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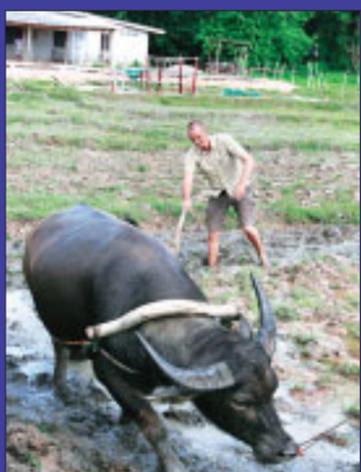
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Motorbike taxi driver nabbed for murder

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: Low-season desperation for passengers took a deadly turn on the night of September 13, when a motorcycle taxi driver gunned down a rival from a competing queue in Patong.

The alleged killer, who turned himself in the following day, was no stranger to being handcuffed: he was out on bail for the May 19 shooting murder of another man inside a 7-Eleven store on nearby Nanai Rd.

Pol Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong, the omnipresent Phuket Provincial Police Commander, made his way to the murder scene after Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonark informed him of the shooting at 10 pm.

Also at the scene was Kathu Police Investigations Inspector Chalermchai Hertsawas, who identified the victim as 31-year-old Pornchai "Ko-Cherd" Suwannakin.

Mr Pornchai was shot at least four times with a 9mm gun as he stood next to his motorbike in front of Bua Hotel on Phisit Gorani Rd. Two of the bullets entered his skull, killing him instantly. He was also hit twice in the back. Police collected four bullet casings at the scene. His assailant, who was riding a motorcycle, rode off quickly, witnesses said.

Rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation took Mr Pornchai's body, still clad in the motorbike taxi drivers' trademark light-blue vest, to Patong Hospital.

"We know the victim had a problem with a member of a rival motorcycle taxi queue," said Lt Col Chalermchai. "We learned by questioning people in the area that he was a kind fellow, but a



One Two Go Memorial Service

Rabbi Aharon Solomon reads a few verses of the Torah for the Jewish victims who died in the One Two Go crash on September 16 last year. His words were heard by a handful of people who turned up to pay their respects at the informal one-year memorial service held on Mai Khao Beach.

A brief Buddhist ceremony with monks was also held before Phuket resident Christy Sweet read a list of names of those who died in the crash then read a list of names of the survivors.

The service was held on the beach at the western end of the runway at Phuket International Airport, beside the tsunami memorial stone and a spirit house posted in remembrance of Hanna Backlund, the murdered Swedish backpacker.

few days ago he parked to pick up a fare in an area claimed by a rival taxi queue. That's what led to the dispute and subsequent murder."

Questioning the victim's friends from the same queue, police were told that the killer was none other 31-year-old Chainart Yuyen.

Earlier this year, on May 18, Chainart turned himself over

to police after an arrest warrant had been issued for him in connection with the murder of motorcycle taxi driver Satien Wongwai, aged 25.

Mr Satien, also described as a friendly man, was shot twice in the back and once in the neck with a 9mm gun inside the 7-Eleven near the intersection of Nanai Rd and Sainamyen Rd at

Continued on page 2

Coral Reef Squadron project 'ready to go'

By Stephen Fein

PHUKET CITY: Following a productive meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on the afternoon of September 16, the "Coral Reef Squadron" project to create an artificial reef off Bang Tao Bay is ready to move forward and will kick off with a "Grand Opening" event on November 29, its organizers say.

Rainer Gottwald, who heads the Thai Dive Association (TDA) technical committee, described the recent meeting as "harmonious".

With help from the Royal Thai Navy, the sinking of the vessels will begin in early to mid-November, with a hiatus in the work on November 14-16 during Royal Cremation ceremonies for HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana.

The exact timing of the work will depend on weather conditions, he said.

One of the four Douglas C-47 Dakota Skytrain military transport aircraft used in the project will be specially decorated underwater and serve as a focal point of the opening ceremonies, he added.

Providing some submarine "ground support" for the 10 aircraft will be WWII era GMC trucks, provided courtesy of the Royal Thai Army.

One of the project organizers, For Sea Foundation Secretary Vittayen Muttamara, confirmed that his group will organize a benefit concert on November 28, the day before the "Grand Opening" with top national acts "on the same scale as Tata Young" scheduled to perform.

A major impediment to the

Continued on page 2

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From page 1

Patong taxi toll: Two shootings in four months

about 2 am on May 16.

Chainart, who met Patong Mayor Pian Keesin before handing himself over to police in May, denied any involvement in that murder.

After his relatives posted bail, he returned to work in the same area, which is home to thousands of nightlife industry workers who use motorcycle taxis to get to and from work in the Soi Bangla area.

The same scenario was played out again on September 15, when Chainart, again accompanied by relatives, turned himself over directly to Maj Gen Apirak, Phuket's top cop.

Lt Col Chalermchai declined to say exactly where or when the handover took place, but said that the suspect had confessed to involvement in both cases and has been charged with a second case of premeditated murder.

"He is still in a cell at Kathu Police Station. We are preparing his case file and will turn him over to the Phuket Provincial Court soon," he said.

"We will not allow his release on bail under any circumstances," he said.

From page 1

Coral Reef Squadron ready to dive

project was cleared on September 10, when Chuchard Santikanant, Managing Director of Cargo Marketing International Co Ltd (CMI), confirmed that he had finally received payment of 2.4 million baht for disassembly and transport of the aircraft from an airforce base in Lopburi to their current location at Phuket Deep Sea Port.

Heartbroken man suicides by drinking pesticide

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: In what appears to be yet another case of suicide, the decomposing corpse of a Thai-American man was found on September 14 in a small apartment on Phang Nga Rd, where he took his own life by drinking insecticide.

Phuket City Police Investigations Inspector Pitakpol Sompong identified the deceased as 60-year-old Narong Yingyongrattana, who was born in Thailand but held a US passport after having lived and worked in the US for many years.

At about 2 pm, the owner of Nanachart Mansion on Phang Nga Rd Soi 2 called the 191 emergency number to report a death in Room 211, on the second floor of the four-story apartment block.

Police and rescue workers from the

Kusoldharm Foundation had to remove a window pane to gain entry into the room, which was locked from the inside.

Once inside, they found Mr Narong's corpse lying face up on the bed, next to which were found a bottle of insecticide and a small bottle of SangSom whiskey.

The apartment's owner, who identified herself as a close friend of the deceased, said Mr Narong had been living in the room free-of-charge since August 20.

From the state of decomposition, Lt Col Pitakpol estimated that Mr Narong died no fewer than three days before his body was discovered.

"I found a suicide note in which Mr Narong apologized to his close friends, but said he could no longer endure the heartbreak he had felt after being jilted by his lover," he said.

The apartment owner told police that she felt sorry for Mr Narong after he was left heartbroken and penniless and let him stay free of charge, encouraging him to try and save up enough money so he could return to America.

But Mr Narong never recovered from the heartbreak and remained despondent, she was quoted as saying.

Mr Narong's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital pending identification by his relatives in Thailand, who have already been contacted.

It would be up to the relatives to request a complete autopsy confirming the cause of death, he said.

However, there were no signs of injury or foul play to suggest that Mr Narong's death was anything other than a suicide, Lt Col Pitakpol said.

Weerasak visits in bid to restore tourist confidence

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat arrived in Phuket on September 10 with New Zealand Ambassador to Thailand Brook Barrington and an entourage of foreign media in a bid to restore tourist confidence in Phuket after a People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest forced the closure of Phuket International Airport (PIA).

Mr Weerasak's visit followed his call for Samak Sundaravej to rescind the state of emergency in Bangkok, which was lifted three days later.

"I have set up many teams of officers Tourism Authority of Thailand [TAT] to help support TAT offices abroad, where we need to make it clear what the current situation in Thailand really is. We need to boost tourist confidence so they will return.



Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat (center, purple shirt) tours the airport grounds with (from left) former Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Pamuke Achariyachai, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, PIA Director Wicha Nernlop and Phuket Senator Thanyarat Achariyachai, who chairs the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism.

This is especially true for Phuket," Mr Weerasak said.

"I don't want to have to explain to those countries why we still have a state of emergency declared," he added.

Mr Weerasak advised senior government officers, including Governor Niran Kalayanamit and PIA Director Wicha Nernlop,

to put recent events behind them and focus on the future.

"I don't want everyone to keep worrying about this. I need you to cheer up quickly and learn from this experience so you will be better prepared in the future," he said.

"Here in Thailand we know that the state of emergency applies only to Bangkok, but other countries don't know that. They think it applies throughout the country and they don't know that Phuket is a long way from Bangkok," he said.

Patong steps up surf safety

PATONG: Strong waves creating dangerous swimming conditions in Patong has prompted officers from Patong Municipality to volunteer to keep watch along Patong Beach for any tourists who may get into difficulty.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban told the *Gazette*, "Our officers have volunteered to stand by on the beach to look out for tourists. Sailors from the Third Naval Area Command and police officers are also helping out."

He urged all tourists to heed red "no swimming" flags posted on the beach.

"We need all tourists to please check for red warning flags before they go swimming. Even though the heavy rains have stopped, the wind and the waves are still strong," he added.

The move followed a warning issued on September 12 by the Meteorological Department (MET) urging all ships in the area to proceed with caution.

The MET also warned that Phuket and the other five Andaman Coast provinces were at risk of heavy rains and flooding, and advised all people in areas at high-risk of flash-flooding to remain alert and be prepared to evacuate quickly if necessary.

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Chalong Circle finally removed

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CHALONG: Instead of removing and preserving the fountain that has been the centerpiece of Chalong Circle for years, workers on September 11 demolished the landmark that local residents had affectionately nicknamed "the birdbath".

The decision followed years of complaints of traffic jams at the critical southern junction.

However, progress on the decision whether or not to remove the roundabout stalled, as it required input from at least five government agencies.

Tired of waiting for the project to move ahead, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima on September 1 ordered Phuket Highways Office chief Saroj Suwinchai to speed up the project.

The heads of the government agencies involved met on September 8, with demolition work starting three days later.

The entire project will cost no more than 300,000 baht, Mr Saroj told the *Gazette*.

Traffic lights have been installed on all the major roads entering the junction: Patak Rd,



A worker starts removing the rubble that once was the landmark fountain on Chalong Circle, nicknamed by locals as 'the birdbath'.

Chao Fa East Rd, Chao Fa West Rd and Wiset Rd.

"Vehicles entering the junction from Chalong Pier will be forced to turn left onto Wiset Rd. They must do a U-turn and come back and wait at the lights to enter the junction again," Mr Saroj had earlier explained to the *Gazette*.

The removal of Chalong Circle has been the source of much debate among foreigners living in the south of the island.

Many foreigners have writ-

ten to the *Gazette* over the years complaining that traffic tailbacks formed at Chalong Circle only when police or traffic lights regulated traffic flow through the junction.

Changing the traffic flow at the junction also raises the problem of what to call the intersection, said Mr Saroj, as it had become famous as *Ha Yaek Chalong*, literally meaning "Chalong five-way junction."

It will now become a "four-way" intersection, he said.

Apirak takes over investigation into attack on Aussie

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongthong has stepped in to personally oversee the investigation into the brutal stabbing attack of an Australian expat and his Thai girlfriend in their home in Rawai before dawn on September 10.

Maj Gen Apirak on September 13 told the *Gazette* that he was so unhappy with the Chalong Police investigation that he led a special investigation unit to the scene of the crime to monitor the area, questioning suspicious characters and gathering other information at 4 am, about the same time the attack took place.

Gen Apirak's team left the scene at about 10 am and began sharing information they had gathered with the Chalong investigation team led by Maj Jaran Bangprasert, he added.

The victims will be questioned again and all available information will be cross-checked against the descriptions and profiles of all known criminals in area, he said.

"This is a very sensitive case that could affect tourist confidence, so we must do our very best to bring the perpetrator to justice," he said.

Gen Apirak admitted he was angry about the lack of updates about the investigation by Chalong Police.

"I am not very happy with them now, but we will do our best to arrest the suspects. I am going to personally lead this investigation so take my word for it that the perpetrator will be arrested," he added.

While recovering from surgery at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, the Swiss-born Australian, a retired teacher who asked that his

name and address not be published, told the *Gazette*, "Somebody broke into the house - I don't know how they got into the house - on Wednesday, between three and four in the morning,

"We have two bedrooms. My girlfriend went to bed early and slept in one bedroom. Then I woke up and I could hear shouting. I thought the television was on, but I couldn't see any flickering.

"So I went out and I could see that the door was closed to the second bedroom. So I opened it and there was a man in a mask fighting with my girlfriend. So I jumped in, and that's how it all got started. She got stabbed and I got stabbed."

The Aussie was slashed four times and stabbed once in the stomach.

His girlfriend, who owns the home they share, was stabbed in the back of the head, punched repeatedly and slashed in one of her hands.

A second man spotted outside the home may have been serving as a "lookout" for the burglar, he said.

From her hospital bed, the 35-year-old girlfriend told the *Gazette*, "We never close the doors when we sleep, so the sound of the door closing woke me. When I tried to scream, the attacker put his hand over my mouth and held a box-cutter to my throat and punched me in the stomach," she said.

The knife cut her neck open, but no major arteries were severed and she is recovering well, though she is still in a great deal of pain in the neck and stomach, she said the following day.

"This is the first time anything like this has happened at my home and we have never had any conflicts with anyone before," she added.

Man found hanged while in police custody

KATHU: Anurak Prohmwiharn, 26, was found hanged in a cell at Tung Tong Police Station on September 13, while he was being held for robbing a German neighbor.

Tung Tong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao said Mr Anurak's death was reported at about 2:30 am by Sgt Maj Peeraphon Junmee, the officer in charge of the cell at the time.

Mr Anurak was found hanging by a meter-long garment that he usually wore wrapped around his midsection, under his clothing. It was not visible to officers when he was placed in the cell the day before, Col Arayapan explained.

After stealing the wallet of a German neighbor, Mr Anurak climbed onto the roof of his home

in Soi Namtok and refused to come down. His brother Channarong, 31, made the call to police that led to his arrest, he explained.

Col Arayapan attributed Mr Anurak's apparent suicide on his unstable mental condition, the result of a long-term addiction to inhalants.

He had recently escaped from a drug rehabilitation center, Col Arayapan added.

Mr Anurak's family were initially suspicious of the circumstances behind his death, but they later accepted that Mr Anurak had taken his own life after an autopsy and investigation into his death by high-level local government officers.

The family does not plan to press charges, said Col Arayapan.

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KOH YAO NOI HOMESTAY

Preserving the past for a brighter future

Millions of tourists come to Phuket every year. Hundreds of thousands of them spend much of their time being herded around the island on big tour buses to one souvenir shop after another until they are ready to be fed. Then, they're taken to a restaurant serving dishes just like they'd eat at home.

Others forgo the bus rides to souvenir shops for simply relaxing and playing on the beach and perhaps taking a speedboat trip to one of the nearby islands made famous in a movie.

Most of those tourists go home with souvenirs, suntans and a collection of photographs to show their friends, but very few of them will be able to say much about how they "made friends with the locals" or "sampled local delicacies".

However, tourists who try out one of the region's homestay holidays can boast that they experienced the real Thailand and its traditional ways of life.

The Community Based Eco-Tourism Club on Koh Yao Noi is partly run by the Phuket Tourism and Sports office. It is also operated by the locals who act as homestay host families and those who take visitors on trips to experience the area's natural beauty and traditional farming and fishing techniques.

Koh Yao Noi is in Phang Nga Bay and the island is being

showcased around the region as a successful homestay model where tourists and the community learn to live together.

Director of Phuket Tourism and Sports office Promchote Traivate said that as well as being a boon to the islanders, the program is also a way of preserving traditional life.

"Visitors can get hands-on experience by joining our eco-tourism project. They learn how to do things the way the locals do, such as plowing with buffalo, planting rice, but it is important to preserve the traditional way of life for the sake of the locals themselves, who are dangerously close to losing touch with traditions they have lived by for thousands of years," said Mr Promchote.

"The aim of this group is to encourage the community to become involved in tourism but in a way that is eco-friendly by preserving the environment," he added.

Mr Promchote explained

As the package-tour industry continues to grow in Phuket and beyond, taking with it the natural resources and natural beauty that attracted visitors in the first place, one small local community on Koh Yao Noi is betting its future on a more sustainable and eco-friendly approach. Nick Davies, with plow in hand, takes a closer look at the island's award-winning agro-tourism project.



that there are now hundreds of buffalo on the island, but only one of them knows how to plow a field and there are only a few people on the island who know how to teach it.

"The Koh Yao Noi eco-tourism community is a role model for community-based tourism. The aim is to introduce the

lifestyle of the islanders – who are traditionally fishermen – to tourists and raise awareness of problems faced by them as an alternative to conventional tourist attractions. It is also an additional and sustainable source of revenue for locals," said Mr Promchote.

Tourists can either make

their own way to the island for a day trip or they can join one of the two- or three-day homestay packages available.

A regular ferry service operates about 12 outbound trips a day to Koh Yao Noi from 7:30 am to 5 pm from Bang Rong Pier on Phuket's east coast.

From Koh Yao Noi's pier, a songteaw bus runs to the first stop a few kilometers down the road, the island's Tourist Service Center, which is a wooden structure with a concrete floor and an iron and straw roof. The center was established with the help of a 300,000-baht donation from Rotary International.

This is the HQ of the Koh Yao Noi Community Based Eco-Tourism Club, which has been given the World Legacy Award by Conservation International and *National Geographic Traveler* for its homestay project.

The project also received the Award for Outstanding Performance from the Tourism Authority of Thailand in 2007, and

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(Above) Eco-tourism is helping to pass down the wisdom of elders; (Far left) Chickens eagerly await their rice scraps; (Left) A fisherman shows his net throwing technique.

the Ministry of Sport and Tourism has Certified Koh Yao Yai's community as Home Stay Standard Thailand (2007-2009).

Our visit to Koh Yao Noi was a day trip so we had to squeeze in quite a few activities in a short space of time.

Our next stop was a tiered rice paddy nestled at the base of a hill. It was a scene that Claude Monet would have turned into a masterpiece.

Crouched in the lush carpet of young rice stalks were women dressed in colorful sarongs, scarves and straw hats. They were bent to task against the hilly backdrop, some pulling out half-grown rice to be transplanted, others planting rice in neat rows giving them space to grow.

Off came our shoes, and we rolled up our sleeves as our hosts encouraged us to join them in two feet of muddy water to try planting the rice for ourselves. After a while, what were once nice straight lines of rice plant had become wonky first-time attempts at self sufficiency. I was worried we might have dramatically reduced their crop for the season but it was smiles all round from our hosts.

Our work had made us hungry and we were bundled into the songteaw to be taken to lunch. We pulled into an area dotted with four beautifully-made guest bungalows that looked like log cabins. They wouldn't have looked out of place covered in snow and nestled in the Alps. We

were going for lunch with our hosts in the Eco Tourism Group Meeting Place – a house on stilts that juts out toward the sea.

We took off our shoes and walked across the wooden floorboards to the dining area that has a spectacular view across the water to Koh Yao Yai.

On the table was an array of traditional dishes such as curries, fried vegetables and, of course, a lot of fresh seafood, including colorful crabs, which our hosts had to show us the best way to shell. The meal was a fun and casual affair, made all the more relaxing with the magnificent view. The seafood was some of the freshest we'd ever tasted and our hosts made sure we were satiated.

Below us, hundreds of crabs with oversized claws went about their business of chasing each other out of holes in the sand, while long-legged birds hopped from place to place picking off the smaller shore-side creatures.

This place also has two spotless guest bedrooms, simply decorated but cozy looking with a bed, wardrobe, a TV and drawers. The window provides a view along the coastline with long-tail boats resting on the sand.

Our next stop was a secluded house on stilts a short way inland. We had to travel down a narrow dirt track to get to the local dwelling.

Sitting under the shade of a large 100-year-old tree were a group of smiling faces belonging to several generations, from a mother and baby and shy-but-curious kids to the grandparents who showed us some of the ways they harvest and prepare food.

They demonstrated and let us try some of their skills in finding and making food. We tried casting fishing nets in a perfect circle and pounded the husks from rice before cleaning the grain of chaff by throwing it in the air from a woven grass tray, which brought the chickens running over to peck around our feet.

We were also shown an ingenious mouse trap that relied on a heavy block of wood and a twig trigger to drop the block onto the unsuspecting prey.

We had all developed a thirst but there was more work to do before we could take a drink, which was to be fresh coconut juice taken from coconuts that we were shown how to properly cut open.

Our final adventure for the day was to introduce ourselves to the only buffalo on the island that knows how to draw a plow. He allowed us to climb up on him and graciously posed for pictures with everyone.

Next, I found myself up to my knees in mud as I gripped the plow handle while the buffalo pulled me round the field. It wasn't as difficult as I had imagined and I had visions of living the rest of my days as a content farmer in sunny fields.

Mr Promchote explained

that a few years ago, the island had very few buffalo, even though it once had many.

"As farming technologies arrived, people stopped using buffaloes to help with their farming. Subsequently, the number of buffaloes on the island declined, as did the number of people who knew how to farm with them," he said.

"Now there are several hundred buffalo on Koh Yao Noi following an intensive program to re-introduce them here, but as well as teaching the buffaloes how to plow a field, we have also had to teach the farmers how to work with them again," he added.

There are a few rules that homestay guests need to follow to fit in with the community. They are to dress modestly, not to consume drugs or alcohol, not to leave any litter and not to take any shells or coral.

The community is responsible for developing the tour programs, along with the regulations, activities, and prices for them and there are several two- and three-day programs available through the Community Based Eco-Tourism project.

Depending on the number of days, trips can include activities such as exploring the island's seven traditional villages, learning how to make batik, visiting a coconut-shell souvenir workshop, helping farmers and fishermen and testing your bargaining skills at the local market.

Trips to nearby islands with diverse eco-systems are also available. Depending on the lunar cycle and tidal patterns, some programs may include collecting wing shells and a trip to see Thailand's only blue coral site.

In keeping with the ecological theme, there are several activities that require only human power, such as sea canoe tours, trekking, or simply rent a bicycle and tour the island by yourself for about 200 baht a day.

For more information on Koh Yao Noi homestays, email bangmee1@hotmail.com or visit www.kohyao-cbt.com To contact the Phuket Tourism and Sports office, call 076-221765 or email phuket@mots.go.th



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Queer News

Sorry mate, but can I have your wife?

LOEI: A long friendship ended in tragedy on the night of August 30, when a man visiting his buddy's house without warning asked if he could have his friend's wife.

At 7 am on August 31, Pak Chom Police duty officer Thongphum Premlao received a call from a villager, who reported a dead body hidden in a banana plantation near Ban Na Khor Village 12, in Pak Chom District.

The body was identified as that of Suphachai Phawan, 56. He had been slashed in the face and beaten with a blunt instrument.

Questioning Suphachai's neighbors, police pieced together the details of how the victim met his fate.

Neighbors said that at about 7 pm the night before, Suphachai's friend Jaroen Jangnam, 43, came to the victim's house.

This, however, was no ordinary social call; Jaroen had a somewhat bold request to make of his buddy.

Not one to beat around the bush, Jaroen asked Suphachai if he could take his wife, Wilai, 40, to live with him; this despite the

fact that Jaroen already had his own wife and children to love and look after.

At the time, Wilai was in Udon Thani, where she was reportedly being cured of some black magic spells she believed Jaroen had placed upon her.

Unsurprisingly, Suphachai did not react well to the request. A scuffle broke out and Jaroen, perhaps having prepared for the worst, pulled out a knife and slashed his friend across the face. While Suphachai was reeling in pain, Jaroen grabbed a length of tamarind wood and beat his friend to death, police said.

Jaroen dragged the body to the banana plantation to hide it, then went back to get Suphachai's motorbike, which he torched at a corn silo. After returning home, Jaroen drank a large amount of pesticide in an apparent attempt to kill himself.

He was not successful, however. Friends took him to Pak Chom Hospital, where police later caught up with him and arrested him for Suphachai's murder.

Source: Khao Sod

The return of the Domon Men

PATONG: To mark the 30th anniversary of male fashion label Domon, the once-popular male beauty pageant "Domon Man" is back after a nearly 10-year hiatus.

Male models in the region are invited to take part in the showdown for the southern Thailand round of the contest, to be held at Jungceylon shopping mall on September 20.

The first Domon Man contest was held in 1986 and the

most recent was in 1999. Since then, Domon has become a step in the career path of many heartthrob actors, who first became popular as "Domon men" models before launching their acting careers.

In this year's contest, male models will be posing for the top prize of 500,000 baht to go to the winner of the national finals, which will be held at the Bangkok Convention Center in central Ladprao on December 20.

The northern regional final was held in Chiang Mai on August 30; and the eastern final will be held in Pattaya on October 23; central Thailand final in Bangkok on November 29.

The pageant is open to all men aged from 17 to 25 years. Entrants must be at least 170 centimeters tall, have a "nice personality" and have completed at least Mattayom 3. The competition is open to men of all nationalities and religions.

STAMPS

Thai Post marks the passing of the telegram

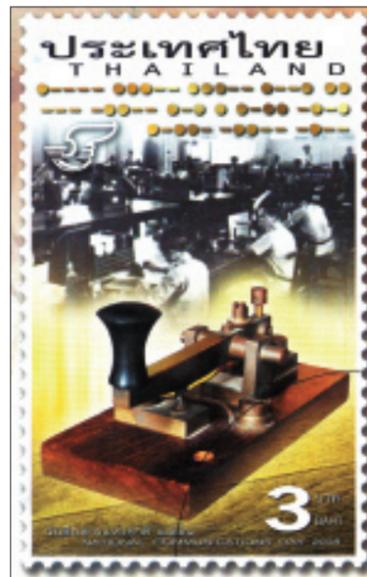
To celebrate Thailand's National Communications Day on August 4, Thailand Post released a stamp commemorating Thailand's now-defunct telegram service, which came to an end on June 30 this year after 133 years of service.

Thailand's telegram service was established in 1875 by Rama V King Chulalongkorn, who founded the Telegram Department at the same time as the Post Department. His brother, HRH Prince Panurangsi Swangwong, was the first director general of both departments.

The first Thailand Telegram office was located near the Ministry of Defense and the Saranrom Royal Palace in Bangkok.

Thailand's first telegram was sent from Bangkok to neighboring Samut Prakan. In 1878, a line was installed from Bangkok to the Royal Palace at Bang Pa-in, which was later extended to nearby Ayudhaya's Muang District.

At first, telegram lines were used for government business only; the device used to transmit



used initially included only Roman symbols, although the Thai alphabet was eventually incorporated.

Thailand's telegram business grew and experienced something of a boom period, but over the years new communication technologies led to its obsolescence.

The stamp to commemorate Thailand's telegram service, measuring 27 by 45 millimeters, shows an image of a Morse code machine with workers above it busily transmitting and receiving messages.

On sale for 3 baht, the stamp was designed by Tanes Polchaiyawong, who used a multicolor lithography technique.

Thai British Security Printing Pcl printed only one million copies the special edition stamp now available at all 10 of Phuket's post offices.

the telegrams was a Morse code machine.

The demand for telegrams quickly increased as it was often the fastest way to communicate.

The Morse code system

Top technician to lead Middle Way

PHUKET CITY: The next Middle Way meditation session will be at the Phuket Meditation Cener (formerly Wang Kung Restaurant), next to Suan Luang Park, on September 21, starting at 1:30 pm.

This month's teaching monk is Phra Thada Jaranatharou, who also led August's session.

Fluent in English, Phra Thada graduated with honors with a bachelors' degree industrial electrical technology from King Mongkut Institute of Technology, Thailand's top engineering school.

Phra Thada is particularly gifted at explaining basic Buddhist tenets using examples from science.

He had a couple of jobs after his graduation, the last of which was with a global technol-

ogy company based in Tokyo, Japan. After 20 years of interest in Buddhism, he finally fulfilled his dream of entering the monkhood in April 2004.

The Middle Way sessions are free and open to all, though donations to cover expenses are welcome.

The language of instruction is English.

To get to Phuket Mediation Center from Central Festival Phuket, head south on the bypass road and turn left onto Wirat Hongyok Rd at the first set of traffic lights, at the sign to Wat Naka. Make a U-turn when you see the park on your right about one kilometer past the temple, then take the next left into Soi 7 and turn left again into Soi 7/2.

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Drug abuse, prostitution still the country's woes

The country is suffering from widespread drug abuse and a rising number of young male prostitutes, some as young as age 13, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) has revealed.

The claims were reported in the agency's second quarterly report, for which a focus group was monitored from April to June on five indicators: quality of human resources, health and social security, behavior and well-being of citizens, the sexual behavior of young people and the environment.

The report showed that over the past decade the number of people aged between 15 and 24 suffering from sexually transmitted diseases continued to rise.

In terms of social security, people's lives and property were more secure, though drug abuse was becoming a severe problem. Even prison inmates had easy access to narcotics, NESDB Deputy Secretary-General Kittisak Sinthuanich commented.

Injuries and deaths caused by road accidents had reduced due to the strict enforcement of traffic laws, but people continued to break speed limits, the report found.

With regards to social behavior and well-being, the report showed that households were spending less on alcohol, but more on cigarettes. However, alcoholism and consumption of cigarettes among young people was still on the rise.

In addition, more and more teenagers were living together outside marriage.

The report also found that there are 48,000 people working in the sex industry, including students, of which 44.4% were aged between 13 and 16.

About 60% of the sex workers earned about 20,000 baht a month or more.

With regards to the environment, the report said the quality of air in many areas had improved but people in Bangkok, Saraburi and Chiang Mai were still breathing high levels of particulates.

In addition, some areas in Bangkok had high levels of ozone gas, while almost every area in



BEATING BREAST CANCER

Actress Panwad 'Peoy' Hemmanee (front, 2nd from left) attends a campaign organized by a Robinson Department Store branch in Bangkok to reduce breast cancer in women.

Manit Arunakul said claims made without scientific support violate the 1979 Food Act.

Buddha ban. The Culture Ministry has banned the use of three Buddhist icons for commercial purposes, its permanent secretary Vira Rojpojchanarat has announced.

The protected icons comprise Buddha statues, Wheel of Doctrine insignia (also known as Wheel of Life) and images of monks.

The three religious icons could not be used to represent a trademark or be a part of business promotion, as has become popular in the West, he said.

Slow justice. The Appeals Court on September 9 handed down a three-year jail term for former Agriculture Ministry deputy permanent secretary Pramote Rak-sarat for corruption and abuse of authority.

In its ruling, the court said Mr Pramote, now 64, committed the offenses in 1996, when as head of the Agricultural Extension Department's horticultural-crop promotion division he proposed the construction of a 49.2-million-baht plant nursery in Trang.

In 2002, the National Counter Corruption Commission pronounced Pramote guilty, but in 2004 a lower court acquitted him. The public prosecutors appealed.

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

the capital was affected by noise pollution, the report said.

World heritage fever. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration is planning to seek World Heritage status for the capital's riverside area.

BMA city planning department head Anchalee Pattamasawan said the area alongside the Chao Phya River has great historical and cultural value as the cradle of Rattanakosin-era culture, which began with the establishment of Bangkok as capital in 1782.

Her department is preparing documents for the World Heritage site application and will

renovate valuable sites in the area and draw up a management plan, she said.

After a detailed plan is prepared, the BMA will contact the Fine Arts Department and the department will also ask authorities to help improve water quality in the Chao Phya River, she said.

Boost or bust? Drinking so-called "health beverages" with dietary supplements to boost body and brain function does not achieve benefits claimed in advertisements, nutritionist Prapaisri Sirichakwal of Mahidol University has warned.

There is no scientific proof

to support claims that drinks containing collagen, peptide and L-carnitine provide health benefits, she said.

Advertisements mislead people into believing products containing so-called "boosters" provide health benefits.

The acid in the stomach will break these supplements down before they can be absorbed, she noted.

Food and Drug Administration Deputy Secretary-General

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Samui rallies to help burn victim

A fundraising event was held on September 17 for Khun Daeng, the woman seriously injured in a recent accident that resulted in a local 7-Eleven burning down.

Ms Daeng received serious burns to more than 80% of her body in the fire that resulted from a drunk driver running into an electricity pole that sparked the blaze.

The accident happened at 7:30 am on August 9 when the driver of a pickup truck ran into an electricity pole outside the 7-Eleven store in Ban Rak.

The driver, said to be intoxicated and arguing with his girlfriend at the time of the accident, hit several parked motorbikes but no one else was injured at the time.

Soon after striking the cement pole, the resulting damage caused the pole to collapse onto the truck crushing it and further causing an explosion, witnesses reported.

An inferno broke out in the 7-Eleven and Bangkok Bank, causing smoke to bellow into the air, which could be seen from several areas of the island.

The community rallied to support Ms Daeng by raising funds in establishments all over the island to help pay for her mounting hospital bills.

The event was held at the Samui Bungy Jump from 3 pm until midnight, with live music and DJs for entertainment and a donation box and raffle to raise money for the cause.

For further information about the event or for information on how to make a donation, call Joe at 087-8010470.

Game on. In a recent conference, government and community leaders of Koh Samui gathered in an attempt to find a solution to the growing problems associated with computer gaming on the island.

Koh Samui District Chief Adisorn Kamnerdsiri called for



WELL SPOTTED

Renowned DJ Darren Emerson of Underworld, who produced the top hit 'Born Slippy' from the Trainspotting soundtrack, rocked the dance scene in Samui recently with his happening house tunes. He stayed in luxury at Amari Palm Reef Resort, Samui, during his event and was warmly welcomed by Kruawan Thongpob, Executive Assistant Manager, and Marc Miller, Assistant Manager of Amari Palm Reef Resort.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

the conference after receiving several complaints from parents and teachers who claimed that students were spending too much time in computer gaming shops, detracting them from their school work.

Attendees of the conference gave evidence of the detrimental effects that computer games can have on children, adding that many of the games were extremely violent in their content and inappropriate for most young users. Concerns ranged from lack of attention to school work to more serious medical effects, citing the recent death of a Bangkok teenager.

The group looked at possible new regulations that could be introduced to limit the amount of time youths under 18 would be allowed to spend playing games or surfing the Internet in shops.

Police attending the conference proposed that a community law be implemented that would limit the time to two hours, with Internet shops and public gaming facilities being held accountable for ensuring the limit was adhered to.

The new law is to be brought into effect in the near future.

Phuket property seminar. Af-

ter his success in organizing a property seminar on Koh Samui, Callum Laing, managing director of MobyElite, has announced plans to conduct a similar event in Phuket in December.

The first seminar, held during Koh Samui's International Regatta, played host to more than 100 guests from around the globe who were drawn to the island for the yacht race.

The seminar was sponsored by Raimon Land PLC during the Samui regatta and took place at the Centara Hotel in Chaweng Beach. It was intended to bring together serious members of the development community for an exchange of information in relation to Thailand's property market.

Keynote speakers on the day included Nigel Cornick, CEO of Raimon Land; John Birt, Managing Director of Samui Villas and Homes; and Gary Biesty, partner in Mayer Brown JSM.

This concept will be repeated during the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, which will be held

this year from November 29 to December 6.

Organizers for the Phuket seminar will invite two successful firms from the main resort islands around Thailand and Bangkok to join as partners in the event. The invitations are to be extended to investors with a substantial investment in Asian property.

The Phuket seminar is set to kick off with a discussion of Asian property trends followed by an overview on the Phuket property market.

The following topics are also on the agenda for the seminar: architectural trends and development, environmental trends affecting property investment, legal issues with investing in Thailand, fractional ownership, international finance options and commercial property Market in Thailand. The seminar will end with a dedicated time for questions and answers.

Seminar dates and the venue have yet to be confirmed. Email info@mobyelite.com for more details.

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Violence continues, man decapitated

Suspected insurgents decapitated the chief administrator of Tambon Sadawa after intercepting him on a back road in Pattani's Yarang District on September 10.

Police said that former police officer Athaphon Konlom, 26, was chased by four gunmen on two motorcycles.

They shot him in his pickup with automatic weapons. The vehicle crashed into a primary school. Police said the four men then beheaded the victim.

Two fake bombs were placed at the scene to divert police and spikes were scattered along the road.

More than 3,300 people have been killed in the deep South since January 2004. But security officials have claimed that the situation has improved and the number of violent incidents and attacks has dropped.

Critics said that conclusion was premature because the insurgents remain active and well-equipped.

In a related development, more than 1,000 police and soldiers swept 13 districts of Narathiwat, where they detained six people.

Meanwhile, in Pattani's Nong Chik district, suspected insurgents exploded a roadside bomb targeting a security detail for local teachers in Tambon Pulo-puyo.

Shrapnel damaged their vehicles, but there were no injuries, police said.

Separately in Yala, speaking to reporters from his hospital bed, Veera Saengchan, an Army Ranger injured in a gunfight with insurgents in Banang Sata, said colleague Rusadee Da-oh was killed in the attack by 10 militants.

The insurgents stole eight automatic files and a large quantity of ammunition after over-running their base camp, he said.

"They were dressed in black and hooded. Each was armed with an AK47, except one who had an M79 grenade launcher. They were communicating in Malay. We injured one. The fighting went on for about one hour before reinforcements arrived," explained fellow Ranger Thongrob Kaeowdara-ouyporn.

Explosive exit. A policeman was shot and injured during a September 12 bank robbery in Namom district, Songkhla, a rural area near Haad Yai. The robber escaped after throwing a grenade at police.

A female cashier at the Namom branch of Bank Thai said that about 3 pm, a man came into the bank carrying a pistol and a hand grenade. He shouted for everyone to stay quiet and not to move before ordering one of the cashiers to give him money.

The cashier handed him a bag containing about 500,000 baht. He then ordered the three bank staff to lock themselves in the bathroom and not try and pursue him, the cashier said.

At that point, patrol police making their normal rounds happened to arrive at the scene. They



ROUND AND ROUND

Thai Muslim children ride their bicycles happily in front of Pattani Central Mosque. Violence in the region shows no sign of abating and attacks have continued through Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting.

lacks specialists, especially anesthesiologists and surgeons," he said, adding that the patient's family would be compensated by the Health Ministry.

Lone Ranger. A former Ranger was found in possession of two guns, including an assault rifle, and more than 200,000 baht in cash in a routine search of his car at a checkpoint in Trang on September 11.

Chalermphon Jiulor, 34, from Trang's Huay Yot district, was stopped at a Highway Police checkpoint on Highway 419 in Muang District. Police decided to search his Toyota sedan and discovered a .38 caliber pistol and 71 rounds of ammunition, an M-16 assault rifle with 64 rounds of ammunition, as well as 213,720 baht in cash.

Chalermphon, who until last year was serving as a Ranger, denied that the weapons and the cash belonged to him. He was taken to Muang Trang Police Station to be charged with unlawful possession of firearms. Police said that they are now trying to discover the source and intended destination of the guns and money.

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

ordered the robber to surrender. When he refused, a gun battle broke out.

The man threw his grenade toward the front of the bank, where it exploded and blew out the front window and damaged adjacent shophouses.

The robber escaped in the ensuing confusion. There were no injuries from the explosion, but Sen Sgt Maj Santi Uthokyotha from Namom Police suffered a minor gunshot wound.

Police are now hunting for the gunman, described by the cashier as a well-built man in his forties wearing shorts and a tartan T-shirt. He had concealed his appearance with a cap and dark glasses.

Dr off the hook. The Court of Appeals on September 11 dis-

missed a malpractice lawsuit against Dr Suthiporn Kraimak of Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Thung Song Hospital in connection with the death of Somkuan Kaewkongchan during an appendectomy five years ago.

The patient is said to have died from the incorrect dosage of anesthetic, the Public Health Ministry's permanent secretary, Dr Prat Boonyawongsevirot, said.

Thung Song District Criminal Court had issued a guilty verdict on December 6 and sentenced Dr Suthiporn to three years in jail for causing the patient's death. However, the Health Ministry submitted a petition with the appeal court's division 8 to review the sentence.

The petition argued that Dr Suthiporn had been assigned by

the Health Ministry to provide care to people in remote areas. According to Medical Council regulations, such physicians had to treat all patients – even if they were not specialists – because of the large amount of sick people.

The court decision to overturn Dr Suthiporn's guilty verdict boosted the morale of medical workers in rural areas, said Dr. Prat.

"If doctors who work in rural hospitals refuse to conduct surgeries because they are not specialists, then it would be dangerous for patients because the country's health care system

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Monumental merit-making

By Akbar Khan

In Part I of our series on Phuket's "nine sacred sites" we took a look at Wat Phra Tong, the temple in Thalang with the famous half-Buddha image and cannons in the forecourt.

The wife of the Mayor of Thalang who built the temple was Thao Thepkrasattri, one of Phuket's two legendary heroines whose exploits are enshrined by a monument located in the heart of Phuket.

The life-sized statues of the heroic sisters, Thao Thepkrasattri and her sibling Thao Srisoontorn stand side by side on a decorated marble plinth at Tha Rua.

King Padung of Burma had declared war on Thailand, the Burmese had already ransacked Ayudhya and Bangkok had just replaced Thonburi as the new capital of the kingdom.

The King at the time was Rama I, the first king of the present Rattanakosin dynasty.

Further south, the Burmese had already landed on Phuket and taken the tin mines by force.

The Burmese forces then started to march towards Thalang Town, where the mayor was too old and sick to offer any resistance.

His wife, however, refused to stand by and watch the Burmese capture Thalang.

By disguising hundreds of women in army uniforms and parading them through the town, they tricked the enemy into believing that they were troop reinforcements fresh from Bangkok. This ruse eventually forced the Burmese to withdraw.

The monument was built by locals and unveiled on May 23, 1967. The pair of statues is now the spiritual focal point of an annual fair commemorating the bravery of the two women who were instrumental in the defeat of the Burmese in 1785, which incidentally was the year of the snake.

The monument was designed and built in 1966 under the instructions of Sanan Silakorn, the best student of Sin Pirasee (The Thai name for Corrado Ferruci). Sin Pirasee founded Silpakorn University, which is regarded as



Merit-makers and well-wishers take note: the proper way to lay a garland on the two smaller statues is around the neck, not on the sword.

the premier arts education institution in country and home to many national artists.

Sanan built the monument as part of a national development campaign by Field Marshall Pibul Songkram so that all Thai people would be reminded of their ancestors' bravery.

Cast in bronze, the two heroines are wearing *jong kraben* trousers, which were worn by Thai soldiers during that era. The sleeves of their tops are puffed, making them appear to

have large biceps.

The cloth that covers the torso was traditionally worn in different ways.

If you look carefully at the statues, you will see that the piece of cloth was wrapped around the body and tied behind the neck. This method of donning the cloth keeps the breasts firmly in place even during vigorous motion.

Women of that time would wrap the cloth around their torso in different styles, depending on what they were doing. This par-

ticular style was used for performing certain types of work – and for going to war.

Also notice that Thao Thepkrasattri's sword is held with her elbow slightly bent, a typical pose of soldiers leaving camp for war.

Before the Burmese invasion, the two heroines were known simply as Jan and Mook. However, after saving Thalang from the Burmese, they both were given new names and titles by royal appointment.

Khunying Jan became Thao Thepkrasattri and Khunying Mook became Thao Srisoontorn. When standing in front of the monument, which faces north towards Burma, the lady to the left is Jan and the lady to the right is Mook.

Every day, people of all walks of life visit the monument. Many of them are tourists, others come to pray and pay their respects to the heroines.

Those looking to win something or overcome an enemy find this sacred site especially attractive, and many drivers will *wai* in respect – even while negotiating the roundabout which encircles the site.

In front of the main monument is a smaller replica of the statue, which is the place for making wishes. Thais usually light incense sticks and offer a garland of flowers to improve the chances of their prayers being answered.

Although many people hang garlands from the swords, this is inappropriate. In order to show respect to one of the heroines, hang the flowers around her neck.

Note: Information in this article is from a variety of sources, including the Thalang National Museum and the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

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 sites in one day.

Phuket's official "nine sacred sites" are:

- 1) Wat Pra Tong
- 2) Heroines' Monument
- 3) Sarn Jao Seng Tham
- 4) Sarn Jao Bang Nieow/Sarn Jao Giew Tien Keng
- 5) Sarn Jao But Jor
- 6) Sarn Jao Jui Tui
- 7) Phraya Rasutana Pradit Monument (Ko Sim Bi Na Rayong)
- 8) Wat Chai Tararam (Wat Chalong)
- 9) Sarn Jao Kathu



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By Akbar Khan

The Regent of Rieslings

Monika Bielka Ves-covi has taken the art of judging wines to new heights with her cellar selection, which goes a bit further than the simple seeing, swirling, sniffing, sipping and savoring. Now there is an additional ayurvedic quality to be considered, and that is the wine's mineral content.

The monthly Wine Club convenes at Into Thai Restaurant at the Evason Resort & Six Senses Spa on Tuesday and Friday evenings, and on September 2 I took wine-lover extraordinaire Marc Mulloy of PGTV along to "compare notes" – à la PJ O'Rourke, or something like that.

On my last trip to Dubai, Emirates Airlines had served me a few glasses of Trimbach Riesling, and I was eager to sample some more wines from Maison Trimbach.

The Pinot Blanc, Trimbach 2004 went down a treat. This wine is well vinified – fruity and very refreshing. Indeed, you could drink it instead of water. It feels as if you are actually drinking from the fountain of youth.

I commented on the wonderful fragrances of grapefruit and apples, Mssr Hubert added that there was also a touch of honeysuckle.

The appetizer on the menu had the intriguing name of *Khong Wang Rawai* and when it arrived I thought, what a fabulous idea and exclaimed, *Mieng Kum*, the name by which the dish is more commonly recognized throughout Thailand.

I explained to Mssr Hubert how to try and tailor the flavor by placing in a betel leaf his own choice of the following offerings: ginger (fragrant, sweet and spicy), shallots (aromatic, spicy), dried shrimp (salty, fishy), peanuts (a salty terroir taste), lime (citrus, sour), toasted coconut (sweet, tropical), and of course the optional *prik kee noo* (literally "mouse dropping chilis") – we both opted out on those but went for the rest. The entire package then gets a little dollop of a sweet and savory sauce before being devoured.

The idea is to make one and eat it, and as you chew try to calculate what to put more or less of in the next package so as to custom create your own favorite flavor.

Evason's version of *Mieng Kum* was accompanied by a Riesling Reserve Trimbach 2004, a deep golden color with a psychedelic green hue flashing like a strobe as I swirled my glass. I complimented the complexity of the minerality and fruits, which were truly outstanding with the clear yet subtle aromas of peach and citrus.

Having read about terroirists in a previous edition of the *Gazette*, I thought that I might inquire about the Alsace terroir. Was Mssr Hubert reading my mind? He jumped up from his seat and walked around in front of all the tables to introduce everybody to the selection of wines that we



Evason Sommelier Monika and Mssr Hubert, patriarch of Trimbach – a winery producing healthy rieslings since 1626.

were about to taste.

"A good 'terroir', as you call it, is not enough to have marvelous minerality in wines like this. It depends on the grapes, too, and their ability to absorb minerals. Riesling is the white grape that absorbs minerals better than other strains of white grape," he explained.

The second course was Phuket coral trout in ginger. For those who have not tried this fish. I highly recommend you do, it is exceedingly good as is the wine that accompanied it perfectly – Pinot Gris Reserve Trimbach 2004.

In the Pinot Gris plums and pears could be found and on the nose a little smokiness.

Hubert continued to delight everyone with his wines and charming enlightenment. "Pinot Gris originated in Burgundy and came to the Alsace in the middle of the 16th century. Funnily enough, until 120 years ago Burgundy was using Pinot Gris for white wines, but then they switched to using chardonnay. They still have a few rows of Pinot Gris in between the chardonnay," he said.

The Gewurztraminer Reserve 2001 went swimmingly with the duck, as I am sure it would with even spicier and richer dishes as well as strong cheese and light desserts.

The Gewurztraminer undulated between sweet moments to more complex ones, but remained perfectly balanced. I knew that wine of this caliber was hard to find in Thailand and asked Mssr Hubert about his production. He confirmed that at Trimbach each wine was made using only one variety of grape and no additional sugar is ever added.

The wines are grown organically and no chemical pesticides are used whatsoever.

Now it was time for the beef braised in aromatic Chinese

spices, which was accompanied by the final riesling, Cuvee Frederic Emile, Trimbach 2003, one of the estate's two flagship Grand Cru rieslings.

Mssr Hubert explained, "The last riesling, with aroma of pineapple and mango, really shows why the terroir is so important with its minerality and complexity. 2003

was a good year with a hot summer that make this vintage quite exceptional.

"The Cuvee Frederic Emile comes from two contiguous Grand Crus: the limestone rich Geisberg and the steep lower slopes of the Osterberg vineyard. It is a classically racy, snappy riesling that starts off life very tight and austere, and takes years to unveil itself from behind its girdle of acidity. "As the wine matures, the richness and power of this wine becomes readily apparent. It is clearly one of Alsace's greatest rieslings, and really quite underappreciated amongst the world's wine lovers."

Absolutely. I had thought the best rieslings must be German. Now I realize that the best rieslings come from France, or to be more precise from Maison Trimbach. I now know there are white wines for every occasion and dish. The beef was wonderful with the Gewurztraminer, which would pair well with any Thai food.

The night as far as the wine dinner was over, but I felt far from drunk or tired; all those rare trace elements were starting to put ink in my pen.

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Leah Caldis and Mark Dennis from Australia were married at Laguna Phuket's Chapel-on-the-Lagoon on August 9.



Niracha Cheewacharoenkul and Nantapol Pattanapakdee were married at the Phuket Ballroom of The Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 22.

Fighting for

Stephen Fein: Where did the nickname "Magical" come from?

Ray Elbe: I got the nickname when I first started ring-fighting. I was a grappling specialist, which is when the fight goes to the ground.

For the general audience that sometimes doesn't really understand what is going on, they think the guy on top is always winning the fight. The guy on top would land several huge punches and the crowd would be cheering, but then I'd get a submission.

So "like magic the fight is over" the promoters would say over the microphone, often after a few drinks. Anyway, they started putting the nickname on the DVDs and it stuck – and it's been that ever since.

SF: How long ago did you start fighting competitively?

Ray: I started fighting in November 2002, after training five or six months before that. I started fighting pretty much right away.

SF: So you started in jujitsu?

Ray: Actually, when I first started I was in a *sort vale tudo* [Portuguese for "anything goes"] style gym, then I progressed into finding a Brazilian jujitsu instructor and started refining my technique.

The UFC started out in 1993, so it was really new. When it started, it was pretty much anything goes, and it was marketed that way.

It was really "style versus style" back then. Then it was taken off the air; it was banned. In order for the sport to grow, they came back with new regulations. They came back with weight classes, mandatory rules, more restrictions – and now you have the UFC you see today. It is definitely more sport, less spectacle now.

SF: How would you describe the key techniques of a top MMA fighter these days?

Ray: Well, there are elements of all five Olympic martial arts, but nowadays Muay Thai, Brazilian jujitsu and Greco-Roman wrestling are the main staples of MMA.

SF: So the key is to master and use elements of each discipline?

Ray: Kind of. The key is to

Ray Elbe is a 25-year-old mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter from Phoenix who is now training in Muay Thai at Tiger Muay Thai camp in Chalong, where he also teaches grappling and other MMA techniques to others.

With three successful Muay Thai fights under his belt, "Magical" Ray now hopes his growing Muay Thai skills will help him fulfill his dream of a successful career in the US-based UFC. To get a UFC contract, he first needs to put together an impressive win streak that will enlarge his fan base and raise his stock with the UFC organizers – much like a music band trying to land a record contract.

Gazette News Editor Stephen Fein talks to Ray about his past, present and plans for the future.

pick the fighter and use the best elements for that fighter. One of my Thai guys is transitioning into MMA. I am not going to teach him how to get someone in a choke hold. I am going to teach him how to defend the choke hold, how to get back up to his feet and how to use his strengths, instead of fighting how his opponent wants to fight.

It is important to cross-train and understand all the elements of the game, but it's really pick and choose. Some guys are stand-up fighters. They want to keep the fight standing, so they learn how to not be taken down by a wrestler and how not to be submitted by a jujitsu-judo guy. They need to learn how to get the fight back up to the feet.

Whereas a guy like me, a jujitsu guy, I'll take the opportunity to learn Muay Thai – the clenches, the elbows, the knees – but inevitably I am looking for an opportunity to take my opponent down. So it's really strategic.

SF: What were you like as a kid?

Ray: A typical kid. I played sports at school; basketball. I didn't do any wrestling, though. I really only got into this while I was in college. Growing up I got pretty decent grades, didn't get into a lot of fights.

When I got into college, I met another kid who was into fighting, so I started training with him and really grew to like it – and started making money at it and made it a profession at that time.

SF: You majored in education.

Has that helped you with training?

Ray: Definitely. It has taught me to appreciate that there are a lot of different kinds of learners. You can learn by different methods: visually, audibly, kinesthetically. In martial arts, people have to see numerous different types of variations and examples.

My having a university degree in teaching gives me an opportunity to see and understand these many different aspects. Plus I feel I am really able to dissect the teaching. Most of my students keep journals of the techniques. We do video reviews of fights and map out six- and seven-week training regimens, with dates and times.

SF: Why are you focused on the UFC. There are a lot of other organizations doing MMA, aren't there?

Ray: Some people say that the UFC is like the NFL of MMA, if you know what I mean. Even better than that, I would say that UFC is "Kleenex" whereas MMA is "tissue".

SF: So how long have you been training in Phuket?

Ray: I travel off and on, but I have been here about two years now. I try to compete around the regions.

SF: How many students do you have?

Ray: It varies, but my morning beginner classes are usually about 15 to 25 people. The competition workout team is anywhere from six to eight.

SF: Tell me about your family.

Ray: My mom has remarried. I am an only child. I have a boring family history as far as that goes. Most of my family lives in the US.

SF: What do they think of you doing MMA – after going to university?

Ray: I got into it when the sport really was still in its "spectacle stage", when there weren't

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'Magical' Ray Elbe delivers a knockout kick to an opponent at Patong Boxing Stadium in April this year.

a lot of rules or sanctioning bodies. It was during that time that John McCain, as the senator from Arizona, was trying to take UFC off television.

My mom has worked 25 years at the Glendale Police Department in Phoenix, and she is from a real traditional, conservative background. At first she didn't really understand what kind of competition it was. She kind of saw it more as a bar room fight. So she came to a couple of events and saw it wasn't the spectacle it was made out to be on TV.

Over time, I continued competing and she started seeing me on local TV, radio and in magazines. She was able to see rather quickly that I was given a talent that was going to take me beyond just the local scene. At that point, the whole family really started supporting me and wanting me to pursue fighting.

Obviously, it was important that I had a backup plan in case the inevitable injury occurs or things didn't go my way. That's why I stuck with the college degree, even though when I was in college I was making enough money to fight as a full-time occupation.

But it was a deal with my parents: they said, 'Okay, you can do this as long as you continue with your school. When you finish school, if you still want to do this we will support you' – and that's what happened.

SF: Have you had any serious injuries?

Ray: Well, I broke my left leg and I have just come off 10 weeks with a small fracture in my wrist. I chipped my tooth. I cracked my orbital [eye socket]. There are quite a few injuries, but I think that goes with being a professional athlete, training six to eight hours a day and dieting. In-

juries are inevitable when you push your body to the limit. I mean, Lance Armstrong rides a bike for a living and he's probably injured more than I am.

SF: So how many Muay Thai fights have you had?

Ray: Three so far. Hopefully, I will be fighting on September 22 at Patong Boxing Stadium [opponent not confirmed as this went to print – Ed]. I think if I am able to continue fighting Muay Thai, one of the things I don't want to do – and it seems like it happens with a lot of foreigners – is that they get four or five wins on the small local tuk-tuk scene and then 'Bam!' they get jumped up right away.

Since I am going to be here a while, I am going to try and pace my career and I would like to see what kind of Muay Thai fighting I can do at international level. That is one of my short-term goals. So some of these fights here are just to get ring experience in Muay Thai.

SF: How much training are you doing now?

Ray: I would say I do about an hour-and-a-half of technique and padwork a day. On top of my regular conditioning and jujitsu training, my wrestling training and my weight training. I work about an-hour-and-a-half on my stand-up Muay Thai with trainers Rittadate and Beneung, who is ranked number 10 in the entire county, number 8 at Lumpini.

SF: So how lucrative can a career in the UFC be?

Ray: Well, the top fighters can make millions – even more than some top boxers.

The UFC doesn't necessarily pay the best. Some of the others might pay you more, because they need you more. But MMA is getting bigger, with a lot of dif-

ferent brands fighting for notoriety. CBC, Fox News and ESPN are now all covering different MMA events.

SF: So do you have any MMA fights planned?

Ray: On November 5, I might have a rematch against the guy I knocked out in Russia. Or we might bring in Canadian Vaughn Anderson from China. I'll be in the States for a while. There is a show in Vegas in February. It's a small show, but it would be a good chance for exposure.

Tiger Muay Thai is also thinking about flying in fighters and doing a mixed MMA card at Patong Boxing Stadium to showcase all the MMA talent we have here.

SF: Are you married? Any girlfriends? Playing the field in Patong?

Ray: No, let's just say I am enjoying living in Southeast Asia. I am taking the opportunity to experience the Thai culture and just kind of expand my horizons before settling down.

SF: And where do you think that will be?

Ray: It will be in the US. I will be in Phuket for quite a while, but my family is in the States. I plan to run a Tiger Muay Thai facility in the US that Will Mac-Namara plans to build there. The plan is that I will be the General Manager. We will take the world champion trainers we have to the US and showcase Muay Thai.

I see this as an opportunity. I feel that when I return to the States I will be competing at UFC level, but I also think authentic Muay Thai training is lacking in Ultimate fighting.

There are a few Muay Thai gyms stateside, but the number of Thais in the US teaching their national sport is lop-sided. The number is much smaller than the number of Brazilians teaching jujitsu. So I want to help pioneer Muay Thai in the States, the same way I am pioneering jujitsu here.

For more about Ray visit: www.mmaphuket.com/the_training/magical_ray_elbe For details of the MMA event in January visit: www.nevertap.asia

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This week



VEERING OUT OF CONTROL: Thai celebrity Veer entertains the crowd at the opening of the Rawai @ Park shopping complex on September 15.



BEST BY COOK: Thomas Cook Executive for Northern Europe Ake Bjork (4th from left) hands Pamuke Achariyachai, owner of Kata Group Resorts, the UK travel giant's "Best Sun Garden Resort in Winter 2007 - 2008 Award" for Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa at Tourism Authority of Thailand office on September 4. Mr Panuke's wife, Phuket Senator Thanyarat (4th from right),



SWITCHED ON: Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana (4th from right) joins Dr Pongsak Tangkana (4th from left) and guests at Bangkok Hospital Phuket for the 'How to Cope with Game-Addicted Children' seminar on September 14.



TRÈS BOCUSE: Christoph Linder (left) and Pablo Blattmann, both graduate understudies of French chef Paul Bocuse, celebrate the recent opening of their DeDos restaurant at the entrance to Laguna.



STARLIGHT, STAR BRIGHT: The management team and staff of sister hotels Mom Tri's Villa Royale and Mom Tri's Boathouse play it up at their 'star' themed annual staff party at The Metropole hotel in Phuket City on September 9.



HIGH-CLASS HOME STYLE: Husband-and-wife restaurateurs Dirk and Gisela Seitz treated friends and special guests to an evening of high-class European home-style cooking and European wine last week to celebrate the opening of their new restaurant Rainforest Garden restaurant and cocktail lounge on Wiset Rd in Rawai.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): If you're celebrating a birthday this week, you will be able to exploit your creative talents more in the year ahead. The stars suggest that collaboration with another earth sign shows should lead to better success than working with another type of sign. This week, the emphasis should lie on resolving a financial problem and Thursday is the best day for taking action. Wear a piece of dark jade to encourage a more practical outlook.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You could learn something to your advantage this weekend. Recent failures in business should soon be a thing of the past, but you will need to act quickly in order to reap profits by the end of the year. If you're single, romance takes you by surprise when Leo looks your way. Boost your flagging energy levels by eating orange colored fruits and being more selective when accepting social invitations.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): An emotional reaction to mildly negative news could set you back this weekend. Try to see the situation in proper perspective and you may even find a positive side. A financial windfall is forecast before the end of this month, which could start you

thinking about winter travel plans. An Arian friend would love to be invited to join you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Delays related to housing are likely to cramp your style this week. It may be difficult to discover the real reason for this, but you are advised to dig deeply. Failure to do so could result in further disappointment. Capricorn has some surprising news regarding your romantic aspirations and a hot date is forecast to cheer you up this weekend. Wear turquoise to encourage ideas to flow.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your luck in love picks up during the remaining days of September and October promises to be a red-hot month for romance. Meanwhile, a new direction in the world of work brings fulfillment and you could be asked to embark on a business trip before the end of this month. Tuesday is the best day for smoothing a family member's ruffled feathers, but you are advised to avoid further misunderstandings with this person.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your skills at breaking the ice ensure that a party this weekend is enjoyed by all. Your gregarious nature can also promote

Squeeze out those creative juices, Virgo

business networking, but beware of others trying to take credit mid-week. Scorpio is likely to try to bask in your sunshine. A partner from your past is forecast to reappear and this could cause friction with a current romantic interest.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Some careless Pisceans are in danger of being distracted by a red herring this week. A competitor's crafty tactics are likely to help them overtake you in a business deal. Wednesday is best for emphasizing your determination to succeed. Romance will benefit from a more active approach. Pisces is tiring of your half-hearted overtures.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Endeavor to show some sympathy to a suffering friend this weekend. Even if you foresaw their

present situation rapidly approaching, rubbing salt into the wound should be avoided. Your luck in business is strong on Tuesday and the impression you make at an important appointment could open many doors. In romance, a shy Sagittarian may need encouragement to confess their true feelings.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Travel is forecast to broaden your mind until mid-October. A modest day trip will stimulate creative ideas. A new romance will spark off away from home and distance will prove to be no barrier. The temptation to overspend will be strong this week, especially when in the company of Leo.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): No mountain is too high for you to climb this week. Your readiness to reach the summit of a chal-

lenge will leave others gasping for breath. Take advantage of these invigorating astral conditions by aiming for more success than you'd previously intended. Thursday is the most fortuitous day for signing agreements. Your understanding attitude allows a partner to pour out their heart this weekend and commitment is highlighted.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A touchy issue with a friend requires resolving this weekend. If money is concerned, take a serious lesson on board. On Tuesday, romance is sparked by a chance meeting with Taurus. The rest of September work is forecast to bring more fulfilment when you are asked to leave your comfort zone. This is the time to ask for promotion. Wearing chestnut brown can promote confidence.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Most Leos will want to laze around at home this weekend, but friends have other plans. Your willingness to please others could land you in an uncomfortable situation on Sunday - options need to be carefully considered. Getting back into the swing of work after a holiday becomes easier with the addition of a new colleague, but a romantic liaison is inadvisable. Wear the color tangerine to encourage creative dreams.



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Hundreds of hoteliers and food and beverage staff from Phuket and even Khao Lak and Krabi descended on the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa in Patong on September 13-15 to take part in the Food & Beverage Expo 2008.

After the official opening attended by South African Ambassador to Thailand Douglas Gibson and his wife Pam, and presided over by Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban, bar staff set to entertaining crowds with their bottle-tossing and cocktail-mixing skills in a variety of bartending competitions.

Local lady Junthip Uton from Graceland resort won the Classic Bartender competition with her Greenery cocktail, pipping Tortrakoon Niamhorm from Banyan Tree and his Amusement mix and Geerati Keawirat from the Graceland resort and her R.U.O.K. cocktail.

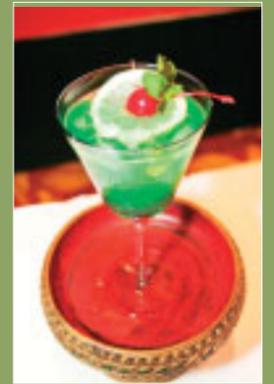
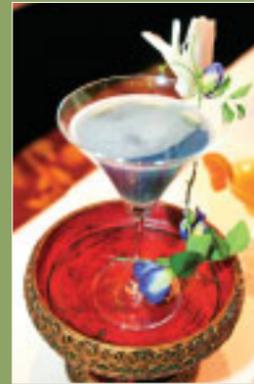
But it was the Flair Bartending competitions that had the crowds cheering, with Mongkol Nurod from Merlin Beach Resort taking top honors in the hotel division with his Green World in a martini glass, followed by Wutti-chai Sae-wee from Banyan Tree and his Verde Illusion and Krisana Lengpramuan from the Holiday Inn Phuket Resort and his taste of Southern Paradise.

Songwut Chitiutitpong from Phuket Brewery won the Flair Bartender open competition with his Mix Test, beating Kiettichai Patsuwan and Anucha Jannark, both from the F&B Manager's Club, who, who delivered a Harmonic of the Caribbean and a Siamirnof, respectively.

Sakda Plaisaeng of the Holiday Inn won the ice-carving competition, while Chanon Yuyen and Chaipat Ripoltha – both from Le Meridien Khao Lak – finished first and second, respectively, in the fruit carving contest.

Millennium Patong Resort Commis Chefs Surasak Karaisuth and Warawut Katanyou both delivered top dishes to finish first and second in the Food - Main Course competition, and to fitting wrap up the feast of activities Le Meridien Phuket's Chef de Partie Weerachai Himmachart and 1st

F & B teams out to shake things up



Commis Chef Somsak Rujirawongwan finished first and second, respectively, in the Dessert competition.

(Above) Chairat Sukban (3rd from left), Deputy Mayor of Patong Municipality, joined Douglas Gibson, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, and his wife, Pam (both seated), and industry and embassy representatives in celebrating and promoting the skills of the island's food and beverage workers.

The expo was also an opportunity for F&B managers and staff to meet their counterparts in the industry and a forum for F&B support businesses to present their products and services to the key players in Phuket's critical hotel industry.

- All photos by Dan Miles





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Gone to the dogs

Phuket's socially responsible party crowd turned out at the Evason Resort & Six Senses Spa in Rawai on September 13 for the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) Tails at Twilight Annual Fundraising Bone a Fit.

Well-groomed males and fun-loving females, some blaming the weather for the heat, kicked off their heels and partied hard for the benefit of Phuket's stray dogs.

Among the entertainment was the island's own Ricky Zen singing to the siren strains of Colin Hill's guitar.

The event raised more than 700,000 baht, which will go towards the Soi Dog Foundation's sterilization project – which was *not* performed at the party – and to expansion of SDF projects to Koh Lanta and Khao Lak.

– All photos by Dan Miles



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By Jeff Heselwood

Voluptuous Volvo XC60

‘The smartest and safest model ever’

Volvo Cars recently opened a new dealership in Phuket City with a new concept aimed at attracting expats wishing to buy a luxury motor. Apparently, the dealership is going to provide the kind of service overseas residents are more used to.

Carrying the full Volvo range, from the diminutive C30 to the excellent luxury off-roader, the XC90, if it's a Volvo you are after, then look no further.

However, still to come in 2009 is the mid-size 4x4, the Volvo XC60.

Volvo calls it a “cross-over concept”, meaning it has all the attributes of an off-roader with the comfort and agility of a sporting sedan.

Powered by either a six-cylinder turbocharged gasoline engine or a choice of two five-cylinder turbo diesels, the XC60 promises startling performance, although currently it is unclear which variants will be available in Thailand.

The motor is mated to either a six-speed manual gearbox or a six-speed automatic transmission that can also be operated manually.

All-wheel drive is standard and is electronically controlled; automatically distributing engine torque between the front and rear wheels depending on which pair of wheels has the best grip at the time.

For normal road use, the system directs most of the power to the front wheels.

The XC60 made its debut



at the Geneva motor show in March and is predicted to spawn a whole new segment in the industry with at least 10 new crossover vehicles expected to be launched in the next few years.

“In order to succeed with that kind of competition, you have to create a car that stands out in a crowd,” said Volvo Cars

president and CEO Fredrik Arp. “This is not only the safest Volvo ever, it's also the most stunning,” he added.

The crossover Volvo incorporates a range of intelligent safety systems that helps the driver avoid accidents. One system is a unique feature that reduces the effect of low-speed impacts that are common in city traffic. If the car is about to drive into the vehicle in front and the driver does not re-

act, the car brakes itself.

“We are the first manufacturer in the world to offer this type of feature as standard,” said Arp. “The new car is packed with our accumulated safety know-how and technology, both when it comes to preventing accidents and protecting the occupants in a collision,” he added.

The vehicle is fitted with roll-stability control and a roll-over protection system. The former is an active

function that intervenes in situations when the car is exposed to forces that could cause it to roll over. If a roll-over accident should occur, the protection system deploys the inflatable air curtains.

Compact in overall size, the XC60 is shorter than the XC70, and lower than an XC90. In the next 12 months, Volvo will also introduce a front-wheel drive version powered by a 2.4 liter Euro 5 diesel engine producing 163 bhp (120 kW) and with a CO₂ target of around 170 g/km.

The sales target for the Belgian-built XC60 is more than 50,000 cars a year, with the principal markets being the US, Germany, the UK, Russia and China.

“The fact that China and Russia are among the five largest XC60 markets is proof that these growing markets are now beginning to develop,” said the Volvo CEO. “Both markets will advance even higher up the sales league in future.

“We are aiming primarily at lifestyle, not age,” he pointed out. “You could say that this could be the C30 owner's next car.

“It's so sporty and exciting, but way more capable. An all-round car for the person who lives single in the city and for the young family taking the kids for a weekend of fun and adventure,” he added.

Jeff Heslewood can be reached by email to jhc@netvigator.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

September 20-21. Scuba Cat Diving International Cleanup Weekend 2008.

Scuba Cat Diving based at Patong Beach welcomes all divers and snorkelers to join us for a fun-packed, environmentally friendly weekend (2 days/1 night) to help clean up the underwater world at Racha Yai Island.

3,000 baht per person, including accommodation and meals for 2 days and 1 night, diving equipment, a Scuba Cat T-shirt and a celebratory BBQ for all on board.

For bookings, contact Kath or Sarah. Tel: 076-293120. Email: info@scubacat.com Website: www.scubacat.com

September 20. Sea Bees Clean Up Day supported by SSI and TDA.

Sea Bees Diving will conduct another World Clean Up Day at Koh Maithon, supported by SSI, TDA and Green Fins.

The daytrip, From 9 am-3 pm, includes one long clean-up dive at Koh Maithon. Snacks and finger-food on the boat is of course free of charge.

Divers must bring their own dive equipment (gloves are recommended), or gear can be rented from Sea Bees Diving for the day.

The number of participants is limited to 30 divers, so early booking is recommended.

Reservations can be made at Sea Bees Chalong office or by email to info@sea-bees.com.

For more details contact Volker Ross. Tel: 076-381765. Email: info@sea-bees.com Website: www.sea-bees.com

September 20. Wine & Cheese @ SILK Phuket.

From 7 pm-10 pm at Silk Restaurant & Bar at The Plaza, Surin.

Ever wanted to know what wines go well with what cheese? We are very pleased to bring you a wine and cheese tasting like no other.

We explain how to pair fine red and white wines from France, Italy and Australia with a selection of irresistible, classic French and Swiss cheeses.

Meet product experts and share some of their experiences. A perfect way to start a Satur-



A diver from Scandinavian Scuba Doo in Kata and Karon collects underwater trash at last year's World Cleanup Day.

Photo by Hakan Larsson.

SPLASH FOR TRASH International Cleanup Day September 20

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

day night. All for just 990 baht net.

For details contact Jorge De la Torre Koch. Tel: 089-725 6994. Email: jorge@silkphuket.com Website: www.silkphuket.com

September 20. Wine Tasting at Wine Connection Chalong.

Come and taste our new wine selection and tapas buffet, and enjoy our live band. Entry: 400 baht, free for club members.

From 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

September 21. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.

Is your Internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the, uh, window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired?

Join *For Dummies*... author Woody Leonhard for his weekly

PC Group Therapy sessions. They're absolutely 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 (north of Chalong Circle), see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

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

Until September 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

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

September 26-October 1. Kitipong Ngowsiri Exhibition.

Kitipong Ngowsiri, also known as Pui, is a 33-year-old Thai painter, born in Bangkok. A member of the Andaman Club, he paints at "The Love Arts Studio" in Rawai Art Village, Phuket.

His exhibition at the Art Rendez-vous Gallery at 69 Yao-warat Rd, Phuket City, opens September 26 at 7 pm.

Exhibition open daily from midday to 9 pm.

Contact Patrick Bois. Tel: 076-219095. Email: art.rdv@

gmail.com Website: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com

September 27. Wine Tasting at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

Come and taste our new wine selections, tapas buffet and live band from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.

Entry: 400 baht, free for club members.

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

September 28. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

October 4-13. Phuket Fringe Festival.

From 4 pm-2 am at the Playhouse Theatre and Restaurant in Patong. The first Phuket Fringe Festival opens with a party on October 4, with a special performance each night.

Until 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 gateau. Authentic beers, such as Hofbräu München's Schwarze Weisse Hefeweizen Dunkel and Münchner Hefeweizen, will be served.

Only 990 baht for the opening barbecue.

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

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US government steps in to rescue ailing GSEs

Fannie and Freddie avert disaster

A number of analysts and fund managers have commented in recent weeks that Bastille Day, July 14, was the low point of this economic cycle. Unlike 1789, when it was the start of the French Revolution, this year it marked the peak of oil prices at US\$147 a barrel.

September 7 will go down as another important day in recent economic history. This date marked the effective nationalization of the government sponsored entities (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which sponsor some US\$5.3 trillion in mortgage-backed securities in America. This was not a socialist type of nationalization but rather a reluctant takeover of effectively bankrupt entities.

Warren Buffett, reportedly the world's wealthiest man, called this "a big step in the right direction" during a televised interview with television business channel CNBC. It is worthwhile to remember that Warren Buffett had remarked some months ago that

the current downturn would be deeper and longer lasting than was generally predicted.

The nationalization of these GSEs is probably more about avoiding economic disaster rather than any instant miracle cure.

Mr Buffett pointed out that the current administration, Congress and Treasury Secretary, were not responsible for the present problems in these GSEs that had been caused years before.

This is accurate. The whole concept of these GSEs operating as listed companies, which meant that they had implicit government guarantees, was a dangerous concept. The preferred shareholders will almost certainly lose all of their investment.

However, it gave a wrong signal to poorly informed retail shareholders who probably thought that with the US federal government in the background their investments would be safe.

The bondholders of these entities have received a 100% guarantee from the government;

this is of great importance and even the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao congratulated the US on this stance. China's banks and other investors hold hundreds of billions of dollars of these GSE bonds.

James Henderson, a portfolio manager at the long-established fund-management group Henderson Global Investors, is also of the opinion that July 14 was the bottom of the economic cycle.

In a long interview with Bloomberg Television, he stated that he did not believe that we would see a V-shaped recovery but rather one that was bumpy with lots of bad news and worries. He said he expected stock markets to have made good progress in an improving environment by 2010.

The US nationalization of the two GSEs brought an immediate

worldwide reaction. Stock markets in Asia jumped in value, in the case of South Korea and Taiwan by more than 5% in a single day.

European markets also joined in the euphoria when they opened, although computer problems on the London Stock Exchange caused difficulties in measuring the real rise in Europe's largest stock market.

Predictably, the US also recorded sharp rises. However, this knee-jerk reaction deserves further comment. Naturally, before the nationalization, many market players had been actively shorting shares, especially in the banking sector.

After the announcement there was a desperate scramble to go "long", in other words, "short" positions had to be "covered" by actual buying of bank

shares. Many banks, especially in Europe, suddenly found their shares rose by double-digit percentages in a single day. It was virtually a case of the more unloved a bank's shares had been before the announcement, the more its shares rose.

Simply put, the real value had not changed that much but fear of loss and, in many cases, not wanting to miss out on a huge party brought buyers out in droves. This cannot continue unabated for long.

It was not only stock markets that felt these effects, as bond markets and currency markets also gyrated strongly. A number of currencies rose strongly against the US dollar only to retreat hours later.

David Bloom, head of currency strategy at HSBC, believes the strong US dollar trend is still intact. He did point out that it was not easy to "short" Asian currencies, such as the baht.

This, he explained, was due to the national central banks, such as the Bank of Thailand, that were readily prepared to intervene in currency markets and had substantial foreign exchange reserves to back their policy.

This is not 1997 revisited. Regional currencies show little prospect of significant weakening, although this is possible if the US dollar should start to show too much strength against other global currencies. In that situation, Asian central banks will no doubt allow their currencies to weaken slightly although in a "managed" manner.

Oil prices continue to fall. Analysts in this sector point to a number of reasons including simple demand destruction.

When oil romped ever higher through the US\$130 and \$140 a barrel, consumers worldwide went out of their way to reduce consumption as much as possible.

In many cases, they had no option; oil had simply become too expensive. High oil prices also spurred moves towards alternative sources of energy and large vehicles for private use became almost overnight seriously unwanted items. Sales of SUVs in the United States almost collapsed and even secondhand prices had their own market "crash".

In the aftermath of the 1970s oil crises, old habits quickly returned. It will be interesting to see if it is any different this time around.

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



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

Phuket scores high with 'Smart' travelers

PHUKET: Phuket was voted second-best Asian holiday destination overall, with a number of island resorts ranking highly in the *Smart Travel Asia* reader's poll for 2008.

Bali took top honors in the destination category for the second year running.

Amanpuri Resort took top spot in the leisure hotels and resorts category, while Twinpalms Phuket, JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and the Banyan Tree Phuket were in the top 25.

Amanpuri, Banyan Tree and JW Marriott were also listed among the top 10 in the "best spa" hotels and resorts category, while Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach Resort & Spa was ranked 18th.

The Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket was the only Phuket resort named in the conference

hotel category, earning 11th spot among the 25 hotels listed. The Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong took the top honor in this category.

"We are delighted to have received this award for the second year running and to have maintained this level of recognition within the conference industry," said Sheraton's general manager Jan Kirstein.

Smart Travel Asia, based in Hong Kong, has more than one million readers worldwide. It features independent hotel, spa, airline and shopping reviews. The reader's poll was held over three months, from May through July.

Airlines, hotels and destinations were the focus of the annual poll, which the online magazine said was "aimed squarely at serious, frequent travelers, in the know".

Hong Kong Express starts Phuket flights

PHUKET: Hong Kong Express Airways on September 10 launched its direct-flight between Hong Kong and Phuket as part of its expansion throughout the region.

Initially, flights will operate every Wednesday and Sunday, and at least two flights a week will be added in mid-October. The flight schedule is confirmed until the end of October, after which the airline will issue new timetables for all of its destinations.

The airline is also adding Osaka, Denpasar and Manila to its flight schedule this month.

Raymond Ng, director of commercial at Hong Kong Express Airways said, "All of these destinations have been chosen for their popularity, particularly as 'hot' holiday spots, but also as important business hubs for those who conduct work across Asia.

"By offering these routes we are giving the people of Hong Kong more choice in the way they choose to fly. And we will continue to do so with the addition of more destinations in the coming months."

Over the past few months, Hong Kong Express has expanded its network and now flies to 18 destinations across Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Japan and Taiwan.

Established in 2004, Hong Kong Express Airways operates a fleet of new Boeing 737-800 aircraft together with its sister airline, Hong Kong Airlines.

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ON THE MOVE

Olivier Payen has been appointed Phuket Branch Manager of Asia Marine Ltd, which has offices at Boat Lagoon and Yacht Haven Marina. Mr Payen has more than 25 years of experience in the yachting industry and has worked yachting destinations around the world, including Rhodes in Greece, St Barthelemy in the Caribbean, Fort Lauderdale in Florida as well as in Taiwan, London, Monaco and La Rochelle in France.



Lillian Carpenter has been appointed Resort Manager at the Dewa Phuket at Nai Yang.

Mrs Carpenter, originally from Malaysia, has worked with Singapore Airlines for five years, at the Hyatt Regency Singapore for three years and at the Bintan Lagoon Golf & Beach Resort for two years.

Before her latest appointment, she was Director of Club Operations at Blue Canyon Country Club for five years.



Panupong Kritchanarat is the new Deputy Managing Director of Boat Lagoon Civil Co Ltd. Mr Panupong has experience in property development and the construction industry, having worked as Project Manager for Thana Group and for Ongkaruk Market. He has also been Consultant to the Mae Fah Luang Foundation in Chiang Rai, an Investment Banker at Bangkok Bank Public Co Ltd and Strategist at CUEL Co Ltd.



One-Two-Go remains grounded until October

Nok Air Phuket service stalls

By Alastair Carthew

PHUKET: Controversial low-cost carrier One-Two-Go will remain grounded until at least October, but its owner is certain the airline will eventually resume services.

Udom Tantiprasongchi, founder and chairman of One-Two-Go, told the *Gazette* this week he was confident the airline will resume its Phuket service.

"We have done everything we have to do. It is now up to us to decide when we resume flying," he said.

Mr Udom admitted that the resumption of services would "honestly not happen this month" and would come in October at the earliest.

One-Two-Go grounded its fleet of eight McDonnell Douglas MD-80 jet aircraft citing financial conditions and the need to restructure.

The self-imposed grounding came just two days before Thailand Department Of Civil Aviation (DCA) issued a flight ban for the airline for allegedly breaching safety regulations, having a lack of proper airline manage-

ment and for falsification of documents by some pilots who had misrepresented their credentials.

The government suspension, to August 21, was subsequently extended by the DCA to September 20.

One-Two-Go's self-imposed termination of services were set to conclude September 15, but neither deadline will be met, Mr Udom said.

Recent political unrest including the two-day closure of Phuket International Airport (PIA) by anti-government protesters and a subsequent drop in demand were among the reasons the airline is not yet ready to resume flights to Phuket, he said.

Mr Udom said he had received many emails urging the airline to resume flying.

Another obstacle to restarting service was that some staff had left to do other jobs, he said.

However, Mr Udom pledged to "come back again, stronger and with better quality."

Meanwhile, in further bad news for the island's immediate tourism prospects, the *Gazette* has confirmed that low-cost carrier Nok Air has suspended its remaining flights to Phuket, most

likely for the rest of the low season.

Nok Air on August 1 suspended all flights to Phuket, but subsequently resumed Saturday and Sunday flights from August 9.

Many Nok Air staff, including some in Phuket, lost their jobs when the airline ceased local operations.

In an email reply received by the *Gazette* on September 13, Nok Air's Chief Executive Officer wrote, "Yes, we have suspended flights to Phuket for this month. We will resume [flying to] Phuket in the very near future after we have arranged our new TPI [timetable planning] for the coming high season."

The high season in Phuket nominally kicks off on November 1, with the Phuket Carnival in Patong.

With rival low-cost carrier One-Two-Go grounded until at least October, all regularly-scheduled flights between Bangkok and Phuket currently fly out of Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Both Nok Air and One-Two-Go use domestic hub Don Meuang Airport as their base of operations.

ITB Asia to tackle critical travel issues

SINGAPORE: Travel industry leaders from around the world will convene at the inaugural ITB Asia convention at the Suntec complex in Singapore to discuss critical issues affecting the global travel industry today and look at potential trends in travel for the future.

Organized by Messe Berlin (Singapore) Pte Ltd in conjunction with Singapore Tourism Board, the event on October 22-24 will feature up to 500 exhibiting companies from around the world, covering not only the leisure market, but also corporate and MICE travel.

Up to 5,000 travel delegates from more than 50 countries are expected to attend.

CEOs representing leading brands in travel Starwood, Accor, Jumeirah, Carlson, Sabre and others will chart the future and lay bare the opportunities and

challenges in all sectors of travel.

Peter Long, CEO of global tour operator TUI Travel, will discuss the kinds of holidays consumers are now demanding and a futurist will pose the question, "Can virtual travel ever replace physical travel?"

"There are definite trends taking place in tourism that we need to heed the evolution of the hotel industry to meet a changing customer, the realities facing global tour operators as they expand their reach into new markets, the increased penetration of technology into our everyday lives, and how that technology is changing the way we book travel and communicate, said Yeoh Siew Hoon, ITB Asia Convention program organizer.

Satellite events happening in and around ITB Asia include the Web in Travel (WIT) event on October 21-22.

JLL appoints new Asia-Pacific chairman

THAILAND: Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) has announced three management changes in Asia Pacific and EMEA that will take effect in January 2009.

Peter Barge, 58, currently the CEO of Asia Pacific has been appointed as Chairman of Asia Pacific. His successor is Alastair Hughes, who is currently CEO of EMEA. Christian Ulbrich, who currently leads the firm in Germany, will become CEO for EMEA and join the Global Executive Committee (GEC).

In his new role as Chairman for Asia Pacific, Mr Barge will provide strategic oversight of global business line development.

He will also remain a member of the firm's GEC and continue as Chairman of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels until his retirement in 2010.

Since Mr Barge became the CEO of Asia Pacific in 2003, the Asia Pacific business tripled its

revenue in the past five years, with profits growing at an average annual rate of over 100%.

In the same period, staff strength in the region doubled to 16,000, while the number of corporate office locations and project offices increased to 56 and over 500, respectively.

Mr Barge also drove the rapid development of our market-leading operations in the region, particularly in the booming economies of India and China, where business grew at an average annual rate of 104% and 52% respectively over the past five years.

In the past two years, he has orchestrated six mergers and acquisitions, including Trammell Crow Meghraj in India (2007) and Creer Property and Shore Industrial in Australia (2008).

JLL Asia Pacific revenue for the region in 2007 was US\$602 million and has expanded with six acquisitions in the past two years.

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Entering the bright welcome area of the Sala Phuket Resort & Spa on Mai Khao Beach is like stepping onto the cool surface of the water. Further inside the resort, down a narrow passageway, is the Sala Spa, which reveals itself in dramatic fashion with its stunning blend of modern design and historical Sino-Portuguese architecture.

The understated, calm beauty of the place creates the perfect atmosphere in which to be restored to well being.

Though open for only nine months on 40 rai on Phuket's most peaceful west-coast beach, the resort has already garnered rave reviews on websites such as tripadvisor.com, and the Sala Spa has become an attraction in itself. In April, both the resort and its spa were featured in the *Condé Nast Traveler* Hot List for 2008.

Spa manager, U-Thumporn "Gee" Sripaew, said that the spa not only serves resort guests, but offers treatments to many walk-in clients as well. It is especially popular with honeymooning couples, she said.

The spa provides several kinds of massages, facial treatments using the French Jurlique and Pevonia cosmetics brands, body scrubs and wraps, foot therapies and beauty services.

Treatments are given in five private villas, which all include double beds, and three pavilion massage areas in front of the beach.

There are separate men's and ladies' steam rooms, changing areas and lockers and a large relaxing area with a cool water theme. The spa area also has a gym and beauty salon.

Each spa villa has the atmosphere of a private garden retreat



Path to refinement

with mature trees and serene a blend of Swedish and aromatherapy influences. Landscaping. Outdoor showers and light-colored decorative accents help one to maintain a close connection with the tropical surroundings during and after the soothing treatments.

The most popular treatment here is the Oriental Eternity massage that combines Thai and Shiatsu massage techniques, with

of Swedish and aromatherapy influences.

"This treatment will help blood circulation and relieve stiffness in the muscles because it integrates the best of many different techniques," Ms Gee said.

For those who have the time for a complete pampering package, the three-day

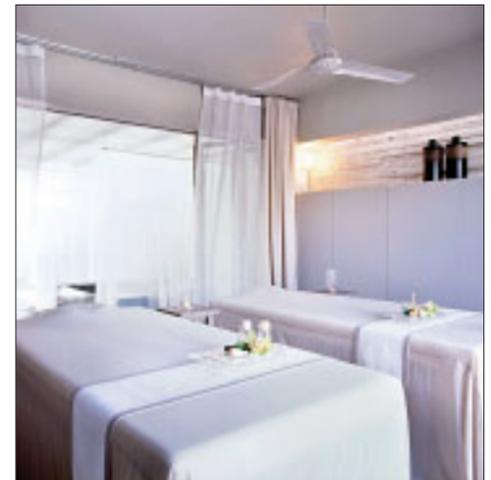
Sala Indulgence Journey combines six different treatments for a head-to-toe restoration. Choosing this package can save more than 3,000 baht off the price of having treatments done separately.

Assistant Spa Manager Suphansa "Sa" Diman said that all 14 therapists have worked in spas of five-star hotels and all can speak English. She recommended having a body scrub at least twice a month to remove dead cells and keep the skin fresh and healthy.

Prices range from 1,400 baht for a 30-minute eye-brightening treatment to 13,500 baht for a package such as the 3½-hour Couples Luxurious Asian Ritual that includes steam, floral bath, body scrub, massage and facial treatments.

The spa menu is reviewed and changed every six months as therapists try to come up with the best combinations of treatments for clients, Ms Gee explained. There are also daily special promotions, she said.

Sala Spa at Sala Phuket Resort & Spa, 333 Moo 3, Mai Khao Beach, Thalang. Open daily from 10 am to 10 pm. Tel: 076-338888. Website: www.salaphuket.com



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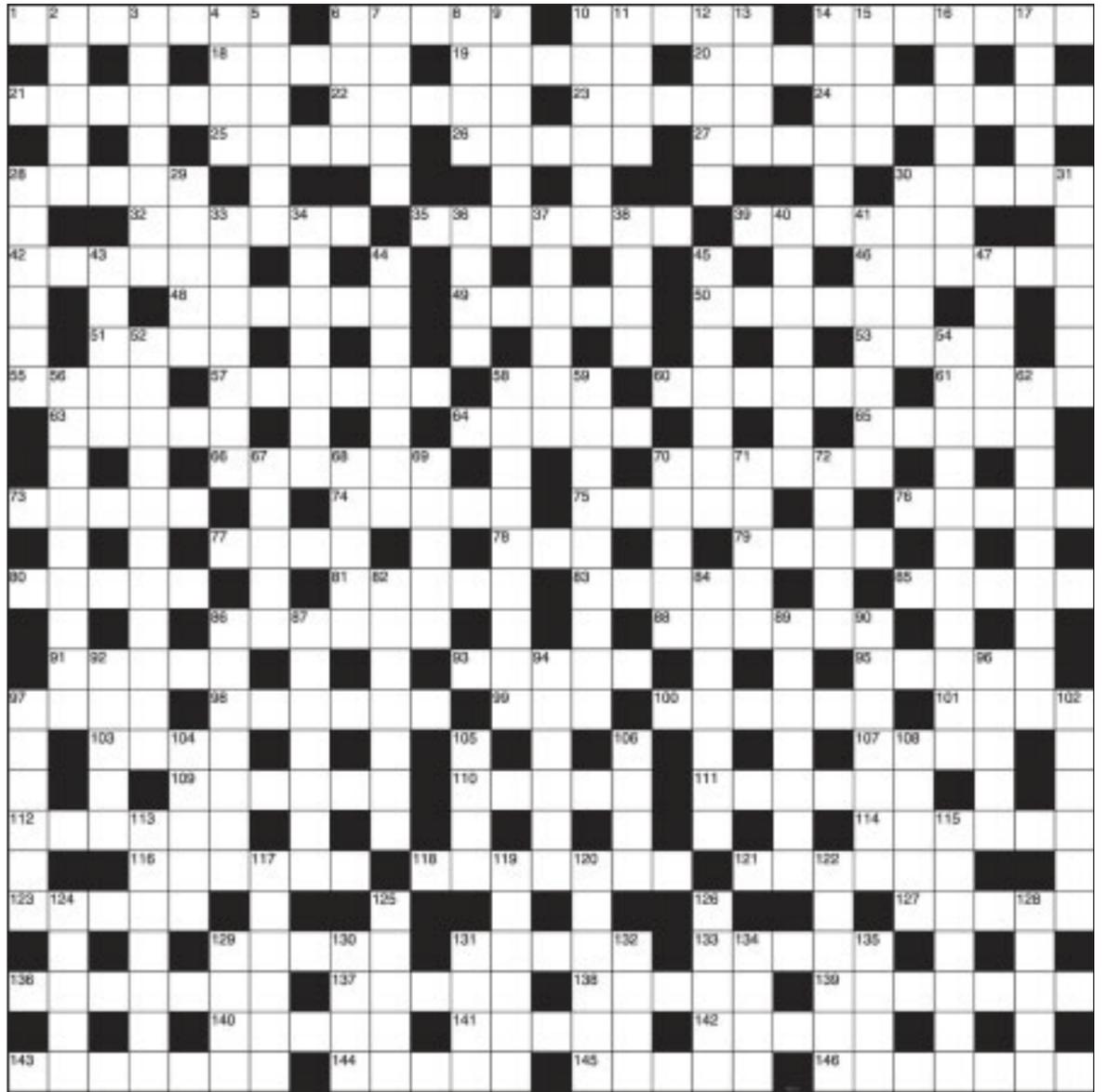
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PUZZLES

Hidden Words

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

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



The BIG Crossword

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Across

- 1. Molding
- 6. Sifting utensil
- 10. Shriek barks
- 14. Sewer's finger guard
- 18. Overhanging edges of roof
- 19. Carnivore, meat...
- 20. Uncanny
- 21. Easier
- 22. Rouses from sleep
- 23. Knight's spear
- 24. Latin American instruments
- 25. Singer, ...Ross
- 26. Spools
- 27. Totted up
- 28. Locates
- 30. Diced
- 32. Outcome
- 35. Deny ownership of
- 39. Jewish food custom
- 42. Short-sightedness
- 46. Opts
- 48. Bawdy
- 49. Group of eight
- 50. Specification
- 51. Boat's spine
- 53. Street
- 55. Author, ...Blyton
- 57. Harrowing trial
- 58. ...& don'ts
- 60. Skewer
- 61. Madam (2'2)
- 63. Wrath
- 64. Of the kidneys
- 65. Neckerchief
- 66. Unmarried
- 70. Except when
- 73. Heavy rain
- 74. Overexcited, ...up
- 75. Repeat symbol

- 76. Lesser white heron
- 77. Early Peruvian
- 78. Groovy
- 79. Pen tips
- 80. Inquisitive person
- 81. Recess
- 83. Go along (with)
- 85. Hit
- 86. Deliver sermon
- 88. Spied for police
- 91. Cut off
- 93. Superman, Man of...
- 95. Communion table
- 97. ...of Capri
- 98. By mouth
- 99. Baronet's title
- 100. Light meals
- 101. Paradise garden
- 103. Norse navigator, ...The Red
- 107. Conceal
- 109. Scientist, Sir Isaac...
- 110. Attics
- 111. Right on target (4,2)
- 112. Prairie wolf
- 114. Component
- 116. Cut (funding)
- 118. Never growing old
- 121. Repress
- 123. Beatrix Potter bunny, ...Rabbit
- 127. Light-bodied beer
- 129. Rumba-like dance
- 131. Transported
- 133. Renders insensitive
- 136. House robbery (5-2)
- 137. Moroccan port
- 138. Embroidered design
- 139. Most risqué
- 140. Wall fresco
- 141. Looks furtively
- 142. Potency
- 143. Selects

Down

- 2. Caribbean nation
- 3. Spoke out (5,2)
- 4. A friend in... is a friend indeed
- 5. Overly bright & showy
- 6. Stitched
- 7. Singer, ...Hayes
- 8. Swerve
- 9. Painting stands
- 10. Banana color
- 11. Historical ages
- 12. Oval nut
- 13. Germination pod
- 14. Stopwatches
- 15. Initial advantage, ...start
- 16. Quantity
- 17. Charter
- 28. Grope
- 29. Steeple top
- 30. Stringed instrument
- 31. Remove weapons
- 33. Seamen
- 34. Incessantly (2,3,2)
- 36. Megastar
- 37. Choice
- 38. Head lice eggs
- 40. Scandal
- 41. Female inheritor
- 43. Relative, next... (2,3)
- 44. In a perfect world
- 45. Unrelenting
- 47. Red wood
- 52. FBI chief, J...(5,6)
- 54. Blended
- 56. Spitefulness
- 58. Race ties (4,5)
- 59. Abrasive sheet
- 62. Post-operative nursing
- 67. ...or outer
- 68. West African land
- 69. Geological division
- 70. Head back (1-4)
- 71. Solitary person
- 72. Cavalry sword
- 82. Nordic island
- 84. Serious-minded
- 86. Advance
- 87. Springy
- 89. Eject (4,3)
- 90. Depart in a rush (4,3)
- 92. Sad poem
- 94. Paris' ...Tower
- 96. Skilled
- 97. Frozen polar cover
- 102. In closer proximity to
- 104. Bury
- 105. Pennant
- 106. Egyptian snakes
- 108. Altogether (2,3)
- 113. Pizza herb
- 115. Terminating
- 117. Seventh planet from the sun
- 119. Exhilarated
- 120. Free from obligation
- 122. Deeply ingrained
- 124. Soil
- 125. Cuddly Australian animal
- 126. Shoot from cover
- 128. Follow on
- 129. Wordless gesture
- 130. Boast
- 131. Record on VCR
- 132. Intrusive
- 134. Flying saucers (1,1,2)
- 135. Indian garment

Solution on next page

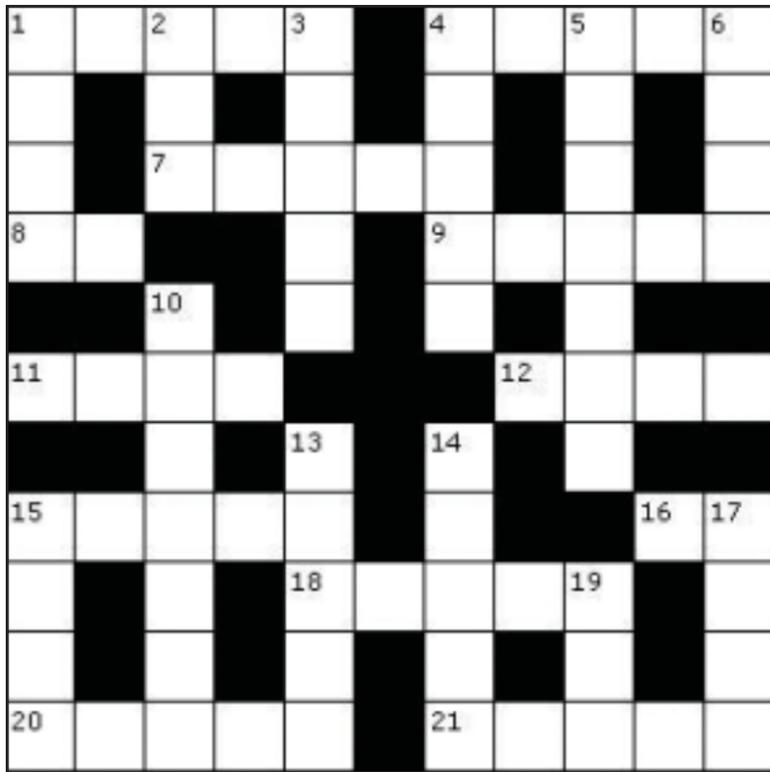
su | do | ku

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Aussie city | 1. Skin |
| 4. Fantastic | 2. Rodent |
| 7. Dance | 3. Car maker |
| 8. City of Angels | 4. Big bird |
| 9. Beauty... | 5. Leave out |
| 11. Twirl | 6. Ripped |
| 12. Smell | 10. Baddie |
| 15. Disease | 13. Sound |
| 16. Former | 14. Expression |
| 18. ...Newton | 15. Medicine |
| 20. Spear | 17. Radiation |
| 21. Traveler | 19. Hat |

Solution below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. A string (of racehorses); 2. Dromedary and Bactrian; 3. Nelson Mandela; 4. Stavanger; 5. Pet passport (he was a dog); 6. Scout; 7. Prudence; 8. Nocturnal; 9. 4; 10. A Christmas tree; 11. Mercury; 12. Spain; 13. Japan and South Korea; 14. Belgian; 15. South China Sea; 16. Madagascar; 17. John D Rockefeller; 18. Roger; 19. Official Monster Raving Loony Party; 20. Wapiti.

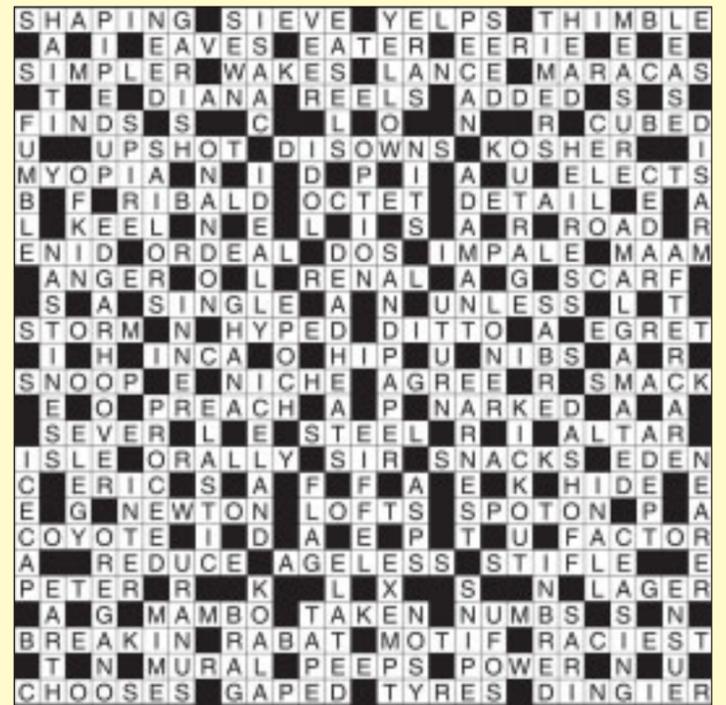
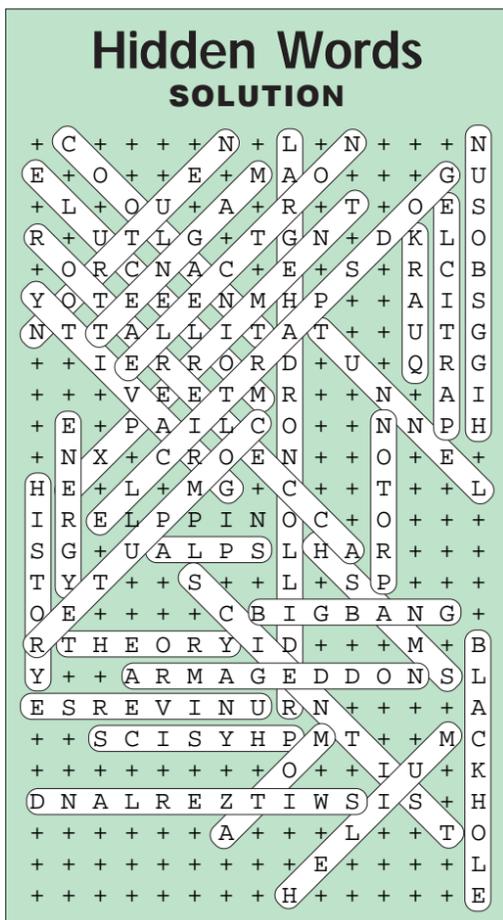
Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is the collective term for a group of racehorses?
2. What two different types of camel are there?
3. Which future president was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 for sabotage?
4. What is often referred to as the oil capital of Norway?
5. Frodo Baggins was the first to enter Britain using what?
6. What was the name of Tonto's horse in *The Lone Ranger*?
7. Which girl's name means "farseeing"?
8. What is the opposite of "diurnal"?
9. What number is considered unlucky in China?
10. What does Norway give to the UK as thanks for its assistance during WWII?
11. Which planet in the solar system is named after the Roman messenger to the Gods?
12. The Philippines were named after which Philip II, king of which country?
13. Which two countries hosted the 2002 Soccer World Cup finals?
14. What nationality is tennis player Kim Clijsters?
15. What is the world's largest sea (in area)?
16. Which island's wildlife is 90% unique?
17. Who gave the UN the land in NY to build their HQ?
18. What was the pirate word for "death"?
19. Which UK political party first suggested the idea of pet passports?
20. Which North American deer's name has six letters, the first letter is "W"?

Answers below

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Hidden Words SOLUTION



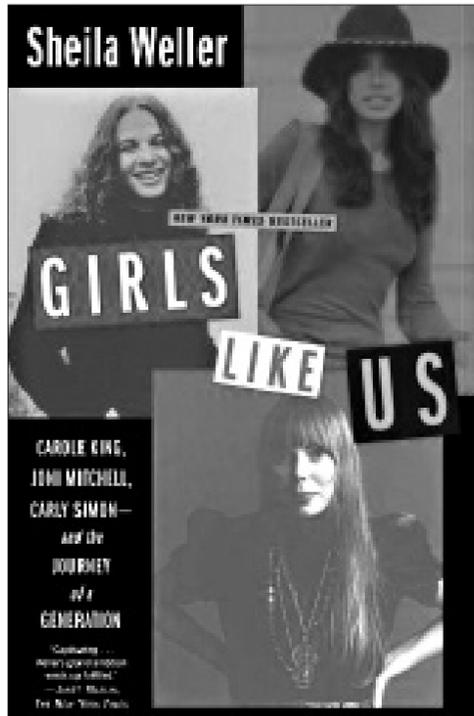
Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Sheila Weller had written five books of non-fiction when it occurred to her to write the biography of three female singer-songwriters whom she had idolized since childhood.

Three Rocking



And what a journey! What do Leonard Cohen, Jackson Browne, Sam Shepherd, Graham Nash, David Crosby, Jack Nicholson, Warren Beatty and James Taylor all have in common? They all slept with Joni Mitchell.

Not that she was particularly promiscuous, but she was determined to live a life as far apart from her small town Canadian upbringing as possible

When she found herself pregnant and abandoned in the bohemian section of Toronto in 1961, she had her daughter in secret, out of family shame, and gave her up for adoption.

Carole Klein, a Jewish girl from Brooklyn, picked her new name King out of a phone book. She became pregnant early and teamed up with her new husband Gerry Goffin to write such classic early soul music songs as *You Make Me Feel*

breakthrough hit *You're So Vain*. This is not about Mick Jagger, who sang backup, as widely supposed, but Warren Beatty. Jagger was her lover, too, as was James Taylor, whom she eventually married and divorced.

These thumbnail descriptions don't do justice to Weller's exhaustive research and analysis that provide full-blown portraits of three eminent divas of '60s and '70s lyric confessional music.

Weller captures 1960s New York zeitgeist perfectly as Joni Mitchell moves into a Chelsea apartment for a period of frantic creativity: *Both Sides Now* became a personal anthem to women in their twenties in 1968 in the same way *My Way* would become to males

"In their tiny-mirror-studded embroidered Moroccan vests over flounce-sleeved, stock-tied blouses tucked into jeans or mini-skirts, silk scarves pirate-tied low on their brows... countless young women - some enduring heartbreak over the shadier guys who'd replaced the boring college boys they had happily jet-

tioned - heard in Joni's words a shared epiphany about the emotional risks they had chosen."

All three went through multiple marriages, divorces and romantic break-ups, and as they entered middle age, took younger lovers that never worked out. They also found their music out of fashion. By the mid-1980s, all three were "in the shadows; it was the era of Madonna and Cyndi Lauper. Carly and Carole and Joni's generation - their bulging emotional dossier, all those lessons learned - was irrelevant."

Nonetheless, all three scored comeback albums after the turn of the millennium despite, or because of, late-in-life romantic dreams deferred yet again.

And there's a note of redemption. In a beautifully written passage, Weller describes the improbable reunion of Joni Mitchell and her long-lost daughter in 1997. The final round of the circle game.

The trio of divas are now grandmothers. Weller concludes: "And so the river flows, their circle game repeats, the rutted road gets easier to walk down

"And those is how it is for all three of these women - all three of these girls like us - who were born into one female culture and changed it - year by year, song

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



English and Thai take rather different approaches to personal pronouns. In English, there's a small set of words we use in most situations: I, we, you, he, she, they, it. In the object case there are a few that change: me, us, him, her.

Unless you're reading Shakespeare or the Bible, there's not a whole lot more to know about English pronouns. Most native English speakers don't know how lucky they have it in this regard.

Addressing people in Thai means you have to define your relationship to them: familiar or formal, friend or family, superior or subordinate.

Before we go on, here's an ultra-quick refresher course: There are three "persons" in grammar. First person refers to the speaker (I, we). Second person refers to the listener (you). Third person refers to third parties (he, she, they).

You may already know some basic Thai pronouns, such as:

- ผม /phom/ (first person, for men)
- ฉัน /chan/ (first person, for women)
- เรา /rao/ (first person, plural)
- คุณ /khun/ (second person)
- เขา /khao/ (third person).

Use these exclusively and you'll get your point across. But for native speakers, there's much more to it.

Thai kinship terms - the words used with various relatives - form the foundation of how Thais address one another in everyday casual interactions.

Words such as แม่ /mae/ "mother", พ่อ /phaw/ "father",

Getting personal, with



and ลูก /luuk/ "child" can be used in all three persons. For example: แม่ซื้อขนมมาให้ลูก / mae sue khanom maa hai luuk / (mother speaking to child) "I bought you a treat" and ลูกกวาดบ้านให้แม่ / luuk kwaan baan hai mae / (child speaking to mother) "I swept the house for you."

หนูบอกแม่ว่าไม่อยากไป / nou bawk mae waa mai yaak pai / (child speaking of mother) "I told her that I don't want to go."

Also notice that หนู /nou/ literally "mouse" or "rat" is used as a pronoun for a young child, in first or second person, and also by coquettish young women with older men. It is supposed to sound cute.

The point is that these "kinship" terms can be used to converse informally with anyone, not just blood relatives. Thais call this นับญาติ / nap yaat / "count (as a) relative".

If you're talking to someone within reasonable proximity of your own age, there's พี่ / phii / "older sibling" for people older than you, and น้อง / nawng / "younger sibling" for your juniors.

So you might use พ่อ /phaw and แม่ /mae with people around your parents' age. ลุง / lung / "uncle" and ป้า /paa / "aunt" are commonly used for folks slightly older than your parents.

For the elderly, there's ตา /taa / "(maternal) grandfather" and ยาย / yaai / "(maternal) grandmother". Especially when talking with older people, often คุณ / khun is added to show more respect, becoming คุณตา / khun taa and คุณยาย / khun yaai.

For some reason, Thais don't use the terms ปู่ / puu / "(paternal) grandfather" or ย่า / yaa / "(paternal) grandmother" for this purpose, though.

This practice is generally viewed as friendly, but it's not always appropriate. It can be difficult to know which terms to use when - and with whom. To many Thai women in their forties, there's nothing worse than being called ป้า /paa by a stranger. You have been warned.

If you're not sure, follow the native speaker's lead. If someone talking to you uses ป้า /paa to refer to herself, then it's safe to use.

In some settings, a job title also commonly takes on the function of pronoun. At the doctor's office, Thais refer to the doctor as หมอ / maw or คุณหมอ / khun maw, and the doctor will likely refer to him- or herself as หมอ / maw when addressing patients.

Similarly, teachers are typically known as คุณครู / khun khruu to their students, and also use ครู / khruu for themselves.

For professors and some other teachers, อาจารย์ / aajaan works the same way.

You might say, Hey! We do that in English, too. Sure, in English we say things like "Doctor, what's this growth on my elbow?" or "Teacher, Sally kicked me in the shins."

The thing to remember about Thai is that these words tend to entirely replace pronouns. In Thai you might ask the equivalent of "What does doctor think?" คุณหมอคิดว่าอย่างไร / khun maw khit waa yaangrai (instead of "What do you think?") or, "Is teacher tired?" คุณครูเหนื่อยไหม / khun khruu nueai mai (instead of "Are you tired?")

You should start to get the picture by now. Time to get out there and start chatting with your newfound relatives.

NOTE: The phonetic characters in this column do not carry all the correct Thai tones. To ensure you have the correct pronunciation, ask a native Thai speaker to read them out to you - or better yet, study and learn to get the correct tone directly from the Thai spelling!

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at thai101.blogspot.com and can be contacted at: rdockum@gmail.com

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For the record

As if the recent drop in tourist arrivals due to political factors hadn't hurt bar and pub owners enough this low season, some publicans on the island have been hit with huge fines for publicly playing copyrighted music without a license.

The crackdown has left most bar owners confused, with many scrambling to hide hard drives loaded with illegally obtained MP3 recordings or stacks of illegal CDs, which are easily bought nearly anywhere on the island.

Well known to tourists, but apparently invisible to police, are numerous back-room shops in Patong filled wall-to-wall with pirate computer software, CDs and DVDs. Most of these include a selection of pornography that is illegal anywhere in Thailand, "intellectual property" considerations aside. If you don't know where to find one, simply ask any of the smarmy touts who accost foreign tourists: they would be more than happy to guide you in the right direction.

Similar outlets can be found in other destinations around the country popular with foreign tourists, many of whom consider their pirate-goods shopping sprees among the highlights of their visits – the cost savings a way of justifying the cost of the trip.

If there is to be a crackdown on intellectual property (IP) violations, these shops are where it should start – or better yet, with the parties that produce these products or smuggle them into the country by the hundreds of thousands.

Unfortunately, the recent IP crackdown in many ways resembles the on-again, off-again narcotics sweeps at pubs and discos with patrons forced to submit urine samples for on-the-spot drug testing.

Only small time dealers and end users are caught – while the influential figures behind the industry get off scot-free.

While hardly a day passes without a *ya bah* (methamphetamine) bust being reported in the local press, when was the last time a major trafficker was busted or a large methamphetamine lab raided anywhere in the country? The same applies to pirated CDs, DVDs and similar products, most of which are reported to be produced in China and smuggled into the country.

While the *Gazette* supports the rights of artist to be compensated for the works they produce – indeed, our own intellectual property is often violated via the Internet – current law enforcement in this area are far too selective and serves as yet another fertile avenue for extortion, corruption, blackmail and bribery.

In terms of music licensing, the government should set up a network of "one stop" shops, explaining to law-abiding citizens exactly what is required of them and making it easy for them to obtain.

– The Editor

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

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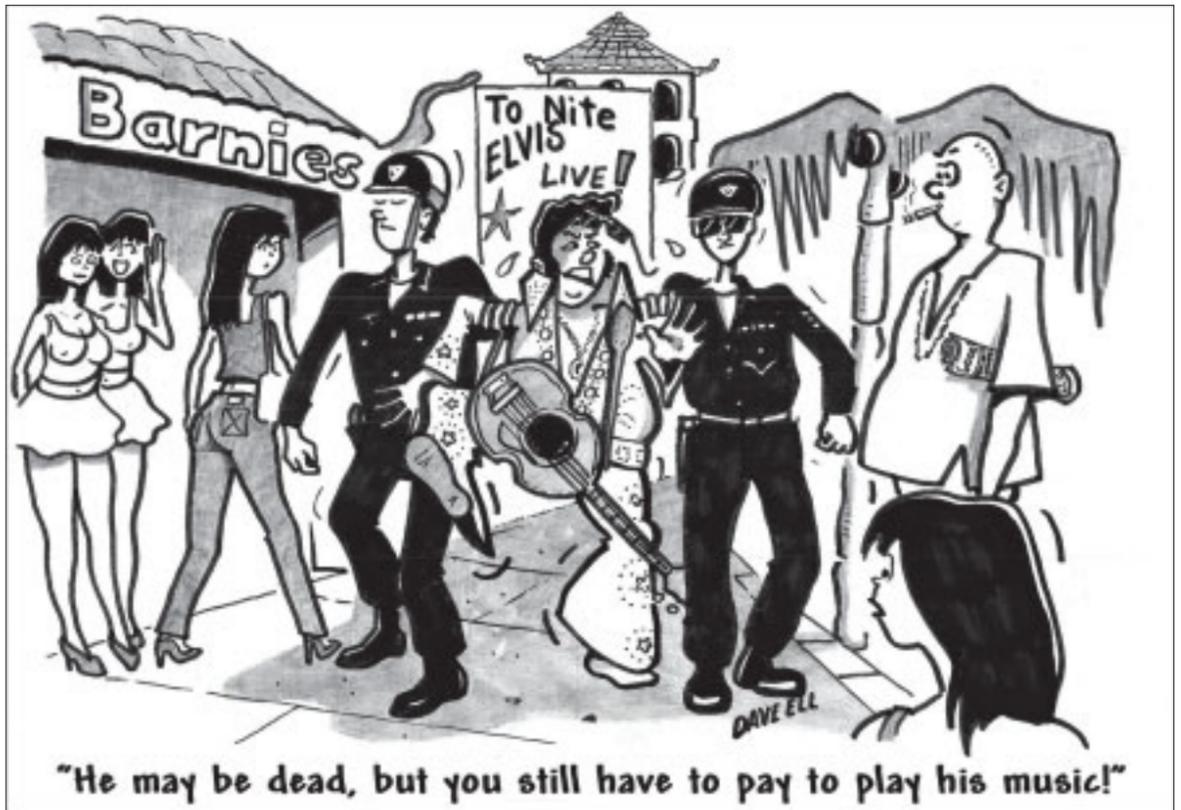
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Letters

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

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

It's the thought that counts

I have just read the article in today's *Phuket Gazette* regarding a memorial service for the victims of the One-Two-Go crash at Phuket Airport last September [see page 1]. My husband and I lost our 22-year-old son Alex and his girlfriend Bethan in the crash. We can't believe a memorial service has not been organized by the director of the airport.

We are unable to be at the place where our only son lost his life, and it would have been of great comfort to us to know that the employees of the airport were thinking of all the families who have suffered as a result of this accident. Small gestures mean a lot.

Margaret Collins
Maesteg, Bridgend
South Wales, UK

The air that I breathe

Green Patong? I can confirm that two-stroke jet-skis are terrible for the environment. Jet-skis can burn up to 10 gallons of fuel an hour spewing out 55 kilograms of carbon dioxide per hour in the process.

Around 25% of fuel is unburnt as it leaves the exhaust. I counted 25 of these contraptions in the waters off Patong Beach one morning and each jet-ski races around the bay for about six hours a day. This means that about 8,000kg of carcinogenic carbon dioxide is released into the air every day – or 250 tonnes of cancer-causing gases per month.

I recommend that local health authorities visit the beach and smell the deadly gasoline and

exhaust fumes and then make the decision to either ban the jet-skis or to put a sign up on the beach: "Warning – Air On The Beach Is Carcinogenic".

Most tourists go to Patong to relax and enjoy fresh air, not to ride jet-skis. Protect the environment and stop global warming by either banning jet-skis or by allowing only four-stroke jet-skis, which do not do so much destruction to the atmosphere.

Mr Weber
Ingolstadt, Germany

Beach road parking for tuk tuks

As I recall, some months ago it was written in the *Phuket Gazette* that with the start of the new high season in November this year, the tuk tuks will be permitted to stop their vehicles on beach road only to pick up passengers but not to park their hundreds of vehicles there anymore.

Is that still the rule to come? By the way, it would be appreciated much from my side and maybe also by others who live here or just enjoy holidays here. Tuk tuks should be available to serve the public, but not to rule the public...

More, tuk tuk fares should be fair and fixed, which also could show higher evening and night fares – as is done in Singapore – but it should be transparent to all.

Peter Keemss
Patong

A stray holiday away from home

Hi, I recently visited Thailand for the first time. Everywhere I went from Phuket to Patong to Phi Phi to Khao Lak, I saw starving,

malnourished and sometimes pregnant stray cats and dogs. This saddened me a great deal and not one day passed that I didn't see a defenseless hungry cat or dog.

The locals seem to ignore them. This is distressing and it ruined my holiday. It is also a bad reflection of the Thai people and the country.

Sterilization and euthanasia are two very important steps to reducing this problem. What is being done to address this huge problem in Thailand? It should be treated with great importance.

Daniela Brown
Melbourne

Helipads Hellastupid

I read with some alarm about the Navy's plan to build helipads on outlying islands in order to make it easier to medivac sick or injured tourists to the mainland for treatment [see 'Navy plans for medivac helipads', *Gazette* issue of September 13].

Apart from the obvious environmental impact of covering national park land with impervious materials, this will also create an eyesore.

As anyone who has ever stood near a helipad when a chopper is coming down knows, the sound is deafening. What will the reaction be on local wildlife?

Also, once the pads are there how can we know they won't be used by the Navy for training or recreational purposes, thus scaring off tourists?

If the Navy is really worried about tourist safety I think they should help out the Marine Police and other agencies to ensure that ferries and tour boats are operating safely.

Well Grounded
Phuket City

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

AIRPORT SIEGE FALLOUT

Restoring tourists' trust is key

Government departments, provincial authorities and agencies in the private sector have made a concerted effort to bring things back to normal since the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protests forced the closure of Phuket Airport.

Altogether 180 flights to and from Phuket were canceled, and 30,000 tourists were unable to travel during the three days that the airport was closed. The Phuket PAD leaders agreed to move their protests to outside Provincial Hall after we held negotiations with them.

I also had to negotiate with those people who lost income because of the protests, such as taxi and limousine operators. They were becoming increasingly angry with how the protests were affecting them financially, which could have resulted in clashes between the two groups if the protests went on any longer.

Eventually the protesters realized that they were creating problems for virtually everyone on the island as tourism is the lifeblood for most of the businesses here.

Restoring confidence. Things seem to be back to normal again, but we now have to make an effort to put right some of the negative media coverage that appeared in other countries.

There are many people and organizations that we need to communicate with so that they can reassure the public in their respective countries that it is safe to travel to Phuket, especially with those countries that issued warnings to the public advising people not to travel to Thailand.

Reports by the BBC and CNN gave somewhat sensational accounts of the protests, which made many people wary of traveling here, so we need the help of the media to send out a more positive message and show the world that the situation isn't as bad as it was initially reported.

In the last few days, I have

The Governor's Letter

This week, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit talks about the impact of the airport closure due to the PAD anti-government protests and his confidence that the island's tourism will soon be back to normal in the run-up to the high season. He also reiterates the need for the central government to understand the long-term benefits of investing in some of the mega projects proposed for the island.



spoken with ambassadors from the UK, America, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden, all of whom wanted to assess the situation for themselves.

They were reassured that tourists from their countries would be safe if they came to Phuket.

The Minister of Tourism and Sports Weerasak Kowsurat held a press conference on this subject in Phuket on September 10. He also spoke to a number of ambassadors and tourism industry representatives, assuring them that every effort is being made to create international awareness that Phuket remains as a safe destination.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will have to quickly embark on more international roadshows as they did after the 2004 tsunami, although the situation is certainly not as drastic as it was then.

The TAT and the Thai Hotel Association have already begun to discuss and put into action ways of encouraging tourists to return in time for the high season.

The upcoming vegetarian festival should see many tourists coming to Phuket, so that will help increase confidence among them, which will be passed on by word of mouth.

With all these efforts being made, I really don't think it will take long to restore confidence in tourists. I am confident that we are on track for a fairly normal high season in terms of tourist numbers.

Of course, it's normal for people who have never been here to be frightened when they hear that airports have been closed, but there has already been an increase in flights to and from Bangkok as the high season approaches, so some confidence has obviously already been restored.

Big project roundup. Having looked into the possibility of developing Koh Aew and Koh Tanan into a "Monkey Island", the land in question is actually designated as crown property, which makes things much more complicated than if it were private land, so no one should be jumping to conclusions about whether Monkey Island will become a reality any time soon.

A lot more research will have to be conducted before anyone could say whether Monkey

Island is a possibility, including public opinion surveys and investigations by provincial authorities into the impact of such a project.

Regarding the development of an international conference center on the island, this is something we should definitely pursue with a sense of urgency. Without

Ambassadors from the UK, America, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden were reassured that tourists from their countries would be safe if they came to Phuket.

international conference and exhibition facilities on the island, we are missing out on huge opportunity to host international events.

The 150-rai plot of public land recently approved in Mai Khao is the most suitable site. Boats will be able

to enter the bay and it's a very beautiful site with a beach that stretches 800 meters.

The government is prepared to help finance the project to a ceiling of 1 billion (1,000 million) baht, but estimates put the cost of developing a conference and exhibition center at twice that, so we will welcome private investment as well.

A rail link to Phuket is also part of the economic plan to develop the southern region, but the government just doesn't have the funding at the moment, so that is another project that will probably require private investment if it is ever going to happen.

It's a matter of individual perspectives, but imagine if Phuket had a rail link like France's TGV. It would make Phuket so much more accessible and would bring in many more tourists as people could leave

Bangkok and be in Phuket within just two hours.

Whenever large developments such as the rail link are proposed, there are always interest groups who rally against them because they worry about their potential loss of income or immediate impact on the environment.

However, it's important to implement projects that make travel options available to visitors and will benefit the general public in the long run.

The land bridge proposed to link Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Phuket is another infrastructure project that has come up against opposition from interest groups who worry about the impact of the construction work that would take place building it.

Another project that has been delayed over and over again is the proposal to set up a duty-free zone, which has attracted interest from Japanese and Korean investors. I proposed those ideas during the Thaksin administration, but the changes in government have stalled those plans.

Investors from Dubai have said they would invest in an economic trade zone, which would result in much broader benefits to the region than a duty-free zone. Among other things, Phuket could become an international IT hub if this were to happen, but what we really need to make these projects viable is sufficient infrastructure.

The central government must become more involved in these ideas and set realistic budgets for them to be achieved.

As it is at the moment, the central government sets a yearly budget for Phuket of between 100 and 200 million baht, which simply isn't enough to keep up with the pace at which Phuket is developing.

It must be made clear that Phuket warrants status as a special economic zone, similar to those in China and Dubai.

If these kinds of projects ever get the go ahead, then the area's economy will grow and the central government will ultimately reap the economic benefits. There is no shortage of investors ready and waiting for such opportunities.

For example, Korean conglomerate Lotte is ready to invest in developing Phuket Bay from Saphan Hin to Rassada Harbor. We have to take these opportunities because if we wait for government funding then we'll be waiting too long.

Niran Kalayanamit,
Governor of Phuket

— Compiled by Nick Davies

Visas for dependents of retirees

My wife has at present a Non-Immigrant-B visa. I hold a retirement visa. Can my wife change her visa to be dependent based on my retirement visa here in Phuket? Can our daughter also stay as dependent on my retirement visa?

Gisbert
Phuket

Pol Capt Napat Noosen of Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) replies:

New changes have been made to the rules regarding retirees. Spouses of people staying in Thailand on retirement visas can now be issued a permit-to-stay

following approval of the retirement visa.

The spouse can be any age and siblings are also granted visas to stay providing that they are under 20 years old.

Issues & ANSWERS

Send your questions at
[www.phuketgazette.net/
issuesanswers/
submitissue.asp](http://www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/submitissue.asp)

Last month, Looking Back mentioned that Capt Francis Light had the ambition to acquire Phuket for the British East India Company to use as a trading base. Although he came close to realizing his plan, a change in the tide of history foiled his attempts and forced him to leave the island for good. Phuket has since remained undisputed Siamese territory.

To understand how Capt Light could so easily have laid claims to one of the largest islands on the west coast of Siam, it is important to know a little about what was happening in the rest of Siam during that time.

At the height of its power, Ayudhaya, the former capital of Siam, had absolute power in the region. Its rulers subjugated dominions stretching far north beyond Chiang Mai and far south into the many small kingdoms and sultanates of the Malay Peninsula.

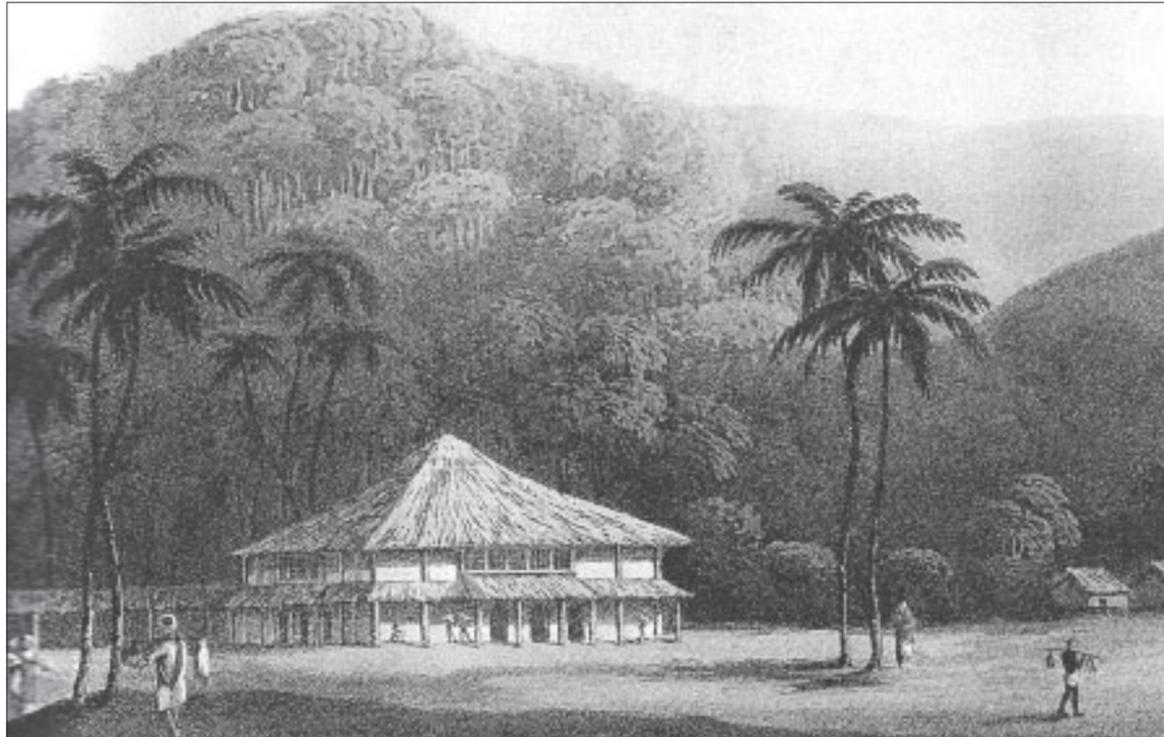
The many towns and cities that were under Ayudhaya's control were never fully independent, but many of their rulers were allowed to rule independently as long as they remained loyal to the King of Siam, who reigned from Ayudhaya.

By 1767, Ayudhaya was no longer the formidable power it once was. After several wars with the Burmese, whose kingdom had expanded unrelentingly into Siam's domain, Ayudhaya in April 1767 was attacked by invading Burmese forces. The city fell to the invaders and was sacked.

After the fall of Ayudhaya, the remaining vassals of the old capital that remained unconquered by the Burmese became completely independent. Most of the cities in the north that were previously under Siamese control fell to the Burmese, but the southern cities on the Malay Peninsula, most of them unaffected by the invasion, suddenly realized the opportunity to declare independence.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat declared its independence and expanded its hegemony over many smaller towns in its vicinity. The same move was followed by many other sultanates in the far south. The old Siamese kingdom shattered like a fallen mirror. Lands that previously belonged to Ayudhaya, which no other power had dared lay claim to, were now

Attempt to sell off Phuket foiled by fate



Capt Francis Light's house at Ban Tha Rua, near the present site of the Heroines' Monument in Thalang, was robbed, leaving Capt Light to blame the then-governor for providing poor security – a precursor to Capt Light leaving the island for good.

– Picture from *Thalang Letters*, edited by Prasit Chinakarn.

up for grabs to anyone who could muster any kind of army to take them over.

It was during this time that Capt Francis Light came to Thalang in 1772. Thalang, as Phuket was then called, had been under Ayudhaya's rule for centuries. Capt Light's memoirs written in 1787 mention that after Ayudhaya was sacked and the Siamese lost their freedom to the Burmese, Phuket was captured and came under the rule of Kedah, a sultanate that declared independence from Siam after Ayudhaya's fall.

Known to their Siamese conquerors as Tsai-Buri, the sultanate of Kedah took this opportunity to expand into the region and incorporated Phuket as their vassal.

According to Capt Light's memoirs, the Malay rulers of Kedah could not hold Phuket for long and in time the locals revolted against their harsh, but weak rulers. The Malays were expelled from the island thereafter.

A year after Ayudhaya was sacked, HM King Taksin was

able to rally men under his command and launched a counter attack against the Burmese. His attempts were successful and liberated Siam from the invaders.

HM King Taksin and was crowned King of Siam in his new capital city, Thon Buri in 1768. Soon after, Nakhon Sri Thammarat swore allegiance to the new dynasty in Thon Buri. Eight other large towns in the south followed this move, including Thalang. From then on, many Siamese governors successively ruled Thalang by appointment of the king, each lasting only short periods of time.

In his memoirs, Capt Light wrote that one of these governors, possibly Phraya Ard, was a greedy and untrustworthy opportunist. Seizing an opportunity when Siam was still being pieced back together, the governor sent him a letter offering to sell Thalang to his company.

Capt Light wrote that he did not reply to this letter, but the governor sent him a second letter suggesting that if the amount of money demanded was duly paid to him, Capt Light could have

Phuket.

The governor was ready to sell Phuket by contract or mutual understanding, whichever way the captain preferred. It was clear that Capt Light was interested. In his memoirs, Capt Light boldly stated that there is no other land more valuable than that of Thalang and it would be worth every penny to the British East India Company if they were to accept this deal.

LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

But before the deal could be closed, there was a peasant uprising in Thalang. The governor, who led his men to suppress the rebellion, was shot dead in battle. After him, Phraya Surintraja was appointed Governor of Thalang in 1776.

Even though the first attempt to sell the island was unsuccessful, Capt Light clung to his ambitions. In 1777, he wrote a letter to Lord Warren Hastings, the Governor-General of India, suggesting his case to make Phuket a base for the East India Company and asking for Lord Hastings' support in this plan.

By 1780, Light's relationship with the governor of Thalang

had soured and his trade on the island was not going as well as it had before. He quarreled with the governor often. In one incident, Light accused the governor of treating him unfairly in a trade deal he made in Thalang.

According to his memoirs, Light had sold 1,700 sacks of rice to the townspeople and was supposed to receive payments of tin within three months.

The governor, however, forbade the people of Thalang to pay Capt Light. To add insult to injuries, his house at Ban Tha Rua, which was located very close to the present site of the Heroines' Monument, was broken into and robbed.

For this, Capt Light blamed the governor for not maintaining security around his residences. Unhappy about the way he was being treated, Capt Light decided to leave Phuket in 1780, after living in Thalang for nearly a decade.

Capt Francis Light was most unhappy about what he believed was an attempt to force him off the Phuket. By now it seemed that negotiations alone would probably fail in securing the island for the British.

There is reason to believe that perhaps Capt Francis Light may have wanted to use force to take over the island, with military help from the East India Company.

Find out more in the next Looking Back article.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand may be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com


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PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On September 21 and 28, the PC group convenes at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle next to Wine Connection.

Then on October 5, it's back to the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, next to Andaman Beach Suites and BYD Lofts. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at www.woody.info

Quiet Man of the Mangroves

From Mexico to Hawaii to Southeast Asia, mangrove forests have always been part of my travels, but the first person to introduce them to me up close was Fred Hennings on Fiji's Taveuni Island.

The river was thick with vines blocking the midday sun, but we found a small channel and paddled under the canopy into a world like none I had seen before or since. The Vure Vure River empties from a lush valley, depositing its host of nutrients into the mangrove forests.

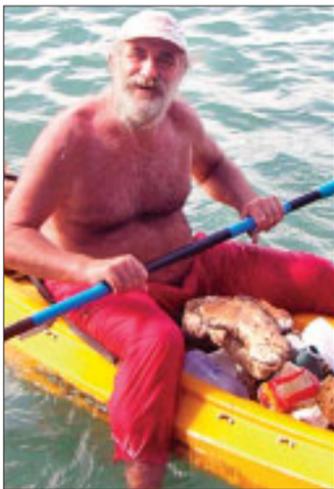
The rich and dense variety of the canopy darkened the swamp to a kind of midday dusk with just enough light to plot our course through trunks spaced just enough apart for our kayaks to pass through.

High-tide provided a one-foot clearance above the root mat, so we were careful to steer clear of *Brugeria*, spiked air-breathing roots and *Rhizophora* buttress roots, as they blended with the panoply of species around them.

It didn't take long to realize that penetrating the mangroves deep enough to make a difference could not be done without damaging this fragile environment, even in kayaks, so after a brief foray, we headed back to the main channel, which was never more than 10 meters wide. This magnificent experience was capped off by the sighting of a variety of exotic birds, including brightly colored lorikeets and parrots as well as Pacific Reef Egrets, similar to those seen in Thailand.

I'm writing this on Taveuni, having just returned from the mangroves, which remain much the

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

same as they were a decade ago. This fertile place still exudes life-energy. With the saltwaters of Vure Vure Bay just down the channel, it's easy to understand the concept of the Nursery of the Sea.

Thanks to several similarly well-preserved estuaries and its relatively low population, Taveuni is one of those rare places where fisheries remain in balance with the island's needs.

The lessons I learned following that day were overwhelming and remain central to my theme, but Fred was about more than just mangroves. He managed the Salialevu plantation, at the southwest end of the rugged and remote Ravilevu coastline.

Vure-Vure lies at the northeast end of the same coastline. Operating from both ends of this magical stretch of Earth, Fred quietly cultivated an awareness of its unique beauty, which, in turn, helped to keep the area preserved in its pristine natural state.

Birdlife International claims that "Taveuni is exceptional in hav-

ing retained a high proportion of forestation together with an intact ridge-to-reef ecosystem, something exceptionally rare in the Pacific." As Ravilevu was my second destination outside Hawaii, I felt especially proud of these comments and was grateful to the man who lived in the middle of the mangroves at both ends of this exceptional eco-system.

Access to Taveuni was formidable, with its 100-meter cliffs and waterfalls cascading directly into the sea. Past Lavena, the cliffs provided few landing sites with vertical access possible in just three spots along seven miles of surf breaking on rock beaches. This rugged geology had served as a great conservation ally.

Fred's style afforded him respect and influence. Taveuni's soft-spoken approach as an environmentalist was a natural proponent of enlightened human resources, which garnered him true island-wide respect as a gentle yet competent manager.

Fred served as the pro bono Chairman of Taveuni's Hospital Association and held volunteer leadership positions with, among others, the Tourism Promotion Board, the School Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

Somehow, Fred tied all these interests into the same adventure. All of Taveuni, including yours truly, have benefited enormously.

Most of Taveuni is accessed by a dirt road, but, despite this remote setting, all residents are truly bi-lingual. Fijian is spoken in the home, but everybody also speaks perfect English.

People living in grass shacks called *bure* were well up on current events and received excellent coverage of the Olympics. Fresh water was plentiful, and the bounty of the sea still existed, perhaps because there wasn't one Mercedes on the island.

About 65% of the island is deemed "Protected Area" and the Bouma Reserve - a community-based tourism initiative - offers four different experiences along one of the World's greenest coastlines.

Vaitabu Marine reserve provides excellent snorkeling on a pristine reef and the Vidawa rainforest hike takes visitors inland to the lush Vure Vure river valley.

The Bouma Falls, a low-impact waterfall hike, enjoys the greatest popularity. Lavena, launching point of my Ravilevu kayak trips, offers a coastal walk, packed with birds, beautiful vistas and a protected white sand



Fred Hennings (inset) is credited with preserving the mangrove forests of Taveuni (main photo) by keeping the logging companies off the island and developing the level of eco-responsibility among locals.

beach with an excellent river-and-waterfall hike. There is also a sea kayaking day trip to a triple-tiered waterfall. All the activities are low-cost and operated directly by local people.

The revenue that the locals derive from these activities isn't great. The Lavena Coastal walk, for example, costs only 200 baht. However, the seas are bountiful with fresh fish (there is not a fish farm on the island) and the river valley is lush with fresh fruits and vegetables. There are no beggars on Taveuni.

Westward from Lavena, the sea along the coastline gets pretty rough, with the only real landing area at Salialevu River, 25 kilometers from Lavena.

These unusually rugged conditions serve to keep Ravilevu well preserved. Beyond Salialevu, there is nothing until you reach the other side of the island, where a healthy yet almost invisible tourist industry offers everything from modest guesthouses to 30,000-baht-per-night bungalows.

On nearby Lauthala, Mr "Red Bull" just opened a seven-star US\$18,000-per-night resort with its own international airport that services private jets. Even so, guests are required to present personal "resumés" to screen out drug barons, corrupt dictators, low-life politicians and mafia dons.

Fred lived amongst a basic yet tight-knit society on a beautiful but often inaccessible island. A visionary and intellectual in a remote outpost, his gentle lead-

ership and far-reaching insight generated deep respect and influence. Island residents knew that when Fred spoke, he always did so with the welfare of others in mind.

The world today needs more people like Fred Hennings and perhaps nowhere more than in Phuket with its fast-moving boomtown mentality. Unfortunately, it seems Phuketians will never know the Fred Hennings style of understated leadership.

Fred died a week short of his 65th birthday in 2004, but his influence lives on. I have had the privilege of enjoying the company of many great folks, from Linus Pauling to legendary royalty. Fred Hennings with his low-key, quiet altruism and lasting vision is right in the mix.

Phuket is exploding. We need a dozen leaders like Fred, respected and practical intellectuals with soft-spoken influence based upon strong character and a true sense of altruism. It is too late for Phuket to prosper gracefully, but once we understand that people of all races and social status are part of the same family and that all our great issues from global warming to family planning, from education to realistic prosperity are intertwined, only then can we fully understand the bumpy boomtown ride on our self-created bucking bronco.

Despite pressure from Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Malaysian loggers, no tree has ever been cut down in Ravilevu, and never will. Curious exotic birds will continue fly up to investigate the reclusive big monkeys and the Vure Vure mangroves will never be destroyed by opportunistic businessmen.

Simple villagers have the awareness to protect their natural blessings, and do so with the same quite style as their teacher. Thank you, Fred.

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News in Phuket? Be the first to know!



ACYC RACE REPORT

By Leslie Hand

AO CHALONG: Gags, snags, rain and wind highlighted a thrilling day in Race 10 of the Image Asia Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) 2008 race series on September 14.

Good wind and rainy conditions kept the crews on the nine boats participating on their toes, or, more accurately, hanging from winches, sheets, side rails, the mast...

The biggest sailing snag of the day went to catamaran *SEA Property*. A high-flying feat saw her achieve 80 degrees off the vertical just after the start. With a thud, she came down to sail on her two hulls and went on to win her class – albeit as the only boat in her class that day.

In other antics, *Ooh La La* was the word as the pink boat was spotted flying her spinnaker back to front.

The day also marked a welcome return for Tony Knight from his “near death experience” in Sydney, where he received specialist medical attention for a rare lung disorder.

Prizes donated by Day Sponsor ACYC were among the most original seen at the club. Smiles of delight widened the faces of top-place finishers rewarded with fine bottles of wine

and even more bottles of Heineken, while quizzical looks and narrowed brows graced the faces of lower-place finishers for their lavish consolation prizes of Essence of Chicken, condoms, blue pills of “performance-enhancing” medication, socks and pairs of men’s underwear.

The ImageAsia Encouragement Award went to Latitude 8’s Damien Kimball, who came down from Bangkok and pitched up on *Iruvia*, steering with his head barely above the wheel. This reportedly had nothing to do with *Iruvia*’s convincing last place in Cruising Class.

Race 10 results:

Racing: 1) *Katsu* (Ben Copely), 2) *Minx* (Mick Kealy)

Cruising: 1) *Nerida* (Roger Diggelmann), 2) *Four Winds* (John Fenn) 3) *Eos* (Harry Usher)

Multihulls: 1) *SEA Property* (Peter Dyer)

Full results for the day, the progressive series results and the performance handicap can be viewed at the ACYC website: www.acyc.asiaaustralia.tech.com

Race 11 of the Image Asia ACYC 2008 race series will be on September 21. All are welcome to join. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074.

Patong to stage first Surf Lifesaving Carnival

PATONG: Surf lifesaving is growing in popularity on the island and Phuket lifeguards are ready to take the plunge and host the island’s first Surf Lifesaving Carnival at Patong Beach on October 11.

“The inaugural carnival is to promote water safety and surf awareness in a fun environment to appeal to the local community to embrace lifesaving as a sport,” said event organizer Jayne MacDougall.

“We further hope to strengthen partnerships and relations with individuals and clubs in other countries as well as build our own skills and resources in the process,” she added.

The carnival will include a variety of individual and team activities and events, including:

1. Surf race (individual event)
2. Surf teams (team event - 4)
3. Beach sprint (individual event)
4. Beach relay (team event - 4)
5. Board race (individual event)
6. Board relay (team event - 4)
7. Tube race (individual event)
8. Board rescue (team event - 2)
9. Cameron relay (team event - 4: swim/run/board/run)
10. Ironman (individual - swim/



Phuket’s ‘nippers’ will have a chance to compete in the island’s first surf lifesaving competition.

- board/run)
11. Taplin (ironman team - 3 or 6: swim x 2/board x 2/run x 2)
12. Beach flags (team event - 4)
13. Phuket rescue relay (run/swim/tube/board/carry - 3)

Entrants can compete in the following age categories: Under-18, Open (18-30), Masters over 30, Masters over 40, Masters over 50.

There will also be a Thai National award per event.

Prize medals will be given in all categories that have sufficient participants to start.

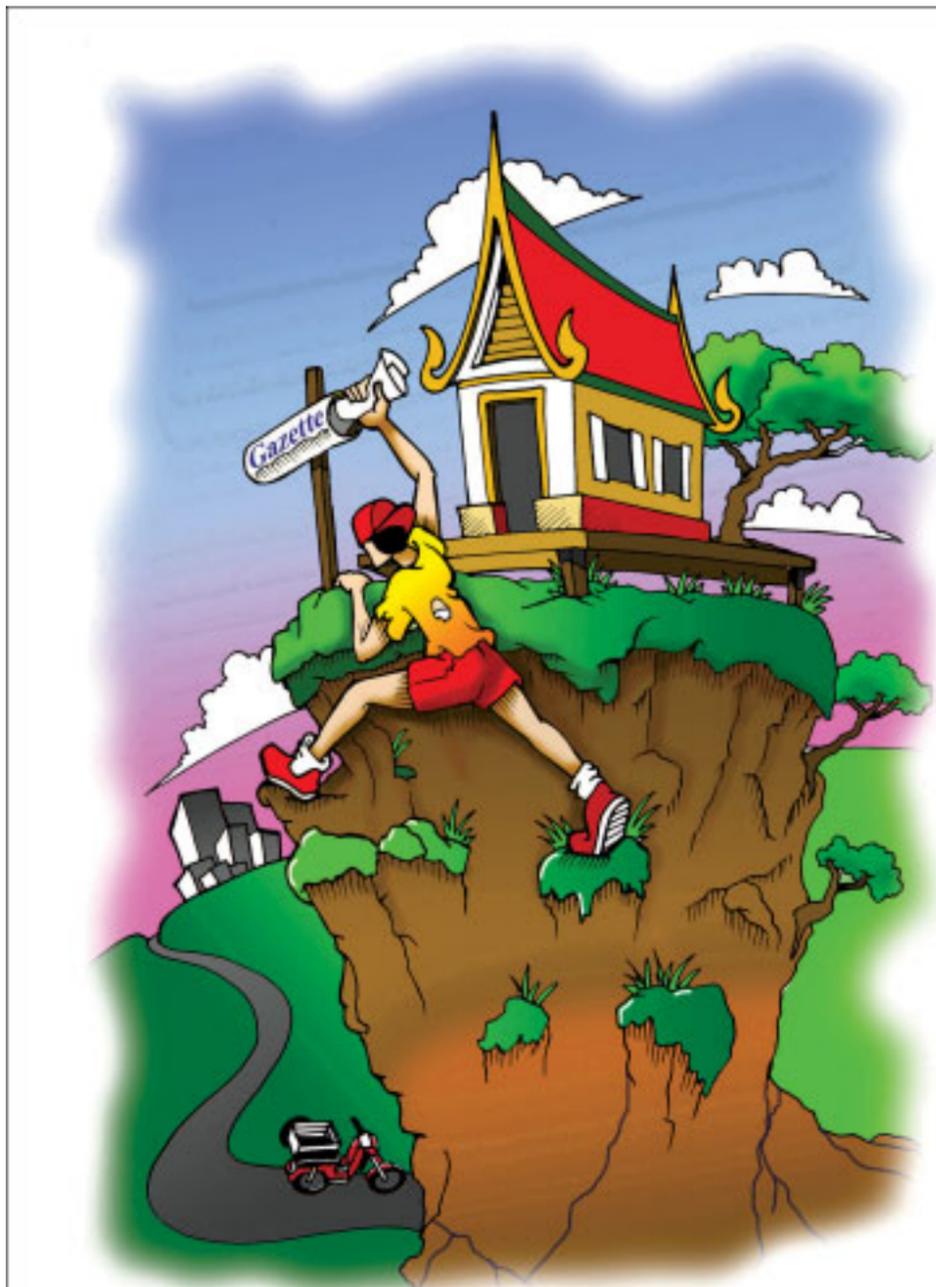
The event, which is being organized by the Phuket Life-

guard Club on behalf of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), is open to both Thai and international participants.

Both local residents and visitors are encouraged to take part..

To find out more about Phuket Lifeguard Club visit: www.phuketlifeguard.com

For more information or to enter any of the events contact Vitanya Chuayuan (Tel: 081-7974775 (Thai); Email: thailifeguard@gmail.com) or Jayne MacDougall (Tel: 089-6452576 (English); Email: phuketsurflifesavingcarnival@rocketmail.com).



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Phuket Cricket Union tour players, including Richard Brown, Mark Whetton, Jason Phillips, Charlie Chelliah, Diwan Mydeen and Andrew Beeley, pose with players from Royal Selangor and Kelawar Cricket Clubs.

Phuket cricketers' hopes soaked in KL

KUALA LUMPUR: Despite some valiant efforts at the crease, the Phuket Cricket Union (PCU) tour squad suffered one loss and one match was abandoned after rain stopped play during their recent two-match tour to Kuala Lumpur.

With a diminished squad due to the protest that closed Phuket International Airport, stopping players from making their scheduled flights, PCU needed to "borrow" players from their opponents, Royal Selangor Club (RSC), to form a full team. In the true spirit of the sport, RSC were happy to oblige.

RSC captain Murali – to the PCU's delight, *not* the Sri Lankan international cricketer of the same name – won the toss and decided to bat. Murali also opened their batting and played a watchful knock of 35 runs before being well bowled by Andrew Beeley with the score on 83 off 13 overs.

He was well supported by Haren, who scored 25 runs before he also departed in the next over, before the heavens opened and players scattered for shelter in the clubhouse.

Despite players' wishes, the downpours continued and the pitch was waterlogged after just half-an-hour's deluge, forcing both captains to abandon play.

PCU presented four caps to RSC captain Murali and man of the match Chris Speed, a talented 13-year-old from Kelawar, who delivered an impressive spell of medium-paced bowling, recording 0-23 off 5 overs.

In their next match the following day against Kelawar

Cricket Club (KCC), PCU were invited to bat first.

PCU opener Jason Phillips, still suffering from an upset stomach, piled on the runs, scoring a quick-fire 17, despite being dropped twice.

Fellow opening batsman Ben Webb, on loan from KCC, scored 25 runs.

Once these two were dismissed, Dill (20 runs) took up the reins with teammates chipping in at the other end, although Mark Whetton failed to produce the runs he had promised us the night before.

But it was George, also on loan from KCC, who upped the run rate at the end of the innings, smashing 31 not out and taking the PCU tally to 148 runs for 9 wickets off 25 overs.

Chris Speed, this time playing for KCC, showed great potential as an opening bowler, finishing his spell with 3 wickets for

23 runs off 5 overs.

Diwan Mydeen opened the bowling attack for PCU from the pavilion end, showing much better control than the previous day, when his first ball went skyward without reaching the batsman, instigating a shout from the slips that he should have pulled the pin out.

Continuing the bowling attack at the other of the pitch was George, who didn't disappoint by firing in a hostile spell of 5 overs taking 2 wickets for 25 runs.

However, KCC maintained the run rate throughout their innings, despite some excellent leg spin from Dill and PCU captain Richard Brown picking up a couple of wickets towards the end.

With KCC needing 11 runs off the last two overs, PCU's Graham spilled a catch at mid-off, leaving KCC to win with an over to spare.

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PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Queen Mary and Offshore both had strong performances during Piccadilly's bye week to surge past them into first and second places, respectively, while Simply Red and Hilltop both won their games in strong efforts stay out of out of last place.

Queen Mary's Billy won the high score with a 140 in his team's on-the-road, 10-point whitewashing of Celtic, who are just three points above Simply Rd at the bottom of the league table.

Shakers eked out a 5-4 win over Market Bar, led by Shaun, who checked out both his singles and doubles matches. Three Market Bar players – Geordie, Geoff and Mick – shared the high-score honors with 140s.

Send match notes to darts@phuketgazette.net

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

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (102 points); 2. Offshore* (98); 3. Piccadilly* (95); 4. Market Bar* (89); 5. Shakers (74); 6. Sick Buffalo* (73); 7. Beach House (67); 8. Amigos* (56); 9. Celtic (50); 10. Hilltop (49); 11. Simply Red (47) (* = have already had a bye week).

September 23 match-ups: Sick Buffalo v Queen Mary; Amigos v Piccadilly; Shakers v Offshore; Market Bar v Celtic; Simply Red v Beach House; Hilltop = bye week (home teams first).

PATONG POOL LEAGUE

League standings as of Week 18

	Team	Pld	Won	Lost	Beer	Pts
1	Offshore Bar	18	14	4	32	134
2	Anchor Bar	18	12	6	18	116
3	Black Dragon	18	11	7	20	110
4	Frog Club	18	9	9	24	109
5	Montes	18	10	8	16	103
6	Shakers	17	10	7	24	100
7	Thunder Bar	18	7	11	16	97
8	Skylight II	17	9	8	12	83
9	Kata Spa Club	18	5	13	12	80
10	No Name Bar	18	2	16	4	47

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

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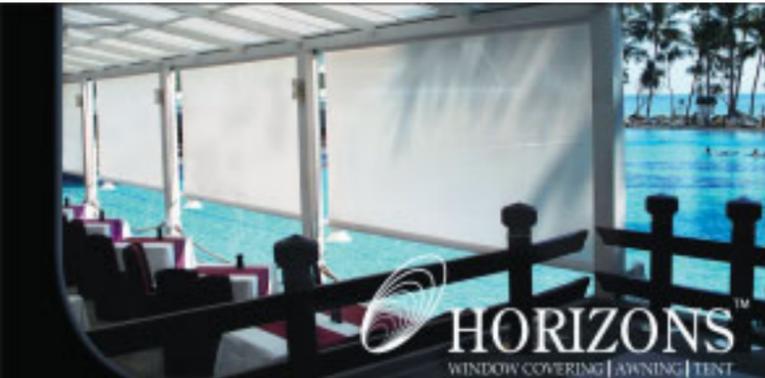
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Decor

by Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Beachcombers craft timeless treasures from the tides

The sea has many treasures. Some rest fathoms below the surface, to where they sank hidden on storm-struck ships that never made it to their destination with their precious cargo. Others float to shore, where classic guitarist and all-round artist Suparp Wongwassana transforms them into valuable artifacts with life anew.

At Woodcraft by Suparp, a craft shop at Rawai Art Gallery, the sea's treasures come in the form of driftwood and other flotsam that the waters have willingly handed over to be turned into objects d'art.

Most people have probably walked along a beach at some point and seen a log or piece of driftwood washed up on shore that can easily be imagined set in the corner of the living room as a mysterious piece of natural decor.

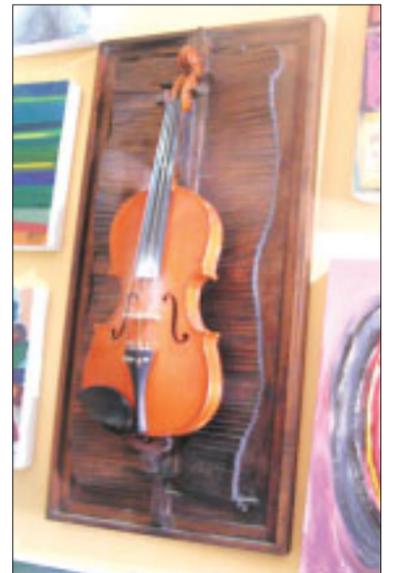
For Suparp and his brother Supot, the tides have always delivered to them things that spark their creative imaginations. The beach has long been their favorite hangout, where they collect pieces of driftwood left behind by the receding tides.

"When we were kids, we just collected small pieces that we could easily carry, but as we got older, the pieces we brought back from the beach became larger and larger," said Suparp.

The creative duo often paint the things they find, including rocks found in a canal near their home in Trang.

Suparp moved to Phuket two years ago and has been scouring the beaches most days since then for things to paint, decorate and craft items to sell in his shop.

"At Nai Harn Beach, I often find pieces of coconut shell and other kinds of floating wood that have been washed ashore by the last high tide, but at Rawai Beach I find all sorts of



Pebbles into pictures, driftwood into decor. Artists Suparp and his brother Supot let nature do the talking when considering how to paint the objects they find along the beaches of Rawai and Nai Harn.

things floating clumped up together," he said.

Suparp's artistic style is often humorous. Using acrylic colors, he paints funny faces on pebbles that are put in frames as well as fantasy characters and paintings of people with big smiles.

He also paints animals with human-like expressions. Whatever they are, the pieces usually highlight the things we associate with happiness.

Being artists who believe in freedom of expression, the brothers often create pieces with no particular idea of how they should be displayed.

"That's up to whoever buys a piece and where they want to put it. They might want to place it on a table or around the sink in

the bathroom. Then again, it could be placed in the garden or in a small flower pot. However the pieces are used, they make unique souvenirs," said Suparp.

"Every pebble is different and treated as an individual piece. Not every piece has to be turned into a face.

When I find a nice stone, I take a long look at it first and let my imagination drift with the shape of it. Then I pick it up and start working on it," he added.

Suparp said that when it comes to making pieces of art from the driftwood they find, it his brother who thinks of the design and he who does the wood work.

Some of the pieces the brothers have managed to haul back to the studio from the

beaches, such as tree trunks and large branches, are big enough to be turned into chairs and tables.

"If we find wood that was used to make a boat, it is usually very strong and would usually be worth quite a bit on its own, so the quality of the wood is a factor in deciding the price of each item," Suparp said.

They also experiment with different types of wood for their varying colors.

He uses them together in layers to create colorful works of art mixing the likes of dark brown jackfruit wood and the light yellows of santol wood and other woody shades.

"This kind of wood inlay technique for creating collages is not a popular style in Thailand, so I think it's safe for me to say that

I'm the only shop in Phuket displaying this kind of artwork," said Suparp.

Suparp and Supot's painted rocks in frames cost between 600 and 800 baht each and they sell the small pieces of wood with seascapes and comical expressions painted on them for between 200 and 500 baht each.

Handmade photo album boxes cost between 1,000 and 1,500 baht. Customers can also have products made to order.

Rawai Art Gallery is at 28/41 Moo 1, Saiyuan, Rawai, next to the BZENTER center. From Chalong, turn right onto Saiyuan Rd and left again at Mimmi's restaurant, and the gallery is on the left.

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Home of the Week

Kathu

Living life the fairway

If you're the kind of person who has the time and money to spend on 18 holes and you're an avid golfer, you'll love the idea of living within a birdy-stroke of a golf course, and can probably afford this modern three-bedroom house with a private 10-meter by 4-meter swimming pool.

But even if you're not a golfer, the views over the fairways of Loch Palm golf course in Kathu and the tranquility of the upper-end neighborhood are still attractive additions to your lifestyle, especially if you like manicured greens dotted with palm trees and ponds.

The modern two-story home is four years old and is on a 500-square-meter plot in a residential area close to the golf course but apparently far enough away from stray golf balls.

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Downstairs is an expansive and airy open-plan living space. The combination of wooden floors and smooth white walls with matching cabinets give this home



Both floors of this modern home offer impressive views over the fairways of Loch Palm golf course.

an injection of class.

With a low wall at the front of the property, the living area has an expansive view of neatly trimmed grass and palm trees. Sliding doors open onto a patio and

swimming pool at the front. The upper floor has a broad terrace with metal banisters framing glass panels so as not to obstruct the view over the golf course from inside the bedroom. The upper-

floor terrace also provides shade for those lounging around by the pool below.

The home has been decorated with quality fixtures and fittings, making it ready to move in.

The fitted kitchen is naturally lit with a window in front of the sink looking into the garden and has an L-shaped black marble counter top. There's plenty of storage space in the white cupboards under the counter and fixed to the walls.

Kitchen appliances include a stovetop, grill, oven, microwave and a collection of dishware and cutlery. There is also a separate laundry room equipped with a washing machine.

All three of the bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and balconies that offer views over the golf course. The bedrooms also have wooden floors and are fitted with walk-in wardrobes.

Utilities available include electricity, Internet connection, satellite TV access, a water heater and well water.

The house is available leasehold.

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Construction Update

by Nick Davies

A new low-rise to appear on the Rawai horizon

Set to begin construction in January, Tropical Condo is an eight-story residential development to be built near the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa in Rawai. The project is scheduled for completion before the end of 2011.

Developers and architects Prom 4 Life have drawn on their experience in developing residential projects in the Canary Islands to design the low-rise development, which is aimed at buyers who want their own piece of luxurious tropical living.

The condominium units will be in a C-shape curved around a central 800-square-meter tropical garden with a 24m saltwater swimming pool, a children's pool and a play area surrounded by sun decks and greenery to create an artificial "beach area".

The plans include a total of 59 two-bedroom units comprising nine room types to cater to a range of lifestyles and budgets. The condo units range in size from 75sqm to 147sqm.

The cheapest units have been earmarked at just over 2.9 million baht with the more exclusive units on the top floor priced between 10 and 11 million baht.

Each bedroom will have an en-suite bathroom and Theca wood (contemporary lacquered wood) floors throughout.

Fitted European-style kitchens will feature in each unit. Underground parking will be available for residents. Four units have already been bought off-plan.

On each level of the main building will be a central corridor separating the units overlooking the central gardens from those facing outward.

Outer corner units will have wrap-around terraces, while inner-corner units will have curved balconies with private Jacuzzis and space for sun loungers.

Some will have independent terraces extending from the living rooms and bedrooms; while larger units on the ground floor and sixth floor will have walled gardens with private Jacuzzis, as will the penthouse units on the top floor.

Inner-corner units on each floor will have private outdoor Jacuzzis. Residents living in units on the outer row will have views over the Evason resort's 8,000sqm gardens and residents on the fifth and sixth floors will have views of the sea.

"Our aim for Tropical Condo is to create spacious, high-quality contemporary residential



The beach will be only a footstep away for residents of this eight-story condominium in Rawai. Construction of the C-shaped Tropical Condo is set to begin in 2009. Plans include 59 residential units surrounding an artificial beach.

units that are suitable for a range of living arrangements, from couples to families and retirees," said Andres Pira, the project's managing director.

"Tropical Condo is so named because it has been designed to make the most of Phuket's tropical climate with extensive outdoor areas.

For example, with the

ground-floor units, more than half of the units' total area is garden, while all of the upper-floor units have full-length balconies," added Mr Pira.

There will be eight penthouses of various sizes on the sixth floor, each with a roof garden and private outdoor Jacuzzi. Penthouse unit areas will comprise: a single 65sqm unit, a

70sqm unit, an 80sqm unit, three 90sqm units, a 100sqm unit, plus a 130sqm corner unit.

There will be a third communal swimming pool on the rooftop, as well as a fitness center, showers and a garden.

Penthouse residents will have private lift access and enjoy views of the sea.

"Construction will take 1.8

years altogether," Mr Pira said. "It is in a very good location and the range of unit sizes and prices will attract a wide range of buyers, from young to old couples to families.

"The units are available freehold. Some residents will live here all-year round and others may buy a unit as a holiday home," he added.

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Gardening

By Bloomin' Bert

My father didn't really approve of what I listened to and watched. In the distant days of my youth, my dad would drone on about modern music having no tune and complain incessantly about the "rubbish" I was watching on television.

In his day of course, they had "proper" entertainment. Music that sounded as if it had been made by proper musicians (played in dance halls and the like), and proper films with proper actors, shown in cinemas.

I, of course, disagreed vehemently. Modern music was fantastic and would inevitably last forever as it was just so much better than that horrible forties stuff. Also, we had these things called televisions in our living rooms, and actually rather enjoyed the programs they showed.

What was wrong with *Batman*, anyway? So what if it was just a dodgy bloke in tights living alone with a young boy who wore his underwear on the outside? Those "Bam!", "Kapow!" and "Wham!" things that appeared during those daft fight scenes made absolute sense. And *Thunderbirds* never looked like ridiculous puppets, of course. We loved them.

Then there was *Rainbow*, which was so bad it was brilliant. Why did Bungle put pajamas on to go to bed but not wear anything in the daytime, by the way? I can only conclude that the producers felt that walking around stark naked all day was perfectly acceptable on children's TV in the 1970s.

I would say that I did feel very sorry for Geoffrey's kids (if he had any). Having a parent who made a complete prat of himself every day on national television must have been a total nightmare for them when facing their friends at school.

Comedy programs abounded, but one stood out in particular. Is there anyone in the western world who doesn't like *Fawlty Towers*? For the uninitiated, this is a British sitcom from

Holy plant, batman!

The Swiss cheese plant reaches for dark places and is, at times, just a little bit dangerous – just like a good TV show.



the seventies, which is probably one of the most hilarious, brilliant things ever to appear on television. And they made only 12 episodes in total.

I don't suppose mentioning Manual saying "Is not rat! Is filigree Siberian hamster" will mean anything unless you've seen it. How about Basil doing the "funny walk" or shouting at an elderly lady with hearing difficulties who wouldn't turn on her hearing aid because it wore the batteries down:

"Well, might I ask what you expected to see out of a Torquay hotel bedroom window? Sydney Opera House, perhaps? The hanging gardens of Babylon?

Herds of wildebeest sweeping majestically..." In one episode, the parents of a particularly obnoxious child apologized to Basil by saying "He's highly-strung", to which Basil replied under his breath "He certainly should be".

Or his immortal "Don't mention the war. I mentioned it once, but I think I got away with it". Superb stuff.

I could ramble on about *Fawlty Towers* all day, but I may as well get to the inevitable overstretched tenuous link to something green, I suppose. I recall an episode where Basil was chatting to the Major; they were discussing the subject of women.

Basil remarked that "they

have minds like Swiss cheese". The Major responded with "What, you mean hard?" "No, full of holes", Basil replied.

Swiss cheese, surprisingly (or not), is the name of a plant that is abundant here in Phuket. It doesn't take a master's degree in botany to figure out where it got its name from. It's also known as the Mexican breadfruit, ceriman, or *monstera deliciosa* ("delicious monster", I believe). In Thai, it's a *pru-chaluk*.

Let's start with what it's not. One of this plant's alternative names is the split-leaved philodendron. Even though it looks similar to a philodendron it's actually a separate genus, so not a philodendron at all. I'm not sure that really helps much, though. The Swiss cheese plant has a thick stem that can potentially grow up to 20 meters tall, and large, leathery, glossy, heart-shaped leaves that can be anything between 25 and 90 centimeters long by 25 to 75cm wide.

On young plants the leaves start out smaller with no lobes or holes, but older plants produce lobed leaves with the characteristic holes. Those split edges and holes appear between the main lateral veins of the leaves.

The fruit that appears occasionally is up to 25cm long and 3 to 4cm in diameter, looking a bit like a green ear of corn lined with hexagonal scales.

When the plant first flowers, the fruit contains so much oxalic acid that it is poisonous, causing immediate and painful blistering and irritation, swelling, itching and loss of voice. This makes the "delicious monster" epithet somewhat bizarre. It takes a full year for the fruit to ripen, at which point it is safe to eat. Personally, I'd rather not.

This plant isn't a great fan of bright light. In fact, the young seedlings grow towards the darkest area they can find until they find a tree to latch onto, at which point they start to grow up towards the light, creeping up the tree.

There are 22 species in the genus, native to tropical rainforests from southern Mexico south to Panama, all of which are robust, strong-growing climbers, with thick sparingly branched stems. As the plant climbs, which it's eager to do, it puts out long pencil-thick aerial roots, many of which don't actually reach the ground. Even though these vertically-challenged roots may look a bit daft, don't cut them off, as they take in nutrients.

It's happiest in humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil. That compost stuff they make from coconut husks that you see in those white sacks outside every Phuket garden center is ideal.

Propagation is dead easy – either pinch a cutting from a neighbor (wear gloves, or those nasty oxalic acid crystals will get you) or air-layering works. That's the plastic-bag-of-soil-on-the-side-of-the-stem method, by the way.

If you decide to grow the Swiss cheese plant in a pot, the container needs adequate drainage holes as the plant requires a lot of water and feeding during the growing period. Before you put any soil in the pot, pile a few bits of broken pot above the drainage holes to let the water out a bit more freely.

Monstera deliciosa is a popular house plant in cooler parts of the world, typically in hotels, restaurants and offices, as well as in private homes. Even my mum has one of these things in her living room in the UK. All it needs is temperatures of 20°C to 30°C (not really a problem in Phuket), high humidity and a bit of shade. Flowering is rare when it's grown indoors, though.

I'm willing to bet that there were Swiss cheese plants in *Fawlty Towers*, not that Basil was a big fan of flowers. In one episode, he asked Polly, the waitress, what the smell was.

"Flowers", she replied. "I just got them from the garden."

"Well, what are you stinking the place up with those for? What's happened to the plastic ones?"

"Being ironed" was her caustic response.

Time for a visit to a certain DVD shop in Patong, I think...

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Property Gazette

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3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house on small development with 24hr security and swimming pool. Only 5 mins from Heroines' Monument. Fully furnished with solid teak furniture throughout and with all appliances, curtains and blinds. Full security and fly screens, 3 aircon, 5 ceiling fans. True TV/cable TV, phone, ADSL. Walk-in condition with great potential for extension and/or private pool. Now 3.8 million baht. Tel: 085-7823273.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

Condo in Rawai, 250 meters from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

BANGKOK/PRACHUAP PROPERTY

High-end condos, beach houses and commercial properties for sale. Tel: 081-9944492. Email: julian@phuketsail.com More details at www.phuketsail.com/property

LAND AT NATAI

near Khao Pilai Beach. 20 rai with Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach, road, electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Contact by phone. Tel: 081-5399269.

WOODLANDS HOUSE



Largest lot: 1,320sqm. Private corner villa, 5 bedrooms, 2 stories with open loft. 52sqm pool. Large sala & guest house. 10-minute walk to BIS. Rent to own option. 28.5 million baht ono. Tel: 089-6527818, 085-296868475.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE



2 minutes from international school. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-8953649.

PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-9442065, 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

in housing estate near Heroines' Monument. 2.3 million baht. Tel: 089-9732917. Email: brunuiuviv@hotmail.com

FOR URGENT SALE

126 sq wah in Bang Tao area, very close to Amanpuri Resort and Surin Beach. Price is 22 million baht. Contact Khun Nantana. Tel: 084-2611161.

KATA TOWNHOUSE

Urgent sale. 84sqm house. For sale by owner. Call or email for details. Tel: 081-4985915. Email: rajay001@hotmail.com

BRAND-NEW CONDO

Great location near Tesco and Big C. Pool, gym, fully furnished with washer, dryer, fridge, aircon and TV. 45sqm, corner unit with 2 balconies. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

SAKU: 1 RAI, 4 HOUSES 9 MILLION BAHT

Saku Garden Villa, Chanote title, 1 rai + 4 houses, 2km to airport and beach, fully furnished, 2 swimming pools. Price: 9 million baht. Call Sumon at Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

FREEHOLD NEW STUDIO

with pool in Patong, 45 sqm, 3.2 million baht. Tel: 089-7284005. Email: rooms.kanchana@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50 sq wah, garden. For sale at 4 million baht or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com. No agents.

INEXPENSIVE LAND

0.5 to 1-rai lots near Mission Hills. 10 mins to airport. 1.25 to 2.05 million baht. Tel: 086-9421930.

LAND IN 3 LOCATIONS

We have land in Ao Por, Laguna and Chalong. Very good locations. Tel: 083-1036578. Website: www.oriental-realestate.com

HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, maid's room, European standard, swimming pool, Jacuzzi. Big house near the beach. Price: 18.5 million baht. Tel: 083-1036578. Website: www.oriental-realestate.com

URGENT SALE KARON VILLA

Must sell my villa due to financial circumstances. Villas on same estate, similar standard. Selling for 13+ million baht. Offers over 11 million considered. Tel: 084-327-9642. Email: greggordon2006@yahoo.com.au

FREEHOLD PATONG 28 SQM

studio, fully renovated and furnished, brand-new. 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-9715664.

OCEANFRONT VILLA

Chalong direct beachfront, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, furnished. 35 million baht obo. Tel: 087-2095174.

CLUB LERSUANG CONDOS

for resale. Prices: 6.2, 7.5, 5.59, 5.5 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

Rawai house



3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms at Rawai Beach high-end building materials and furniture. Asking price: 220,000 Euro.

Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

- * 4 stories
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 - * Chanote title
 - * Electricity, water
 - * 2 minutes to the beach
- Asking price: 52 million baht.
Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

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

2-STORY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72 sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Call Khun Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahniesz@hotmail.com or okika_j@hotmail.com

KRABI LAND

10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

HOUSE NEAR BIS

2-story house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ample parking space and nice landscaping. Total area: 336sqm. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7247073. Email: jutima021@hotmail.com

KOH SAMUI SEAVIEW LAND

Hillside with sea view on Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm (2 rai). Chanote. Tel: 02-2771992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-961-0072. Email: pharawee@yahoo.com For details visit www.lovesamui.com

LAND IN PATTAYA

52 sq wah land in a nice village. Company and Chanote. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 085-159-0597.

KHAO LAK RIVERFRONT LAND

2 rai about 5km from central Khao Lak. 1.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2811945. Email: mike@ethailand.com

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Property Gazette

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

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

PATONG BUILDING

Bangla area, 300sqm. No agents. 16 million baht. Tel: 081-0787743. Website: www.shophousephuket.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

BEACHFRONT LAND

Beautiful breathtaking view on Koh Lanta, 20 minutes away from Trang and 45 minutes from Krabi Airport, road access, electricity, water, Chanote. 4.5 rai. Only 1 million baht/rai. Quick sale. Tel: 084-8419794, 087-8821959.

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

TOWNHOUSE IN THE PROJECT 'THE INDY'

At the entrance to BIS. Townhouse is at the corner and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land: 32 sq wah. Tel: 089-4729118.

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai, Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

LUXURY SEAVIEW CONDO, 120SQM

at Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Jacuzzi bathtub, fully furnished, pool, Jacuzzi + restaurant on roof. 7.2 million baht. Tel: 086-8147460. Email: nicthi77@hotmail.com

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherg Talay and Surin. 4.3 rai, 1 ngan, 85 sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@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.

KOH SAMUI SEAVIEW LAND

Hillside with sea view on Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm (2 rai). Chanote. Tel: 02-2771992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-961-0072. Email: pharawee@yahoo.com For details visit www.lovesamui.com

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Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build on, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180m of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

LAND IN KATHU

Fabulous elevated block opposite national park in Kathu. 1,360sqm. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Comes with architect's plans for house and building permit. 6.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

RAWAI APT, YANUI 2

84sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, pool, aircon, rental service. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 083-3964939. Email: smadih@hotmail.com

HACIENDA POOL

house. Cherg Talay, garden, 4 bedrooms, furnished, ready to move in. Only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Cherg Talay in gated community, brand-new, only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 bedroom, furnished, on 6th floor. Hill view. Only 5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 085-7839062.

2 HILLTOP VILLAS

+ apartment. Private residence, Loch Palm Golf. 65 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

NEW CONDOS IN PATONG



Best location, deluxe condos, fully furnished, ready to move in. Top Western quality. 2 rooms: living room with pantry kitchen, bedroom, big bath. 67sqm, pool, garden, car park, 24-hour security, TV, Internet, safety box. 3.6 million baht (70,000 euro). Lotus Residence. Please contact Peter for more information. Tel: 081-892 8526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com Website: www.phuket-besthomes.com

BEACH SHOPHOUSE

Kamala 5-bedroom perfect guesthouse. Great investment. 25 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

MUST SELL FAST

155-sqm, 3-bedroom house on 1.54 rai of land. Worth 4 million baht but will take 2.5 million or best offer over 2 million for quick sale. Tel: 084-8524257. Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.com

THALANG, PA KHLOK - CHEAP

Single house, 190sqm, with big fruit tree garden, 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 room without aircon, store-room, car port, 30-year-old fruit trees, more than 1 rai, Chanote title, surrounded by wall. 5 million baht ono. Call Kamonwan at 084-4454574.

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 17.5 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-279289, 086-2742308. Email: kamalaparadise@yahoo.com Website: www.kamalaparadise.com

NEW KATHU POOL VILLA



near Loch Palm for sale. 3 Bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Great mountain and Golf views. Land area: 200sqm. Indoor area: 140 sqm. Pool: 7mx3m. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.insurance@yahoo.co.th

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

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

RAWAI FLAT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, swimming pool, balcony, cable, ADSL. Tel: 081-6067410.

SURIN APARTMENTS

2 condos: 1 bedroom and 3 bedroom. 200m from Surin Beach. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com for pics.

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com/

SINGLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 60 sq wah. Fully furnished, located in front of Meaju Garden Place project. Airon in big bedroom. Rent: 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-6912526.

STYLISH HOUSE FOR RENT

Spacious 2-story gallery-house, 2 aircon bedrooms, partly furnished, cable TV, ADSL (TOT & TT&T). 2 terraces, walled garden, incl car park. Rent: 21,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-388639, 083-1062680. Email: hans.susemiehl@freenet.de

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for rent. 3-story villa, sea view, mountain view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suites, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. Private 8m x 3.5m pool. 2 car park spaces. Tel: 081-6779837, 089-646-4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE, SOI TAINA, KATA

for rent. 2 units, long-term rent for 5 years up. Contact Khun Charoon. Tel: 086-9538692.

PATONG TOWER FULL SEAVIEW

Luxurious and beautiful apartment, affordable rates, maximum of 4 persons. Tel: 089-6515186. Email: ptvacations@gmail.com Please visit our website at www.patong-tower.net

SUPER RENTAL OFFER

Discovery Garden, 2 bedrooms, houses with common pool, from 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-1956822.

35,000 BAHT PER MONTH



Rawai pool villa. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, ADSL, near the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

PATONG



For more information email a.pueng@gmail.com

RAWAI HOUSE



12,000 baht per month, fan, 1 bedroom, hot shower, car port, fenced, 29-inch TV, cable. Quiet area, safe. Call 087-2668728. Electricity included.

LAGUNA RENTALS

from 20,000 baht per month. Ready to move in. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-1956822.

RAWAI VILLA

3 bedrooms with pool. 30,000 baht per month, min 6 months. Tel: 087-8884895.

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reservation@twovillasholiday.com www.twovillasholiday.com

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.

10,000 BAHT PER MONTH



Rawai pool homestay, 1 bedrooms, ADSL, True TV, near the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

SHOP FOR LEASE

Prime Patong location, 20 meters from the beach. Small shop. Can use for snack bar, office, etc. Tel: 083-6469906. Email: tsabest@gmail.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 and 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-7288311.

PHUKET BEACH HOUSE

Wood bungalow on the beach for long or short-term rent. Email: david1@free-rentals.com Website: www.phuket-rentals.com/referral/?id=1

PATONG STUDIO 28 SQM

Airon, hot water, kitchen, fridge, TV, DVD. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-9715664.

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: 089-7242669 www.baanuanpana.com

VILLA, LOCATED IN RAWAI



in a pretty residence for September and October 2008. 40,000 baht per month, electricity not included, located in Rawai, 1122 Soi Suksan. 2 beautiful villas of 220sqm, 3 bedrooms, TV, DVD, aircon, bar, restaurant and swimming pool. Contact Lionel. Tel: 087-2678389. For further details, please see our website at www.christianes-blue.com

STUDIO APARTMENT KAMALA

Airon, True TV, near beach, pool, kitchen, private car park. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

LARGE 2-BED CONDO, PATONG VIEW

Our condo is currently available for the Xmas/New Year period and we are offering an early-bird special discount of 5% on any bookings made before Sept 30. We are located at the northern end of Patong, but are only a 5-minute walk to the beach, shops, restaurants and nightlife. Tel: +85-2-28136093, +85-2-61004034. Email: casajope@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

HOUSE WITH POOL

Chalong Sunpalm Village, cozy, quiet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, partly furnished. 28,000 baht per month. No agents. Tel: 081-7280140. Email: jahellner@yahoo.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Furnished, ADSL, cable TV, aircon. Near Heroines' monument. 18,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2778461. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE KARON VILLA

Must sell my villa due to financial circumstances. Villas on same estate, similar standard. Selling for 13+ million baht. Offers over 11 million considered. Tel: 084-3279642. Email: greg.gordon2006@yahoo.com.au

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

WANTED: 2-BEDROOM HOUSE
15,000 baht per month maximum. Young, quiet couple looking for a 2-bedroom house with garden, telephone and hot water in Kamala. Tel: 085-7240796. Email: danm_uk@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE WANTED IN CHALONG
For long-term rent. New, clean, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, separate kitchen, aircon, ADSL line, cable TV, quiet area (no construction, no dogs, chickens...). Pool would be a plus. Max 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2815795. Email: chaussecyril@yahoo.fr

HOUSE/APT NEEDED
Looking for a house/apartment in Kamala or nearby. Require 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, and reasonable price. Long-term rental, starting September. Tel: 087-0072366. Email: adriaanbaaij@hotmail.com

RENT TO OWN WANTED
I am looking for a property in Kata or anywhere not too remote. Need 2 bedrooms and at least a small garden. No deposit but can pay 200,000 baht per year for 10 years. Email: misterdawson@hotmail.com

GOLF-VIEW CONDOMINIUM
Kathu area only. Want to buy or rent long term. Email: together@myway.com

Property Services

WWW.MAPHRAO.COM
Dream sea view, east of the island, approximately 400sqm from 1,990 baht per sqm, 796,000 baht for 30-year lease, longer lease available. 12 houses have been built so far. We speak German and English. Tel: 081-8918930, 087-0608400.

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Tailor-made solution. Request by Tel: 089-1956822 or Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

450 HOUSES
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LOOKING FOR A HOUSE?
We have good land and houses for sale or rent. Tel: 083-103-6578. Website: www.oriental-realestate.com

VILLA MANAGEMENT
by self-employed person. I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including housekeeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Tel: 087-1006111. Email: luckypam@gmail.com

Accommodation Available

PATONG TOWER FULL SEAVIEW
Luxurious and beautiful apartment, affordable rates, maximum of 4 persons. Tel: 089-6515186. Please visit our website at <http://www.patong-tower.net>

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MARINA VIEWS
1-bedroom apartment, fully furnished to a high standard, True TV, serviced, ensuite bath and use of gym & pool. Overlooking Yacht Haven Marina and channel at the beautiful northeast end of Phuket. Tel: 076-206704, Fax: 076-206706. Email: info@yacht-haven-phuket.com

URGENT SALE KARON VILLA
Must sell my villa in Karon due to financial circumstances. Villas on same estate, similar standard. Selling for 13+ million baht. Offers over 11 million considered. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 084-3279642. Email: greggordon2006yahoo.com.au

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RAWAI STUDIO
Private, clean, 600 meters from the beach. Kitchenette, aircon, cable TV, Internet. 5,000 baht a month. Email: mauigreg@hotmail.com

PATONG APARTMENT
2 bedrooms, furnished, view. 25,000 baht. Contact at Tel: 081-0787743. www.shophousephuket.com

3 BEDROOMS, KAMALA. 220SQM
Big house in Kamala available until December. Rent 50,000 baht per month or 15,000 baht per week. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 200m to beach. Tel: 083-5921524. Email: pierre.hammar@yahoo.se For details, please see our website at: www.husi-phuket.se/indexeng.html

BACKPACKER BEHIND JUNGCEYLON
Sea Blue Guesthouse, 74/11 Soi Banzaan (behind Jungceylon), offers shared aircon rooms, private rooms from 450 baht, dorm beds at 200 baht per day, 1,200 baht a week, or just 4,000 baht per month. Hot shower, TV lounge and Wi-Fi. Tel: 076-344405, 087-1731773. See www.seabluephuket.com

BEST DEAL IN PHUKET
Sept/Oct hotel rooms, with aircon, ceiling fan, cable TV, fridge, shower/WC, restaurant, bar, pool. Daily rate: 499 baht. Monthly: 8,000 baht. Call Anny for more details at 087-2825086.

HOUSE WITH POOL NEAR BIS
Yearly rentals at 75,000 baht per month. 3 bedrooms, unfurnished. Please contact for more details at Tel: 081-8779292. Fax: 076-239838. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW IN KARON
500 baht per night, aircon, fully furnished, Wi-Fi, cable TV. Call Kip. Tel: 081-1965212.

Accommodation Wanted

WANTED
1- or 2-bedroom apartment from January to March 2009. Quiet, clean place in green area, aircon and ADSL (preferably TT&T) wanted. Budget about 15,000 baht. Email: info@lucca.at

ACCOMMODATION
Wanted: two 1-bedroom apartments, 8,000-12,000 baht per month. Please contact for more additional details at Tel: 089-594 6456.

HOLIDAY RENTAL
Looking for a holiday rental for one month starting middle or end January. Quiet place and pool access required. Email: chrisempuria@hotmail.fr

APT W/ KITCHEN
Looking for 2-bedroom apartment, fully equipped with furniture and kitchen equipment. Wanted from December 1 until mid-February. Please email with photo and monthly rental. Email: mrbeenieman@hotmail.com

CHEAP ROOM NEEDED
Cheap room in Patong needed by English teacher. Long term, must have pool and TV. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-7469878. Email: stewart2001@yahoo.com

HOME WANTED
English couple looking for fully-furnished property rental in Kata/Karon area for minimum 6 months from October 2008. Looking for 1 or 2 bedrooms with full kitchen. Email: piejool@yahoo.co.uk

Building Products & Services

QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES
Renovations, construction, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, real wood, parquet, gardening, painting, tiling.
Contact K. Pueng for additional information at Tel: 087-2709093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-6899679 (English/Thai). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

Household Items

WANTED: FURNITURE
Real wood only. Basic household. 2nd hand.
1. King-sized bed frame. Base only would be ideal.
2. Dresser
3. Full length mirror.
Photos with asking price. No fake wood pieces. Email: sylvie@andamanavenue.com

REMOTE CONTROL ROLLER DOOR
I'm looking to buy a roller door with a remote control for my garage. If you know where to buy one, please advise. Email: ideveloptv@gmail.com

SLEEP-SOFA
Scarlet-red velvet with 3 matching cushions. About 18 months old, hardly used. Original price: 13,000 baht; will sell for 5,000 baht. Tel: 081-5383010. Email: dr.gibson@hotmail.com

STEREO HI-FI (TEAC)
Combination record player (33/3 and 45 rpm), double deck tape player/recorder, and AM/FM radio. Twin speakers. Includes new spare stylus, plus about 20 LP records. All for 2,500 baht. Tel: 089-5944236. Email: franksoper@yahoo.com

6 SEATER DINING SUITE
6-seater dining suite for sale. 25,000 baht. Moving house. Tel: 076-200774, 081-086-8041. Email: terry@belairpanwa.com

QUALITY WOOD FURNITURE
Matching wood bedroom set for sale, cheap. Some teak pieces. Includes queen-sized bed set, mirror/dresser, large wardrobe, TV set, wakeboard, and various other items. Can fill master bedroom. Everything negotiable. Tel: 089-2284641, 089-2284641. Email: thomastojez@hotmail.com

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE
Construction, renovation, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, keycard setting, sand wash and gutter. Contact K. Rin. Tel: 084-1935124. Email: phuket.homemaintenance@yahoo.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.
Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Boats & Marine

TOUR CRUISER FOR SALE

38ft tour cruiser for sale. All fiberglass construction. Excellent fuel economy. Mercruiser inboard diesel engine, cruises comfortably at 27 knots. Very low hours on the engine. Toilet & freshwater shower, large sun roof, s/s ladder at bow and stern for beach access. Commercial Thai registration. 1.65 million baht. Tel: +81-9790525. Email: bosch.michael@gmail.com

COROL 25 SPORTSBOAT

Corol 25 Alan Warnick-designed sportsboat built in 2007. She is 25ft with 175hp Suzuki engine and has twin-berth cabin and toilet. Only US\$25,000. For more details please contact Jurg Hofer. Tel: 076-273476.081-9786086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: jurg@phuket-yachts.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

52-foot charter yacht, successfully run by couple in Phuket for 10 years. Price: US\$95,000. Tel:081-6771641.

DIVE/SNORKEL/ FISHING

boat for sale. 20m/6m, 7 cabins. Tel: 081-7874690.

CATAMARANS

10-meter sailing catamaran, no interior, ready to sail, 580,000 baht. 20-meter power catamaran, not finished, 1.4 million baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

BRAND-NEW BOAT

Brand-new flybridge boat. Fiberglass. Offers. Email: jkg24@hotmail.com

SKI & WAKEBOARD BOAT

19ft, fiberglass, 300hp 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

DINGHY FOR SALE

3.1m, 15hp Yamaha. Tel: 081-7874690.

17.5-METER DIVING BOAT



For sale or charter. Width 4.5m. Diesel engine, 320hp generator at 20kw. Capacity: 30 people. Great buy. Price: 490,000 baht. Tel: 081-9680571.

18-FOOT CATAMARAN

Wood-epoxy composite, 9hp Honda, sailing equipment possible. 135,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

WANT SOME REAL FUN?
STEPPA 36
ONLY 60 HRS ON TWIN YAMAHAS + RESTORED LAST YEAR
2MTHB - 6876-325402 - Mr. O.B.



PRE-OWNED BOAT SELECTION



Hanse 400

December 2007 - Fast and sleek HANSE 400!
3 cabins - 1 bathroom, 1x40 Hp YANMAR sail drive engine, self tacking jib 9/10 rig, Thai Flag charter. Ready to sail - Based in Yacht Haven Marina.

For Sale at 6.900.000,- THB or nearest offer

Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office

Tel: 076-239111
Email: broker@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

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International Marine Brokerage

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For more listings please go to www.leemarine.com

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New depth Sounder
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600L of fuel
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Solar Panels

\$79,000 USD

 Beliz 43 Maestro 300,000 Euro	 Warrior 48 106,000 GBP	 Steel Dive Vessel \$550,000 USD	 Nordhavn 57 \$1,390,000 AUD
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Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Maria Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Geerman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 238 729
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 200 260
email: yacht@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 0817879408
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 002
Email: mark@leemarine.com



Find more classified ads
"Boats & Marine"
at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE

The Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach is located a 45-minute drive from the Phuket International Airport and 20 minutes from Phuket Town.

The resort comprises 211 pool villas, ocean villas, and stylish accommodation together with a well-being spa, meeting facilities, four dining outlets, three swimming pools, a fitness centre and supervised kids' club.

The resort will be opening soon and invites applications from individuals who are passionate and devoted to serving others.

1. Financial Controller
2. Director of Food and Beverage
3. Executive Housekeeper
4. Front Office Manager
5. Purchasing Manager

Qualifications:

- Male/Female (Position #2 open to Expats and Thais)
- Bachelor's degree from related field
- Computer literacy and hotel computer systems experience
- Pre-opening experience would be an advantage
- Highly innovative and results oriented, ability to work with sensitive information while maintaining confidentiality
- Excellent people development and management skills
- Fluent in both spoken and written English

Interested candidates are invited to send a resume, stating present and expected salaries and a recent photograph to ssuthasiri@radisson.com



British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading International day and boarding school (18months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. As soon as possible, we require the following:

Head of Business Development & Services

- Female/male, Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree or higher in business or related fields
- And/or experience in business and customer relation business focus on sport, leisure and self improvement
- Fluent in English, fluent in other language is a plus
- Computer literate
- Creative and responsible
- Positive leadership skills
- Good team spirit

School Manager Secretary Assistant / Teacher Assistant

- Female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor Degree in related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department

Art Assistant

- Male / Thai nationality
- Ability to communicate in English
- Interest in the visual arts and the workings of art department
- Able to work in team and independently
- Able to use equipment in the design technology area to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials.

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076 238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111 Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: patcharakornt@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th



Due to recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:

Camera Operator: Reporting to the Production Manager, the Camera Operator will be responsible for daily footage and news gathering for our daily program packages, and will coordinate with the TV news editor, producer and reporters.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows; who have a real passion for TV production; and who enjoy being part of a dynamic team.

Attitude and interest level will be more important than experience as a camera operator. A driving license and basic English is required. Knowledge of video editing would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter, photo, and video samples (if available) to Jib@PhuketGazette.Net, or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

Bang Tao Beach Ltd, a real estate and development company, is looking for capable and reliable employees for its newly-established office in **Phuket** as follows:

OFFICE SECRETARY | Position

Female, 25-30 years, diploma or higher, min. 3 years' experience, computer literature (MS Office), fluent in English (spoken & written)

ACCOUNTANT | 2 Positions

Female, 25-30 years, diploma or higher, min. 3 years' experience, computer literature (MS Office), English speaking

DRIVER | Position

Male, 25-35 years, min. 3 years' experience, English speaking an advantage

OFFICE MAID | Position

Female, 20-35 years, min. 3 years' experience, English speaking an advantage

Interested **Thai nationals** (preferably own transportation) please contact **Khun Onuma**.
Tel: 0-2632-9777 Fax: 0-2632-9779
Email: onuma@kajima.co.th



West Haven Group Property Sales & Development Company

Requires an OFFICE MANAGER/COORDINATOR

Qualifications:

- Thai national, diploma or higher education
- High standard of written & spoken English
- Computer literate, Microsoft Office, Excel & Word
- Strong organizational and administration skills
- Confident and motivated personality

Please send CV and references to **Khun Da**
info@west-haven-group.com / www.west-haven-group.com
Tel. 076 270 768 Fax. 076 271 733

Legal Assistant

Qualifications:

- Female, age from 25-35.
- Bachelor's degree in laws or any other field.
- Minimum 2 years' experience in legal affairs.
- Experience in real estate business is an advantage.
- Experience in contacting government authorities for permits, licenses and land registration.
- Good command of English and computer literate.
- Having administrative skills is an advantage.

Personal Assistant to Project Director

Qualifications:

- Female, age from 24-35.
- Fluent in English (written and spoken).
- Be proactive with good presentation and computer skills.



Central & City Developments Limited
65 Moo 4, Mai Khao Soi 4, A. Thalang,
Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: 076-372000
www.west-sands.com

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE MGMT

The Sands Condominium is offering 2 exciting opportunities.

PROPERTY MANAGER

- Requirements:**
- Property management experience
 - Budget management
 - Legal/juristic person
 - Rental program management
 - Office admin & computer skills
 - Excellent spoken and written English

MAINTENANCE MAN

- Requirements:**
- Strong construction/maintenance background
 - Hands-on and management experience
 - Spoken & written English

Salary depends on experience. Please send a cover letter and CV.
E-mail: thesandsjp@gmail.com, prama_mantana@yahoo.com
Tel: + 68(0) 84 0589858 (Yaa) Tel/Fax: +68(0)78 388329 (Yaa)

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Island Job Mart



Urgent Positions

Club Bamboo Boutique Resort is a luxurious boutique resort located in the best part of Phuket, Patong Beach, looking for vibrant, energetic and most importantly, service minded, confident people with interpersonal skills who are proactive. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary. If you have what it takes to join our innovative team, please contact us at the address below:

- Receptionist
- Night Reception
- Sous Chef
- Waiter
- Waitress
- Restaurant Manager
- Foreman
- Gardener

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charges. Candidate with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resumé with a recent photograph to:

Human Resources Club Bamboo

247/1-8, Nansai Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: 076-345345 Fax: 076-345099
Email: accouting1@clubbamboo.com

LIMITLESS DISCOVERY AWAITS

Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort, a member of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, invites candidates for the following positions:

- Director of Sales
- Assistant Convention Manager
- Assistant Laundry Manager
- Convention Coordinators
- Sous Chef (Cold Kitchen)
- Spa Supervisor
- Spa Trainer

An exciting career awaits creative professionals along with a competitive benefit package.

Send resume with recent photo to:
manit.pimparien@lemeridien.com



LE MERIDIEN
PHUKET BEACH RESORT
29 Soi Karon Nui, Karon, Muang Phuket 83100, Thailand
T +66 76 370 100 F +66 76 340 479
lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort

CHIC CULTURED DISCOVERY



Anantara Resort Phuket, Mai Khao Beach Opening October 2008



We are looking for our last few special team members to come and join Anantara Phuket.

So if you are a hotel professional who would be proud to help us deliver the 'Anantara Story' we would love to hear from you.

- Villa Operations**
- Gift Shop Supervisor
 - Telephone Supervisor
 - Airport Representative

- Housekeeping**
- Guest Area Supervisor

- Kitchen**
- Chef de Partie - Bakery
 - Demi Chef - Italian

- Engineering**
- Carpenter (2)

- Spa**
- Ayurvedic Senior Therapist
 - Male Spa Therapist

- Food & Beverage Service**
- F&B Supervisor - Female
 - In Villa Dining Attendant

- Finance**
- Assistant Finance Manager
 - Cost Controller

- Sales**
- Assistant Director of Sales (Bangkok based)
 - Sales Administrator (Phuket based)

- Divisions (Recreation)**
- Lifestyle and Fitness Attendant

- Security**
- Security Officer

All associates will enjoy a 5-day work week (average 45 hours per week) and free transport to and from Phuket Town.

Please apply by sending your CV to this email address:
recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good luck with your application!

Staff Wanted Urgently Thais that speak English well

- To work in the marketing department and provide information on real estate to tourists.
- No experience necessary.
- All educational backgrounds welcome.

Send resume to: Eleanor@nsre-thailand.com
Tel: 076-346282.



Skippers Restaurant is looking for competent individuals (Thai nationals), to be part of our team in the positions listed below. It is important that you are service-minded, have a positive outlook, and that able to speak English reasonably well.

- Restaurant Manager
- Wait/Bar Staff
- Cook (Thai and European Food)
- Kitchen Stewart

The only requirement is friendliness and a willingness to perform well.

Please contact
English: Crystal 086-282 0567
Thai: Khun Rung 076-360 893



C.V.S. Syndicate Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Boonrawd Brewery, is an importer and sole distributor of Corona Extra, which has the highest market share of imported bottled beer in Thailand. We are currently seeking highly efficient staff to fill the following positions:

Sales Promoter - 4 positions

- Bachelor's degree
- Possess driving license
- Must have a residence in Phuket

Promotion Girl - 25 positions

- Good figure with smart personality
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Comfortable in a selling role
- Must have a residence in Phuket

Every position requires candidates with a good command of English. Send resume and recent photo to:
Khun Parisuth Khotchakhot: Project Management
C.V.S. Syndicate Co., Ltd. C.B.House, 6th Fl.,
83 Amnuay Songkram Rd., Dusit, Bangkok 10300 or
E-mail: parisuth_k@boonrawd.co.th
Tel: 02-6693531.

TEACHER WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking 4 full-time native-English-speaking teachers to begin in October 2008 to teach English, Arts and Health to 11-18 year old students. Salary begins at 30,000 baht. Four weeks paid holiday, government health plan. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. We can only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements. Please email your CV with covering letter to Ajarn Charoon. Email: ep@satreephuket.ac.th Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview. We also need one librarian (Thai) with bachelor's degree to run our EP library.

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Real estate co. urgently requires Assistant Manager aged 30-35. Fluent written and spoken English, computer skills and results-oriented. Duties will be general project assistance, teamwork co-ordination. Attractive salary. Tel: 086-0043008. Email: g.marchi12@gmail.com

GSL DIGITAL PRODUCTION

Currently requires an Administrative officer. Can be male/female, but must have minimum 2 years' experience, computer literate (MS Office), good English skills. Please submit an application letter and CV to GSL Digital Production Co Ltd. Tel: 076-226084. Email: jai@gsl-digital.com

**PRESCHOOL /
NURSERY TEACHER**
required. Female, Caucasian native English speaker. Full or part time. Tel: 080-6247060.

SALESPERSON
Real Estate, Phuket branch, requires dynamic salespersons aged 30-40. Thai national, fluent English, computer skills and results-oriented. Duties will be property scouting, telemarketing. Candidates will go through a 3-month probation training period in Phuket. Average salary: 30-60,000 baht. Tel: 086-0043008. Forward CV via mail. Email: g.marchi12@gmail.com

**LOCAL AGENTS
REQUIRED!**
Help Thai ladies find love online while you earn great commission! Full or part time. Call Joy for more information at Tel: 084-8518847. Email: thailove@me.com



STONEY MONDAY GROUP OF COMPANIES REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL FOR THEIR OPENING OF DESTINATION PARADISE

- ACCOUNTANT
- SECRETARY
- ADMINISTRATION STAFF
- CONTRACT OFFICER
- DRIVERS
- MAIDS/CLEANERS
- RECEPTIONISTS
- SALES MANAGER
- ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER
- SALES REPRESENTATIVE/LINERS
- MARKETERS/OPCS
- TELEMARKETERS

Interested persons can apply at a walk-in interview
Monday to Friday from 9.00-15.00
Being held on the 6th Floor @ Phuket Golf and Country Club
131/99 Phuket Golf Resort Condominium Building
6th Floor, Kathu, Phuket 83120
Tel: 076-319-585-7
E-mail: oh@stoneymonday.com



Restaurant Manager wanted Head Chef wanted

Kargo is an exciting new restaurant located at the entrance to Laguna featuring quality bar food, fine dining, live entertainment and much more.

We are looking for two dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team as Restaurant Manager and Head Chef.

The Manager's responsibilities include:

- Hiring and training of staff
- Daily reporting to General Manager
- Ordering and working with suppliers
- Customer service
- Closing and balancing nightly accounts
- Overseeing Kargo Curry our Indian themed restaurant.
- Liaising with Head Chef.

Requirements

- Fluent written and spoken English
- Minimum 2 years experience in a managerial position in Thailand
- Team player with strong interpersonal skills who is creative and takes the initiative.
- F and B background
- Fun easy going personality with long term ambitions to grow within the group
- Well presented

The Head Chef's responsibilities include

- Design and deliver a first class menu in consultation with our in-house executive chef. Help recruit and train other kitchen staff
- Ordering and working with suppliers

Requirements

- Good command of written and spoken English
- Minimum 5 years' experience cooking Western cuisine (at least 2 years in Thailand)
- Passion for cooking and innovative outlook on cuisine
- Fun, easy going personality with ambition and desire to be a key player in an exciting new venture

Bar staff and waiters positions available

Tel: 081-0895924. Email: peter@kargo-phuket.com

Island Job Mart

EXPERIENCED WRITER

to assist me part-time, writing articles for publication. I live in Chalong. Email: ltnesneg@aol.com

DESIGNERS WANTED

Graphic designers & web developers required. Good rates paid & you can work from home. Please send Email: georgina.brian@hotmail.com

TELE-SALES JOBS

Full training given. Must speak excellent English. Good salary + commission + career prospects. Can work from home. Email: georgina.brian@hotmail.com

NETWORK ADMIN CHALONG

Rolly Tasker Sails (Thailand), the world's leading sailmaker, requires a Network Administrator to manage our IT requirements. Thai national. Email: jobs@rollytasker.com

BASE MANAGER

Elite Yachting Phuket is looking for a Base Manager (foreigner only), fluent in English. Must supervise yachts, operations and deal with customers. Similar experience a definite plus. Tel: 273476, 081-978-6086. Fax: 076-273476. Please submit your CV with picture to Mr Jurg Hofer: jurg@phuket-yachts.com

ACCOUNTANT

Head of Accounting for small hotel in Patong. Accounts are QuickBooks in English language. Training in QuickBooks will be given if required. Good Salary for the right Thai applicant. Contact at Tel: 076-342143, 081-6065772. Fax 076-340300. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

ADMIN/HR

We are looking for a Thai national with strong, friendly communication skills, computer literate & good spoken & written English. A desire to be part of a busy team and lead the way in community relations as well as help organize internal systems & manage staff welfare. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: info@yacht-haven-phuket.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

sought by reputable law firm.
- Bachelor's degree
- Good English
- Excellent organizational skills
Contact K. Pond at Tel: 085-1618251. Email: siripansa@belmontlimcharoen.com
www.belmontlimcharoen.com
4/1 Prabaramee Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83150

MISSION HILLS

Sales Representative & Asst Marketing Manager. Good command of spoken English, experience in sales & marketing, smart, positive, self-motivated, confident. Salary + good commission. Tel: 076-310888, 081-9565867. Fax: 076-310806. Email: info@missionhillshuket.com

Employment Wanted

ENGLISH SALES EXECUTIVE
seeks position. Based in Phuket with extensive experience selling properties in Europe and Asia to overseas clients. Tel: 081-5385988. Email: pcoll2003@yahoo.co.uk

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

MOVING SALE

Never used sofa, bed, mattress, cooker, 3 fridges, coffee machine, 2,000 DVDs in Italian/French, Pioneer DVD recorder, computer scanner-laser. Tel: 081-2945441.

SPA EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

4 spa beds, ozone. Khun Wi. Tel: 089-8734110.

STEREO HI-FI (TEAC)

Combination record player (33/3 and 45 rpm), double deck tape player/recorder, and AM/FM radio. Twin speakers. Includes new spare stylus, plus about 20 LP records. All for 2,500 baht. Tel: 089-5944236. Email: franksoper@yahoo.com

MOVING SALE

Aircon office 24,000 BTU/30,000 BTU. Price: 6,000 baht. Table, computer and all office accessories. Urgent sale. Tel: 089-7291391.

WOOD CARVING

For sale: teakwood carving representing the Himavanta jungle. Size 120x220cm. Tel: 081-5699483.

BIG FRIDGE FREEZER

For restaurant or big family. Price: 5,000 baht. Singer brand. Tel: 089-2913641. Email: sayan40@hotmail.com

Articles Wanted

WANTED

Coffee machine, cake display fridge approx 75cm wide, electric oven, chest freezer approx 1m deep. Tel: 089-1037000.

USED SNOOKER TABLE

Must be delivered and installed in Kata area. Email your offer. Thanks. Tel: 081-2705374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th

Bulletins

TO ALL FILIPINOS

I am here to help you. K. Emelda. Tel: 084-3050963.

WENDY AND TALITHA

We are back from South Africa and would like to get in contact with our friends in Phuket. I lost all email addresses, so please email us at wendyatalitha@yahoo.com

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital
Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)
For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 Email: carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

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, 081-8920474. Fax: 076-330990. Email: john@siamdivers.com

Business Opportunities

GUESTHOUSE GEM

Bar, restaurant and thriving tour desk, Thai limited company, 2 work permits. 3.5 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Massage, beauty salon in Patong, 120 sqm. Tel: 081-4954761.

BAR + RESTAURANT

for sale. Opposite Safari Disco. Main floor + 2 rooms for living upstairs. Tel: 089-2907841.

The Bell
"The Bell" is an exciting new property development comprising 17 luxury pool villas. "The Bell" is also opening its Luxury Private Pool Villa Resort, which will be fully serviced and managed like a 5-star resort.

Villa Host/Receptionist (1 day, 1 night) **2 positions**

- Female/Male, age 23-30 years old.
- Excellent command of both written & spoken English.
- Good personality, good communication skills, service minded, positive attitude, enthusiastic, honest and willing to help out in all areas.
- At least 2-3 years' experience in front office/reception/reservation.
- Experience with Comanche program.
- Must be flexible with work schedule, can work in shift.
- Able to work independently under pressure.
- Energetic person, pleasant personality and excellent guest relations skills.
- Must be able to work weekends and holidays.

Housekeeping Supervisor **1 position**

- Female, age between 20 and 35 years old.
- At least 3 years' experience in related field.
- Has experience in setting up housekeeping SOP.
- Has experience in training housekeeping staff.
- Good communication in English.

The Bell,
41/31 Moo 5, Baan Hua Khuan,
Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120
Tel: + 66 (0) 76-279914-5 Fax: + 66 (0) 76-279412
E-mail: info@TheBellphuket.com
Web: www.TheBellPhuket.com

G4S Security Services (Thailand) Ltd 
Group 4 Securicor

G4S, the World's leading security solutions provider, with a long-standing trading history in Thailand, is set for rapid expansion across Southern Thailand. To support our plans we wish to recruit a number of high-caliber personnel for the following positions:

Operations Manager Electronic Security Systems
Based in Phuket, you will be responsible for the engineering team covering installations, service and maintenance. Qualified to degree level in electrical or electronic engineering with a minimum of 3 years' experience.

Project Manager Manned Guarding
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Please send your CV to Chris Benn, Regional Manager, no later than October 1, 2008.

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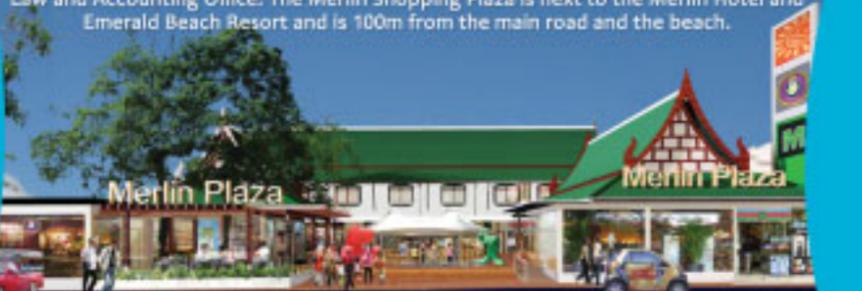
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