up for discussion were related to how to lose weight and remain thin. The thing is that even after my experience at the beauty pageant, the problems faced by the models seem to be the same as those faced by most girls my age. Of course there's the stress of study and guys, but then there are those people who seem to only notice how beautiful you are or, in other words, if you are thin or not.

A lot of people get very stressed by their friends and families and they might react to this by pigging out and getting fat or, even worse, becoming obese. This is a big problem among teenagers all over the world.

We live in such a competitive society and it seems that if you don't fit a certain stereotype then you can't be accepted by others at school or work, in your family, among friends and so on.

I've been reading a lot of articles on the Internet about obesity and what I've found is very scary. Firstly, obesity is a serious problem. Another problem is anorexia, which is the flip side of the coin. Sometimes, in order to avoid eating, people become anorexic, which is a serious health risk and can result in death.

TV stars and models are often blamed for triggering eating disorders in young women seeking to emulate their catwalk idols. Although it's unclear why this might be the case, researchers suggest that the risk of developing anorexia could be inherited or might be down to a fault in brain development at an early age.

I read about one professor who said, "People with anorexia are wired differently. They react and think in a different way to the ordinary person and they go to develop anorexia regardless of whether they have been exposed to images of super-thin models."

Do you know what I think? I think that these "professors" are anorexic in their brains. I don't know about you, but I normally use my brain to work things out. These scientists and professors are just so over the top.

You want to hear an example of going over the top? Don't worry, I'll get back on track in a minute, so allow me this di-



You don't have to get this: it's mine!

version. How about my solution to the problem of the world running out of petrol?

Scientists have already figured out that agriculture can help solve the problem with the development of biodiesel. Who would have thought that vegetable oil could be used to make your car run? I want to take it a step further with my idea

for "food fuel". This means that you will feed your car rice, vegetables and so on. If you give your car a carrot, you should be able to reach school in time for class. Sounds cool, right? Fantasy is terrific sometimes. Perhaps I could be a scientist in the future.

Since all farmers would be able to

Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giuletta

get money from my food fuel, they would, of course, start selling their products to the people who make petrol. I can just see it now with all the news reports of people complaining about not being able to find potatoes due to food fuel.

Readers, I think I've found a way to tackle anorexia and obesity. Don't take me too seriously here, I'm only 16 and have far too much fantasy rolling around my head, but let's see how this works out.

When you next go into the kitchen, find as much food as you can. You'll need a blender, some vegetables, carrots, rice, some chemistry know-how and a bit of luck – that's it. You will be able to create the most environmentally friendly food possible. Your body works like a car engine anyway. Food fuel can give you energy and clean your body.

Mix it all up in the blender and just drink it. Don't worry about your car in the garage waiting to receive its own portion and don't pay any attention to the scientists who say vegetables should be used to make cars move. I don't see any reason why such an efficient car should have a starving person sitting behind the wheel. Why should cars get all the food when there are people who really need it?

Vegetables and rice are for us. If you feel as if your motorcycle is being left out, you can feed it some carrots, but no more than that.

I think that in a few years our cars may develop the necessary skills to become very good cooks, driving straight into the kitchen to prepare "fuel", using all the food and leaving us humans hungry.

I'm just exercising my imagination here, but something is really wrong with the way humans behave.

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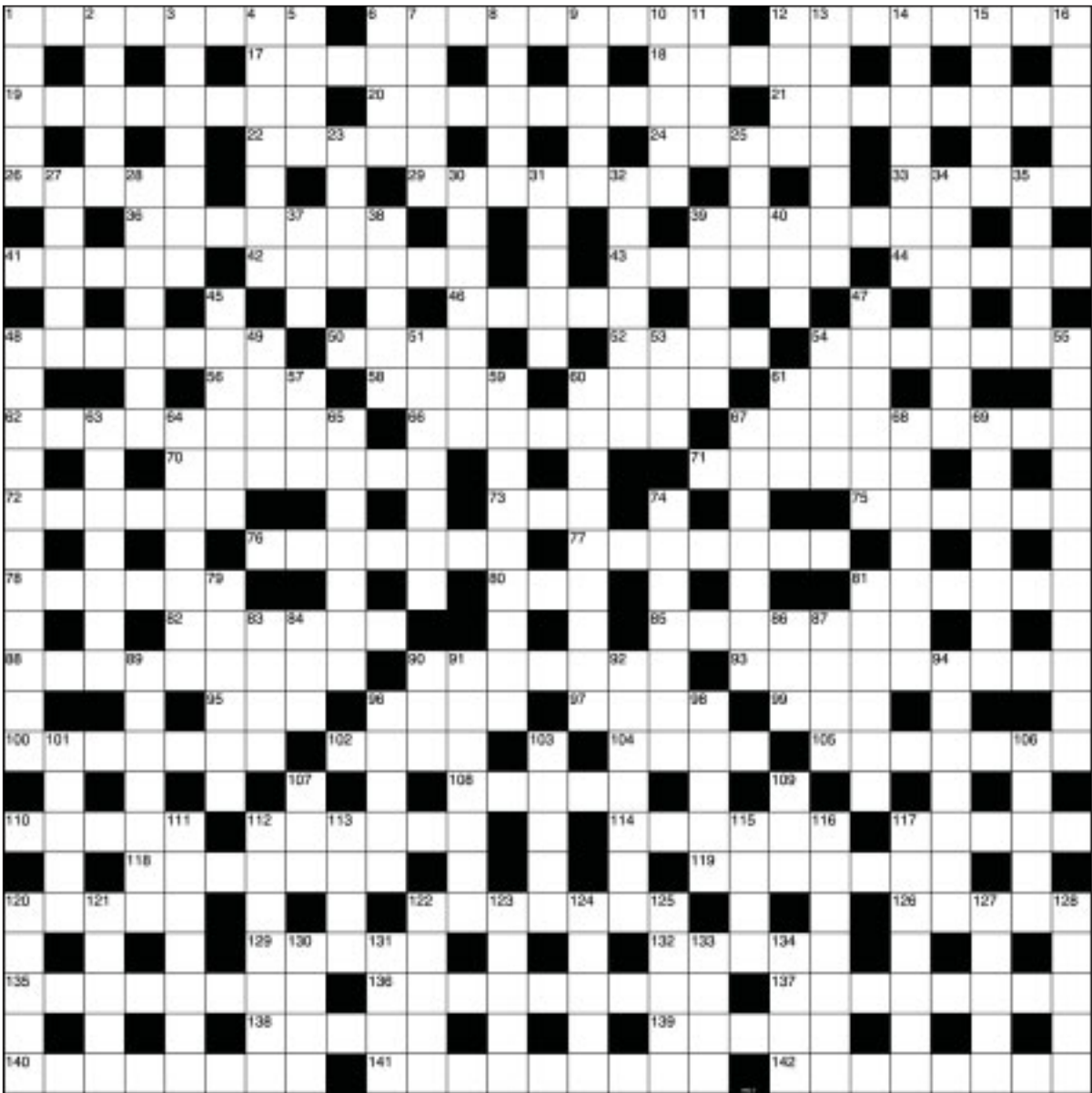


PUZZLES

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?



The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

Across

- 1. Bowling pins
- 6. Rear part
- 12. Dreariness
- 17. Mausoleum, Taj ...
- 18. Sultan's wives
- 19. More attractive
- 20. Resembled (4,5)
- 21. Incidents
- 22. Become ready to pick
- 24. Tease amorously
- 26. Proportion
- 29. Puts up with
- 33. Woozy
- 36. Unspecified time
- 39. Seoul locals
- 41. Agitates, ...up
- 42. Strauss waltz, The Blue ...
- 43. Illegally obtained
- 44. Vote into office
- 46. Storm water pipe
- 48. Leafier
- 50. Mongolian desert
- 52. Wartime partner
- 54. Shiver
- 56. Psychotic
- 58. Religious sisters
- 60. District
- 61. Rotter
- 62. Crocodile relative
- 66. Takes no notice of
- 67. Rabat natives
- 70. Load (software)
- 71. Diplomat
- 72. UK university city
- 73. Wow, ...whiz!
- 75. Eyeball membrane
- 76. Recapping, ...up
- 77. US honeymoon falls
- 78. Steam pressed
- 80. Ignited

- 81. Threefold
- 82. Burning fiercely (of fire)
- 85. 2,471 acres
- 88. Overrunning
- 90. Act of repentance
- 93. Supplant
- 95. Uncertainties
- 96. Sudden pain
- 97. Actor, ...Alda
- 99. Jewel
- 100. Chivalrous
- 102. Weapons
- 104. Poems
- 105. Distribute (4,3)
- 108. Consumers
- 110. Dental string
- 112. Freelader
- 114. Cows' mammary glands
- 117. Incubate
- 118. Suit-makers
- 119. Saucepan scrubber
- 120. Muscle cramp
- 122. Showed (to seat)
- 126. Totted up
- 129. Algebra, geometry, etc
- 132. House tops
- 135. Ruler
- 136. Type of canoe
- 137. Opulence
- 138. Complete
- 139. Used needle & thread
- 140. Servicemen
- 141. Weak & purposeless
- 142. Demotes
- Down
- 1. Marvelous
- 2. Immobile
- 3. Military pageants

- 4. Appeared
- 5. Indian garment
- 6. London's ...Gallery
- 7. Without company
- 8. Appreciated
- 9. Construe
- 10. Cooks
- 11. Nobleman
- 12. Antlered mammal
- 13. Innumerable
- 14. Broad pasta sheets
- 15. Became, ...up
- 16. Coward
- 23. Scheme
- 25. Cult hero
- 27. In motion
- 28. From Tel Aviv
- 30. Requiring
- 31. Typical
- 32. Trap
- 34. Muslim
- 35. Stick-on symbol
- 37. Weir
- 38. Alaskan river
- 39. Australian bearlike marsupial
- 40. tyrannosaurus ...
- 45. Insist
- 47. Fervor
- 48. Making more alluring
- 49. Rodents
- 51. Integral (5-2)
- 53. ...Misérables
- 54. Surfaces (road)
- 55. Subjugation
- 57. Tiny mark
- 59. Nestling
- 60. Buenos Aires is there
- 61. Defraud
- 63. Rocket launch (4-3)
- 64. Bridge struts
- 65. Butting
- 67. Colored-tile designs
- 68. More apparent
- 69. Friendly
- 74. Missile's explosive section
- 79. Going out with
- 81. Involuntary shudder
- 83. Present
- 84. ...& outs
- 86. Jerk
- 87. Copied
- 89. Enrolls
- 90. Tennis ace, ...Shriver
- 91. Guarantees
- 92. Shutdown
- 94. Flight attendant
- 96. Smug moralists
- 98. Socially inept teens
- 101. In total (3,2)
- 103. Recycle
- 106. Aunt's husband
- 107. Brazil's ...Paulo
- 109. To & ...
- 111. Japanese warrior
- 112. Confused noise
- 113. Annoyed exclamation
- 115. Repeat
- 116. Sink
- 117. Scottish shrub
- 120. Audible breaths
- 121. Blacksmith's block
- 122. Steal (power)
- 123. Great Lake
- 124. Queenly
- 125. Clothe
- 127. Horror
- 128. Computer floppies
- 130. Classics studies
- 131. Weeding implements
- 133. Raw metals
- 134. Dancer, ...Astaire

Solution on next page

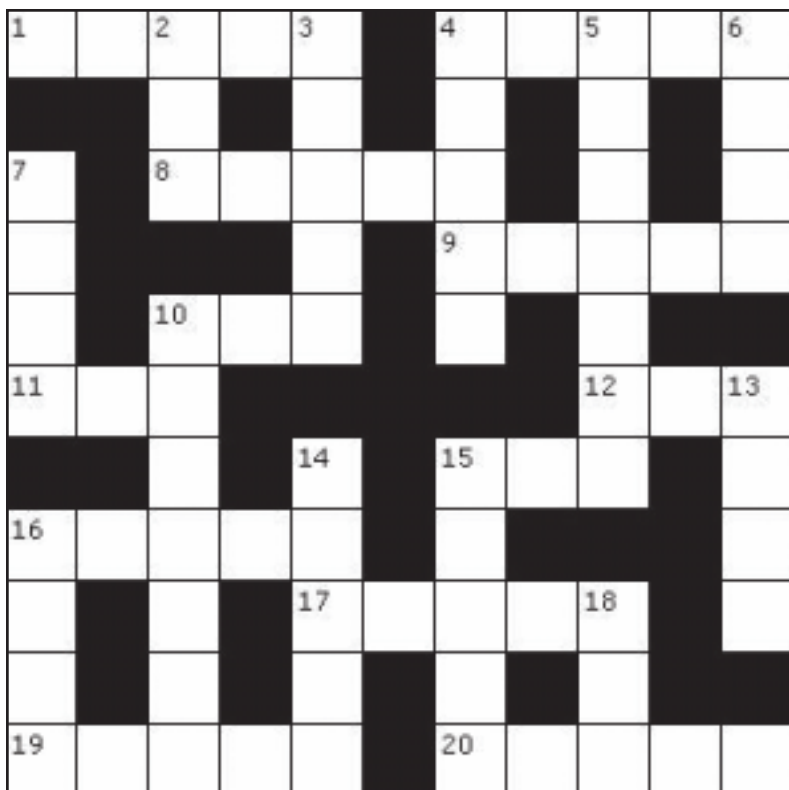
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Lucid
4. Team
8. Hairy
9. Fortunate
10. A long way
11. French yes
12. Swift movement
15. Bank code
16. In your head
17. Too much water
19. Tactless
20. Book of days

Down

2. Santa's helper
3. Blade
4. Finesse
5. Mythical creature
6. Refuse
7. Guns and shells
10. Money
13. Bright
14. Not suitable
15. Self-assured
16. Indo city
18. Genetic code

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. Which organization replaced the League of Nations?
2. In which century was Francis Drake born?
3. How many pedals does a grand piano have?
4. Who was Hiawatha's wife?
5. Which sporting event did Bernard Hinault win three times in the 80s?
6. Which US President won a Nobel Peace prize in 1906?
7. What is the only English anagram of Catalogue?
8. In which US State was Ray Charles born?
9. In which country was Gustav Holst born?
10. Which is the world's longest mountain range?
11. Which is the 3rd largest US state after Alaska & Texas?
12. Where did one of the world's worst industrial accidents take place in 1984?
13. Which Frenchman designed Italy's flag?
14. In which city did John and Yoko hold their honeymoon bed-in in the 60s?
15. Who did Sharon Tate marry in the 60s?
16. In which sensational case was telegraph first used to apprehend a murderer?
17. What was Lech Walesa's job in the Gdansk shipyards?
18. Who was Muhammad Ali's first professional opponent outside the US?
19. What does Ice Cold refer to in John Mills film *Ice Cold in Alex*?
20. Who had 90s' hits with *Cornflake Girl*?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. The United Nations;
2. 16th
3. 3;
4. Minne-haha;
5. Tour de France;
6. Theodore Roosevelt;
7. Coa-gulate;
8. Georgia;
9. England;
10. Andes;
11. California;
12. Bhopal, India;
13. Napoleon;
14. Amsterdam;
15. Roman Polanski;
16. Dr John Crippen;
17. Elec-trician;
18. Henry Cooper;
19. Beer;
20. Tori Amos.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



The perfect existential surf tale

Critics have called Tim Winton, born in 1960, the best Australian novelist of his generation and they are absolutely right. His main turf is the coastal villages of Western Australia.

His nine novels are replete with amazing physical detail, vivid characters and crisp, realistic dialog. His only weakness, sometimes, is plot, in which invariably tortured characters move about aimlessly.

But his ninth novel, a slender gem called *Breath* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2008, 218pp), is sheer perfection. It's also, as far as I know, the first prose masterpiece about surfing.

Once again we're in a small coastal village named Sawyer in Western Australia. The time is the early 1970s and the narrator Pikley recalls a humdrum life enlivened only by surfing. When he's 13, he and a daredevil named Loonie team up to surf with young men who alternatively ignore and taunt them. They in turn idolize Sando, a 35-year-old masterful surfer who ignores them.

A middle-aged Pikley, reflecting on his youth, recalls the fascination that surfing held for him:

"How strange it was to see men do something beautiful. Something pointless and elegant, as though nobody saw or



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

cared. In Sawyer, a town of millers and loggers and dairy farmers, men did solid, practical things, mostly with their hands... There wasn't much room for beauty in the lives of our men."

The lyrical descriptions of surfing are stupendous, almost hallucinogenic. Here Pikley is, shivering with fear, addled and breathless, describing his first 10-foot wave:

"The third wave began its slow left turn towards me. It looked as big as the pub and as it began to break the sound rattled my ribs. I turned my little stubby Hawke around and paddled. I paddled, I must add, without vigour, and in a moment the wave was upon me, its mass overtaking me so fast that it felt as though I was travelling backwards. All about was seeth-

ing vapour. I hung right up in the boiling nest of foam at its very peak, suspended in noise and unbelief, before I began to fall out and down in a welter of blinding spray. I only got to my feet from instinct, but there I suddenly was, upright and alive, skittering in front of all that jawing mess with my little board chattering underfoot. It was hard to credit the speed, the way the wave hauled itself upright in my path as it found shallower water. All I could do was squat and aim in hope."

Pikley and Loonie are surfing alone when they meet Sando on the beach, who offers to let them store their boards at his house rather than bicycle with them all the way back to Sawyer. Sando is a huge muscular man with long hair, beard and earrings.

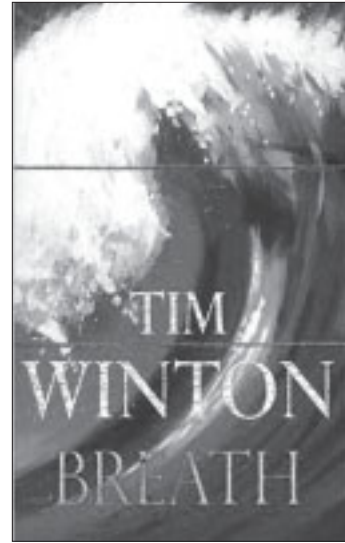
And his house is of outlandish size too, a "hippie house" of mostly one big room, up on tree trunks and surrounded by hammock-strung verandas. Living with Sando is his wife Eva, a peevish American blonde with a mysterious limp.

Sando becomes a mystic guru to his two young disciples, teaching a life of overcoming fear for a life of extraordinary experience and leading them further up the coast to secret bays with 20-foot waves and murderous reefs. A wipe-out on one of these can mean death.

"For a half second I saw the shadow of the reef far below. The heavy board fell from under me like a leaf and I sprawled down the hard, unyielding face without it, bouncing from hip to hip, unable to break the skin of the water. I was falling down a staircase – one that never seemed to end, which collapsed on me and shot me skyward before snatching

me down again so its rubble-spill might drive me headlong across the reef, rattling and wracking me all the way. I bounced and pinged and shot, winded and half blind, across the shoal."

These glorious descriptions are eventually overshadowed by the doom that lurks over the little cult of Sando and Eva and Pikley and Loonie. I'll leave you to discover the gripping plot.



Is the term 'Oriental' offensive to Asians?

An argument ensued recently when I referred to my adopted Vietnamese granddaughter as "Oriental".

My daughter insisted she be referred to as "Asian". Determined to prove my daughter wrong, I delved into my trusty *World Book Dictionary*, and lo and behold, my conviction is true.

Fernand Corbeil
Beverly, Massachusetts

Barbara replies: How old is that dictionary of yours? Of six major contemporary American dictionaries (I'm not including *World Book*, which is a rare item these days), five warn that "Oriental" in reference to people is "dated," "often regarded as a term of disparagement," or "offensive."

It raises eyebrows because "the Orient" has connotations of being an exotic place whose people are foreign to "us." But Asia is simply, factually, one of the earth's continents.

Are you still determined to one-up your daughter? If so, you might tell her that many Asian-Americans prefer to be called something more specific – like people proud of their Portuguese or Italian or Norwegian heritage,

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.

who aren't often called "European-American."

An even better term for your granddaughter would be "Vietnamese-American."

I have asked a few "Asian" acquaintances if they would be offended if I called them or referred to them as "Orientals". All said they were fine with either word. One even laughed, saying that perhaps some American in some HR department made up the whole thing.

Roger Wayne
Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Barbara replies: I knew somebody was going to say that! And you're not the only one who did. I'm glad that not all Asians are so touchy about how they're referred to. But still. I used to be perfectly happy to be included in "he" when it referred to nobody in particular – as in, "A newspa-

per columnist usually has had experiences he would like to share with everyone."

Even as "he or she" and "s/he" and so on made their way into the mainstream, I continued to be comfortable with "he."

But 20-some years ago, I

began to notice that this pronoun upset other women – including many smart and sensible ones.

At that point, it became irrelevant whether it offended my sensibilities.

The point was that speakers and writers who wanted to make sure women felt included didn't call a generic person "he" anymore.

Though your Asian friends may not mind being called "Oriental," I think it would be cavalier on your part to continue to call them that. As far as I know, nobody Asian objects to being called "Asian."



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



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How to get from Koh Aew to Koh Ling

Plans by two South African conservationists to create an island primate sanctuary in Phuket is one of the more novel ideas put forward in recent years for the area, which attracts its fair share of tourism-based investment schemes. [See Inside Story, page 5.]

The would-be developers first park, Monkeyland, opened in South Africa's Plettenberg Bay a decade ago. Since then, it has become an important eco-attraction; raising public awareness about the destruction of primates' natural habitats.

After meeting with the South Africans, however, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit told reporters the pair may have had their hopes raised a bit too high by the fact that a committee was studying the plan. In fact, a huge number of bureaucratic hurdles would need to be overcome to transform Koh Aew into "Koh Ling", he warned.

For a start, the project would require permission and support from not only two municipalities, Rawai and Wichit, but also co-operation from Chalong and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, which runs the pier that would be the main jumping-off point for visitors. The Customs, Livestock, Quarantine and the Forestry Departments and CITES Office would all have to be involved in the import of primates, while gaining permission to build a pier anywhere in Phuket is always problematic.

Given the daunting bureaucratic issues involved, the *Gazette* would like to suggest that the developers approach the Bangkok-based Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta). This is a public organization under the Tourism and Sports Ministry that has the authority to fast track community-based sustainable tourism projects.

The Monkey Island project seems far more practical and better suited to Dasta's mandate than the 100-billion-baht Ao Phuket project that it expressed interest in administering earlier this year.

In contrast, the would-be developers of Monkey Island say they could have the island up and running some time next year for just over 100 million baht – if they can cut through all the red tape.

If the project ever does move forward, some of the design aspects as put forward by the developers in their Initial Environmental Evaluation briefing might need to be modified.

For example, despite the developer's commitment to conservation, it is hard to believe that 40 Thai stall operators confined to a single pier would meticulously collect and cart off all of their sewage and waste to the mainland for proper disposal. If it did happen, it would certainly be a first for Thailand.

– The Editor

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

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Letters

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

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

Back road bottleneck blues

Regrading the Issues & Answers query by Mr Westgard (*Gazette*, August 16 issue), I, too, have often wondered about that unfinished building jutting into the road near on the back entrance to Jungceylon from Nanai Rd.

The Patong Town Clerk's answer amply demonstrates what is wrong with Thailand in terms of its civic infrastructure – or lack of it.

In the UK, the building would not have been allowed because planning permission would simply not have been given – private land or not. In fact, obstruction of a de facto highway – private or public – would be a legal offense in law.

It is through such planning controls that the integrity of the immediate urban environment is maintained. This is why we have such a mess in Phuket.

Don't get me wrong. I love living in Phuket, but sometimes I do despair. I see Phuket being constantly degraded and despoiled by lack of proper civic planning and the thoughtlessness of private individuals.

Just don't get me started on the subject of those ghastly, gigantic power poles that completely ruin the scenery of the west coast.

Name and address supplied

Make plans to match pride in Rawai

I must first confess to not knowing Rawai actually had a mayor, but now that I do it would appear Aroon Solos certainly seems pleased with his "let's pour some

more concrete, anything as long as it looks like a shophouse" building policy for Rawai.

The other surprise within the article [Rawai mayor bullish on property picture, *Gazette* Online, August 13], which I'm sure is a major revelation to most people who live in Rawai, is that they claim to have building regulations.

I was wondering how the building regulations applied to the ski-slope type driveway that has been built to serve the development above Nai Harn Lake or some of the other architectural disasters peppered around the area.

Before telling international and Thai investors how to spend their money, perhaps Mr Mayor should get his own house in order. I'd start by cleaning up your biggest asset, Nai Harn Beach, and building safe access to it at the northern end.

Finally, perhaps it would be wise to contact someone who is knowledgeable or qualified in civil engineering before you decide to dig up half of Rawai and lay some pipes. It may cost a little more but it would save a lot of time, trouble and mess.

Dave Rawai

Desperately seeking good, cheap food

Your Cheap Eats column is one of the best regular features you do. The only problem is that the location details you provide are often not precise, to the degree that last week you provided only a telephone number.

I feel this is really not the way to go, since most foreigners do not know the street names, nor can they speak Thai to ask where these restaurants are situated.

So please, some helpful concise directions would be greatly appreciated – we're hungry.

David Phuket

Timeshare touts driving me away

Something should be done about the timeshare scams. Every morning, my wife and I would go for a walk from one end of Bangla Rd to the beach and we would be approached by at least 10 scammers/backpackers on commission.

It has really put me off going to Patong Beach ever again. Absolutely...

Graham Woolley
Via email

Baywatch belligerence

One would think that Phuket could find beach guards who would be able to hide their dislike and contempt for tourists, at least a little. The guards at South Karon certainly can't.

They have been telling people to get out of the water when they are in water only up to their knees. If anyone should complain, the guards scream at them in a very aggressive and belligerent manner.

I wonder how many of the people who come to Phuket to go to the beach and then are denied the privilege of going into the water will want to come back again. I would think people have the right to decide whether they are willing to risk going into the water rather than be told to stay out of the water by rude, threatening beach guards.

John McGrath
Tokyo

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

PIA taking action on airport taxi and tour touts

FIRST PERSON

Narong Julasevok, Director of the Security Division at Phuket International Airport (PIA), has had enough of the long string of problems with the taxi service outside PIA. Pushy touts and transport agents have long topped the list of grievances brought up by tourists arriving to Phuket by airplane. The Service and Security Center has been called to action and Khun Narong has vowed to stamp out any problems.



The Service and Security Center is not a new project. Actually, we began it a long time ago to offer guests convenience and safety and deal with any problems associated with the taxi service. We will have one large desk that will seat three staff. It will be in front of the taxi area. Our plan is to have it there so that if we see anything that isn't right, we can deal with it right away and charge the people responsible.

On September 1, we will initiate a fresh plan of action for using the center.

We are committed to doing the best job possible and if any staff do not uphold our high standards then they will be disciplined. This order to shape up the system came from the director of

Phuket International Airport.

However, we have a limited number of security guards who can work there now. We will increase the number soon to offer an efficient and effective security service for all visitors to Phuket.

Come September 1, we will address eight major topics that we believe need our attention:

1. There must not be any thieves, "black" taxis or rented cars in the taxi area.
2. All visitors to the airport must be provided safety by PIA.
3. Hotel staff and travel agency staff waiting out in the taxi area should be there only if their services have been reserved by incoming guests.
4. All hotel staff and travel agency staff must show a name

badge and wear their company uniform.

5. The curbside parking area is to be used only by VIP cars for PIA and hotel staff. Permission is only granted to drop off people catching a place.

6. Only two staff from each hotel or travel agency can be in the taxi area at any one time.

7. Hotel and travel agency staff are not permitted to solicit business from people waiting in the indoor seating area.

8. Hotel and travel agency staff are not permitted to pick up any guests other than their own customers.

We have already outlined the charges to fine anyone who does not follow these rules. Airport Act 1979 states that anyone

who violates these rules must pay a fine of between 50 and 2,000 baht.

I don't want to fine anyone, but I want everyone to follow the rules. We need to keep the area nice and tidy. The taxi area should only be filled with guests who have arrived here by flight, nobody else.

PIA has already sent letters to the Thai Hotel Association, TAT region 4 Office, the Phuket Tourist Association, Tah Chat Chai Police Station and the Phuket Tourist Police to inform them of the current situation and our plans of action.

We also have some problems with the car park area. Some drivers like to park in the no-parking zones, which makes a problem for traffic moving

through the airport grounds. We will introduce measures to deal with this soon.

On September 1, we will start to strictly fine people who violate the rules of the taxi area. We have an operations center inside the airport building. Every day, officers from Tah Chat Chai Police Station and the Phuket Tourist Police will work with CCTV-camera operators and PIA security staff to deal with the problems.

Everybody will act quickly to inform the security guards at the taxi area whenever there is anything that looks suspicious. If a person commits an offense then we will be able to charge them in a matter of minutes.

— *Compiled by Sompratch Saowakhon*

Is Rantee Resort opening or not?

Please tell me if this place exists. Emails I have sent to the Rantee Resort & Spa Phi Phi Island have been unanswered, the website has only drawings and the web address for bookings does not exist.

I would be grateful for any information about this resort.

John Willens
London

Nirin Kiatrattanawipak, Sales Executive of E-Hotels & Resorts, replies:

The Rantee Resort & Spa Phi Phi Island is expected to open

Issues & ANSWERS

Send your questions at
www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/submitissue.asp

in December this year. We do apologize for any inconvenience, as we are still unable to take any reservations by Internet. The system will be ready by about the middle of September.

For more details or to make a reservation, email: reservation@ranteeresortphippi.com or call 02-2981010-1, 02-2980850-1.

Registering a jointly-owned boat

I am considering buying a new boat with three other people as equal-share owners, all foreigners. The vessel will be Thai registered from new.

I have been advised that a new vessel can be registered in the name of only one person.

Once the boat has been registered, we would then have to apply for an alteration to the registration document at additional cost.

Is this correct? If so, please provide a summary of the additional costs.

Dave Hunt
Phuket

Olarn Hengcharoen, Chief of Phuket Marine Office 5, replies:

There is no regulation saying that the boat's registration must be registered in only one person's name. You can register the owners all together, but to do that all of the owners must have the names on all relevant documents involved in buying the boat.

When you come to register the boat, you must bring all of the owners' documents together for the registration progress.

Often, when a single boat has more than two owners, it is

registered as belonging to a limited partnership they have set up. However, this is not the only way to have joint-ownership.

I can't give any figures of the registration fees for you now as there are many different fees for boat registration, depending on the boat's size, engine, purchasing details, whether it was imported or built here and so on.

You can ask for more information by phone or fax at 076-391174 or contact the Phuket Marine Office 5 at 88/10 Moo 7, Wichit, Muang, Phuket (on the way to Phuket Deep Sea Port, Cape Panwa).

The age-old old-age question



FROM THE
STREETS
OF
PATTAYA

By Duncan Stearn

For any social anthropologist worth his clipboard, the streets of Pattaya would surely be akin to studying a human-sized Petri dish when it comes to the mating habits of homosapiens.

Yet, to the best of my limited knowledge, no reputable (or disreputable) seat of learning has ever bothered to descend en masse to conduct the kind of research for which foundations and think-tank agencies hand over fistfuls of dollars.

Instead, mating studies, be they of humans, zoological specimens, poultry or woolly mammoths, tend to take place in areas like Vermont in the United States or Cornwall in England.

The findings in these studies seem to surprise the majority of the researchers. Yet I can't help thinking if they had spent just two weeks in the maelstrom of evenings on Walking Street, getting a little inebriated in the company of scantily clad ladies of easy virtue and poorly attired foreign men of equally easy virtue, the results would have been arrived at in a far speedier fashion.

The cost of the research, even allowing for such unusual items as lady drinks and bar fines,

would have been so economically efficient that the same group of researchers would be able to find an excuse to come back year on year for further "confirmation" of their original findings.

The above preamble was brought on by the findings of an overseas-conducted study, this time by a pair of boffins from the eminent Stanford University, who discovered that men tend to marry down in age no matter whether they're wealthy or poor, educated or possess the IQ of a turnip.

The research showed that the older a man is when he marries after 40, no matter if he's successful in terms of monetary wealth or educational level, the greater the chance of his bride being significantly younger.

"If you look at guys who do marry, the poor guys marry down in age just as much as the rich guys do," said Paula England, a

Stanford University sociologist and co-author of the study. "That was kind of surprising to us." (What she really meant: surprising to her.)

Men in their 40s tend to marry women who are an average of seven years younger; men in their 50s are marrying brides an average 11 years younger; men in their 60s go even further

in tending to marry women who are 13 years younger.

Men in Pattaya marry women who are anywhere between their milk teeth and the final year of high school. That's not really true, but if the age difference of anywhere between a quarter and half a century – the average in Fun Town – is taken into account then it may as well be.

England and her research partner, Elizabeth McClintock of Stanford, said the male ideal of beauty is found in women in their early 20s. Did I hear a "Here, here!" from the Pattaya Old Fat Bastards' Collective? That ideal remains fixed for men (and advertising industry executives, Hollywood, Bollywood, Thai movie makers, clothes designers and... need I go on?), even while they are growing older.

More people are marrying later in life, often for the second or third time, and with older and

younger men chasing younger women, the law of supply and demand has made the marriage market a tough place for middle-aged people of both genders, according to England.

For middle-aged men, the marriage market is tougher because they must compete with younger men for the same pool of younger brides. Therein lies one of the keys to success of Pattaya. Less clear from the data is how lower-income, less educated older men are successfully marrying younger women. Easily explained in Fun Town: bulging wallets.

"We do find that money helps men's chances of getting married," England said. "But if we take youth as our crude measure of beauty, it doesn't seem like men are being able to exchange their money for younger women, so we don't know what's differentiating which older guys are able to marry very young women."

Can I cynically smell a new funding application for grant money to conduct further research? Come over here and let me help you in your quest, I know plenty of bar owners who will write dodgy receipts to cover bar fines and lady drinks.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Get ready for a tough year, Virgo

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): If you are due to celebrate a birthday this week, expect the year ahead to be more demanding than the one passed. As long as you are prepared to invest serious effort, there should be work opportunities galore and at least one plum job will be offered. this week, try to learn something to your financial advantage. Wearing the color peach can enhance your charisma.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those of you looking for the answer to a personal problem should receive enlightenment this week. As the month of September commences, your life is set

to become smoother and more enjoyable. The only gray day could be Wednesday when an easily irritated colleague is likely to get the wrong end of the bamboo cane. Choose your words wisely to avoid misunderstandings. The scent of lavender encourages a relaxed attitude.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpions can look forward to some happier times. During September you will be delighted by several events – the first of which is a romantic introduction that should take place this week. Someone born under the sign of Capricorn has been impressed by your dignity and you

will enjoy meeting this person. As to finances, don't make serious commitments until the middle of the month.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your mood remains positive as September starts. You may be considering a radical change of career and this is an auspicious time for that. Romantic affairs should be handled more cautiously as there are signs that your flirtatious behavior is starting to irritate your significant other. Financial discussions will be more likely to result in your favor after Wednesday, but you should still be prepared to compromise.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Tone down your social schedule during the first week of September as energy levels will probably be at a low ebb. Relocation falls under the spotlight this month, but your partner may need some convincing that your ideas are valid. Most investments are well-starred, but avoid making firm agreements until you have done enough background checks. The number 2 can bring some special luck this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You should be content with what is happening in the world of work and contacts you made earlier in the year are about to show interest in what you are doing. A wave of creative energy this month encourages diversification, but venturing too far from your familiar territory is not recommended. Cupid is poised to act

where Gemini is concerned. Wear the color violet to encourage more realistic expectations.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your spirits could be damped by lack of progress in business this week. Getting away for a few days will be of benefit. Where romance is concerned, absence will certainly make someone's heart grow fonder. Finances are forecast to improve slowly, but an ongoing disagreement over a debt could necessitate professional involvement. The number nine can be lucky this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Set your sights higher than usual this month as auspicious astral conditions can encourage dreams to come true. A chance meeting with an old colleague this weekend can bring new business opportunities. Those of you who are ready for new romance will be captivated by a tempting Taurean – being over-confident will not make the right impression. Tuesday is the best day for negotiating a financial agreement.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those of you trying to do too many things at once could suffer from an energy breakdown as September commences. Spend some quality time this weekend arranging your schedule to allow a healthier balance between work and relaxation. Leo has some useful tips regarding a personal problem, but Scorpio won't be able to understand your point of view. Wearing the color sky

blue can encourage a lighter outlook on life.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): It may be tempting to cut corners where bureaucracy is concerned, but the stars suggest that taking the long way round will bring the best results. Your financial outlook is good during the month of September, but lending money is not recommended. Romance is subject to misunderstandings this weekend – take care that your words are not lost in translation. Wearing the color cream can encourage more patience.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you can't resist becoming involved in friends' problems you could regret it during September. This could be a good time to tone down your reputation for being helpful; others will take advantage. Those in a committed relationship may find it difficult to digest news from their partner this weekend, but there's no need to jump to conclusions. The number 8 can bring good fortune on Sunday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Work comes low on your list of priorities in September. This month is forecast to bring romantic fun and games. Libra thinks you're the cat's whiskers, but your attention is diverted by Virgo. You are advised to concentrate on current business affairs until a sensitive agreement is signed and sealed. Last-minute problems are indicated midweek. Wearing the color silver-gray can encourage stronger focus.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

At the end of September, the City State of Singapore will play host to its first Formula One race.

Considered by many enthusiasts to be the pinnacle of sport when it comes to showcasing technology, 10 Grand Prix teams, who spend millions of dollars on R&D and testing each season, will arrive in Singapore for Formula One's first ever night race.

Discussions had been held with regard to a pre-race night test but it was eventually ruled out on the grounds of cost. Earlier this year the MotoGP series held a night race at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar and the most serious problem was not visibility but that of getting the tires up to temperature.

It is a known fact that desert climates tend to be extremely hot during the day, rapidly cooling at night. It is not expected to be the case in Singapore, which has a pretty stable climate.

The race will be held on the streets of Singapore in the business district, about 2km from the renowned shopping center of Orchard Road. It is an anti-clockwise circuit, taking in Shenton Way, the Convention Center and City Hall.

A state-of-the-art lighting system and the introduction of so-called DigiFlags are just two of the innovations to be unveiled that will make Singapore possibly one of the most technologically advanced F1 circuits in the world. The lights, which will illuminate the Grand Prix, will be generated by a system specially created for the race by Italian lighting expert Valerio Maioli.

Lighting System: Designing and implementing a lighting system for a street circuit involves a number of challenges. The system must deliver optimum visibility; minimal glare and reflections from a wet surface or spray from cars; and must ensure the safety of drivers, marshals and spectators. The height of the lights must be lower than the trees lining the track to prevent the unnecessary uprooting of shrubbery.

It also calls for a system that can be set up and dismantled in the shortest possible time in order to minimize disruption to



The all-important high-tech lighting system for the Singapore Grand Prix undergoes testing.

Grand Prix night race set to roar through Lion City

the city's business. Aluminium trusses – similar to light fittings at a concert – will be used to house the power cables.

The lighting system will be placed on only one side of the circuit to reduce glare during television broadcasts. Many factors have been considered in determining the location of the pylons, including the location of the grandstands, camera positions, and infrastructure around the track.

DigiFlags: The DigiFlag technology seeks to revolutionize one of the most traditional areas of the sport. Since the 1950s when the world championship began, marshals have communicated with drivers using a series of colored flags.

Each flag represents a particular warning or instruction to drivers such as a yellow flag to slow down and not overtake, a blue flag to let the leaders pass

The lighting system and the so-called DigiFlags will make Singapore possibly one of the most technologically advanced F1 circuits in the world.

and a white flag to indicate the presence of the Safety Car. Along with the traditional cloth flags that marshals will use, Singapore will see the debut of DigiFlags.

This system, which uses technology similar to that which helps guide pilots to runways at major airports, has been tested at the Monza, Imola and Barcelona circuits over the past decade to ensure it meets with the stringent FIA requirements.

Changes to the designation of corner numbers will mean that the Marina Bay circuit is officially reduced from 24 to 23 corners for the Grand Prix. The change in designation reflects amendments to turn 10, at the end of St Andrew's Road that passes City Hall and The Padang.

"Previously, what was turn 10 and 11 was actually three corners close together in a chicane configuration, created to provide the right geometry and

corner speeds, due to the lack of straight ahead run-off," said Singapore GP Director-Technical & Race Operations, Michael McDonough.

The Singapore Grand Prix will take place over the weekend of September 26-28. For further information see www.singaporegp.sg

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

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By Scott Mallon

Somjit takes gold, Manus settles for silver

Thailand fell short of its three-gold-medal expectations, the US saw their once-powerful boxing team suffer its worst defeat ever and Cuba failed to net gold but picked up four silver medals and four bronze medals.

Mongolia picked up a gold and a silver and Kazakhstan garnered a gold and a bronze, causing some fans in attendance to break down in tears. China and Russia were as strong as ever, winning seven medals between the two countries.

Thailand ended the Olympics with two gold medals (Somjit Jongjohor and weightlifter Prapawadee Jaroenrattanakoon) and two silver medals (Manus Boonjumnong and taekwondo stylist Buttree Puepong).

Somjit Jongjohor blasted his way through the boxing flyweight division, easily defeating Cuba's Andris Laffita Hernandez in the final by 8-2 to fulfill his dream of winning gold. "I waited patiently for this for 12 years and I finally did it," said 33-year-old Somjit. The Buriram native will receive government and corporate bonuses of approximately 20 million baht.

Felix Diaz of the Dominican Republic soundly defeated Manus Boonjumnong 12-4, denying the Thai the opportunity to become the first Thai fighter to defend an Olympic title. "Even though I would like to have had the gold medal, the silver is satisfactory," Manus said. "I am the first Thai to win medals in consecutive [Olympic] Games. It wasn't such a surprise [to lose]. My opponent fought very well today and I accept it."

Manus seemed to lose focus midway through the first round when Diaz scored with a series of short punches to the face while in close. "Frankly, I lost concentration," he said, "especially when my score did not go up after three clear punches."

As always, boxing had its share of controversies, mainly dealing with one facet of amateur boxing that sets it apart from the professional game: the push-button scoring.

Three of five judges are required to push a button within one second of each other in order for a point to register, supposedly guaranteeing fair decisions, but

the system isn't always successful.

Single points are tallied for combination punches, body punches are often disregarded, points are sometimes added for punches never thrown, and judges are sometimes not quick enough to punch the buttons in unison. Expectedly, it is the losers doing the complaining. Winners are more likely to overlook minor discrepancies, at least until they lose.

Also, as with professional boxing, judges are always under close scrutiny and often accused of favoritism. The International Boxing Association suspended a Romanian official over "possible attempts of manipulation" at the Beijing Olympic Games.

These factors have contributed to more than one amateur boxing fan calling for major changes in Olympic boxing.

It is doubtful the push-button system will be eradicated any time soon. Despite the problems, push-button scoring holds judges accountable and provides concrete evidence of their actions. The London Olympics are four years away, giving ample time to work out the bugs in boxing's scoring system.

Over the years, the Olympics have been a proving ground for American boxers, spawning such greats as Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roy Jones and Evander Holyfield. This year, the US was full of hope with all forecasts promising gold. Instead, there was chaos, tension, drama and a team that refused to listen when it needed to most.

Six of nine fighters came close to quitting the team and one fighter, Luis Yanez, went AWOL just two months before the games. All but one of America's fighters were unceremoniously eliminated before reaching the medal rounds.

When America's last hope for a medal, 23-year-old Deontay Wilder, stepped in the ring, it demonstrated just how far the mighty have fallen.



Thailand's Somjit Jongjohor raises his gold medal. Joining him on the winners' podium are (from left) silver medal winner Andreas Laffita Hernandez (Cuba) and bronze medalists Vincenzo Picardi (Italy) and Georgy Balakshin (Russia).

Wilder, who hails from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is a likable sort who took up boxing less than three years ago in order to provide for a daughter who suffers from spina bifida.

He came 33rd in last year's amateur world championships, but somehow managed to squeak into the Olympics.

Wilder won a bronze medal, but in the next bout, silver medalist Russo Clemente of Italy scored at will, easily defeating him, ending his dream of Olympic gold. All but one of Wilder's nine teammates elected to leave Beijing instead of remaining behind to watch him fight.

With just seconds remaining in his first-round bout against Lee Ok-sung, world amateur cham-

pion and US gold medal favorite Rau'shee Warren danced around the ring confidently, thinking he was ahead in the bout.

Instead of listening to his coaches, who were screaming for him to get another point to tie the score, he listened to someone in the stands yelling "Move! Move!" meaning he should run the clock out while avoiding Ok-sung's punches. By the time he realized he was behind and not ahead, it was too late and Warren and the US team were dealt a crushing defeat.

Warren had turned down several offers to turn pro in order to win a gold medal to present his mother.

At the 1976 Montreal Olympics, US boxers won one

silver and five gold medals. In Beijing, the team won a single bronze medal – the worst performance ever turned in by an American squad. How does a boxing superpower fall to a level where a heavyweight with mediocre skills is the only hope for a medal? It's easy to blame it on the coach, but America's boxing program is in dire need of an overhaul.

Boxing gold medalists

Light Flyweight: Shiming Zou (China)

Flyweight: Somjit Jongjohor (Thailand)

Bantamweight: Badar-Ugan Enkhbat (Mongolia)

Featherweight: Vasyl Lomachenko (Ukraine)

Lightweight: Alexey Tishchenko (Russia)

Light Welterweight: Felix Diaz (Dominican Republic)

Welterweight: Bakhyt Sarsekbayev (Kazakhstan)

Middleweight: James Degale (Great Britain)

Light Heavyweight: Xiaoping Zhang (China)

Heavyweight: Rakhim Chakhkiev (Russia)

Super Heavyweight: Roberto Cammarelle (Italy)

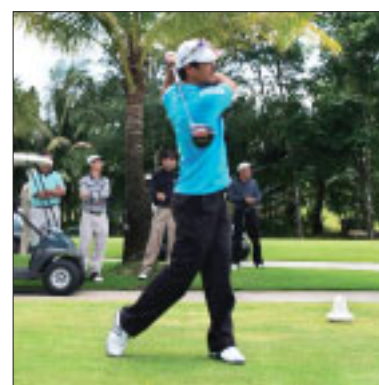
Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based boxing writer and freelance journalist. He is a member of Ring Magazine's ratings advisory panel. He can be emailed at shm1962@gmail.com

Teeing off for tourism

PHUKET: Mission Hills Golf Course on August 9 hosted the Phuket leg of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Amazing Fun Golf tour, held to promote tourism in Thailand during the low season.

Tournaments have been organized at six of Thailand's top golf courses, with events already held in Nakhon Ratchasima and Pattaya, while there are still three more to come in Bangkok, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Chiang Rai.

There were 160 competitors teeing off at Mission Hills, each paying 3,000 baht to enter. Phuket Governor Niran



About 160 golfers took part in the event at Mission Hills.

Kalayanamit was on hand to lead the proceedings at the opening ceremony.



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Patong Darts League

PATONG: With lopsided victories by the three teams at the top of the table, not much changed in the Patong Darts League standings after the last round.

Send match notes to darts@phuketgazette.net

August 19 results: Queen Mary* 8 - Hilltop 1; Celtic 2 - Piccadilly* 7; Offshore* 7 - Beach House 2; Sick Buffalo* 5 - Simply Red 4; Dogs Bollocks 4 - Shakers* 5; Market Bar bye (* winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (79 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (77); 3. Offshore* (71); 4. Sick Buffalo (67); 5. Market Bar* (64); 6. Shakers (60); 7. Beach House (54); 8. Dogs Bollocks (52); 9. Celtic (44); 10. Hilltop (42); 11. Simply Red (40) (* = have had a bye week).

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Organizers are hoping to bring Olympic champions Kerri Walsh (center) and Misty May-Treanor (right) back to Phuket to defend their crown at this year's Swatch FIVB volleyball event.

Swatch volleyball set to return

KARON: If the Beijing Olympics has whetted your appetite for beach volleyball, get ready for this year's Phuket Thailand Open, set to take place at Karon Beach from November 4 to 9 as part of the women's Swatch FIVB World Tour 2008.

Forty teams of beach babes from 20 countries have already signed up for the tournament, with the world's best players from the likes of Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Sweden and, of course, Thailand all set to compete.

Also expected to return to the competition are teams from China, the USA and Australia, all looking for a share of the US\$200,000 prize purse.

Organizers are hoping to bring last year's winners Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh back to Phuket after the duo's victory at the 2008 Summer Olympics – their second Olympic title as a pairing.

More than 70 teams are expected to enter the tournament.

The Thailand Volleyball Association will this year prepare four courts for the action, as well as one training court.

A playoff round will be held on November 4, with a qualification round on November 5 before the main draw for play November 6 to 9.

The action will be broadcast around the world on television networks including Eurosport, Astro Supersport, WCSN and the UK's Channel 4.

Games will also be shown locally on NBT on November 8 and 9 between 3 pm and 5 pm.

– By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Plookpanya students win volleyball tourney

SAPHAN HIN: Aeronautical Radio of Phuket held a mini-volleyball tournament at Saphan Hin Gym 1 on August 19 to 23, with Plookpanya School walking away with first-place honors in both the boys' and girls' categories.

Boys and girls from eight Phuket schools took part in the event, with Plookpanya School defeating Muang Phuket Municipal School 2-0 in the final of the boys' competition. Kajornrangsang School finished third.

The girls' team from Plookpanya School won their finals match against Samkong School 2-1. Dowroong Wittaya School came third.

Certificates and medals were presented to the top-finishing teams by Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana and her entourage. Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima was also in attendance on the final day of play.

Raimon Land pledges support for King's Cup



PHUKET: Raimon Land – the official sponsor of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta – announced its continued commitment to being the official sponsor of the annual international sailing event for another five years.

The signing ceremony took place at The River Promenade on the banks of the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok on August 21 with Marketing Director of Raimon Land PLC Henri Young (pictured, right) and President of Phuket King's Cup Organizing Committee Kevin Whitcraft (left) putting pen to paper in front of the cameras.

"We are proud to support the event and also celebrate His Majesty the King's birthday. We are ready to give our continued support for the Phuket King's Cup Regatta from 2008 to 2012," said Mr Young.

This year's regatta will mark the 22nd anniversary of the prestigious sailing event and will be held from November 29 to December 6 with more than 2,000 sailors from around the world expected to participate.

It's good to talk tennis

Living and teaching tennis in Phuket has a number of challenges, but the main one is the lack of communication – and I don't mean with the language.

There is a distinct lack of communication between coaches, players and parents all around Phuket.

With there being only a few structured places where tennis is played, you'd think it would be easy to have ongoing dialog between the different groups discussing ideas, tournaments and events. Not a chance.

I personally have more frequent and structured feedback about the players from Cyprus, Japan and Dubai than I do from Phuket.

Learning to communicate for teaching is vitally important, but it doesn't end between the coach and the student. As players progress, discussions with parents and federations become more frequent and development paths must be made clear.

Without a clear path to follow, aren't we all just following the blind leader?

I am not saying everyone can or should be groomed to be a champion, but I believe that there should be some direction and goals, even if those target nothing more than enjoyment and fun. If there are misunderstandings, major resentment can come later.

If everyone spoke up about what their goals and targets should be, we would have some very surprised and enlightened people on our hands. Or is everything already above board and clear between coaches, students and parents?

I think there should be discussion and clarity about objectives so people don't just amble along hoping for, or expecting, something to happen.

As a coach, I have always set a personal goal that all my students will play attractive, flowing tennis (to be able to be competitive), be friendly, polite and courteous (a good addition to any future club), and have a good understanding of the game (can advise someone correctly).

I always encourage my students to have contact cards so they can give them out if they see a player who would be a good match for them. This simple act can go a long way to help the lack of structured match play in Phuket.

Over the years, wherever I have taught, I have always tried to have good communication

On
the
court
By Darran Ferre

with all the tennis groups around me, whether I agree with their philosophies or not. I wish the tennis groups here in Phuket would realize that individually we are

comparatively weak, but together with structure, we can push each other to much higher standards. It all starts with communication.

I believe the most successful players and athletes are the ones who have a close, trusted personal support group, but have an open mind to discuss ideas and are always looking at ways to improve.

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

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Dewa set for high-season opening

The Dewa Phuket boutique resort and residential project being developed in the Nai Yang Beach area by R&B Partners Co Ltd is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Under construction since early 2007, Dewa is a combination of resort-style pool villas and apartments constructed on 10 rai of land located about 75 meters away from the beach, next to Sirinath National Park.

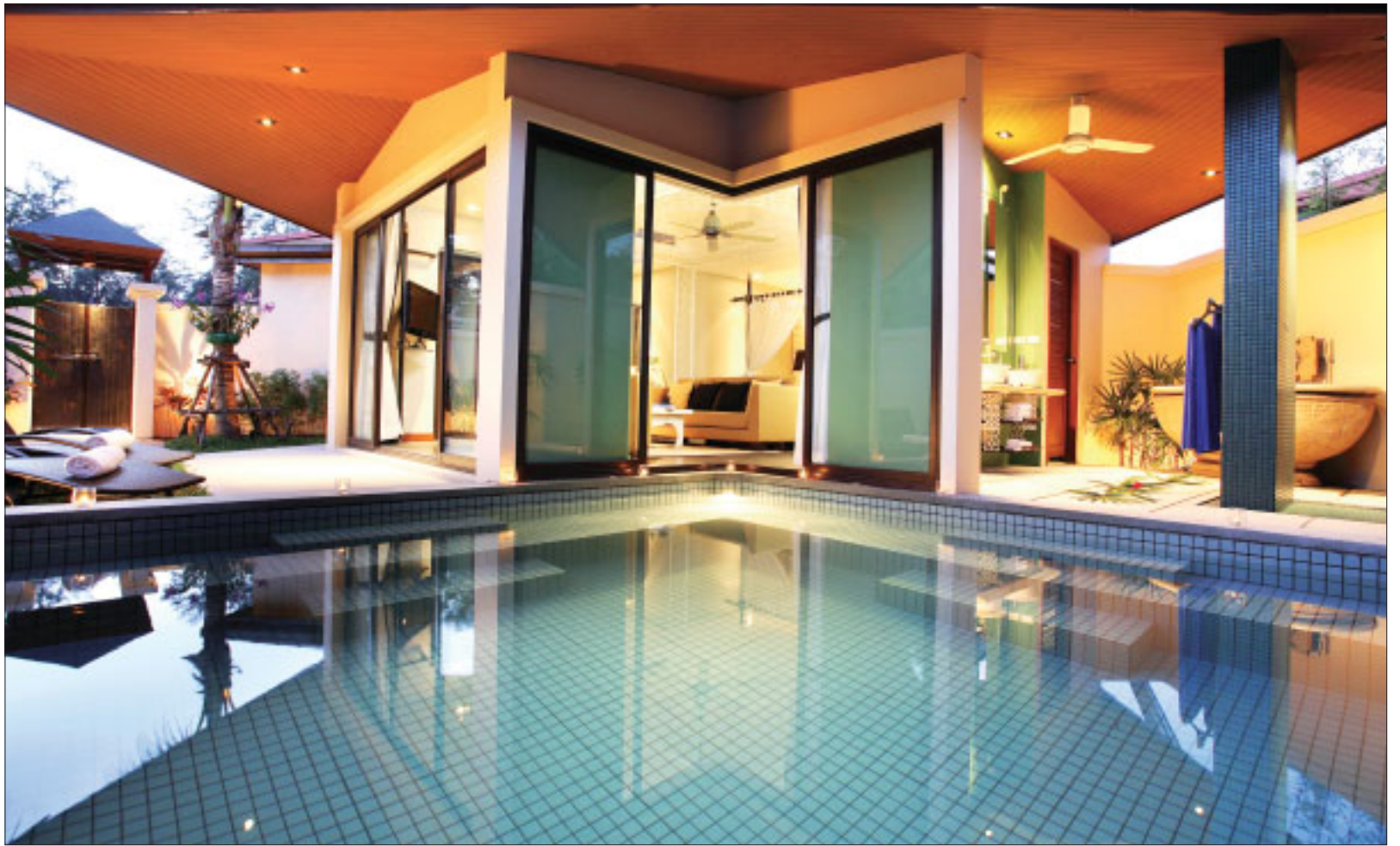
Dewa, which is an ancient Sanskrit word meaning "angel", will comprise 34 pool villas, each with an indoor and outdoor living space of at least 130 square meters. Villas will each have landscaped gardens and a plunge pool and will be managed as a hotel with a starting rate of 18,000 baht a day.

Also under development are 62 residential apartments comprising 24 two-bedroom units with a minimum 115sqm of living space and 38 one-bedroom units with 67sqm of living space.

The apartments, called Dewa Residence, are designed in a blend of contemporary and Thai styles and are centered around a 25-meter lap pool. All apartments will be equipped with Western-style kitchens and balconies, with the apartments on the top floor having access to their own roof terrace complete with a lounging sala.

The selling price for a one-bedroom apartment starts at 7 million baht while the two-bedroom apartments start at 12 million baht. An on-site rental pool will be available for owners who wish to earn rental income on their properties.

"We are now in the completion stage for the residential apartments and expect to start the



Featuring a mix of villas and apartments, Dewa Phuket is set to welcome its first guests in December.

handover process to owners in November this year," said R&B Partners Managing Director Lars Ydmark. "As for the Dewa Pool Villas and the rest of the resort, we are on schedule and expect to be completed by the end of November, in time for the opening on December 15."

Dewa Phuket's facilities include fine dining venues called The Dining Room and The Lounge, a spa, a delicatessen counter, a library, a kids' club, two fitness rooms, a convenience store, retail outlets and a free-form swimming pool along with a lap pool. The entire property

will also have wireless Internet access.

"For most of our home owners, who are opting to rent out their units when they are not here, we offer an option of a guaranteed rental income with some conditions attached or a more casual rental pool with fewer conditions," said Mr Ydmark.

"We offer 6% guaranteed return, net of operating costs, annually," Mr Ydmark added.

Mr Ydmark is a well-known player in the Phuket hospitality and property market, having been involved in several projects including the ownership

and operation of the Jiva Resort & Spa, Deva Patong Resort, Bread & Butter and Grove Gardens on Yamu.

Mr Ydmark comes from a hotel background and has worked in management positions for the Sheraton, Shangri-La and Accor hotel groups.

Mr Ydmark has partnered with Thierry De Borde of Tropical Plan Co Ltd to handle the site construction management, while design is being carried out by the architecture firm Design by Design Co Ltd and the construction contractor is A/C Construction Co Ltd.

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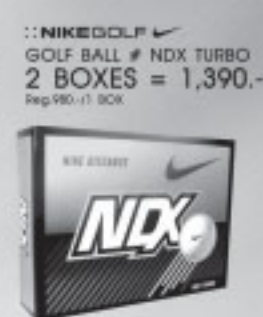
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Home of the Week

Rawai

Water, water everywhere

This contemporary Thai style home on a 750-square-meter plot in a secure estate in Rawai is ready to move in to and has an interesting multi level design that captures the essence of traditional tropical living while comprising many modern features. It is two years old and has been well looked after.

Water is a prominent feature of the property and it has its own supply of well water. The tiered buildings offer ample shaded areas surrounding an 81-square-meter swimming pool and there is an outdoor spa pool tucked away in a private corner of the enclosed garden, which has been well kept and filled with a variety of shrubs, flower beds and small trees.

The four bedrooms – each with a broad balcony – are lined with wood and have walk-in wardrobes and double beds. Each bedroom has a private en-suite bathroom with a bathtub. The master en-suite bathroom has a spa bath, too.

Downstairs is an open-plan arrangement of a western kitchen, dining and lounge areas, a study and a maid's room. All are air conditioned.

The red brick tiles lining the living area give it a rustic feel, while the dining room is ideal for entertaining guests with a table large enough to seat 8 people.

The kitchen is also fully kitted out with expansive worktops and large storage units. Fitted appliances included in the kitchen are a microwave, stove top, oven, refrigerator and dishwasher.

There is also a separate laundry room with a washing machine off the kitchen. Other utilities in the home include cable and satellite TV, telephone and Internet connection.

The property, on Chanote-title land, is available leasehold for 25 million baht.

For more info contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quoting reference number: HSIL2234. Tel: 076-288908. E-mail Patrick@siamrealestate.com, website: www.siamrealestate.com



Above, The home surrounds the pool. Left: rich fabrics are used throughout the interior. This is the master bedroom.

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countries. In the end, THAILAND came out as the only logical destination, in terms of climate, cost of living, friendliness, safety and superb location, especially for a second home or retirement dream." Paul said, adding that he has a good life here.



Uncle Chai, owner of small Thai projects, fell in love with architecture and decoration. He put much effort into making the perfect residence, resulting in Tewana Village.

Tewana house is stunning and cozy, with a private corner as well as an area for family members, plus a 14-meter-long free-form swimming pool for relaxing and exercise. The natural finishings and materials make the house look lovely and easy to live in.



With good results making quality houses, Khun Chai has customers waiting, trusting him to make their house. With a lovely wife at his side, no wonder he is inspired to build beautiful homes.
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Design

By Semacote Suganya

Setting the scene for living in happiness

Stephen Paine, managing director of Malaiwana, is not interested in talking about the design features of the luxury estate he's developing at Nai Thon Beach. For him, design is not about the elements that go into a home. It's about how people live in a space, and how they feel when they're in it.

Selecting the right location was the basis of creating the right atmosphere for this project of 19 luxury villas, 13 apartments and a beach club, which is set to be completed in 2010. Nai Thon was the ideal spot, Stephen explained, because it offered a coveted west coast location, yet one that remained quiet and peaceful.

The apartments and villas were designed by two architects, but both parts of the development maintain the distinctive look and feel of tropical architecture. The villas are set on plots of one to two rai and have about 1,000 square meters of construction area.

A major consideration in Malaiwana's design, Stephen said, was to make people happy.

What he learned from his work with Surin Heights luxury villas was to maximize the use of covered outdoor space, which best suits the way people live in Phuket. People prefer to spend most of their time outdoors and the covered areas, together with the cooler breezes offered on the hillside location, keep the outdoor space cool and comfortable.

The villa layout was carefully designed to divide the home into social areas for entertaining and relaxing and private areas for the home's residents to retreat into. The pool, pavilions and lounging areas are all on the upper floor, taking the most advantage of the sea views and ample outdoor space. Bedrooms are tucked away on the lower floor.

Stephen said, "I think the challenge for architects and for developers is that you have to look at how people want to live, which depends on the person and their culture." In designing Malaiwana, a long time was spent trying to figure out how people would use the space and move around the property. "When you understand all of that,



Incorporating elements that enhance the positive feelings people have in how they enjoy their homes, such as by using wood and natural stone, is critical to creating a happy abode, says Stephen Paine of the Malaiwana project at Nai Thon Beach.

you try to put together a building and creation that meets all these requirements," he explained.

"The most important thing about the architecture is not a specific design – and yes, we have all these elements such as automatic lighting, a beautiful kitchen and so on. We all have this picture of a high-end villa, but the most important thing when you walk into the space is how it makes you feel. If it doesn't make you feel great when you're in the space then, to me, the architect has failed.

"If it doesn't make if you feel sensational when you walk into the room, then what's the point?" he added.

The tactile experience of living in a home is also an important element, as Stephen explained the extensive use of natural materials such as wood and stone.

"We had quite a compli-

cated process to make the floor look and feel different," he said. "When you walk on it you will feel the beautiful touch of a real wood floor. Many people think that when you have a wooden floor, you get some nice planks of wood, sand them, polish them, cover with polyurethane and make it look all shiny."

Using polyurethane defeats the purpose of having a wood floor, he explained, causing the beautiful look and feel of the natural material to be lost.

For the same reason, natural stone is used instead of ceramic flooring in all areas apart from the showers. "Again, it's about the feeling when you walk on a piece of natural stone," he said. "You feel very different than when you are walking on ceramic [tiles]."

In the swimming pool, too, local Thai marble is used instead

of ceramic or other tiles. "It gives a more luxurious feel and the water looks more beautiful," he said. "I think many pools are beautiful and a lot of them have expensive ceramic tiles, but if you take the water out from the pool, it looks like a toilet."

For all the elements of Malaiwana's design, Stephen said that it will succeed if the design takes a back seat to the experience of living in the villa. No matter how much time and money goes into the architecture, interiors, furnishings, lighting and other details, the only important thing is that living there is a joyful experience, he explained.

"So, for example, if you walk around the bedroom with your eyes closed, how does that feel on your feet?" It's not enough to have a beautiful view, he said. Beauty should be felt throughout the home as well.

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Gardening

By Bloomin' Bert

A great impostor of the plant world

Frauds abound. I don't mean the dodgy blokes who knock on old ladies' doors and con them out of their life savings, or "businessmen" who suck hapless individuals in with promises of vast returns on "just a token sum" then disappearing without trace.

I'm not even referring to those gentlemen from a large African nation who would be far happier if as much of my money as possible was in their bank accounts. All administration fees paid for, of course.

These obvious frauds are simply contemptible lowlifes, and fairly easy to categorize and avoid. But it's those who insist on pretending to be something that they're not who irk me. Take wine snobs, for example. What is it with their "malolactic fermenta-

tion", "nicely structured, lightly acidic nose" and their "obsequious, with a cheeky aftertaste" when none of us have the faintest idea what they're on about?

I have to wonder if they know either – I'm convinced that all they do is rattle out a few meaningless stock phrases on cue. My system for judging wine involves only two ratings: good (1) or bad (0). How difficult can that be?

Other frauds? How about those blokes in tiny Japanese cars and lowered-suspension pickups with the big exhausts and Gigawatt-powered stereos? Are they perhaps trying a little too hard to over-compensate for something? There are those who argue that the dimensions of these are inversely proportional to the size of a rather specific facet of a gent's anatomy.

It's not just the youngsters, though – old ladies with the sort of wrinkled leathery skin who would be more at home covering an elephant are equally fraudulent, if that's the right word to use here. We've all seen them. Sadly, they attempt to recoup their youth (or perhaps deny that it expired several decades ago) with miniskirts and bright red lipstick. It really doesn't work.

In a similar vein, there are the equally ancient gentlemen who fervently continue to wear Speedos and seem convinced that they still look like a Baywatch lifeguard. They don't. Frauds.

It's fairly clear that at some stage I would get around to the tenuous link to the fraud of the plant world, so let's get it over with. The mock orange. In Thai, it's known as the *som get lah*.

This plant is a member of the orange family. The mock orange is all over Phuket. The glossy, green foliage comes with strongly-scented flowers that are followed by tiny little oranges.

By the way, does anyone know why oranges in Thailand aren't actually orange? Isn't that one of the things that makes an orange an orange – it's orange? They're more likely to be green here.

Mock orange plants are festooned with these miniature oranges/greens that you can't eat. At least I can't – they're horribly bitter. If my mum was here, she'd probably spout some blurb about how they give you stomach ache in the same way as cooking apples straight from the tree supposedly did, though they probably didn't.

Also known as the orange jasmine, or *Murraya paniculata* if you want to get technical, it's not a plant that's likely to stand out at the garden center as a fruit tree, since at first glance it looks like just another jasmine plant. Which is what it is, I suppose.



These sneaky fruits hang around pretending to be oranges, when it's clear that they are, in fact, green.

It appears as a large multi-trunked shrub or small tree. Also known as the "China box" (for reasons that escape me), it belongs to the Rutaceae or Rue family. The fragrant "orange blossom" flowers stand out against the evergreen dark green leaves, which consist of three to nine leaflets.

This evergreen shrub flowers regularly throughout the year, and produces fragrant jasmine-scented flowers and those fake fruit. It makes an excellent hedge, since it thrives on close trimming. I have to say that I do believe in a closely trimmed bush.

It also does well as a decorative container plant because of its compact habit and dense glossy green foliage. It can be propagated from seed, but as ever here in Phuket, you're much better off going down to the nearest garden center and picking one up.

Orange jasmine has a few medicinal qualities, too. Indians have traditionally used its bark for making cosmetics and the leaves as a stimulant and decongestant. The shrub's astringent qualities have also been used to treat bleeding wounds and dysentery, joint pain and body aches. In some parts of Asia, the twigs are chewed and used as a sort of bizarre natural toothbrush.

The plant is everywhere in this corner of the planet, from India and China through Southeast Asia to Northern Australia. A fairly hardy shrub, needing light to moderate watering.

New growth should be pruned to a few leaves, after the shoots have six or seven leaves while propagation can be done by seeds or cuttings.

The tree does best in a container that is glazed and not too shallow, with moderately fertile, well-drained soil. It's easy to care for as it tolerates most conditions and grows well in partial shade.

Mock oranges are still frauds whichever way you look at them. Perhaps not as brazen as wine snobs or Speedo-sporting pensioners, but frauds nonetheless.

I have to admit that the trees would be a lot more welcome in my back garden than either of these, though.

Perhaps it's about time for a 1-rating glass of red wine, come to think of it. Cheers.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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RAWAI VILLA WITH POOL

Brand-new, 3 bedrooms, salt-water pool, steam sauna. 650sqm land, 220sqm villa, Chanote, double walls, tropical garden. Must see and a great price. Finance or trade-in is possible. 5% commission for agents. Tel: 085-7831890.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KATHU

2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, patio, garden. 86sq wah, 7.4 million baht. Tel: 081-9565650, 089-6469278. Photos, map and more details at www.kathu-property.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

2-story house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, True TV. Internet. 300m from Heroines' Monument, toward Pa Khlok. For sale at 3.7 million baht, rent: 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

KATA BEACH VILLA

New, 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, pool. 20 million baht or rent. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

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PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



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

BRAND-NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for sale at Baan Suan Loch Palm. Area: 480 sqm. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2799500.

LUXURY TOWNHOUSE, KATA

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

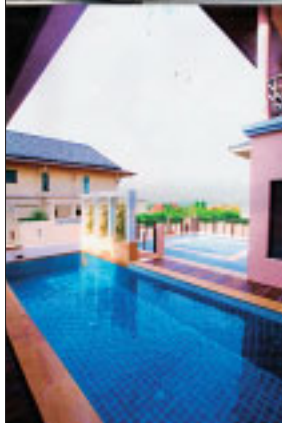
3-BEDROOM POOLVILLA

at Mission Hills. 9.5 million baht. Built on land plot of 1 rai. 2 minutes to golf course. Tel: 087-8934636. Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE NAI HARN-RAWAI



3-story house villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 2 en suites, 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

2-STORY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Contact K. Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahniez@hotmail.com or okika_j@hotmail.com

QUICK SALE

Land on Soi Haad Surin, 2.5-minute walk to Surin Beach. 996sqm. 6 million baht. Tel: 087-8836112.

1.5 RAI IN PASAK

Laguna area at 6.5 million baht. Chanote title, square-shaped plot, good location, road and utilities access. No agents please. Tel: 081-5399269.

2-STORY HOUSE, RAWAI

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MISSION HILL LAND

2,732 sqm. 2.25 million baht/rai (800sqm). 1.25 million baht. Close to golf course. Tel: 083-6473509, 087-2945737.

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KHAO KHAD, AO MAKHAM



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PERFECT LAND

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LAND AT NATAI

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in Srisuchart Grand Ville 3. 47.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, some furnishings. Located in Phuket City, near Tesco-Lotus. 2.8 million baht (negotiable). Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978.

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SAIYUAN HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house with extraliving space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms with car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. Few minutes to Nai Ham beach. For more information call 084-8475700, 087-8987642. Email: morn_48@yahoo.com

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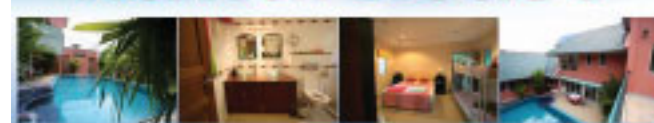
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Property Gazette

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KAMALA TOWNHOUSE



near Phuket FantaSea, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park. 3.2 million baht, negotiable. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

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.

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

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.

3 BEDROOMS, 2 FLOORS, SEA VIEW

Relocating to Canada. Breathtaking 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

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

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. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

4-BEDROOM PALACE IN RAWAI

Majestic quality, big pool, quiet & secure. Come and convince yourself. Be different. No disappointment. 5% commission for agents. Call for info. Tel: 085-7831890.

BIG HOUSE, RANONG

4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 6 aircons, decorated with high-quality wood. Nice house. Tel: 083-1036578.

BRAND-NEW VILLA

Near Chalong Circle. 2 stories, swimming pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 3 aircons, quiet and nice place. Tel: 080-5322136 (Thai), 087-8907561 (Eng). Website: www.katahouseforsale.com

LAND PLOT, 2.3 MILLION BAHT

900sqm land plot with underground electricity and water supply in quiet, secure community next to Mission Hills Golf Course. For sale at only 2.3 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 081-2712825.

NEW APARTMENTS



in Nai Harn Beach. Safe and quiet area with large garden and pool. Complete high-quality furniture and kitchen in modern style. Aircon and TV in every room. Opening in December. Our apartment complex has units of 35sqm, 60sqm, 100sqm. Starting price: 1.7 million baht. Tel: 084-8419250. Email: suenknorr@gmx.de

3-BEDROOM HOUSE



2 minutes away from international school. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-8953649.

KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote. Can be divided. All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Priced from 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

MY WIFE GAMBLER

So now you get it cheap. Land and/or house for sale. Tel: 086-6831964.

LOCH PALM VILLA

at Baan Suan. Lovely villa with large plot including pool and sala. 20.9 million baht. Tel: 081-9241447.

TRANG LAND



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity access, road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 7 million baht ono. No agents please. Tel: 075-210646, 087-2709093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

LAND IN KATHU

Fabulous, elevated block opposite national park in Kathu. 1360sqm. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Comes with architect's plans for house and building permit. 6.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

VILLA & LAND

Villa near Heroines' Monument, built 2007, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, pool, furnished. Living space: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. 12.9 million baht. Also: Land: 1,100sqm, 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

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. Fully fitted modern kitchen. All bedrooms with separate bathrooms and built-in cupboards. Jacuzzi. Rooms have aircon. Freehold or leasehold. 2 showhomes fully furnished. Ready now. From 21 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-279289, 086-2742308. Email: kamalaparadise@yahoo.com Website: www.kamalaparadise.com

B3.5M RAWAI BARGAIN

2 beds, 2 baths, garden, phone, net, UBC, aircon, hot water, Western kitchen. Private, secure, prime location. Tel: 084-8446476. Email: diidlarge@yahoo.co.uk

BLUE CANYON PENTHOUSE CONDO

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, unfurnished. Lifetime golf club membership included. Only 15 million baht. Tel: 081-2555255. Email: denpao3@hotmail.com

LAND, 2,532 SQM, AO POR

Chanote, main road near airport, Mission Hills golf. Front has free space; 200sqm used. Net sale price: 6 million baht. Tel: 081-3670991.

NICE 5-BEDROOM HOUSE

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website. www.jikkycar.com

3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS

52sq wah, quiet area, Khao Khad. Chanote. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8528096.

SEA VIEW, NAI THON BEACH

11 rai, Chanote at Nai Thon Beach. 700m from sandy beach. 7.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

BOUTIQUE RESORT - NAI HARN

18 bungalows. 2 rai landscaped with tropical gardens + pool 3 bedrooms, manager's residence. Includes 38 motorbikes for rent. Excellent cash flow business. Unlimited potential. 32 million baht ono.

Contact Warren Crowe at 081-2704291. Email: thailandmfs@gmail.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW TOWNHOUSE



For sale or rent. Pool, 2 or 3 bedrooms. Price negotiable. Tel: 086-2832279.

BUNGALOW IN CHALONG



Newly refurbished, 3-bedroom bungalow on 65sq wah. Brand-new modern kitchen and bathroom. Covered parking and landscaped garden. Price: 4.2 million baht. Tel: 089-9222800. Email: meen443_40@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

B2.3M HOUSE NEAR BEACH

132sqm, 2 bedrooms. Fully furnished. Kamala Beach. Tel: 081-5377137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

50 RAI WITH CHANOTE TITLE

Phang Nga, 8km from city center, 30 rai of powered, licensed factory for meat + fish, walk-in fridge and freezer. 8,000 hardwood trees planted on 20 rai. Genuine sale. Tel: 087-2694083.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Brand-new house just built, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, furnished, huge aquarium. 4.9 million baht ono. Financing available. Tel: 084-6268105.

LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1 rai up to 50 rai. Good road, electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

HOUSE WITH AMAZING SEA VIEW



in Rawai. Super-modern, furnished, 3-story house, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. All rooms are air-conditioned. Alarm system, water filter system, large private pool and safe car parking space. 320sqm block of land with Chanote title. The price is only 11.5 million baht. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

APARTMENT FOR SALE

Nice apartments in a good location with pool, privacy and good sea views. Good price. Tel: 087-2844823. Email: beniluxjp@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.benilux-phuket.com

SHOPHOUSE

3-story shophouse on the bypass road next to the Chevrolet dealer. Contact me for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

One rai close to Laguna. Chanote title. Also 3-story shophouse on bypass road. Contact for more details. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel: 080-5358767, 0011-760-7808584 (US). Email: phuketone@gmail.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for rent. Three-story villa, sea view, mountain view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 ensembles, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. Private pool 8x3.5 meters. 2 car park spaces. Tel: 081-6779837, 089-646-4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

LAND AND POND

Good view, near the sea at Ao Sapam, Phuket. 8 acres, long-term lease. Tel: 086-6893289, 083-0526696.

HOUSE IN RAWAI

12,000 baht per month, fan, hot water, 1 bedroom, car park, fenced, 29" TV with cable, quiet, safe area. Available Oct 10/08 to April 6/09. Tel: 087-2668728.

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Beautiful furnished 3-bedroom house with secured garden, large pool, tel, True TV, Internet. Close to Boat Lagoon/Monument. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-260400, 084-6903446.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 and 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-7288311.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, 1 living room. Brand-new house opposite water works. 5 mins to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8937031.

NEW SHOP FOR RENT

154sqm, very good location, special for restaurant. Entrance to Laguna, Cherng Talay. Tel: 081-0915919.

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and 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.

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° panoramic views of the sea, hills and town. Large outdoor patio and wraparound balcony. Comes completely renovated, with Internet and washing machine. Available now. Tel: 011-86-13816-344147. Email: txxzt@yahoo.com Please see our website at www.patongtowerrental.com

KAMALA HILLS APARTMENT

Super 3-bedroom, furnished, ground-floor condo. Internet, parking lot and security. On spectacular estate. 28,500 baht monthly. Tel: 076-317-534, 081-3977598. Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR RENT, THALANG

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for rent immediately at Pa Khlok, Thalang, 800m from Heroines' Monument (located at Baan Suan Neramit 5, Moo 8). Fully furnished, ADSL, laundry, garden, kitchen fitted with Fagor oven. 23,000 baht/month or 21,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Call 081-8512280 (English/Thai). Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

NAI HARN, 2-BEDROOMS

with pool table, Jacuzzi, 2 bathrooms. Quiet. 37,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-1968657. Available Oct/Nov 2008. Email: soundofmusic999@yahoo.co.uk

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.

NEW RAWAI POOL DUPLEX



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 12,000 baht per month. 300m to the beach. ADSL. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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>

SINGLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 60 sq wah. Fully furnished, located in front of Meaju Garden Place project. Aircon in big bedroom. Rent: 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-6912526.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Furnished, ADSL, cable TV, aircon. Near Heroines' monument. 18,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2778461. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

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

RAWAI FLAT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, swimming pool, balcony, cable, ADSL. Tel: 081-6067410.

NEAR BIS: 3-BED POOL VILLA

70,000 baht per month for long term rent. New, modern, fully-furnished, on compound of six behind the Boat Lagoon. Includes gym, water, Wi-Fi, cable TVs/DVD, pool and garden maintenance, security, pool speakers, linen and kitchenware. Tel: 084-7839054. Email: oggyowen@yahoo.com

PATONG



For more information email a.pueng@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in. Tel: 089-6628733.

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking pool and landscaped gardens. 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

THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong, new 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht per month. Call K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

Phase I houses for long-term rent or sale. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669 www.baanpanapanaphuket.com

AMAZING SEA VIEWS



Large house with tropical gardens, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, pool, security, 10 mins to British International School. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

35,000 BAHT PER MONTH



Rawai pool villa. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, ADSL, near the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE ON YAOWARAT RD

Good area in Phuket City. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, 3 aircons, kitchen, phone line, 3 car parking spaces. 15,000 baht/month. One month deposit. Tel: 081-7973138.

GOLF COURSE VILLA

Beautiful home at Phuket Country Club, fully furnished, pool, sala, gardens. Only 65,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9241447.

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

RAWAI STUDIO FOR RENT/SALE

Rent for 6,000 baht/month or buy for 950,000 baht. 30sqm, furniture, kitchen, fridge, cable TV. Internet. Tel: 084-1899336.

NICE TOWNHOME

for rent, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 086-7426989. Email: jayhero@msn.com

PATONG BEACH CONDO

for rent or sale. Financing available, furnished, security, car park. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 089-5908233.

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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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FIBERGLASS BOAT FOR SALE

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SEA DOO JET BOAT

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33-FOOT WOODEN HULL

in perfect condition, 11 years old, 2 engines, Yamaha V6, 200hp, 250 hours, 900,000 baht. Contact Jano. Tel: 083-5905464.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

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SKI & WAKEBOARD BOAT

19ft, fiberglass, 300 HP Mercruiser, tower tow, trailer + many extras, must sell quickly. 240,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-2697138. Email: tye_cotter@yahoo.com.au

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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Yacht Haven Marina Office
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Mobile: 081 891 3237
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Email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

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Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd., the developer of The Cape, The Bay @ Cape Yamu, and The Yamu Resort Hotel and Villas, is seeking an experienced Site Civil Engineer for all three of its properties in Phuket. These are luxury seafront homes selling for between one and eight million USD each.

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Serenity Terraces Resort - Phuket

Opening early 2009

Outrigger Serenity Terraces Resort is a 78-unit luxury resort being built at Rawai Beach consisting of one and two-bedroom suites, pool suites and penthouses with swimming pools.

Outrigger is one of the largest and fastest growing privately-held leisure lodging and hospitality companies in the Asia-Pacific and Oceania regions and continue to expand its presence throughout the area. We also operate and develop hotel properties and hospitality-related retail and real estate opportunities for partners in Hawaii, the Pacific, mainland USA and Asia.

We are currently looking for qualified, experienced and passionate candidates to be key members of our pre-opening management team.

EAM (Thai or Japanese)

To ensure all the Rooms Division and Spa departments operate to agreed standards and within agreed budgets. Provide leadership and be a constantly visible presence in the operation. Be the centre to ensure guest satisfaction is achieved.

Chef/F&B (Thai or Expat)

To ensure all the Food & Beverage outlets operate to agreed standards and within agreed budgets. Provide leadership and be a constantly visible presence in the operation. Oversee the host canteen at the standard of a guest outlet

Financial Controller (Thai)

Responsible for providing leadership to ensure appropriate company accounting controls and procedures are in place to safeguard the assets of the hotel and overseeing the accurate and timely preparation of the hotel financial statements and related financial reports.

Sales Manager (Thai)

Drive sales through e-commerce channels and all interactive marketing channels.

Revenue Manager (Thai)

Responsible for the reservation and the promotion of all resort services.

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, please send your latest resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations by email to: **lek.thammalertsakul@outrigger.com**

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 resumé (CV) via email to: **atte.savisalo@savcor.com** and **atte3000@hotmail.com**

ellezza Bio Latex Co Ltd

(Phuket branch)

We are currently seeking

Salesperson

- Russian nationality
- Minimum 3 persons to Maximum 6 persons
- Work Permit
- Accommodation
- Salary commensurate with experience (first 3 months 70% + accommodation) (after 3 months 100% + accommodation + commission)
- Working time - 9:30am to 5pm

Phuket Spa

We are currently seeking

Administration Manager 1 position

- Female, Thai nationality
- Salary commensurate with 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**

kennyyasumoto@gmail.com

Tel: 076-352013, 081-8937162 Fax: 076-352133



The Spa at Phuket Pavilions is taking off to the next level. We will start our training in September for a full 3 months. If you are one of the best or want to become one of the best, we invite you to apply to join our team. We are looking for

SPA THERAPISTS, full time, starting not later than September 1.

SPA THERAPISTS, temporary, starting not later than September 1 and working until end of November.

BEAUTICIAN/THERAPIST, starting September 1.

SPA RECEPTIONISTS, therapist's background, starting October/November.

We offer a great team and excellent benefits including a 5-day working week, service charge, good basic salary and high commission for therapists.

If you don't mind working hard, have good English skills and want to be on top, please contact our Human Resources Department today.

Also looking for **TRAINING MODELS** (1 male and 1 female) to act as guest substitutes when we train our therapists from September to November.

PHUKET PAVILIONS

Email: **spadirector@phuketpavilions.com**

Website: **www.phuketpavilions.com**

31/1 Moo 6, Chermg Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110

Tel: 076-317604 Fax: 076-317601

Island Job Mart

Black Forest
Distribution Co., Ltd. is looking for:

Driver with Licence 2 (Truck)	Messenger
Salary starts at 10,000 THB + Food Cost	Salary starts at 7,500 THB + Food Cost

Black Forest Distribution Co., Ltd.
PHUKET
204/42 Rat-u-Ihit Road, Patong Beach, Phuket 83140
076 - 344 705

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:
marumon.chaneriharaj@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' E98°16'

**TRAINED BAKER
REQUIRED**



for this dynamic expanding business. Thai national. Hours, salary negotiable. Contact K. Lilly. Tel: 084-8512176. Email: info@ladypie.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

**GOVERNMENT
SCHOOL**

requires 2 full-time English teachers. Friendly work environment and assistance with work permit. Please contact for more details at Tel: 086-2720383. Fax: 076-213922. Email: danhogfelt@hotmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Aqua Property Group, a new real estate company opening soon in Phuket, requires a Thai female who is punctual, presentable and organized. You must be proficient in Microsoft Office and communicate well in written and spoken English. Please send your CV and expected salary to info@aquapropertygroup.com

**PHOTOSHOP
EXPERT**

To work on photographs of costume jewelry. Part time. Work from home. Good pay for expert person. Please contact for information at Tel: 089-7291968. Email: jae@loxinfo.co.th

**Marriott
VACATION CLUB**
ASIA-PACIFIC

Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific, a leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions:

- **MARKETING EXECUTIVE**
(English, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Russian)
Based in Phuket and Bangkok
- **RECEPTIONIST**
- **GUEST RELATIONS EXECUTIVE**
- **SALES EXECUTIVE**
(English, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Russian)
- **CONTRACT COORDINATOR**
- **GALLERY MANAGER**
- **MARKETING CUSTOMER CONTACT**
- **OPC MARKETING SUPERVISOR**
- **ON SITE MARKETING TEAM LEADER**
- **VIP GUEST SERVICE EXECUTIVE**
- **AYS OFFICER**

Most positions are based in Phuket. We require self-motivated, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills and who are proactive. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to the Director of Human Resources at pansak.l@marriotthotels.com or fax: 076 348 354 or mail to:

MVCI, Asia Pacific
234 Maikhaio, Talang
Phuket 83110, Thailand

Or apply in person
Monday to Friday
from 10 am to 3 pm

For more information, please visit our website at www.marriott.com

**BAY VIEW,
ARAYABURI
RESORTS**

Bay View, Arayaburi Resort and Arayaburi Residences on Phi Phi Island are seeking qualified, experienced candidates with a positive attitude for the following positions (based on Phi Phi Island): Resident Manager, Marketing Manager, Front Office Manager, Restaurant Manager, Reservation Supervisor, Construction Site Manager, Foreman. Tel: 076-304000, 083-5088782. Fax: 076-304007. Email: thiti81@yahoo.com Please see our website at www.phi phibayview.com

LAW OFFICE

Seeks Thai and foreign lawyers, accountant, secretary and messenger. Email CV to jobs@siam-legal.com

WEBSITE CODER

Website coder/programmer wanted for our Web TV company. Mail for more info. Email: admin@idevelop.tv

**PRESCHOOL
TEACHER REQUIRED**

Female caucasian, native English speaker, full or part time. Tel: 080-6247060.

ITALIAN CHEF JOB

to help cook all types of cuisine specialties. Tel: 083-6394509. Email: thailand2008@live.it

**TROPICAL
LANDSCAPING
INTERNATIONAL**

TLI are currently looking to hire the following English-speaking Thai staff for our expanding Phuket office: Horticulturist, Landscaping Supervisor, Sales Executive. Please provide full resume including qualifications, photo, references and expected salary. Tel: 076-620099. Fax 076-620098. Email: ben@tropical-landscaping.com For further details, please see Tropical Landscaping Internationals at www.tropical-landscaping.com or www.phuket landscaping.com

**Sri panwa
PHUKET**

Urgent Positions

Sri panwa, a young, exciting and luxurious hotel and residential pool villa estate is looking for vibrant, energetic and most importantly, service-minded individuals to join our innovative team. If you have what it takes, please contact us at the address below.

Chief Account/Asst.Chief Accountant

- Male or female. Bachelor's degree or higher.
- 4 years or higher experience in accounting department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email, Internet and service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

Night Audit/Night Reception

- Male. Diploma degree or higher.
- 1-2 years of experience in Front Office Department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email, Internet and service minded.
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

Reservation Supervisor

- Bachelor's degree or higher.
- 1-2 years or higher of experience in reservations department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, email, Internet and service minded.
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English.

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits, including service charge. Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to:

Human Resources Sri Panwa
88 Moo 8 Sakdidej Road, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-371099. Fax: 076-371011.
Email: hrrm@sripanwa.com or recruitment@sripanwa.com

NANNY WANTED
Must speak fluent English.
Tel: 089-4744083.

ASSISTANT NEEDED
Good written and spoken English. Basic accounting and computer skills. Thai national. Tel: 087-0778454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

GRAPHIC ARTISTS
Highly experienced graphic artists wanted. Work consists of graphics + flash. If you have knowledge of 3D Max, great! Email: admin@idevelop.tv

**ACCOUNTANT
WANTED**

Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-5376866. Send resume to: info@platinumresidencepark.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

DELI SUPERMARKET
and restaurant looking for chef, waiter, waitress, store keeper, baker and accountant. Tel: 076-342275, 089-8741875. Fax: 076-340992.

**INTERNET STAFF
WANTED**

An Internet shop in Patong is seeking Thai female staff. Urgent. Mail or call for more info. Tel: 076-293082, 081-5377137. Email: app_wilawan@yahoo.com

**Employment
Wanted**

ITALIAN LADY
Looking for a job. Good computer skills. Speak and write 5 languages. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-2741482.

**OFFICE STAFF
WANTED**

Thai nationality, speak good English. PC skills, sales minded, knowledge of accounting. Reply by email before Aug 27. Email: seasongroup@live.com

FOREIGN FEMALE
Long-term resident in Phuket looking for job. Nationality: Russian. Has bachelor's degree, good computer's skills, driver's license. I do translations from English to Russian. Please contact for more details. Email: phuket@list.ur and arkadia2000@gmail.com

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better quality candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

MOVING END OF AUGUST



Urgent. Things for sale before end of August. Tel: 085-9300229.

WOOD CARVING



For sale: teak wood carving representing the Himavanta jungle. Size 120x220cm. Tel: 081-5699483.

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

- Two superposed gas oven. Stainless steel. King brand. 35,000 baht.

- Dough mixer, 10 liters, King brand. 10,000 baht.

Secondhand but in perfect condition. On Lanta Island. Tel: 075-684525, 081-0669459. Email: sergeyves@hotmail.com

LEATHER VALEO BELT

New real leather Valeo belt for sale. Good for weight lifting. I have S and L size. Made in Pakistan. Tel: 080-6985021. Email: phuketdolphin@hotmail.com

GYM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Call Gerry. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

WIRELESS AIRCARD

Sierra Wireless Aircard 580. 2,500 baht. Call or mail for more info. Tel: 081-8941994. Email: tom.fekete@gmail.com

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

AIRCONS

15,000 BTU, 8 months old, 7,000 baht. Tel: 085-030-0612.

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-285307, 087-2658801. 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, 081-086-2772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

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, Boncaf 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).

40-INCH PLASMA TV

6 months old. 22,000 baht. (60,000 baht new). Tel: 085-0300612.

KINGSIZE MATTRESS AND ANTI-MITE

Kingsize Carnation mattress with Anti-Mite. Size: 6'6"x5'6" (1.83m x 1.98m x 15cm). Used only with cover and only for 3 months. For sale because it's too hard for me. Pick up in Rawai. Only 1,000 baht. Tel: 083-3902970. Email: bastelman1@hotmail.com

SELLING ALL CONTENTS

of a nightclub/disco and furniture for 4 bedrooms. Sofas, tables, coolers, aircons, water pumps, sound and lighting equipment, visual effects systems from the best factory. Everything is new. Used only 6 months. Contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

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

PANASONIC LCD

projector. Watch DVDs/football on 100-inch white wall with 2m screen. 35,000 baht. Call Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital

Phuket City

Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Hospital Phuket

Phuket City

Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong

Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun

at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health

Clinic-near Chalong Circle

Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English)

call 081-9564031,

081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group

Wat Karon School-Karon

Tue and Sat 7 pm

Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)

087-2795636 (Nor)

086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand

AA meetings inquire

at Tel: 02-2318300

(for Thai language press 3)

www.aathailand.org or

email info@aathailand.org

phuketaa@yahoo.com

MONEY TO GIVE AWAY

up to 1 million baht for you if you sell my house. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8916412. Email: flamingoklaus@aol.de

LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY

Punchline Comedy Club presents live international stand-up comedy at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket on Tue Sept 16, 2008.

Three top comedians booked by the London Comedy Store. Please contact via by email:

info@phuketcomedy.com

Website:

www.phuketcomedy.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@piwvc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.amulphy@piwvc.info).

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 FILIPINOS

I am here to help you. Call Emelda. Tel: 084-3050963.

BARRY BLENKENSOP

I have a letter from the UK for you. Your friend did not provide a full address so it ended up at my house. Contact me and I will get the letter to you. Tel: 076-330967, 081-892 0474. Fax: 076-330990. Email: John@siamdivers.com

Business Opportunities

OPPORTUNITY TO OWN

your own massage and spa shop from 2.7million baht. Complete turnkey operation, successful track record. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700

INTERNET/COFFEE/GAMES

Internet, coffee, computer games, bicycle rental. Sale includes registered Thai Ltd Co. Good location, steady income. Tel: 076-333280, 086-277 1046. Fax 076-333280. Email: jvfcoltd@aol.com

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-5399269. Website: www.jan-property.com

GUESTHOUSE GEM

Bar, restaurant and thriving tour desk, Thai limited company, two work permits. 3.5 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

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.

PATONG SHOPHOUSE

Cheap cheap cheap cheap. Bangla area. 4 floors, 6x4 MTR. No agents. Tel: 081-0787743.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Tel: 076-282254

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

Tel: 076-282403

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

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5.1 rai, Ao Nang bungalow project, yet to be completed (10 rooms). Land lease: 15 years & with optional 5-year rent. Price includes: company (Co Ltd), land (Chanote deed, licenses, approved), pre-payment for 10 years' rent. Private well water, tarred road, electricity. Price negotiable. Tel: 089-7865650. Email: gibbon@hotmail.de

MASSAGE SHOP

for sale. 2 chairs, 5 beds, in Soi Keksab. Come and look. Give me a price. 1 year old. Tel: 083-6463047.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

and bar/restaurant. 18 rooms, long-term lease, excellent location, reduced to 4.9 million baht. Tel: 080-6971744.

CACTUS BAR FOR SALE, 3.5M BAHT

Easy and fun business. 30 months left on contract. All included. No rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8936891. Email: danex01@gmail.com

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT, KATA

4 million baht, no down payment, pay over 5 years, no interest, no bank. GBP 990 per month, 1,299 euros or US\$1,999. Better than stocks. Move in now. Quiet, swimming pool, gym, restaurant. Walking distance to bars & beach. Rental return: 50% of your monthly payment. Tel: 085-7831890.

BAR, BANGLA RD

Soi Gonzo, good location in the heart of Patong, lease paid till 2011, good profits, low rent. 1.8 million baht. Tel: 089-0344565. Email: lesridd@hotmail.co.uk

BAR FOR SALE

The bar is in Rawai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2832279.

BUSY BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Rd area. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain: 4-story shophouse with Chanote. 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 AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

Excellent location. Nanai Rd. First 18 months' rent already paid 1.8 million baht will secure this business. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

26-ROOM GUESTHOUSE

for lease near Jungceylon. Includes company and long lease. Immaculate decor. Just 3.7 million baht. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

5 PREMIUM HOTELS

for sale freehold. Outstanding locations in Patong. Prices starting from 150 million baht. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

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: boutiquephuket@yahoo.com

PUBLICATION FOR SALE

Unique quality, fun to run. Start now to take high season profits. Company holds one foreign work permit. Price: 2.1 million baht. Tel: 085-5744414. Email: nim@c-publishing.com

SKY STEAKHOUSE.NET

Well-established steakhouse including accommodation and all equipment, 3-year lease, for rent. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2656089.

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.

NANAI GUESTHOUSE

for sale. 28 rooms, over 300 sq wah. 67 million baht. Contact Tuang. Tel: 081-7970679.

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

GAMEFISHING BUSINESS

Boat and company for sale. Ready to fish. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-1247528. Email: sailfish263@yahoo.com

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

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 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. Tel: 076-342338, 084-6976840. Email: terryballphuket@gmail.com

DOUBLE BAR

for sale. 3-year renewable lease, air conditioned, music system. Tel: 080-7179353 (Eng), 085-7917579 (Thai).

SHOP, KATA

good location, with or without stock. Low rent, bargain price. Tel: 089-5748884 (Thai), 081-0804702 (English).

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. Please contact via by email: info@jntech.biz

RESTAURANT 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: 089-884-7964.

SMALL INVESTOR

Bricks and mortar real estate building in Bangla, Patong. No lump sum, only small monthly input over 60 months. Excellent capital gains. Contact Martin. Tel: 080-5362400.

BAR IN BANGLA

Well-placed bar already making good profits. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-7300190.

Business Products & Services

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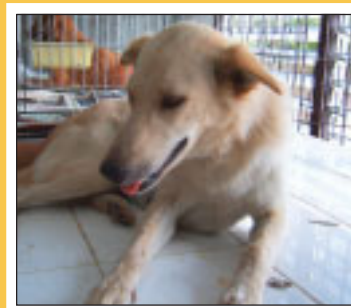
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