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INSIDE



Wallpaper Revolution!

DECOR: Check out the latest in wallpaper on the island. There's literally something for everyone in this amazing range, from classic stripes to images from the Sistine Chapel.

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Rawai bandit nabbed

By Akbar Khan

KATA: With the wave of snatch-and-run robberies in Chalong Police District making national television news in recent days, police there have been under intense pressure to put the guilty behind bars.

Their first break came early on September 28 with the arrest of a construction worker whose crime spree came to an abrupt halt at about 4 am when he crashed his rented motorbike at high speed into a parked pickup truck along a road in Kata.

As Ms Gopkul Se-jorhor was reporting a bag snatching to police at about 2 am, construction worker Manop "Nop" Tongboon, a native of Phichit province, was stashing the stolen handbag at his current home, a construction site near the Municipality Health Clinic in Kata. He then, according to Chalong police, went out in search of his next victim.

About 4 am, Nop struck again, snatching the bag of Orchid Resort Hotel employee Oranee Chalermchol.

By that time the roads were being scoured by police who had gathered more clues from the company that had rented the motorbike to Nop.

Because he thought that someone was pursuing him, Nop, who told police that he had been high on alcohol and *ya bah* (methamphetamine), sped up and then smashed into the pickup. Sub Lt Chatchawan Poonaruemit found him conscious but disoriented and took him to hospital before going to Chalong Police Station.

At the station, Ms Gopkul, an employee of the Moonlight Bar, said that "At around 2 am, he followed me past Club Med, then drove alongside and began pushing my bike with his foot. Then he ripped my handbag from my shoulder, breaking the strap before speeding away. There



Manop "Nop" Tongboon at Chalong Police Station after being arrested for motorcycle ride-by muggings.

was 1,120 baht and a five-thousand-baht pair of sunglasses from my German boyfriend in my handbag."

Nop said at the station that after a binge on alcohol and *ya bah*, the sight of the key in the motorcycle's ignition proved too tempting and he decided to drive around Kata and "have some more fun".

"This is the first time I have behaved like this in Phuket," Nop averred.

Asked if he stole elsewhere, he replied, "In Bangkok I did the same thing. I cannot remember how many times, but by the time the Klong Luang Police caught me I had collected over 800,000 baht worth of stuff. They sent me to Tanyaburi Prison for three years, but I was let out after two years for good behavior."

"In Bangkok, my arrest made the front pages of national newspapers. I do not wish to be famous again. Can we not make some deal?" he asked the police.

The *Gazette* asked Nop about the recent snatch-and-run thefts involving foreigners.

"I would never steal a bag from a foreigner as that is not good for the tourist industry and the police and courts would be very hard on me if I was caught stealing from a foreigner, so I steal only from Thai girls."

"My wife is eight months' pregnant and I would love to see my child born. My last wife left me when I was caught bag snatching in Bangkok. I think my new wife will be more loyal to me though," said Nop.

Ms Gopkul told Nop, "So you steal from girls do you? Be careful. One day it might not be a real girl, but a ladyboy who would probably beat you to death."

When asked if there were more bag snatchers working in the Rawai-Kata area, the duty officer at Chalong police station told the *Gazette*, "We are still actively trying to track down bag-snatchers. Usually they are hard to catch as most of them are from upcountry and only strike using rented motorbikes."

Nop also blamed for attacks on foreigners. See page 3.

PAD vows 'no more airport closures'

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Although there were attempts to disrupt Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's visit to Nakhon Sri Thammarat at Surat Thani Airport on September 27, Phuket International Airport (PIA) will not be closed again by protesters, its director vows.

PIA Director Wicha Nernlop said security has been increased to prevent a recurrence of the two-day closure by anti-government protesters that began on the afternoon of August 29, stranding about 20,000 tourists.

Natjarong Ekpermsup, leader of the Phuket chapter of the People's Alliance for Democracy PAD, later denied PAD members were responsible for the closure, blaming the tourism catastrophe on unknown "agitators".

After the Surat Thani incident, he told the *Gazette* that there would be no more airport closures here.

"Now we know the way," he said, explaining that there would be a change in strategy whereby protests would not occur at the airport or otherwise be allowed to damage tourism.

Mr Natjarong completes his one-year term as PAD leader this month and a new leader, Lertpong Tansawat, will take over from October 1, he said.

"Mr Lertpong will continue to follow our policy of not closing down airports and not disturbing the tourism industry," he added.

The PAD will also cease its activities at Saphan Hin for the duration of the Vegetarian Festival, he said.



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American drowns

KARON: Despite calm conditions at the time, an American man drowned at Karon Beach on September 23.

Chalong Duty Officer Sanguan Muangtham identified the deceased as 54-year-old Michael Stephen John.

At around 4:30 pm, tourists and beach guards noticed Mr John was in trouble about 20 meters offshore, off the stretch of beach near Karon Circle.

Lt Col Sanguan said, "When members of the beach guard and others pulled him out he was still alive. People at the scene said he died on the beach, not in the sea. We will have to wait for the autopsy report from Vachira Hospital to know the exact cause of death."

"Mr John was at the beach with a Russian woman who police presumed to be his girlfriend. She had yet to be questioned by police. There were no red warning flags up at the time and I saw many other people swimming there, so I don't think the conditions were as dangerous as they normally are this time of year," Lt Col Sanguan said.

— Sompratch Saowakhon

No bail for Patong gunman

PHUKET CITY: Chainart Yuyen, the Patong motorcycle taxi driver arrested for the Sept 13 shooting murder of another motorcycle taxi driver has been denied bail by the Court.

He has confessed to the murder of 31-year-old Pornchai "Ko-Cherd" Suwannakin, who was shot twice in the head and twice in the back while he was talking with a friend on Phisit Gorani Rd.

After turning himself in, Chainart has also confessed to the shooting of yet another motorcycle taxi driver — Satien Wongwai, 25 — in a 7-Eleven on Nanai Rd on May 19 this year.

Mr Chainart was out on bail for that murder, which he had previously denied, when the second murder took place.

Thai FDA orders recall of suspect chocolates

By Akbar Khan

PHUKET: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has issued an emergency directive for six products imported from China to be removed from shelves in stores nationwide out of fear they may have been manufactured with contaminated milk.

Counterfeiting in China has reached new levels, with unscrupulous milk suppliers adding the toxic industrial chemical melamine to substandard milk in order to inflate nitrogen content, used as an indicator of protein content.

Thus far over 54,000 Chinese children have been diagnosed as suffering from melamine poisoning. Of these, over 13,000 were admitted to hospital with kidney problems.

From October 4, the following products were ordered off



shelves by the MoPH: Oreo wafer sticks, Dove milk chocolate bars, M&M chocolate candies, Snickers caramel peanut bars and nougat, Mentos yoghurt candies, Mao Huad coffee and oatmeal crackers.

Deputy Public Health Minister Wicharn Meenchainant said the Food and Drug Administration wanted to suspended sales so toxicity tests could be run on the six products. The ministry announced that by 3 pm on September 25 all stores should remove the products from shelves.

On September 26, *Gazette* reporters checked Phuket stores and found that at 10 am the shelves of both Tesco and Tops supermarkets had indeed removed all the suspect products.

Family Mart convenience stores had removed most of the products on the list and by 2:20 pm the final Snickers bars were removed.

The delay in that case was due to a mistake where another product with a similar brand name had mistakenly been removed instead.

Most 7-Eleven branches the *Gazette* checked had removed all the suspect products by the deadline and just after 3 pm all 7-Elevens inspected had removed the last of the products on the MoPH's list.

On September 28, a local minimart opposite Chalong police station still had Snickers on sale, the Thai FDA had mentioned Tesco, Tops and 7-Eleven in their report and it is not clear why other stores were not following suit if the chocolates were suspect.

Dove and Snickers chocolate bars, both made by Mars Corporation, state in very small print on the back of the wrappers that they are made in China.

Other Mars products made elsewhere state that imported ingredients may be used in the production of the bars. The suspect Oreo wafer sticks are also made in China, by Kraft Corporation.

Mobile phone shops targeted for copyright crimes

By Akbar Khan

KATA-THALANG: Mobile phone shops across the island have been targeted by IP agents. The crime is preloading mobile phones or memory cards with mp3s of songs.

An undercover investigator goes in and tries to persuade the shop staff to load some songs from an artist that they represent onto a phone or chip to close the sale.

The money used to pay the target is photocopied and copies given to the police beforehand.

When the arrest is made the money can be retrieved from the shop and the photocopies prove that it was money used by the undercover agent.

If the store bundles the free music onto a chip then the police go in with more agents to announce that it is a sting operation.

Numerous stores in the Kata district were successfully stung recently.



BUST TURNS SOUR: A shop-owner (yellow shirt) asks an Intellectual Property (IP) agent to get out of his shop and stop bringing police to hassle local businesses.

In Thalang, however, the first shop visited by an IP agent and a group of his friends on September 29 was not such an easy operation. The shop owner was

not afraid and told them all to get out of his shop.

He said, "An official IP agent cannot bring all his friends into my shop to intimidate me. I

run an honest business and will sue anyone that tries to harass me."

"Where is the search warrant, anyway?" he asked.

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Is the Rawai 'reign of terror' finally over?

By Gazette Staff

RAWAI: Almost a year after the still-unsolved murder of Norwegian Simen Knudsen, random violent robberies against people on motorcycles continued to take place in Kata and Rawai.

The reign of terror may be coming to an end, however with the capture of Manop "Nop" Tongboon, a 24-year-old ex-convict from Phichit.

As this edition went to press, American Sheila McCormick called the *Gazette* to report that the man pictured on the *Gazette* website, Manop, was the man who with another man assaulted her on August 15.

Manop has also become a suspect in the assault in broad daylight on Sheila's best friend, 38-year-old Sandra "Sandy" Ullrich, on September 25.

Mrs Ullrich suffered two fractures to the back of her skull when two Thai men on a motorcycle tried to steal her shoulder bag at about 1 pm.

The attack occurred as Ms Ullrich, a four-year resident of Phuket, was riding her motorbike past the Banana Corner restaurant, at the corner of the three-way intersection of Saiyuan and Wiset Rd, in the heart of the Rawai-Nai Harn area.

The victim's husband, Dutchman Hans Ullrich, told the *Gazette* shortly after the accident he was so incensed at the initial police response in both cases that he was prepared to "take matters into my own hands" if police failed to take action to catch the perpetrators.

"I know these types of things happen everywhere, but it just seems to be getting too much lately," he said.

Mr Ullrich said he knew of three other similar attacks that have happened over the past six weeks.

Police sometimes patrol risk areas, such as the road from Rawai to the Kata Viewpoint, in the high season, but otherwise only after high-profile cases such as the Knudsen killing, he said.

On September 28, Mrs

Ullrich was released from Phuket International Hospital, where she had been in the intensive care unit.

By early the next week she had yet to fully regain her hearing.

The skull fractures, which occurred even though she was wearing a helmet, resulted from the awkward way she fell from the motorbike, her husband said.

When reporting the incident at Chalong Police Station, Mr Ullrich was shown entries in the daily log of two similar attacks over the previous two days, he said.

The attack against his wife came little over a month after Sheila McCormick was attacked on the viewpoint road from Rawai to Kata, not far from where Mr Knudsen was stabbed to death on September 24 last year.

In that attack, on August 15, Ms McCormick was riding along the viewpoint road at about 9:30 pm. As she reached the bottom of the hill near the elephant camp, she passed two men on a single motorbike who appeared to be drunk, she told the *Gazette*.

"Then I knew I was being followed, so I put some distance on them," she said.

Suddenly, they sped up and the man on the back of the bike reached out to grab her bag, but the pair lost control and crashed into the guardrail at the bottom of the hill going about 100 kilometers per hour, she said.

"They didn't get my bag. They just got really hurt," she said.

But Ms McCormick also crashed, suffering two broken ribs, bad abrasions and a sprained

ankle that left her unable to walk for a week, she said.

"The area has a reputation for this kind of thing happening, but the reputation is for attacks that happen at one o'clock in the morning against people who are alone, possibly drunk..."

When I went to the police station, I found out that they had attacked another foreign woman on the same hill a few hours earlier, at about 7 pm," said Ms McCormick.

She added that she got a very good look at her attackers and was told by police that her description of the two men matched that of two men who had carried out the attack two hours earlier.

When she finally saw Manop pictured on the *Gazette* website, she felt surprised and elated, she said.

"I really love this place and I really felt safe, even as a woman. So I am really surprised about all the things going on," she said.

As this edition goes to press, Chalong Police were arranging to have Manop released back into their custody from Phuket Provincial Prison so that he could be identified by Ms McCormick.

As for whether they were also the same two men who put Sandy in hospital, it is still too early to say for sure.

Although the attack was carried out by two men on a motorbike, Sandy never got a good look at her attackers, nor could she remember much about the incident because of the head trauma she suffered, Ms McCormick said.



Thalang Police seize the large jukebox from Kreua E-sarn (Isarn Kitchen) karaoke bar near Heroines' Monument on September 26.

The Day the Music Died

THALANG: Jukebox owners around the island are being busted and their equipment seized for copyright infringement violations.

The large jukebox pictured here was seized on September 26 from Kreua E-sarn (Isarn Kitchen) karaoke bar near Heroines' Monument by Thalang Police, after intellectual property agents from RS Promotions reported the establishment playing their copyrighted material without a license.

The karaoke bar owner, a rubber farmer by trade, confessed to his copyright crime. He initially agreed to be prosecuted in court, until he was told his guilty confession meant not only heavy fines but destruction by fire of the jukebox, which he had rented.

The situation was resolved after discounts were given on the damages by RS. He agreed to the compromise and purchased a 1-year RS Promotions music license and paid damages, bringing the reduced bill to 20,000, 15,000 baht of which was put up by jukebox company owner - who had verbally agreed to pay all fines should there be a raid.

The jukebox was returned to the karaoke bar on September 29 after spending three days at Thalang Police Station.

Patong roads to close for fun run

PATONG: The local office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Phuket Walk & Run Association will hold the 2008 Phuket Walk & Run in Patong on October 12.

The event is being held for fun and to promote Phuket as a sports tourism destination, said Nongnit Tengmaneeewan of the Phuket TAT office.

There will be three races: a half-marathon (21.1 km); a quarter-marathon (10.55km); and a "Walk and run for health" (3km).

Races will start from 5:45 am in front of the Jungceylon shopping complex on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

The main course comprises a lap of the beach town, including a stretch along Patong's famed beachfront on Thaweewong Rd, up to Kamala Beach and back.

All courses will finish in front of Jungceylon.

The 21.1km race, which will start at 5:45 am, will have

the following age divisions for men and women: 34 years or younger, 25-49 years old; and 50 or older.

The 10.55km race, with the same age divisions, will start at 6:15am.

The walk and run, with no age divisions, will start at 7 am.

Entry to the 21.1km race costs 300 baht; entry to the 10.55km race is 250 baht; and entry to the fun run/walk is 300 baht per person.

All entrants will receive a participation medal, and the first three finishers in each category will receive a trophy.

Early Sunday morning motorists are advised that roads throughout Patong that form the race courses will be closed during the event.

Entrants can register in advance at the information kiosk at the main entrance to Jungceylon from 10 am to 8 pm, or on race day in front of Jungceylon.

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Phuket Airport:

The two-day closure of Phuket was, arguably, the most devastating action the protesters could have taken to send chills through the travel agencies of the world, particularly those in Asia who are hypersensitive to violence or disruption – perceived or real – at resort destinations like Phuket.

A more recent threat by the People's Alliance For Democracy [PAD] to close the airport again in protest of a visit to the south by new prime minister Somchai Wongsawat did not eventuate, but was nonetheless widely reported.

Both incidents highlight the crucial importance of the airport to the island's economy; Phuket has been built up on the back of aviation and will continue to do so in future.

Given recent events, it is timely to examine where the airport stands, not only in Phuket's economy and future, but also the world.

The annual Skytrax survey of airports last year labeled Phuket airport as an "unclassified" airport in its rating system, which classifies rated hotels from one-star (poorest) to five stars (best).

Skytrax is a leading, British-based company that conducts annual surveys of airports, air-

Phuket International Airport has been in the news for a lot of the wrong reasons lately, most recently its two-day closure by anti-government protesters starting on August 29.

That event scared off would-be tourists from many countries, among them Europeans, East Asians and North Americans who normally book their winter holidays this time of year.

Gazette analyst Alastair Carthew puts recent events in perspective and looks at Phuket Airport's current status in the global aviation industry.

lines, lounges and other components of the aviation experience.

Last year the company rated Singapore, Hong Kong and Incheon (near Seoul, South Korea) as among the few five-star airports. Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, which is still relatively new, was listed as a three-star facility.

Phuket's "unclassified" rating means either the airport is still subject to a star-ranking review, or it has been dropped from the

star-ranking program. It does not imply the airport is unsafe. Often it simply reflects size of the operation, as the largest airports are the most likely to be rated.

On the surface this does not look good for Phuket Airport, which one traveler recently declared, "is in a time warp architecturally and decoratively."

However, such rankings can be deceiving.

For example an Airports Council International [ACI] sur-

vey of the 25 fastest growing airports in 2007 put Phuket Airport at number 23, with growth rate in traffic of 21.1%. This was for airports with over five million passengers passing through a year, a feat in itself that underlines the importance of the airport and its place in Phuket tourism.

Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam were the only other Asian airports on the list.

SmartTravelAsia.com, a travel website that runs a voter-based survey of airlines, airports, hotels, resorts, spas and business cities ranked Phuket second in its list of top 10 holiday destinations in both 2006 and 2007.

Breaking this down you can also see why Phuket is a preferred destination for high spending tourists. The same survey rated three Phuket spa resorts and hotels in the top 10. They were Amanpuri, Aman Spa; Banyan Tree Phuket and JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa.

The Sheraton Grande Laguna, Phuket was ranked 14 in the top "conference hotel" category.

In the airline rankings, three budget airlines that have provided service Phuket in the past year were highly placed: Air Asia (#1); Jetstar Asia (#2), and Nok Air (#4).

Nok Air has suspended flights to Phuket pending business restructuring and rescheduling, but its management is confident the Thai Airways International subsidiary will resume flights to the island.

So how do these ranking organizations come to their ratings? They ask numerous questions in a questionnaire that takes visitors or customers about five minutes to complete.

Areas covered include: number of visits; the most familiar "experience"; standards of check-in services, baggage screening; queuing time and effi-

ciency of security screening services; Immigration clearance processing, including waiting time and staff attitude; fast track facilities and baggage delivery times.

In the transit and departure areas they ask questions about walking distances, ease of flight connections, seating areas, toilet facilities, terminal cleanliness, directions and signs, shower facilities, transit hotel/day rooms, flight information screens, airport public address announcements and baggage trolley availability.

Looking at "airside" facilities, they ask about choice of restaurants, bars and cafes, food and drink prices, duty-free shopping facilities and pricing, Wi-Fi Internet availability, entertainment options, telephone and fax services, ATM cash machine availability, smoking lounge segregation and the airport information counter.

It is an essentially long list because there are so many services and facilities, and passengers can identify with and have opinions about all of them. For example, a breakdown of some of the comments from passengers who filled out the survey showed that generally they rated Phuket at two to three stars out of the five-star classification system used.

The most common complaints were about congestion in the terminal, lack of good toilet facilities and general cleanliness, slow immigration clearance and the small size of the airport for the number of passengers it needs to process during peak periods.

Others surveyed were very high in their praise: "nice and well-equipped; clean, people are friendly, food and drinks at very reasonable prices, customs officer very efficient, short walk from check to the gate."

The range of comments proves that no matter how much authorities try to improve services



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a critical analysis

and facilities, passenger opinions will remain largely dictated by their own personal experiences. For many, this involves taking good aspects "for granted" and complaining only about what they perceive as bad.

To their credit, Airports of Thailand (AOT) has considered many of these observations, earmarking 5 billion baht for reconstruction of Phuket Airport, work on which is scheduled to finish in 2010.

In AOT's recognition of the need to better meet customer demand in the shorter term, an additional 50 million baht will be used to upgrade existing facilities more rapidly.

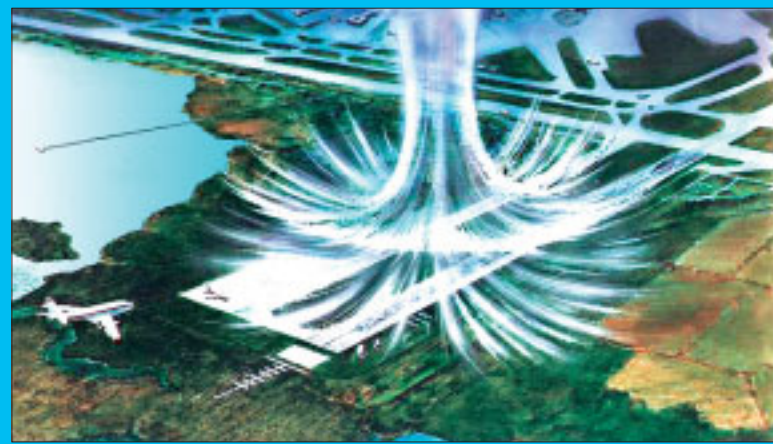
The upgrade includes two million baht to refurbish toilets, something that passengers say is desperately needed; 40 million baht for new immigration counters and seven million baht for a temporary parking lot. All of this is in response to passenger feedback. In addition new security measures will be introduced.

The more substantial reconstruction will include a new international passenger terminal, upgrade of the domestic terminal, construction of additional taxiways and parking space for 11 more aircraft. Although the 3,000-meter runway will not be extended to accommodate the largest jets, the upgrade should boost capacity from 6.5 million at present to 11.5 million passengers a year by 2016.

PIA Director Wicha Nernlop told *Gazette* that six new immigration booths will be added, both for arrivals and departures.

No new restrooms will be built because of space limitations, but existing facilities will be upgraded and refurbished. Budgeting to expand temporary parking facilities has already been approved, he said.

Mr Wicha said budgets are being drawn up to fund a four-year project to move cargo, ground service equipment, engineering and the wastewater facilities from the southern to the northeast part of the airport, thus



An artist's impression of the dangers a 'downburst' presents to aircraft during final approach to landing.

Image courtesy of NASA.

WIND SHEAR

Phuket Airport has a wind shear monitoring system which has six ports around the airport. Wind shear has been cited as a possible contributing factor in the crash of the One-Two-Go fatal crash in September last year.

This is a general explanation about the causes and effects of wind shear, not a commentary in any way on the cause, or causes, of the One-Two-Go crash.

Downdrafts, mountain waves, crosswinds, tailwinds and sudden, shifting gusts and change in wind speed all contribute to the phenomenon known as wind shear. It occurs at low altitudes, typically during take off and landings and most often during thunderstorms.

The worst type of wind shear is the "microburst" wind shear. This occurs when the plane penetrates a large column of cold, dense air that is rushing downward, then fanning outward as it hits the earth.

The mixing of air forms a rolling vortex of high velocity air gusting out to form horizontal wind shear. Caught in the vortex, the aircraft loses airspeed and the pilot's experience is severely tested.

making way for a new international terminal.

Mr Wicha confirmed that passenger numbers had dropped by around 30% compared to the previous year since the closure of the airport.

To reverse that trend, AOT is working with government authorities to launch a tourism drive aimed at luring tourists back to Phuket.

Mr Wicha is also waiting for later this month when it should become known whether the same number of charter flights are scheduled to arrive in Phuket during this coming high season than in the previous one. Charter operators, who put the finishing touches on their high-season

schedules in September, usually release them this month. Phuket currently has 11 charter firms and 27 scheduled carriers.

Figures show that even before the closure tourism numbers were trending downward. The first quarter of 2008 showed an 8% drop year-on-year compared to 2007, from 945,327 to 784,831.

This marked a significant reversal, as 2007 had 11.3% more arrivals than 2006.

SAFETY

All of this takes place against a background of safety concerns at the airport and worldwide economic jitters that is affecting all airports in the short term, though

long-term prospects should remain favorable.

Because of the One-Two-Go crash on September 16, 2007, the airport is upgrading its safety system. The Thai Meteorological Office has installed a wind shear system that operates through six ports around the airport, according to Mr Wicha.

These ports and system are frequently checked and more attention is also being paid to safety maintenance records, aircraft and personnel, he added.

Wind shear has been a problem at the airport, which is directly exposed to strong winds due to its seaside location – particularly in the monsoon season. Wind shear has been identified as a contributing factor to the One-Two-Go tragedy, which claimed 90 lives and left 40 others injured.

In addition, the airport has hired 20 more rescue workers and intensified safety standard on runways, such as by increasing the frequency of rubber deposit removals on the runway. Courses to help staff better identify potentially dangerous objects in runway areas have also been conducted.

Internationally, Airports Council International, which represents airports worldwide, has warned in its latest Global Traffic Forecast for 2008-2027 that airports globally should prepare for a slowdown in traffic over the next two years. There is no reason to believe Phuket Airport will remain unaffected by this trend, which is caused by high fuel costs and the economic uncertainty gripping the world.

Locally, we can only hope that Phuket's various charms as a tourist destination will enable it to recover quicker than some others more reliant on transit and business traffic than tourism.

The good news is that the Asia-Pacific region is expected to lead the way in growth over this 20-year period, over which ACI projects an annual average growth rate of 6.3%. If this heady projection is actually realized, there would be a tripling in total air traffic in the region from 2007 to 2027.

Naturally, India and China, with expected annual increases in air traffic volume of 9.2% and 9.1% respectively, will lead the regional expansion.

Although no figures were given for Thailand, average global growth was listed at a modest 4.2%, so the prospects for this part of the world still look better by comparison than for the United States and Europe.

The fastest growing routes will be between the Middle East and Asia Pacific, according to ACI projections.

Interestingly, aircraft movements are expected to grow at a more modest 3.2%, with the increase in passenger traffic reflecting a trend toward an increase in long-haul aircraft with higher load factors, such as the 500-600 seat A380 now in service with Singapore Airlines, Emirates and Qantas.

ACI says there is a slowing of consumer demand because of the general economic slowdown, high fuel prices, aging fleets, the threat of heightened government controls, taxation and growing customer dissatisfaction with delays at congested hubs.

Phuket Airport cannot be immune to any of these factors, as virtually all of them are beyond the management's control. But the AOT is addressing such issues as congestion in terminals, one of the most common complaints among passengers.

All of these factors taken together underline the need for the airport to think ahead, keep planning and implement improvement plans as quickly as possible.

This is the best way to remain in a strong position to meet the ongoing threats that seem to attack the airline and tourism industry on a regular basis.

Alastair Carthew is a former journalist in the UK, Australia and New Zealand with more than a decade's experience working in aviation corporate affairs in Asia Pacific. He now resides in Phuket and can be contacted at: alastaircarthew@gmail.com

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Thais are at risk of heart disease due to high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes and obesity, a long-term study by Ramathibodi Hospital's Cardiovascular and Metabolic Center has revealed.

The center conducted a study of 6,500 Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand personnel over 23 years. Center director Dr Piyamitr Sritara said the study showed that heart disease was still the number one killer of people aged 35 to 64, followed by accidents and cancer. About 80 in 100,000 people in this age group will die from heart disease.

Men aged over 45 and women aged over 55 were most at risk of heart disease, he said.

In the past, heart disease occurred most often in people aged over 40, but more teenagers are now at risk due to bad dietary habits, said Dr Piyamitr.

According to a 2005 survey by the National Statistical Office, 86% of Thais regularly eat meals with high fat content, 15% regularly eat fast food, and 72% regularly drink carbonated soft drinks.

A 2003 survey found 5% of Thais under age 15 were at risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Dr Piyamitr said these results were linked to changing lifestyles as Thailand moved from being an agricultural society to an industrial society. "Most Thais are having more stress and eating more Western-style junk food, which causes obesity and diabetes. These factors are risk factors for heart disease," he said.

Sleaze web. Among more than 15,000 unregistered Internet cafes and computer game shops in Thailand, many allow chatters to openly show off their genitals through webcams, a Bangkok seminar on child welfare was told

Thai-style modern living adds risk of heart disease



GOAL-ORIENTED

Thousands of cyclists joined a campaign for 'World Car-Free Day' organized by Greenpeace and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration on September 22.

on September 23.

Quoting a Child Watch report, Ramjitti Institute director Amornwit Nakhontha said there are only around 5,000 shops and cafes properly registered with authorities.

Game addiction and school

absenteeism are increasing in Bangkok and many other provinces, the report read. More youths were being sent to correctional homes each year, from 30,000 a year previously to around 40,000 in the past two years.

The report found that 30%

of students at lower high school levels in the provinces did not live with their parents.

Vice and night entertainment venues operate near schools without sanction by authorities.

Chulalongkorn University lecturer Somphong Jitradab said Child Watch also found that students were increasingly bored with schools and turning to computer games and seeking friends of the opposite sex, because school courses were boring and outdated.

Historical trend. Of the country's almost one million undergraduate and postgraduate students, just 2,400, or about 0.24%, study history.

"The number of students who major in history is very low," Higher Education Commission chief Sumet Yamnoon admitted.

HM the Queen is worried that people know little about Thai history. When Sumet went to work to find out just how little, he found that some universities don't even offer history courses.

"Now, we are going to check the number of history-related subjects available. When we get this information, we will look into how to improve these subjects," he says, adding that experts will be employed to improve university history courses.

Pagoda in peril. The Doi Suthep Pagoda in Chiang Mai is in urgent need of restoration due to its internal structure, which is being weakened by excess mois-

ture, a senior Department of Fine Arts official has revealed.

Sahawat Naenna, director of the department's regional office in Chiang Mai, said his agency's archaeologists and civil engineers from Chiang Mai University had conducted a study on the pagoda.

In a "startling discovery", he said the experts had found that the lime cover inside the pagoda had turned into a soft substance similar to modeling clay.

The high level of moisture inside the structure is the result of rainwater from small leaks and rising groundwater levels.

The abbot of Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, which houses the pagoda, has been informed about the urgent need for restoration. If the situation is not remedied, the structure could subside or even collapse, Mr Sahawat said.

The Department of Fine Arts would like to begin restoration at the end of the rainy season, he added.

Final frontier. A group of environmental activists is urging the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to revise its plan to allow private sector investment in national parks.

A representative of the group has submitted 239 signatures collected by the website saveoursea.net.

The signatories are naturalists and environmentalists who have great concern about the future massive exploitation of natural resources in national parks if the ministry implements its plan to allow the private sector to invest in and manage national parks across country.

The group called on Caretaker Natural Resources and Environment Minister Anongwan Thetsuthin to stop this plan, during a public open seminar which was held by the National parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department.

About 250 stakeholders, including the heads of national parks, environmental experts and naturalists, attended the seminar.

They want the ministry to conduct public hearings to seek opinions from various groups about this plan due to concern about massive exploitation and deforestation of natural resources.

The government should provide an adequate budget to enable national parks to conserve the natural resources and environment instead of focusing on protecting the benefits of the private sector, they said.

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

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Patong holds triple-threat disaster drill

Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

A local hotel and school and numerous rescue and municipality personnel joined a disaster emergency-response simulation exercise in Patong last month, which tested the town's response to fire, wind and rough sea dangers.

Many tourists added adventure to their holidays by also taking part.

The scenario began at Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa at 10 am, with a "fire" breaking out in guest room 1402. A housekeeper reported the fire to the chief of security of Phuket Graceland, who then alerted the local agencies for help.

At the scene, an alarm alerted hotel staff and guests joining in the drill, who escaped out of the emergency exits.

Later, six "injured" victims were found trapped on a third-floor terrace by the hotel's security unit, who reported it to firefighters.

Firemen from Patong Municipality, Kathu police officers, Kusoldharm Foundation staff and Patong hospital staff were all standing by with rescue and firefighting vehicles and equipment.



Volunteer victims wait to be rescued from a hotel balcony while some of the "injured" look on.

The next disaster-response exercise was at Baan Kalim School on the beachfront, where the scenario involved strong winds blowing in three-meter waves and causing a tree to collapse on a school building, injuring three students.

The Royal Thai Navy Search and Rescue (SAR) Unit was dispatched to evacuate students.

The SAR Unit was also involved in the third scenario, a capsized boat in the bay, from which an "injured" person was rescued and transferred to

Patong Hospital.

The exercise was part of a United Nations program that helps develop local emergency preparedness in tourism destinations.

Leo Heileman, Head of the Business and Industry Unit of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Division of Technology, Industry and Economics – Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, said he believed that the Patong drill had been carried out very well.

A similar exercise, which has been conducted in India al-

ready, was held on Koh Phi Phi a few days later.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban said, "After seeing the drill, the UNEP thinks our teams are ready to face real situations."

"With this as a success, we would be pleased to co-ordinate a disaster-response exercise with any hotel wanting to get involved."

Patong is ready to support and welcome tourists this high season," he added.

The UNEP's stated aim is to improve "the local authorities' and the private sector's ability to



manage natural and man-made disasters by educating the residents and tourists about how to properly react to them."

The drill was the final stage of the two-year project in Phuket.

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Indonesia plays host to southern peace talks

Indonesia has played host to talks between the Thai government and communities in the Deep South in the latest bid to end conflict there, Indonesia's state-run news agency Antara reported on September 21.

Representatives of the two parties met for the first time in Bogor, West Java, on September 20 to discuss ways to solve their problem, Antara reported.

Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla, who both the Thai government and the southern communities had accepted as mediator, welcomed both delegations, though Kalla met the delegations separately, the news agency said.

Antara did not say who represented the delegations.

Violence in the Deep South continued during the week. On September 25, three soldiers and a student were injured when insurgents detonated a bomb hidden in front of Bango Puloh School in Rusoh district, Narathiwat.

Two executed in rubber robberies. Two rubber dealers were killed in two robberies held within a kilometer of each other in Trang on the morning of September 23. Both victims were shot in the back of the head at point-blank range, police said.

Kantang District Police received a report of the first killing at 7 am. En route to the scene, they received a report of a similar shooting nearby. Both crimes occurred by the side of Bang Sak-Ban Na Rap Road, where rubber dealers wait to buy sheets of raw rubber from villagers.

At the scene of the first killing, near Village 4 in Tambon Bang Sak, police found the body of Prawing Wongchu, 35, from Yan Ta Khao District in Trang. Prawing had been shot point blank, once in the back of the head with a .38 caliber pistol.

The second killing was about a kilometer down the road, close to the Bang Sak Tambon Administration Organization offices.

At the scene, police found the body of Prachop Chitlang, 47, from Pa Lian District in Trang. He had also been shot once in the back of the head at point-blank range with a .38 caliber gun.

Witnesses reported seeing two men, aged around 25, fleeing the scene on a blue Honda

Dream motorcycle.

The area of the killings is a popular place for rubber dealers to wait for villagers to come and sell raw rubber. Every Tuesday, when a market is held nearby, around 10 dealers wait by the side of the road.

Police believe the robbers took the victims' money, banknotes that they had brought with them to buy rubber, before making them kneel down and executing them.

The two victims were friends and often worked together. Police are searching for the suspects.

Major denial. An army major wanted for the armed robbery of a bank in Na Bon District in Songkhla on September 12, in which a policeman was shot and a grenade detonated, handed himself in to police on September 24.

Maj Jakraphong Sombun, from the 15th Infantry Division, walked in to Songkhla Provincial Police Station with an Army lawyer after seeing pictures of himself on 'wanted' posters. He denied any involvement in the crime.

Maj Gen Wirun Eamphaijit, Commander of Songkhla Provincial Police, however, said that his men were confident with the evidence they have against Maj Jakraphong, including footage from CCTV cameras at the bank and a department store in Haad Yai where the suspect allegedly bought his disguise.

Maj Jakraphong will be charged with armed robbery using firearms and explosives, and attempted murder of a government officer in the course of his duty.

He will be tried in a military court in Haad Yai, Gen Wirun said.

Quick quack. Police have offered a 5,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of a thief who dressed as a doctor and robbed a patient at Maharaj Hospital in Nakhon Sri Tham-



HUNGRY GHOSTS

Residents of Nakhon Sri Thammarat celebrated the 10th Lunar Month Merit Making Festival by parading models of *pret* ghosts on September 24. In Thai folklore, *pret* have a mouth the size of a needle and are thus always hungry, and they like to attend merit-making ceremonies in the hope of accruing enough merit to be freed from their plight in the next life.

marat on September 21.

The incident was reported to Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police the following day by the victim, Prakhin Yajati, 56.

Ms Prakhin told police that her daughter had taken her to the hospital around 3 pm after she complained of feeling dizzy and having difficulty breathing. Doctors examined her and then sent her for an x-ray in another hospital building.

As she was waiting for the radiologist, a man in a white coat approached her. After chatting to her for a short while, he told her to sniff some cotton wool, Ms Prakhin said. After sniffing the wool, she felt sleepy and the man told her to lie still. He then re-

moved her jewelry and purse, then fled, she said.

Ms Prakhin said that the thief made off with a gold necklace with a Buddha image, two gold rings, a gold bracelet and 4,300 baht in cash.

Ms Prakhin said that at first she thought the man was a doctor, but when he was removing her jewelry, he was doing it very fast, like he was in a rush to get away, and she became suspicious.

When a nurse came to take her to the x-ray theater, she explained what had happened and realized she had been robbed, she said.

Col Phudit Narasing, Superintendent of Nakhon Sri Tham-

marat Muang District Police Station, said that they are searching for a good-looking, fair-skinned Thai man about 165cm tall with short hair.

Police are offering 5,000 baht for information that leads to the suspect's arrest as they are worried that he will rob again, Col Phudit said.

Dr Nophaphon Cheunklin from Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Health Office said that he believed the robber may be a former staff member from the hospital who would have known about dealing with patients and who knew a good place in the building to strike. The authorities are now following this as a potential lead.

A source in the hospital who had seen CCTV footage of the robbery, said that the suspect was dressed like a doctor and put on a very convincing impression of a medical professional, even down to the way he spoke to and examined the victim.

Cool reception. Parliament President Chai Chidchob failed to chair an event in Nakhon Si Thammarat on September 25 after a group of protesters demanded that he leave. Mr Chai returned to Bangkok the next morning.

He initially planned to chair the 'Parliament Meet the People' activity at the Si Thammarat Suksa School. But protesters rallied outside the Twin Lotus Hotel where he initially checked-in, prompting him to sneak out to stay overnight at a resort owned by Piti Thepphakdee, a failed election candidate of the People Power Party.

Democrat Party Secretary-General Suthep Thaugsuban said he was sorry about the protest and that the Democrat Party did not organize it.

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



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Koh Samui celebrated a day of peace and unity as the community came together for the second Global Mala day on September 21.

Held on the United Nations Day of Peace, the event brought together many of the island's organizations and citizens for a day and evening of festivities for the whole family. Thousands attended the event, which was held at the Tamarind Springs Spa in Lamai.

Attendees took part in many of the activities aimed at educating and uniting the community with messages of environmental awareness through talks, demonstrations and information booths.

Hosted by a huge team of volunteers, there was a vast amount of healthy food and drink on offer and entertainment included shows by local school children. Government officials also played a part by staging a tree-planting ceremony.

Festivities wrapped up late in the evening with party goers dancing to DJs and local musicians under the stars and surrounded by the huge granite boulders that have become Samui landmarks.

Organizers of the day said they were very pleased with the turnout. The non-profit event was aimed at continuing education of the community and its children, and to support and inspire Green Island Projects. Plans are underway to stage the event again next year.

Best of the Best. Not only has Six Senses Hideaway Samui walked away with the award for Best Hotel in Asia & The Indian Subcontinent in the Condé Nast Traveller magazine's reader's poll for 2008, but it has also taken top spot in the Best of the Best Top 100.

Thousands gather to party for world peace

The resort was voted Best Overseas Hotel in Asia. Voters rated candidate hotels on aspects including ambiance, location, environmental friendliness and facilities.

This is not the first time the resort has received outstanding acclaim, but the hotel's managers are still honored by their latest achievement.

Young woman murdered. The corpse of a young woman was found recently at a popular viewpoint on Koh Pha-ngan.

The body was identified as that of Darika Pansranoi, 22, of Khon Kaen, after police searched her bag and found her identity card and other small possessions.

Koh Pha-ngan Police Chief Lt Col Charoon Uchupub said that investigations were underway to find those responsible for the girl's death. An initial autopsy showed signs of a struggle, including cigarette burns on her body and bruising around her neck.

Her body was found at the bottom of the cliff at Hun Ngam Bay, a popular viewpoint used by tourists and locals.

Following autopsy reports, police said they believe she may have been killed and the body dumped in an attempt to cover up the murder.

Police said she may have been dead for up to 12 hours before her body was discovered.

Investigations continue and



Children line up to take part in the Global Mala day celebration, which focused on promoting green initiatives as well as being a whole lot of lively fun.

no arrests have been made.

Fundamental education. Koh Samui's local government has announced a plan to set up a bursary fund to aid the education of students from poor families.

Officials from the local municipality office said it is hoped the fund will go a long way to help poor families on the island.

Municipality officer Phanupong Ngamsamret said there are still a huge number of families on Koh Samui who cannot afford to send their children to school – despite the general increase in affluence on the island over the past few years.

“Even with the government offering free schooling, many families do not have the means to provide even basic necessities,” he stated.

ties,” he stated.

The education-assistance program would grant 1,000 baht to 186 students in primary education, while 1,500 baht would be granted to 76 students in secondary schooling.

Mr Phanupong said the funds would be dispersed to 27 schools as tuition fees for 262 students who had qualified for the subsidy from the government.

Breathe uneasy. Environmentalists on Koh Samui are warning that the island is facing a growing air pollution problem due to the rapidly increasing numbers of cars, ferries and airplanes on the island.

According to some reports, smoke pollutants on the island have grown an estimated 40% to

50% during the past three years. Transportation accounts for around 70% of air pollution on the bustling island, while household smoke accounts for another 20%-30%.

Members from the Green Island Project (GIP) on Koh Samui have expressed their concern over the rising level of air pollution. Statistics indicate that action must be taken before the health of residents and animals on the island begins to suffer, they said.

Members of the project are trying to initiate projects to heighten awareness of the problem among Samui residents, calling for locals to cut down on unnecessary travel and to make others accountable for their contributions to air pollution.



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Wine dinners are, by some people's definition and from extensive experience, lightly disguised but refined booze-ups – glass-raising celebrations of the Good Life, and for those male diners who have any left, a chance to let their hair down.

So what about the somewhat multi-culturally challenged prospect of a wine dinner in a Swiss restaurant highlighting Spanish labels? After all, in the International Culinary Court the Spanish would seem a bit more of an exuberant, dominating influence on a joint Iberian-Helvetian event, wouldn't you think?

Exhibit Number one: A friend of mine was fined 40 Swiss francs for turning her car stereo up too high one Saturday night in Bern, for Cartier's sake. Crank your stereo up in Barcelona and people will start dancing in the street... Milud I rest my case.

Mark Twain put the case for temperance rather eloquently when he wrote 127 years ago: "Total abstinence is so excellent a thing that it cannot be carried to too great an extent. In my passion for it, I even carry it so far as to totally abstain from total abstinence itself."

Having spent a looong eight years in the cold, conservative, judgmental and sobering shadows of the Alps and experiencing daily culture clashes with its humorless burghers, you'd be forgiven for supposing that I would turn down a review of anything vaguely to do with Swiss cuisine – citing an urgent need to write about a stale tuna baguette and a flat Heineken in a dirty glass in a Bangla go-go bar.

But this invitation is different: The Swiss restaurateur in question

is none other than Thomas Brack of Patong's The 9th Floor – he of impeccable culinary taste and a refined eye for some of the best-looking (female) staff on the island, not to mention a dry sense of humor. Plus, instead of going for the raclette-with-Rioja option he's chosen the full Spanish culinary deal, the clever chap.

The 9th Floor's wine dinner has lashings of rosé wine for appero's with endless top-ups and a medley of tapas including a

The Nth Degree at The 9th Floor



The Australian tenderloin "Chimichurri" with fried mushrooms and garlic, olive oil, and baked potato in tomato coulis is served with Abadia Retuerta Especial 2003, Castillo y Leon.

You've got to hand it to The 9th Floor and in particular to Thomas. He knows how to throw a bash in style. His main beef course comprises grilled Oz tenderloin "Chimichurri" with fried mushrooms and garlic, olive oil, baked potato in tomato coulis with a glass or four of Abadia Retuerta Especial 2003, Castillo y Leon.

The dessert course appears, in the shape of a chocolate Muscat Marquise and fruit salad served with Ricotta cream in a brandy snap basket. Not being a dessert specialist, I wouldn't know the difference between a Muscat and a mussel but in my wine-fuddled state I snaffle it all up and, before coffee, bid the largely Teutonic company a cordial *Guten abend* and take the lift downstairs to the waiting monorail to Nai Harn – or was that wishful thinking? Jules Verne I'm not – but hell, there's nothing wrong with wishful thinking.

The 9th Floor, 47 Rat-U-Thit Rd, Sky Inn Condotel, Patong. Open daily 4 pm till late. Tel: 076-344311. Email: contact@the9thfloor.com

muesli – no, make that a mussel – riepeni; bacon and tomato scallops; very welcome tuna empanadas; roasted duck with tropical salsa and leaf-smoked salmon with avocado that leave a distinct pink stain on my 200-baht fake Levi's 501s.

Snazzy-jazzy music in the background makes for a swish, glass-clinking affair. Still, you've probably heard the background story about background music: Musicians study counterpoint and harmony structure for years at a papa-fleeing college, playing top-of-the-line instruments that cost a tad less than a small car and that self-destruct even faster, pay a small fortune for studio time to record music that people buy... just to talk over. And that's it.

The 9th Floor commands an impressive vista over western Patong and the Andaman that some gushy publications describe as "breathtaking" and "awe-inspiring" but, to be pragmatic, make sure you reserve a western-facing window seat and get there early on a sunny evening and you won't regret it.

Milling through the wine-dinner crowd, I meet a gentleman at the bar named Liberto Heras-Gomez – a Basque citizen who

has been on a Spanish-language strike for something like 12 years now. The evening's plot is definitely thickening. "That didn't stop you from phoning me when Spain won," interjects Thomas, to which Señor Liberto replies, "No, that was because we... I mean them... beat the Swiss team; I simply couldn't resist it."

Anyone who has had the pleasure to have dined at The 9th Floor will know that you can lay mad and foolish odds-on that any dinner here will be excellent. Predictably, I find no punters, and equally predictably the spectacular baked marinated prawn on chorizo and potato tortilla accompanied by Valdemar 2007 and Rioja Crianza, kicks off as a great starter.

Chilled gazpacho soup follows, along with a full-bodied red Clos Valmana 2006 and a refreshing orange-and-pomegranate affair ("It's not a sorbet" – Thomas) leads us into the main lobster course – suppli grana padano con basilica with a glass or two of El Quintanal 2006, Ribiero del Duero.

By this time, and under the influence of an Abadia Retuerta Especial 2003 Castillo y Leon, my ersatz Deutsch, dodgy Spanish along with wine-slurred French seem to be almost accepted by my Austrian, Basque, Swiss-German and Deutsch multilingual tablemates.

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Two islands, one heart

For anyone wanting to learn about Phuket's past, Ajarn Pranee is the go-to person, a virtual encyclopedia and colorful storyteller of the island's history and traditions.

In 2001, she met her Malaysian counterpart, Ms Salma Nasution, who has been a leading researcher and writer on Penang's cultural past for decades.

Their friendship and collaboration have helped to further the cultural bonds between Penang and Phuket, and reveal more about the islands' historical ties.

Ms Salma was a founder of the Penang Heritage Trust and worked there for 14 years, fighting to preserve and restore the historic buildings of George Town. She has since published many books exploring the island's history, including *Streets of George Town, Penang*; *More Than Merchants* (subtitled "A History of the German-speaking Community in Penang, 1800s-1940s"); and *Kinta Valley: Pioneering Malaysia's Modern Development*. She is a recipient of the prestigious Nippon Foundation fellowship in support of her work.

The two historians first met when Ajarn Pranee was studying the early 20th century era under Phuket Governor Phraya

The cultural ties between Phuket and the Malaysian island of Penang stretch far back into the colonial era, and descendants of the Baba Peranakan (Straits Chinese) people still reside on both islands.

Last month, the Thai Peranakan Association hosted an event to celebrate 160 years of Phuket-Penang cultural and economic exchange, at which two prominent historians, Khoo Salma Nasution of Penang and Asst Prof Pranee Sakulpipatana of Phuket Rajabhat University, were on hand to offer insights into the distinct culture that the two islands share.

The *Gazette's* Semacote Suganya speaks with them to find out how the traditions of the Baba Peranakan live on amid the rapid modernization of these island neighbors.

Rassada Nupradit, a period of intense trade and infrastructure development.

It was also a time when Phuket and Penang had their strongest ties. "Our people in the past learned from and understood each other," said Ajarn Pranee.

In those days, Phuket learned everything about infrastructure and roads from Penang, Ajarn Pranee explained. "Penang in those times was like our nearest London; it was a British colony. In the past, it was more convenient to get to Penang than

it was to travel to Bangkok. People boarded a big ship, and it took one night to get there.

"From Penang, we learned how to dig the canals, build roads. Later, we learned from them that one who is educated will be a respected person. A good education would make Thais be able to do more than just manual labor. We wanted our children to be 'the boss', and to be able to work with foreigners."

As trade developed between the two islands, Phuket people began to see the value of



MODEL CITIZENS: Two models show off traditional Peranakan costumes, including a wedding dress (in pink), at the recent Baba Peranakan Phuket-Penang cultural exchange night.

having a good education and many began sending their children to Penang to study. "While the children studied," Ajarn Pranee explained, "many parents carried out business with Penang, such as exports of tin or wood. Some of them bought houses in Penang."

Trade and cultural ties between the islands eroded after World War II, when Penang was brought into the new federation of Malaya, and further loosened once roads connecting Phuket to Bangkok were completed in 1964, Ajarn Pranee said.

But through the preservation efforts of the Baba Peranakan communities on Penang and Phuket, and the work of Ajarn Pranee, Ms Salma and their colleagues, the ties are unlikely to ever be broken.

"Students from Phuket still

go to study in Penang, and we still have a lot of shared culture as well," said Ajarn Pranee. "We still have many families where the father is Chinese and the mother is Thai, or a Thai-Chinese mix."

Ms Salma said, "The Phuket and Penang communities were very close in the past, and we should make them close again because we have many things in common."

"I think the traditional culture is a sort of identity and a form of creativity, so it's very important to appreciate traditional culture," she said.

"Imagine that about 100 years ago we didn't have borders. Now, if you want to go to Malaysia you need a passport."

"But even though the world has changed, there are some things I see in Phuket that are just like what I see in Penang. The

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SISTERS OF HERITAGE:
Asst Prof
Pranee
Sakulpipatana
of Phuket
Rajabhat
University (left)
and Khoo
Salma Nasution
of Penang.

architecture, for example.

"Houses along the road are still exactly like those in Penang. During the time of Praya Rassada there was a lot of exchange between Penang and Phuket," Ms Salma explained.

A shared past binds the islands of Phuket and Penang together in the history books, and it is this shared love of history that began a close friendship between the two historians.

"Salma first met me when I went to do research about Praya Rassada," said Ajarn Pranee. "She first met me when she was pregnant. I adored her because

she had a good vision, was diligent and loved her local heritage. I am happy to have met this kind of person and she has inspired me to do many things about culture."

Ms Salma returned the compliment, saying, "Ajarn Pranee has taught me a lot of things about Phuket; she is the one who is the most knowledgeable about Phuket."

In promoting cultural exchange between Penang and Phuket, Ms Salma said that when she's in Malaysia, she always encourages Penang people to come and visit Phuket.

A formal student-exchange

program would also be nice, she said, but noted that one of the largest and longest-established Chinese schools in Penang, Han-Chiang Secondary, is currently hosting nearly 300 Thai students.

Ajarn Pranee can be contacted at the Phuket Cultural Center, Phuket Rajabhat University, Phuket City. Several books written by Ms Salma can be found at www.arecabooks.com, while details on her preservation work for the region are available at the Lestari Heritage Network website to be found at www.lestariheritage.net

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Natthanicha
Ekwanich and
Geoffrey Bull were
recently married at
the Grand Ballroom
of The Pearl Hotel
in Phuket City.



Chris and Alice
Pahlman were
married recently on
the beach at Dusit
Thani Laguna Phuket
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This week



MAHIDOL DAY: Nurses from Bangkok Phuket Hospital, led by Dr Bodin La-iert (center), paid their respects to Prince Mahidol on September 24. Prince Mahidol is considered the father of modern medicine and public health in Thailand. Prince Mahidol of Songkhla was the son of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) and the father of both King Rama VIII and



BUDDHIST-ISLAMIC MERIT MAKING: Associates and guests of the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket were invited to join both Buddhist and Muslim Merit Ceremonies to officially open the Island Villas on Thursday, September 25. The ceremony was held to bring good fortune to the Island Villas following their re-opening after a major rejuvena-



AN ENGLISHMAN, IRISHMAN AND... (from left) Vicki Hamilton from the Andaman Players, English comedian Greg Davies, Marc Mulloy of PG TV and Irish comedian Neil Delamere at the latest Punchline Comedy Night held at the Holiday Inn Phuket Resort & Hotel on September 16.




HOTELS HERE & NOW: Sangiam Ekachote (right), Communications Director of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, Lothar Schudt (center) from Jasmin Consulting, and Managing Director of Hotel Management magazine Siripat Ketarn (left) at the Kata Thani Phuket Beach Resort during the Thai Hotelier Forum 2008, which focused on how hotels can survive emerging difficulties.



THE FAMILY: Benjama (red dress), Ovadia (back center), Rick (black shirt) and staff at The Family Mediterranean Restaurant celebrated the re-opening of their new air-conditioned oriental venue, with new menu, in Rawai on



RETIRING: The Dean of Wittayalai Technic Phuket, Mr Montri Ayapat (center), said farewell to colleagues during a Friendship, Love, Bonding and Good Memories party organized by Deputy Dean of Wittayalai Technic Somporn Thawekarn. The event was held at the Jamjuri ballroom at the Phuket Merlin Hotel last month.




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Candidate Tsow Meets the Press

I have been watching the American presidential campaign on TV, and I think I've figured out all the right but tons to press to become a successful candidate. If I were running for president, here are some of the things I'd do:

Focus on an appealing theme.

Much of the current campaign has been an argument over which is more important, change or experience. A shrewd candidate will stake a claim on both. So my theme would be "Changes you'll love, experience you can trust." It's true that I have no idea what changes you'll love, and you can't trust my experience because I don't have any. I'm hoping nobody will notice.

Pick a catchy slogan. I like Obama's "Yes, we can!", but I'm more cautious than Obama. I favor something like "Maybe we can, if we try really hard, don't meet much opposition, have lots of luck, and it doesn't rain." I'm told this may need to be tightened up a bit.

I've also figured out how to handle any questions that might be thrown at me during a TV interview. A hard-hitting interview with Candidate Tsow might go like this:

Interviewer: Candidate Tsow, how would you solve the current US economic crisis?

Tsow: I'd appoint a highly qualified Economy Czar and let him handle it.

Interviewer: Isn't that dodging the issue?



Tsow: Not at all. I don't know anything about economics. A good president should be able to recognize the areas he's weak in and delegate those areas to competent subordinates. Let the experts handle the economy. If they screw up, you can always fire them and appoint new ones.

Interviewer: How would you handle the Iraq War?

Tsow: The Iraqi government has already said they want us out. They've even set a deadline. They're a sovereign nation. They ought to know when they're ready to handle their own security. Whenever they want us out, we should leave.

Interviewer: How would you deal with Russia's attempts to dominate its former territories?

Tsow: I'd invite Russia to join Nato.

Interviewer: Huh?

Tsow: Sure. Russia is worried that neighboring countries such as Georgia and Ukraine will join Nato. So invite Russia to

join, too. Invite everybody to join, including North Korea and Iran. With everybody in Nato, peace and happiness will reign on Earth.

Interviewer: I don't think that will work. Do you?

Tsow: Well, let's give it a shot. That's one of my "changes you'll love".

Interviewer: Hmm... Well, what do you think of abortion? That's a big issue for Americans.

Tsow: I favor post-natal abortions for all my enemies.

Interviewer: No, let me put it another way: At what point do you believe life begins?

Tsow: Life begins with your first Mekhong soda, enhanced by a squirt of lime. Everything before that is pre-amble.

Interviewer: I can see we're not getting anywhere on this issue. Let's go on to the next question: Will you be ready to take that 3 am phone call?

Tsow: What 3 am phone call?

Interviewer: That's a hypothetical phone call that as president you might get at 3 am requiring you to respond immediately to an international crisis – a terrorist attack like 9/11, say, or an Iranian missile

strike on Israel, or a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

Tsow: Errr... couldn't they make the phone call at a more respectable hour?

Interviewer: This would be a national emergency, sir. It could occur at any time. It would require an immediate and decisive response.

Tsow: Well, I'm afraid 3 am would be way after office hours for this president. Even if I took the call, it would take me three cups of coffee just to wake up. And it takes me time to make a decision. I have to rub my lucky rabbit's foot and flip a coin and all that.

Interviewer: Sir, with all due respect, I have to say you'd make a lousy president.

Tsow: (Whining) Well, geez, can't they make their phone calls during office hours? Tell you what, after office hours the phone calls go to my vice president. How about that for a solution?

Interviewer: That's no solution at all. With you in charge, everything would be delegated to your subordinates. We wouldn't need a president at all.

Tsow: You know, I've always wondered about that.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@ymail.com, but only during office hours.



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Pruerk-Ampai	75	5,900,000	100,000	2,850,000	2,950,000
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Tai Chi Timeout Part I

With Rick Attix

Welcome to the first in a series of Tai Chi Timeouts. Each timeout takes you through a single, easy-to-follow Thai Chi-Chi Gung exercise.

One of the aims of Tai Chi is to develop the intrinsic energy (*chi*) within the body through slow, rhythmical breathing exercises known as Chi Gung.

The ancient oriental martial-art exercises are a great natural way to relieve tension from stress, and aches and pains from stiff limbs.

They can be performed whenever you want to unwind and loosen up, but are particularly beneficial when done during sunrise.

Chi is thought to be especially clean and light at that time, giving the body a fresh breath of clean air, relaxing and energizing the mind and body to get you underway at the start of the day.

In this particular exercise, inhale and exhale through the nostrils with slow, even and steady breaths, while imagining the hands being drawn softly and very slowly upward and downward with the pulling and release of each breath.

Before beginning exercise, release the tension in the neck and shoulders by slowly rolling the shoulders forward and backward.

Then roll your head in a circle, keeping your neck loose, first to the right and then to the left.

Once you've completed five of these rotations, place



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



Step 8

your hands over your center of gravity (*tan tien*) and relax into a comfortable, forward-facing posture.

When doing these exercises, if they are to be of any benefit, it's important to be very aware of any tension in your muscles and joints.

Without an expert there to guide you, it's up to you to ex-

periment and find the correct stance and to repeatedly remind yourself to "let go" of tension and thoughts. Focus on your breathing.

Step 1. Place your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, with your hips tucked gently under the spine (back straight).

Relax your shoulders and hold up your head, but keep your neck relaxed.

Step 2. Begin the breathing exercise by slowly inhaling to the count of five, relaxing your abdomen and allowing it to expand.

Imagine the breath inward is gently lifting your hands.

Step 3. Continue to inhale while allowing your hands to float up

from the elbow without engaging your shoulders.

Step 4. When your hands reach shoulder height, slowly turn them over and begin to exhale, allowing your abdomen to slowly contract.

Step 5. Continue to exhale while releasing any tension in your neck and shoulders.

Step 6. Continue to exhale until your hands are at waist level.

Step 7. When your hands reach your waist, slowly turn them over and begin to inhale. Allow the abdomen to relax and to slowly expand again.

Continue like this for five to 15 minutes.

Step 8. To complete the exercise, cross your hands over your *tan tien* and gather the *chi* within.

Rick Attix is a martial arts expert with 1st and 2nd degree black belts in Shorinji-Ryu karate. He studied Taoist Chi Gung in China under 7th generation master Yuanming Zhang, and Ch'i Healing with T.K Shih in New York before training for several years under senior instructors in the Malaysian Chinese Tai Chi community. Rick holds regular Tai Chi-Chi Gung classes in Kamala starting 9 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tel: 081-7289980. Email serenethai@yahoo.com Website: www.taichiphuket.com

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Double celebration for Daeng

Owner of Patong cabaret venue the Boat Bar Poonsak "Daeng" Sanchan (striped shirt) and friends celebrated in true Patong party style for the Boat Bar's 16th anniversary and Daeng's 50th birthday on September 20. Photos by Dan Miles.



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PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC

Some men are handsome and charming, others make the best of what little they have, and then there's the rest of us. Cursed with physical attributes that would make a vulture skip straight to the brandy and cigars, and a personality that could sedate Las Vegas, we forlornly wrestle with our imperfections and abnormalities in a quixotic quest to win the affections of the fairer sex.

And despite our best efforts with a panoply of props and devices, we most often end up looking like our grandparents doing drag in a pantomime.

But no more.

To the relief of aesthetically and intellectually challenged lonely guys everywhere, I am pleased to announce that enlightenment has now arrived with the hardly heralded literary premiere of my sensational new bestseller *The Seven Habits of the Irresistible Man*.

Fully illustrated with pop-up cartoons, plus scratch-and-sniff cards for blind readers, this mighty tome promises to ease you through the painless step-by-step process that will transform you into a born-again love magnet.

Highlighting the indispensable qualities that make up the ideal man, this lexicon of love is a veritable treasure trove of tips and expert advice on what to do

The Seven Habits of the Irresistible Man



and what not to do to get the girl. By way of an appetizer, I am delighted to share with you the following excerpts for your viewing displeasure.

Sense of Humor. When sampled, three and a half out of four women stated that a sense of humor was the most important quality they looked for in a man.

A man who could make a woman laugh with his trousers on was top-rated in our survey. Also highly prized was a man with the ability to laugh at himself, although it was stipulated that this should not happen more than twice per hour.

Romance. This is the 21st century and romantic men are all the rage. So do not be ashamed to express your emotions in front of your woman, although if you feel the need to start crying, make sure she starts first, unless, of course, you are watching a football match or paying the electric bill.

Masculinity. While it is perfectly acceptable to be in touch with your feminine side, don't forget that at the end of the day and especially at the end of the day, your woman wants her man to be a man. So make sure you are done with the crying and all the girly stuff by the time the ref blows the final whistle, and

be ready to re-assert your masculinity. There will be time enough for lots more crying when they show the match of the day highlights the following day.

Honesty. A woman cannot love you if she does not trust you and she cannot trust you if she does not believe you and she will not believe you unless you learn to lie really well. And if that is beyond your comprehension, then you will just have to be honest and tell her the truth all the time, which is going to be tough when discussing her mother or carpet samples.

Hygiene. No one likes a slob, except maybe pest control. A woman likes her man to be well scrubbed and free of unwanted odors. To impress your woman, wear your shirt inside-out to conceal those hard-to-remove stains.

Firm buttocks. Though technically not a "habit", 75% of the women questioned in our comprehensive survey unanimously cited firm buttocks as the two most important features in a man. All three women questioned agreed that if a man had "tight buns" it didn't matter that his beer-gut crossed the international dateline.

Ambition. A man with ambition is a man with a purpose. Drive and determination can be very attractive qualities in a man, particularly when it comes to parking the car and ordering pizza.

However, everything should be in moderation. Displays of naked ambition are a surefire turn-off and should be avoided at all costs, except perhaps on your honeymoon – and even then, only once and most likely with the lights turned off.

End of the Line

Dale Nottingham

MALAIWANA TriBallistic TRIATHLON SERIES 2008

10-11th October 2008
At Indigo Pearl, Nanyang, Phuket

Splash 'n' Dash: Swim 50m*, Bike 1.5km, Run 750m
Junior: Swim 200m*, Bike 5km, Run 1.5km
Senior Sprint: Swim 750m*, Bike 20km, Run 5km
Senior Olympic: Swim 1.5km*, Bike 40km, Run 10km

Prizes for all podium finishers, Medals for all finishers

Registration/Transition open 08:00

Friday 10th 18:00 - 20:30 Race registration, Carbo loading dinner**, Race Briefing
Saturday 11th 08:00 Registration
08:00 Senior Races Start
Saturday 11th 15:30 Children Registration
16:00 Splash 'n' Dash Race Start, 16:30 Junior Race Start
Saturday 11th 18:00 till late end of series party** and awards presentation.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

October 4-13. Phuket Fringe Festival.

From 4 pm to 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 gâteau. 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

October 5. PC Group Therapy – Patong.

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 Patong (near Andaman Beach Suites), see the web site. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Patong.



Phuket Surf Lifesaving Carnival at Patong Beach. October 11.

From 8:30 am to 5 pm near the football field at Patong Beach.

We invite local and overseas competitors to join in the first ever Surf Lifesaving Carnival in Phuket. This will be a full day of individual and team events, including surf races, board events and relays, Ironman and Ironwoman, flag and sprint races. Age groups are: Under 18, Open (18-30), Masters (over 30), Masters (over 40), Masters (over 50) and one special event for children – the Phuket Rescue Relay.

This event is being organized by the Phuket Lifeguard Club for the Phuket Provincial Administration (OrBorJor).

For details, contact Jayne MacDougall.

Tel: 089-6452576.

Email: thailifeguard@gmail.com

Website: www.phuketlifeguard.com

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

October 7-13. 60 Years of Mövenpick.

From 6:30 pm to 11 pm.

This year, Mövenpick celebrates its 60th anniversary. From October 7 to December 7, Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket will mark the occasion by serving the most popular classics from 60 years of Mövenpick's culinary history.

During the festival weeks, the existing culinary choice will

be complemented by a specially created menu, re-interpreted with a contemporary touch.

On the menu will be favorites such as tartar and smoked salmon alongside Zürcher Geschnetzeltes and Riz Casimir.

This culinary experience will be rounded off with Mövenpick ice cream and apple cake, not forgetting, of course, a cup of delicious Mövenpick coffee.

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

October 8. Boathouse Writer's Night with Jim Newport.

From 7 pm to 9 pm at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

The fourth in the Boathouse Writer's Night series will present James "Jim" Newport (www.vampireofsiam.com), a writer and Emmy-nominated production designer of film and television. His film credits include *Bangkok Dangerous*, *Brokedown Palace*, *The Stepfather* and *Heart Like A Wheel*.

He wrote *The Vampire of Siam* trilogy, which includes *The Vampire of Siam*, *Ramonne* and *The Reckoning*. The author's latest work, *Chasing Jimi*, is a fictional novel about Jimi Hendrix and was released in May 2008.

The evening at the Boathouse will include readings from *Chasing Jimi* and a Q&A session with the author.

Contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

October 9. Wine Tasting at Wine Connection Chalong.

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

For more information contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

October 11. TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon Race 4.

The fourth and final race will consist of:

- Senior Olympic distance (1.5km swim, 40km cycle, 10km run)

- Senior sprint distance race (750m swim, 20km cycle, 5km run)

- Junior race (200m swim, 6km cycle, 1.5km run)

- Splash 'n' dash (50m swim, 1.5km cycle, 750m run)

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For more details contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com

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ON THE MOVE

Songkhla native **Mon-ruedee Prukwattanasuk** has been recently appointed Account Manager for JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. Her previous experience includes purchasing and reservations, and marketing management positions at Malisa Villa Suites, Sugar Palm Resort, and at Chandara Resort & Spa and Trisara.



Phuket native **Kamonluk Noisommit** has been recently appointed Manager of Radiant Skin Clinic Co Ltd on Phang Nga Road. Before joining Radiant Skin Clinic, Ms Kamonluk studied Business Administration at Phuket Rajabhat University. After graduating, Ms Kamonluk gained several years' experience in sales.



Peter D Gibbons from the UK has been appointed General Manager of Millennium Resort Patong. He has previously held management positions at Loong Palace Hotel and Resort in Beijing, Savoy and Sierra hotels in Egypt, Sunway Lagoon Resort, Kuala Lumpur and Penang Mutiara Resort. He has also worked in Dubai, the West Indies, the Bahamas and Singapore.



A-Day was a plus for ex-pat pensioners

Some months ago this column introduced the subject of QROPS (Qualifying Recognized Overseas Pension Schemes). The response to the article was substantial and therefore, as a follow up, I would like to provide some additional information on the subject and answer some of the many related questions.

Many people leaving the UK find that one party that remains a part of their life is the infamous HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs). This is predominantly because pension funds, including SIPP's (Self Invested Pension Plans) remain UK-based. The UK tax authorities are admittedly quite generous, in relative terms, on income tax and other taxes for bona fide expatriates. However, expats continue to be taxed on pension income as it is treated as UK-sourced income, and thus falls

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

inside the tax net. Therefore, individuals with UK-based private pensions often find themselves lumbered with hefty tax bills.

I know of a number of cases in Phuket where tax is being paid at the maximum marginal tax rate of 40%. However, since "A-Day", on April 6, 2006 – the day the UK introduced new pension rules, it has been legally possible to transfer pensions – inclusive of protected rights – overseas.

The fact that most people do not make the transfer is due to a number of factors, including problems accessing information and difficulty in understanding the process. The HMRC cannot be blamed as they have remained relatively flexible. They do, however, insist on several factors, all of which are reasonable.

First, any pension fund being transferred out of the UK must be moved into a recognized

pension scheme. A QROPS has to be registered with HMRC. The UK tax authorities will not tolerate any cowboy operators and further require that every QROPS obeys the regulations, which are no more onerous than those which exist in the UK and which afford significant advantages of a completely legitimate nature.

All QROPS are required to report to the HMRC for the first five years after the pension transfer has taken place.

At least two Singapore-based companies have attempted to market QROPS to their clients as a way of effectively moving assets from a pension scheme to a client's bank account.

It did not take the HMRC long to uncover this abuse and close down the offending companies' QROPS. Indeed, Singapore itself, as a QROPS base, seems to be suffering serious problems.

The HMRC is also currently investigating a wide range of QROPS to ensure that both the letter and the spirit of the regulations are not being flouted. For their part, QROPS have been

quick to learn these lessons and any sensible person will not seek to abuse the regulations.

There are a number of very worthwhile advantages of a QROPS compared with its equivalent UK-domiciled pension. Naturally, there is the tax factor; QROPSs remain tax-free for residents of Thailand, Malaysia and so on.

With UK-based pension schemes, the policy holder is eventually required by law to purchase an annuity, which is usually to the detriment of the individual.

Domestic pension schemes are also subject to inheritance tax (IHT). QROPS are exempt from IHT and there is never any requirement to purchase an annuity. The value of the pension can, upon death, be passed on to beneficiaries.

Reports must be made by the trustees of the QROPS to the HMRC if, at the time of payment, the client is either a UK resident or has been resident in the UK during any of the preceding five years. The 25% lump sum, which can be drawn under UK regulations, is also available with a QROPS.

Investment choices are much broader than those available to UK residents and can be changed at any stage. In addition to income from a QROPS, valid capital distributions can only be made upon retirement, incapacity or death. In reality, a QROPS will tend to be more lenient in this regard.

Transferring a UK pension overseas is not, it must be said, a

simple process. Most of the administrative red tape is caused by bureaucratic UK regulations, which must be complied with. However, this burden is borne largely by the IFA (Independent Financial Advisor), since under UK legislation, individuals are not allowed to complete this process on their own.

In order for a QROPS to benefit an individual, it will have to be in the six-figure range (upwards of UK£100,000). This amount may comprise a number of pensions, which are consolidated. This may not, however, include any state pension as they cannot be incorporated into a QROPS.

QROPS are not designed for individuals considering returning to the UK, as The HMRC will seek to tax the scheme at even higher-than-normal rates. Additionally, a QROPS is not suitable for anyone planning on taking up US residency.

For most people, QROPS are a real blessing. Currently, I use Hong Kong trustees that have been vetted and approved by the HMRC and whose assets are being held by a major Isle of Man Group.

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

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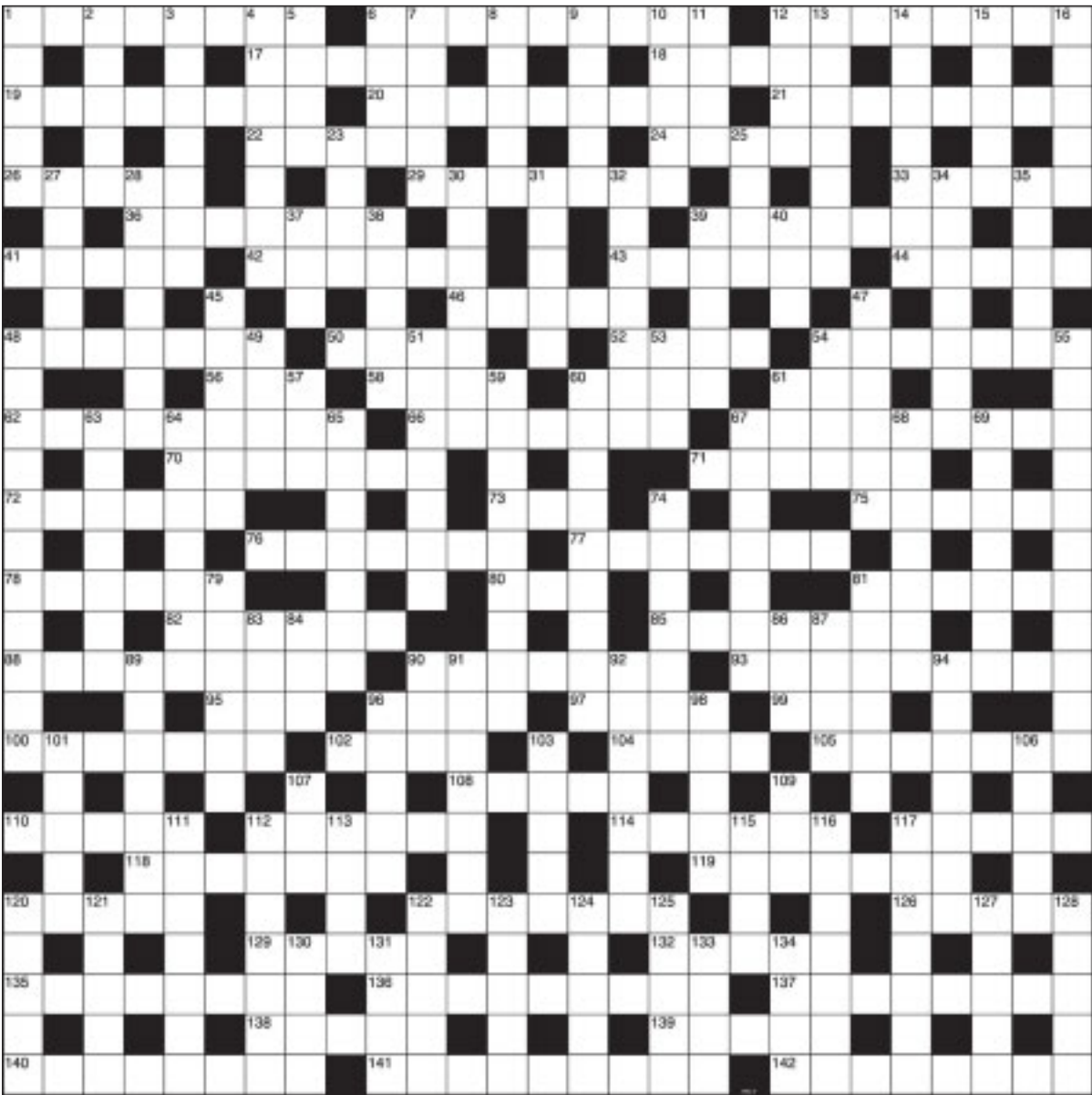
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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words related to surf lifesaving. 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.

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



The BIG Crossword

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- Across**
1. Book extracts
6. Edge-of-seat films
12. Prehistoric relic
17. In what place?
18. Severe
19. Hive insect (5,3)
20. Incorporation
21. Highest officials (3,5)
22. For specific use (2,3)
24. Jeans fabric
26. Fashion, ...Lauren
29. Fleshy ear part (3,4)
33. Swamp grasses
36. Hindered
39. Unfortunate
41. Dutch sea walls
42. Understand
43. Riots
44. Saloon car
46. Vagabond
48. Large properties
50. Money owed
52. Article
54. Hard-wearing
56. Male
58. Actress, ...Barrymore
60. Successor
61. Assist
62. Gratified
66. News chiefs
67. Theatrical assistant
70. Acorn bearer (3,4)
71. Shakespearean tragedy
72. Country singer, Willie...
73. ..., drink & be merry
75. Accounts record
76. South African hero, Nelson...
77. Mimic
78. Allow
80. Nought
81. First course
82. Alleviating
85. Dry US state
88. Demanding
90. Navigated
93. Procession
95. Army maneuvers
96. Anti-attacker spray
97. Designer, ...St Laurent
99. Humorous poet, ...Ayres
100. In vapor form
102. Lone
104. Norwegian capital
105. Most obscene
108. Swallowed liquid
110. Ploys
112. Firearm round
114. Certainly
117. US city, Las...
118. Sent by wireless
119. Sheerer
120. Monarch's rule
122. Road transportation
126. Pre-Soviet emperors
129. Rice field
132. Tropical fruit
135. Refuse entry to (4,4)
136. Like snake or lizard
137. Scandalized
138. Play (movie) again
139. Concepts
140. Telephone parts
141. Courageously
142. Slimness
4. Twisted sharply
5. Garden shack
6. Musical threesome
7. Therefore
8. Lazy person
9. Rodeo rope
10. America's ...Island
11. Rational
12. ...spumante
13. Parallelogram
14. Ventures forth
15. Maxim
16. Jobs
23. Weeded
25. Number in nonet
27. Gulf
28. Two-tone horse
30. Helped (criminal)
31. Dependable
32. Lumpier
34. Eyelid hair
35. Slow speech style
37. Dawn moisture
38. Conned
39. Gastric disorder
40. Lease out
45. Debase
47. Stout club
48. Building science
49. Became submerged
51. Stud farmer
53. ...the season to be jolly ('3)
54. Clock face
55. Seal of approval
57. Butterfly catcher
59. Panorama lens (4-5)
60. Unfriendly feeling
61. Cash machine (1,1,1)
63. Very attentive (3,4)
64. Scribbles
65. Humming tunelessly
67. Demonic
68. Everlasting
69. Algiers is there
74. Angry outbursts
79. Dine at restaurant (3,3)
81. Bath coating
83. Samples (wine)
84. ...& outs
86. Kill with ray gun
87. US president's ...Office
89. The Titanic hit one
90. Chum
91. Chilled leaf drink (4,3)
92. Inspiring
94. Scroungers
96. Fungus
98. Sleighs
101. Entertain
103. Jewish bread roll
106. Drummer, Ringo...
107. Now, status...
109. Disco group, ...Gees
111. Summer shoes
112. Small role (3,4)
113. Heavy metal
115. Exclusive UK school
116. Rid of lice
117. Old soldier
120. Try to vomit
121. Cricketer, ...Khan
122. "Laughing" scavenger
123. Up to the time of
124. Movie director, Woody...
125. Internet message
127. Quarrel
128. Facets
130. Positive votes
131. Lug
133. Pop artist, ...Warhol
134. Football score

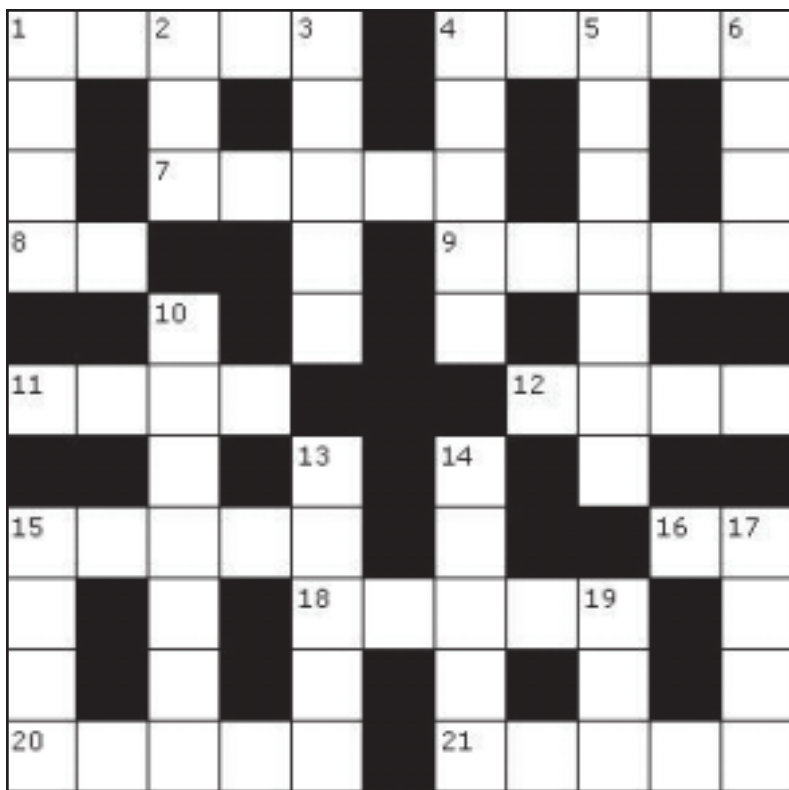
Solution on next page

su | do | ku
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Aussie city
4. Fantastic
7. Dance
8. City of Angels
9. Beauty...
11. Twirl
12. Smell
15. Disease
16. Former
18. ...Newton
20. Spear
21. Traveler

Down

1. Skin
2. Rodent
3. Car maker
4. Big bird
5. Leave out
6. Ripped
10. Baddie
13. Sound
14. Expression
15. Medicine
17. Radiation
19. Hat

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. How many days is the average gestation period of a mouse? 3, 11 or 21?
2. What is the name of the largest lake in South America?
3. What is the name used in Holland for land that has been won from the sea?
4. "For the good of the Game" is the official slogan of which sporting organization?
5. What is the term for a period of play in baseball or cricket?
6. In *The Lord of the Rings*, what type of creature was Legolas?
7. Narita is the main airport of which city?
8. In which US city would you find Love Field Airport?
9. Which former UN Secretary General was elected federal president of Austria in 1986?
10. Who defeated the Roman army on August 2, 216 BC at the Battle of Cannae?
11. Which dog is named for the German word for muzzle?
12. Name the two longest poisonous snakes in the world
13. What's the name of the only Shakespearean play with an animal in the title?
14. Which Irish writer appeared on the Irish £10 note?
15. Which was Mario Puzo's most famous book?
16. The Zagros mountain range is in which country?
17. Which place name means many islands?
18. What was Hugh Hefner's jet plane called?
19. According to Guinness, what was the biggest gift in the world?
20. Which famous bridge was in use between June 26, 1948 and May 12, 1949?

Answers below



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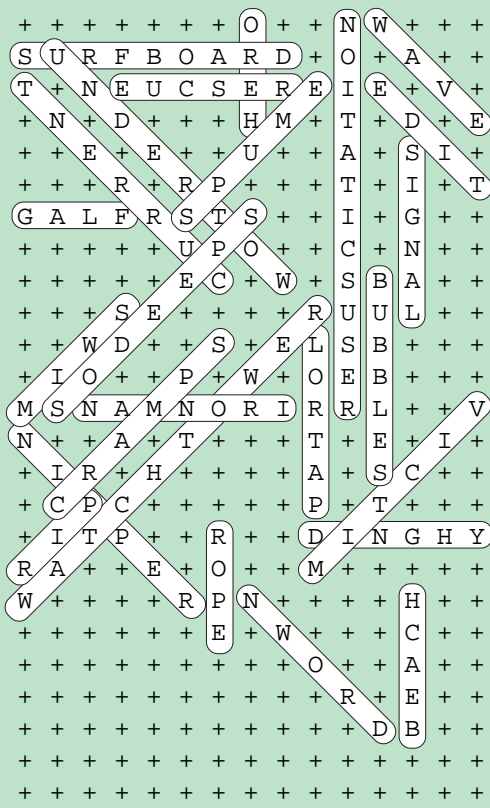
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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

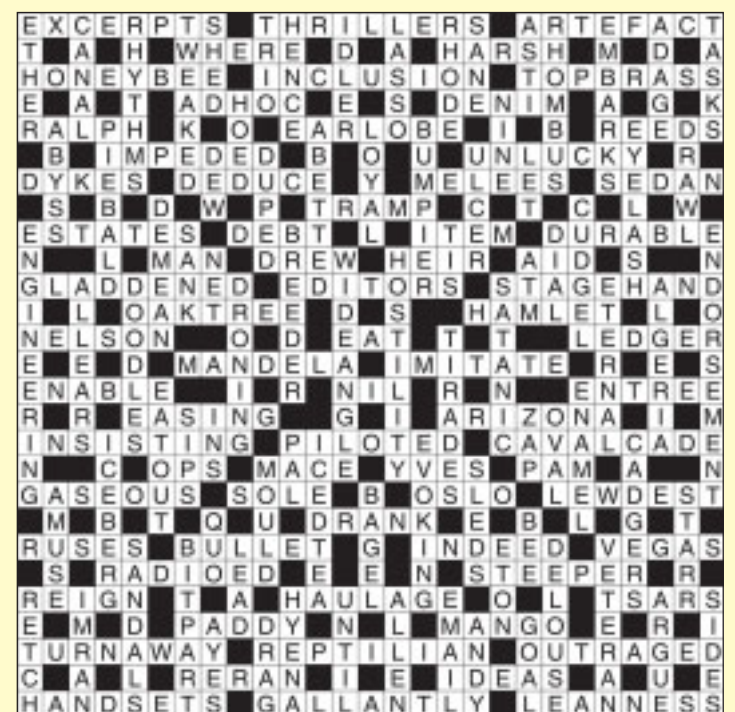


Hidden Words SOLUTION



Monster Quiz Answers

1. 21; 2. Titicaca; 3. Polder; 4. FIFA;
5. Innings; 6. Elf; 7. Tokyo; 8. Dallas;
9. Kurt Waldheim; 10. Hannibal; 11. Schnauzer;
12. King Cobra / Black Mamba; 13. The Taming of the Shrew;
14. James Joyce; 15. The Godfather;
16. Iran; 17. Polynesia; 18. Big Bunny;
19. Statue of Liberty; 20. Berlin Air Bridge.



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Richard Price is a 58-year-old native of the Bronx who published his first novel, *The Wanderers*, back in 1974. This tale of an Italian street gang in the Bronx went on to become a highly successful movie. Price has written a good number of screenplays to boot.

His fictional turf is New York and urban New Jersey and his eight novels can be shoehorned into a category called crime fiction. His protagonists are cops and streetkids. Yet he is more a literary than a commercial writer like Robert B. Parker or Elmore Leonard, who reliably crank out a book a year.

Price's output is only eight novels in 34 years and this is because he spends an enormous amount of time on research, reflected in the gritty streetwise dialog of his cops and robbers. But beyond this, his powers of physical description are stupendous. Hardly a page goes by without an incandescent turn of phrase.

His latest novel, *Lush Life* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2008, 455pp), is his best. The scene is the Lower East Side of New York, originally a densely packed tenement neighborhood mostly populated by immigrant Jews. Now the neighborhood is a bustling mix of blacks, Hispanics, Chinese and yuppie whites ("the pioneers"). Abandoned synagogues stand cheek by jowl with fashionable boutiques and nightspots.

In this cauldron of social change, a late-night street holdup by two teenagers, black and Puerto Rican, of three young

Master of street-speak



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

drunk white guys results in front page screaming headlines in the tabloid *New York Post*. One white guy drops to the sidewalk in a drunken stupor, a second hands over his wallet, and the third steps forward to say, "Not tonight, my man," and is shot and killed. "Suicide by mouth," the cops call it.

Assigned to the case is Detective Sergeant Matty Clark, a middle-aged veteran, divorced, with an estranged wife and two sons upstate. His partner is Yolanda Bello, a Puerto Rican who grew up on the local projects, a dewy-eyed specialist in wheedling confessions out of teenage criminals.

Acting as a comic counterbalance to this pair are the grimly humorous "Quality of Life" crew, a four-man team who

cruise around in a battered taxi picking up random suspects.

One scene has six Asian prostitutes from the Oriental Pearl brothel led into a police station. One cop wails: "Where do I go now?"

"This funny, huh?" the tallest hooker snapped. "I make good money. More than you."

"So what. My wife makes more money than you."

"She do half-and-half too?"

"That's what they tell me." Cracking everyone up again.

But a quality of sensitive reflection runs deep through the story too. Here's Matty Clark reflecting on the difference between "perps" and "vics":

"Although a few pure athletes of evil did exist out there, most murderers, when he finally caught up with them, pretty much never met his expectations. For the most part, they were a stupid and fantastically self-centered lot; rarely did they come across, at least on first expectation, as capable of the biblical enormity of what they had done."

"Survivors, on the other hand, even

those who were as thick and brutish as the killers who had done away with their spouses or children, almost always appeared to him as larger than life; and being in the service of that kind of suffering often left him feeling both humbled and anointed."

This particular murder case seems simple at first. But then a couple who had been passing across the street report that they never saw the two teenage assailants; that there were the only three white guys and one, Eric Cash, a local restaurant manager, holding something shiny in his hand when the shot went off.

Matty and Yolanda grill an exhausted Eric Cash all night and remand him to the local jail: The Tombs. But then the falling-down-drunk friend revives in the hospital and confirms the original story, setting off a media frenzy for the killers.

There is no slam bang climax, no chase scene, no final confrontation. Just a bit of luck and a con job on a "wit" that yields up the "perp". Not Hollywood, but real life.



Homonyms can be the bane of a language learner's existence. It's frustrating when you hear a phrase and all the words sound familiar, but you still can't make head nor tail out of it.

For the intrepid student of Thai, however, this is no time for fretting. Put on your best glass-half-full, *mai pen rai* smile and the Thai homonyms provide ample opportunity to grow your vocabulary. Today's column is a vocabulary builder.

Take, for example, the word pronounced *khan*. Since Thai is a tonal language, true homonyms must share the same tone. So if we choose, say, the mid tone, the possible meanings include:

คัน *khan* (itch);
คัน *khan* (rod, pole) as in คันเบ็ด (fishing rod);
คัน *khan* classifier for forks, spoons, umbrellas;
คัน *khan* classifier for wheeled vehicles;
คัน *khan* (dike, dam), as in คันนา *khan naa* (the raised dirt ridge surrounding paddy fields);
ครรภ์ *khan* (the formal word for womb) as in ตั้งครรภ์ *tang khan* (become pregnant).

It takes a while to hone your ear for picking out tones, however. So here are some more words that you might find tricky, because they differ from the above only in tone:

High tone: คั้น *khan* (squeeze) as in น้ําคั้นสด *nam som khan sot* (fresh-squeezed orange juice);

Falling tone: คั่น *khan* (divide, separate) as in ที่คั่นหนังสือ *thui khan nang-sue* (bookmark);
ขั้น *khan* (step, rank, level);

Rising tone: ขัน *khan* (crow), like a rooster does in the

Build your vocabulary



morning;

ขำ *khan* (funny, amusing);

ขัน *khan* (water-dipping bowl) like those used in Thai-style bathrooms.

Another word with a very large number of homonyms is *kaan*:

การ *kaan* (work, business), also used to nouns from verbs, as in การกิน *kaan kin* (eating), or abstract nouns from other nouns, as in การทูต *kaan toot* (diplomacy);

กาล *kaan* (time), as in รัชกาล *ratchakaan* (the period of a monarch's reign), or ตลอดกาล *talot kaan* (forever, for all time);

การณ *kaan* (event), as in เหตุการณ์ (incident), สถานการณ์ (situation) or ปรากฏการณ์ (phenomenon);

กาญจน์ *kaan* (gold), as in กาญจนบุรี *kaanchanaburi* (Kanchanaburi Province);

And there are several more rarer words:

กาน *kaan* (trim, prune a tree)

กาฬ *kaan* (black, black mark of death)

กานท์ *kaan* (a type of poem)

กานต์ *kaan* (beloved)

Sometimes there are just two common homonyms, but they get a lot of mileage:

ทำ *tham* (do, make);
ธรรม *tham* (dharma, teachings of the Buddha), seen in compounds such as ธรรมชาติ *thammachaat* (nature), วัฒนธรรม *watthanatham* (culture) and ยุติธรรม *yutitham* (justice).

กำ *kam* (to close the fist, grasp in the fist), as in กำปั้น *kam pan* (fist) or กำมือ *kam mue* (fistful, still used as a measurement in traditional markets for things like fresh greens).

กรรม *kam* (karma), also in many compounds, including ชะตากรรม *chataakam* (fate), บาปกรรม *baapkam* (sin, wrongdoing) and ฆาตกรรม *khaatta kam* (murder).

Another source of homonyms in Thai stems from the difference between the written and spoken language.

Contrary to what you learn in many textbooks and classrooms, native speakers drop the r's and l's from consonant "clusters" in their everyday, casual speech. This is obvious once you start conversing. That means กลับ *klap* (go back) and กับ *kap* (with) are actually homonyms in real life. You won't hear this on the news – because newscasters must pass a pronunciation test before they're allowed on the air – but you'll hear it nearly everywhere else.

If a Thai language course doesn't prepare students for this reality, it's doing them a disservice. You may need to mentally insert – or even remove – some

r's and l's to properly interpret the words you're hearing.

The same thing goes for switching r and l in Thai words. The general tendency among native speakers is for r-words to be pronounced as l – as in whenไม่รู้ *mai ruu* (I don't know) becomes *mai luu* – but some people over-correct and start putting r where l should be. I know folks who regularly pronounce phrases like หลายคน *laai khon* (many people) as *raai khon* (without people).

Dealing with such intricacies of the language is a necessary hurdle en route to being able to comfortably hold a conversation. Ultimately, context will be

your guide in figuring out which meaning makes sense.

The sooner you start stocking up that mental repository of sound-alike words, and the more practice you get in the real world, the quicker you'll reach that point.

NOTE: The phonetic characters used 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. Rikker Dockum writes regularly at thai101.blogspot.com and can be contacted at: rdockum@gmail.com

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Killing man's best friend

Poisoning of dogs is sadly an all too common occurrence in Thailand. Despite His Majesty the King requesting an end to the practice several years ago, it continues in many places to this day, including Phuket.

Whether carried out by local authorities as a method of controlling the dog population or malicious act by individuals against particular dogs, the result is a painful end for the animals concerned. The letter below, which I received from a reader recently, highlights the problem that many pet owners face, whether or not their dog is actually targeted as in this case.

It is not uncommon for poisoned bait to be left in streets and on beaches where any animal or bird could be affected. What this letter does is to highlight the frustrations that can occur as a result. Unlike in the west, there is no requirement for vets in Thailand to offer emergency services, and there is no such cover available on Phuket. Owners should ask their vet if he or she is willing to respond after hours in the case of an emergency, and if so ask for his or her mobile number. If the answer is no, then maybe you need to find a new vet.

Secondly, always have a large syringe and a bottle of very strong salt solution to hand. If your dog or cat is showing signs of being poisoned, immediately force feed the solution. This will act as an emetic and, although it will not counteract any poison already absorbed, it will at least

FIRST PERSON

Poisoning dogs has long been practiced in Thailand, and Phuket, as a way of getting rid of what only the perpetrator would call a nuisance. Many consider it plain nasty, brutish and as having no place in a civilized society, while others think it is no different to exterminating vermin.

Here **John Dalley** of the Soi Dog Foundation relates yet another sad tale of murder in the hope that it deters would-be killers – or better still, inspires action against those who kill man's best friend.



empty the stomach contents and prevent further absorption. Then take your animal to the vet immediately. Prompt treatment can save your dog's life.

Here is the letter a I received from a deeply concerned dog lover:

My two-year-old puppy, Mila Keola Lea (Miracle of Life in Hawaii), got poisoned on July 19, a Saturday night, and she passed away in my car while trying to find a vet available to rescue her.

We drove from Patong to Phuket City to Chalong, banging on the doors and calling out for a doctor to help us... none came out, even though some of the clinics had lights on upstairs. The last

one, Chalong Animal Hospital, responded and the doctor was very sympathetic, but sadly he pronounced Keola dead and could not do anything but offer black trash bags to place her body in.

We told him our plight with someone in our neighborhood, whom we suspect of poisoning our dog. He recommended an anti-poison solution to inject should any of our other dogs have signs of poisoning in the future. I do wish we had had this bottle and the syringes when Keola and Judi got poisoned on July 8. Fortunately Judi was hospitalized in time and survived.

Following Keola's death on July 19, we took her to a Buddhist temple located in a forest

close to Phuket City. Wendel, a cocker spaniel I had bought a few years earlier from the local market, passed away after a week and was buried there too. A monk remembered me and where Wendel had been buried. We dug a hole close to Wendel, removed Keola from the bag, opened the white bed sheet that she was wrapped in, and laid her to rest.

The next day, the police came and we gave our account of what had transpired. We then had to go to the police station to file an official report... which was quite weak, because it could only state that our dogs were poisoned on the July 8 and then again on July 19.

I feel certain that the death of Keola was the work

of a serial poisoner.

In November last year, I had let the dogs out of their cages in the morning as usual. I walked by the side garden and Julius (brother of Keola) ran ahead of me and grabbed a piece of steak. I yanked it out of his mouth. My first thought was: Someone's nice to throw some leftover meat for the dogs as a treat... and then the possibility of poisoning suddenly enveloped me.

A week later, on November 24, the same thing happened, again in the morning. Keola and Julius found raw minced pork mixed with bright pink rat poison. Fortunately I saw them and pulled them away from the bait. They had a mouthful or two each, which thankfully was not harmful enough. This mixture, like the one before it, was found in the garden of our house.

Since the poisoning scares and fatality of Keola, we have been checking the bases of shrubs, plants, etc, every morning and evening before we let the dogs out. It is a tedious process.

We had also lodged an official complaint to our estate's management. The manager instructed the gardener to plant anti-snake plants at strategic places around our house, but it wouldn't have helped Keola. Her vet had ruled out a snake bite, due to the absence of swelling and puncture wounds.

There is no law that protects domesticated animals in Thailand from human poisoners. Cruelty to animals is not a crime here. That is a crime.

Issues & ANSWERS

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www.
phuketgazette.net/
issuesanswers/

Is there zoning in residential areas?

Our neighbor has started a furniture factory next to our house. They often work after 7 pm and sometimes before 7 am. Other buildings in the neighborhood are quiet houses. Is there anything we can do about the noise? Is there zoning in Kamala?

Mr K
Kamala

An officer in the Civil Works Section of the Kamala Tambon Administration Office (OrBorTor), replies:

By law, some "factories" are not allowed to be built in residential areas. But to be sure what type of business this is, we will need to go and check where this factory is, how close it is to the residential houses nearby and what type of work is done there.

Also, the hours that factories operate are regulated by law so that they do not disturb the peace.

However, we need more information before we can take action. Once we know exactly which factory you are talking about, we can go and investigate. If we find the factory is making excessive noise, we will issue the factory owner a warning.

If the noise persists, we will take further action using Department of Public Health regulations.

But first we will need you to come to our offices and tell us more about the factory, or email us at info@kamalacity.org

30 baht health scheme

Would someone explain the basics of who is eligible for the government 30-Baht health care system please?

Peter Freer

An officer at the Health Security Department of Vachira Phuket Hospital replies:

All Thais are eligible for a "Gold Card", which enables them to access the 30-baht service at government hospitals.

However, those that have a social security card from their employer can obtain free services from a government hospital specified by the employer.

Thais who do not have social security provided for them by an employer can apply for a Gold Card from their local hospital.

In Phuket, the government hospitals are Vachira Hospital on Yaowarat Rd, Thalang Hospital on Thepkasattri Rd and Patong Hospital on Sainamyen Rd.

A Gold Card can also be made at any of the government clinics or at the Phuket Provincial Health Office on Narisorn Rd.

There are four categories of Gold Card. People under 12 years old get a Baby Gold Card, 13 and 14 year olds get a Student Gold Card, while 15 to 59 year olds get a General Gold Card. Those who are aged 60 years old and over get an Elderly Gold Card.

When going to a hospital or clinic, it is advisable to consult a doctor first and check whether their card is valid for the service needed as many services are not covered, such as making dentures, cosmetic surgery and vaccinations.

If you register for a Gold Card in Phuket, the card is valid only in Phuket. If you have a Gold Card from another province then it is advisable to apply for a card here.

The Gold Card hotline telephone number is 02-8314000 ext. 1330 or 1330.

Can foreigners own shophouses in Phuket?

I am interested in investing in a shophouse in Phuket and certainly would like to stay here for my retirement.

I am from Singapore and would like to know how a foreigner can own a shophouse.

Andy Yeo
Singapore

Somchai Chaisri, Chief Registrar, Phuket Land Office, replies:

A foreigner can buy and own a shophouse, but cannot own the land the shophouse stands on.

Heritage buildings, such as the old shophouses in Old Phuket Town, are classified as property just like other buildings.

A foreigner can own one, but as with buying any property the foreigner must be sure that the shophouse is being sold by the rightful owner.

Lately, whether it's just my hormones that have been playing up or whether it is the humidity and heat, I have become pretty arrogant, sarcastic and downright bitchy.

I find myself arguing about the tiniest thing with Him Indoors, and of course he finds himself slightly baffled as to how he should be treating me.

Now I have decided that what may politely be termed a psycho bitch definitely exists within each and every woman. And I'm not talking about the revenge thing that wronged wives have down to a fine art – believe me, I have heard stories of women cutting the crotches out of their husbands' suit trousers, giving away their vintage wine and so on.

I'm talking about the instant screaming reds, the spontaneous lashing out; the throwing of the engagement ring into the street and flinging his car keys into the nearest bush.

Men fight verbally or physically, but women in psycho-bitch (PB) mode of search and destroy? We throw plates, or if in the bedroom, pillows. We may throw wine, but mostly we chuck water. I once threw a basket of apples on the kitchen floor – don't ask me why.

We slam doors and flounce, although that has to be timed just right otherwise nobody notices. We cut or tear things up and hurl them out of windows.

When we go for it we really go for it

Anyone for pasta?



until the red mist lifts and someone takes off the leg restraints.

Unless of course you are someone like Heather Mills, in which case you keep on going because you don't remember how to stop. Of all the details I read of her behavior during the divorce battle with Paul, the most telling was the moment when she lunged for the water jug in court and upended it over the head of his lawyer.

All the rest was just a load of thwarted ambition, but that water incident – ooh! – when that happened I'm sure women everywhere flinched in recognition. That was pure PB in full flight, and how our toes curled in shame because we all get such urges from time to time.

We certainly know the foot-stamping, hair-pulling impulse, the violent desire to yell, "Shut up, you bitch, or I'll make you!"

Yet we have been trained since our first screaming tantrum, to keep a lid on it, otherwise "no man will put up with you and nobody will want to be your friend."

The admonition "You're making a spectacle of yourself" is the refrain that keeps most women in check, a combination of social conditioning and fear of ridicule, though it's a day-to-day challenge. Note: money, fame and proximity to the rich and famous relax the self discipline that regulates PB. Tantrum queen Naomi Campbell presumably never threw her mobile phone before she had a maid to throw it at.

What makes a so-called normal woman turn PB depends on her charac-

ter. It could be a husband's infidelity or it could be mislaying the shoes that just make that outfit on the night of the party. Fully indulging in one's PB, however – and here comes the interesting part – requires a man to act as an audience, referee and moppper-upper.

It just doesn't work without one – nobody can hear you scream, and nobody cares.

In other words, behind every PB who has gone over to the dark side is a reasonable bloke who just thought he liked his women feisty. Or in my case, he was once in love with the idea of a wild Mediterranean woman à la Sophia Loren, dressed in black, and with a heaving bosom and unruly hair circa 1960. That was until I started hurling pasta sauce around the place...

Better luck next time, Mr McCartney.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a Britain-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist and interior designer.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

An unforgettable year awaits, Libra

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those of you who have been waiting in the shadows for the right moment to jump on a business opportunity will receive a green light this week. October is your month to shine and those celebrating a birthday during the coming days should expect a year to remember. The romantic outlook is bright as Aries begins opening up emotionally. The number 7 can bring some good fortune next Thursday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): A recent decision to remain in your current living situation could be compromised by an exciting offer this week. If you're not sure which way to turn, ask a Piscean friend for some meaningful advice. Money matters are set to improve later this month, although outgoings remain a cause for concern. A dream you have early next week provides insight to a romantic situation.

Wear the color sapphire blue to add sparkle to your attraction.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The insecurities that September brought should fade away into the sunset this week. Certain Sagittarians could find it hard to let go of some worries, but the stars suggest that your problems will be minimal during October. A financial windfall allows thoughts of a winter holiday to become reality, but those with a partner may have trouble finalizing a destination. The number 2 can bring some good luck next Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): The importance of putting business affairs in order is highlighted during the first half of October. Capricorns who have been conveniently forgetful should devote some quality time to administration. There are signs that you will soon be required to

produce documents unexpectedly. Tips on personal organization can be obtained from a practical Aries. A romantic relationship continues to flourish although you may want more commitment than the other person is prepared to give.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A tentative business deal threatens to crumble this week. Those of you who have been determined to see this project come to completion should realize that the tide is against you. Another intriguing idea is further down the pipeline and should come into view later in October. Love remains somewhat one-sided and some kind of ultimatum is highlighted this weekend. The scent of vanilla can help to balance your emotions.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You should not feel responsible for a delicate situation at work. Your reluctance to join the gossiping grapevine appears to have upset someone, but the atmosphere should ease early next week. Success in a personal financial situation is indicated very soon and this windfall could be put to good use by sprucing up your wardrobe ready for high season. Wearing the colors raspberry pink and mint green can encourage more self-confidence.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians who have been finding it a challenge to rise and shine recently should start to feel more motivated as October gets underway. Spending time with an en-

ergetic Gemini friend will help you to be inspired, but a moping Pisces will only drag your spirits down. Romance is not a priority at the moment, but that will change after the middle of the month. Wear the color sunflower yellow to encourage brighter energy.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will soon be reminded that you are just as entitled to take a rest as everyone else. Your constant willingness to respond to every crisis is being taken for granted and this won't change until you do.

Someone you met during a recent trip away is planning to make contact, but an enjoyable holiday flirtation probably won't turn into anything more lasting. The number 8 can bring good fortune next Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): An interesting situation is forecast to develop this weekend and this involves a friend's suggestion to incorporate business with pleasure. Many Geminis are forecast to launch new projects during October and the stars' support will be forthcoming. Romance is subject to slightly less auspicious conditions; your tendency to take people's support for granted lies at the root of the problem. Wear the color copper brown to encourage a more sensitive approach.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Work becomes more pleasurable

this week. A hard-to-resolve agreement looks set to be signed and you should benefit more than you had anticipated. As your confidence grows, others are drawn to you more and Libra is especially impressed. Those already

Love remains somewhat one-sided and some kind of ultimatum is highlighted this weekend.
– Aquarius

in a relationship start to receive more support from their partner. You can show your appreciation of this by planning a thoughtful date this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Those born under the sign of Leo are advised to keep the scenery changing this week to satisfy

your need for new experiences. It appears that you have been starting to sink deeper into the rut of boredom and this is having a negative effect on close relationships. Later in the month, a tempting job offer is forecast to appear out of the blue. In the meantime, focus attention on your creative skills.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Romance starts to become more fulfilling. The true feelings of someone you thought had interests elsewhere is finally revealed, but you may have to invest more emotional energy in this liaison than is comfortable for you. Early next week, a business proposition from another Earth sign is well worth following up even if you're not immediately impressed. The number 5 can bring some good luck next Thursday.


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Cyberterrorism - fact or fiction?

Last week I gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of Patong Beach on one of my favorite topics: Cyberterrorism. But perhaps it's a non-topic. Permit me to explain.

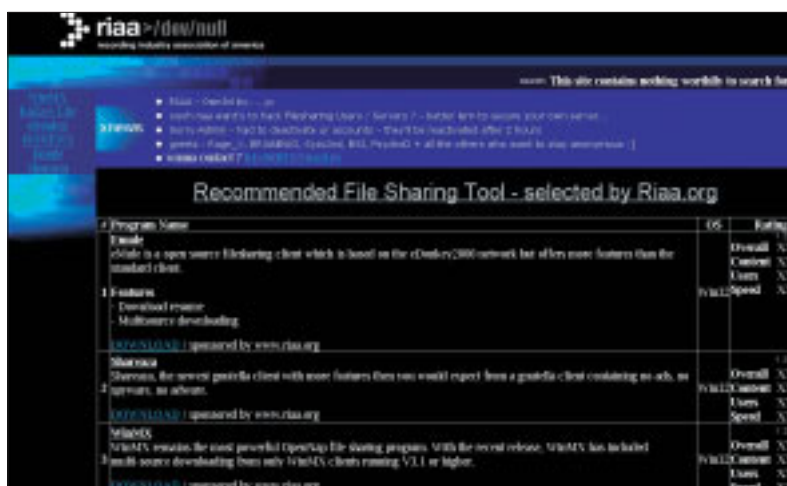
The first novel I ever wrote – but never published – has its roots in cyberterrorism. Every year or two, I get the notion to dust off the novel, re-write and update it, and float it over a few well-worn transoms. I never do, but I like to keep up to date on the technical underpinnings of the novel. In a former lifetime, I was Computer Security Co-ordinator for a big oil company in Saudi Arabia, so there's a bit of nostalgia to it, too.

That's how I found myself spending several hours researching the current state of cyberterrorism. It's a fascinating subject. My recent searches, as always before, turned up lots of media gas and almost no hard information. As best I can tell, there have only ever been two real instances of cyberterrorism, and one of them probably doesn't count.

Sure, there are lots of web site defacements, by which pranksters break into web sites from time to time and post replacement pages, frequently of dubious taste and atrocious spelling. Thailand's Information and Communication Technology Ministry page was hacked in July last year. The CIA's web site was hacked in 1996. Some alarmists might disagree, but in my opinion, defacing a web site isn't really terrorism.

There are also Denial-of-Service attacks where many PCs try to go to the same web page simultaneously. Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks block access to a specific web site and frequently originate with Windows XP machines that have been turned into zombies. Each subverted machine is infected with a "rootkit", – a computer virus designed to take control of a computer system without authorization by the system's owners – which is very difficult to detect. Attackers frequently target mainstream political or religious sites, but it's hard to call such acts of, uh, exuberance terrorism.

The two examples of cyberterrorism that I found aren't terribly interesting. They wouldn't hold a candle to the fictitious cyberterror descriptions of, say,



Notorious for suing grandmothers and babies over their file sharing activities, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has had its main web page hacked several times. This particular defacement provided star ratings for popular file sharing programs.

Dan Brown in the thriller *Digital Forest*.

The first act of debatable cyberterrorism occurred five years ago, when a couple of Romanians decided it would be fun to break into the environmental control computer system at the US National Science Foundation's Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. They swiped some data and sent a ransom note to the station's network administrator. The 58 scientists inside the station depended on the system to keep them alive. The FBI got in on the act, and tracked down the Apple Dumping Gang, with Romanian authorities quickly arresting the pair.

The FBI's initial report didn't say anything at all about cyberterrorism, but a year later, a report from the US Attorney General characterized the shenanigans as a "cyber-terrorist threat".

In the end, some data was taken, but no computer systems were messed up. The folks at the station simply took the environmental system offline. In a follow-up report, the National Science Foundation said that no financial records or systems were compromised, no safety or loss of life was threatened, and that no critical system was corrupted by the Romanian hackers. Security Focus has a detailed report on the sorta-cyber-terrorist attack at tinyurl.com/yejmyyn.

The only other case of cyberterrorism that I could find

occurred last year in Estonia. It seems the Estonian government decided to relocate a Soviet-era war memorial – a statue known as the "Bronze Soldier" that commemorated Russian soldiers' fight against the Nazis in World War II – from central Tallinn to a military cemetery.

About one-quarter of Estonia's population is ethnic Russian, and many of them were incensed. Three weeks of DDoS attacks ensued. The attacks focused on Estonian government and financial web sites, and on the website of the Prime Minister's Reform Party.

The Estonians accused Russians, inside both Estonia and Russia, of mounting the attack, but there were few substantial leads. In January of this year, an ethnic Russian was convicted of launching a "cyber attack" against the Reform Party site, having confessed to his crime. He was fined about 50,000 baht with no jail time.

In July this year, the passage of legislation in Estonia banning communist symbols brought – predictably – hundreds of site defacements, where Estonian web sites were hacked to show, uh, communist symbols.

Were any of these acts of terrorism? It's hard to say. The Romanian attack resulted in lots of headlines and political maneuvering but no real damage. Many Estonians blamed Russians, and for three weeks last year there were substantial obstacles to the conduct of business in Estonia, but in the end, the World Court

held Russia blameless. Three hundred Estonian web sites with communist symbols sounds more like a college prank than a terrorist attack.

While tales of cyberterror make their way into the press from time to time, the inflated details generally owe more to re-hashed novels and reporters' vivid imaginations than facts.

By contrast, cyberwarfare – at least to the extent of attempted penetration of other countries' computer systems – goes on all the time. McAfee, hardly the world's most reliable source, estimates that 120 countries have some sort of cyberwarfare capability. I would guess that 100 of those countries have penetration teams largely composed of bored high-school students on lunch break.

That said, I've met some bored high school students who could crack the NSA's network. The teams in the other 20 countries, though, are thoroughly capable and professional.

Cyber-espionage – both governmental and industrial – rates as a major growth industry. From small corporate groups of information thieves to massive government snooping programs, espionage is alive and well.

Shane Robinson of the highly respected SANS (Sys-Admin, Audit, Network, Security) Institute has a fascinating white paper on the topic at tinyurl.com/3ov9sa: "The level of seriousness and dedication of these players for the game of corporate espionage is evident by the estimated US\$2 billion that they spent to spy on each other in 2004, according

to the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP)."

Some day, somewhere, some how, terrorists may find a way to shut down a major city's power grid or bring the financial markets to their knees, or take out a major air-traffic-control site.

But when you stop to think about it, computers right now are doing all of that and more, without any help at all from terrorists.

In terms of havoc created, disruptions to the economy, and sheer panic, it's hard to envision a cyberterrorist attack more devastating than Windows.

PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his weekly Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

October 5, we meet at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, in Aroonsom Plaza, not far from Andaman Beach Suites.

On October 12 we'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna, just before the main entrance to the Laguna complex.

Then on October 19 and 26, the group will convene at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle, next to Wine Connection.

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

Come early to make sure you get a seat: several recent events have been standing room only. Driving instructions at www.Woody.info.

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Delivering the right service

Many people presume that teaching tennis is just about technique training and learning the strokes, but it's much more than that.

Many coaches have a good understanding of stroke technique, but if they don't have the ability to keep their students attentive, or have the knack for creating a safe, disciplined yet fun environment in which to learn, it would be difficult to stay busy and be successful.

I am a big believer in getting a good solid control base before tackling technique. Once a student has good control, learning techniques becomes much easier and quicker to master.

And I do mean *all* shots. You can learn the technique of any shot within an hour, and the level of your coordination, control and movement will determine how quickly you will be able to execute it. Afterwards, it's just a matter of practicing to be able to perfect it even under pressure.

The first shot to master is the serve. At a basic level, young players should use underarm serves, hitting from the bounce or from the hand. We encourage them to go for depth, which becomes important as they get older. Depth on the serve is always a good indicator of how confident a player is feeling.

As strength and ability improve, we move onto over-arm serves. The key component is the throw-up. Calling it a "throw-up" is not really an accurate description, since all you really do is just place the ball in the air.

Ball position for a basic serve should be just slightly in front of you, with your release point of the ball somewhere between your lips and nose, and it must be consistent.

Other areas to consider are grip (use "handshake" grip, racket centered). Stand behind the baseline, but not on the line.

Hold the racket loosely so that you can turn the racket face towards the ball.

As the ball moves forward and up, follow with your front hip which will give you weight transference and a slight feeling of falling. Lean and strike the ball smoothly without effort.

Keep your head up and watch the ball. It's natural to step forward after striking the ball, but try to avoid falling off to the side.

For more complex spins you'll need to learn a variety of grips and throw-ups, but it's best to master a basic serve first.

Darran Ferre is a 17-year, full-time tennis pro based at the Indigo Pearl resort. He can be contacted at email: darran.ferre@hotmail.com

On the court

By Darran Ferre



The Mövenpick soccer squad rejoice after winning the coveted 'Cook's Cup'.

Mövenpick wins 'Cook's Cup'

KARON: Staff from the Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach had their names etched into local sporting history books on September 24 when they defeated Karon Beach Resort 2-0 in the final of the third annual seven-a-side football tournament organized by the Kata-Karon Cook's Club.

The tourney saw 32 teams, including the Kata Palm Beach Resort and Hilton Phuket Arcadia Re-

sort & Spa, play some entertaining matches at Nawamin Stadium in Karon from September 3 to 24.

The tournament was held to foster good relationships among staff from the hotels, restaurants and other businesses in the Kata-Karon area.

For their triumphant efforts, The Mövenpick squad won the top prize of 10,000 baht and the coveted Kata-Karon Cook's Club Cup.

Patong Darts League

PATONG: With four weeks left in the Patong Darts League, the standings are extremely close with Queen Mary at the top of the league with 116 points, followed by Offshore only a point behind and Piccadilly hot on their heels with 112 points. Hoping for an upset string of wins is Market Bar in fourth place on 103 points.

In last week's encounter, Offshore looked strong with an 8-2 win over Shakers, staking five singles and two doubles matches – despite Joerg of Shakers claiming the highest score of the night with 154 (t20, t18, d20).

Offshore won the beer leg after a long run down to the lower-doubles, with Peak finally pegging out on X2.

September 23 results: Sick Buffalo* 3 Queen Mary 6; Dogs Bollocks* 1 Piccadilly 8; Shakers 2 Offshore* 7; Market Bar* 4 Celtic 5; Simply Red 4 Beach House* 5; Hilltop bye (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary* (116 points); 2. Offshore (115); 3. Piccadilly (112); 4. Market Bar (103); 5. Sick Buffalo (81); 6. Shakers (76); 7. Beach House* (74); 8. Celtic* (61); 9. Dogs Bollocks (60); 10. Simply Red* (52); 11. Hilltop (50) (* = missing a bye week).

October 7 match-ups: Offshore v Piccadilly; Sick Buffalo v Market Bar; Dogs Bollocks v Hilltop; Simply Red v Shakers; Celtic v Beach House; Queen Mary bye (home team first).

Off-road racing comes to Phuket

WICHIT: Four-wheel-drive off-road racing will be held this weekend, October 3-4, on a course carved out behind the Honda showroom on Chao Fa West Rd.

About 40 teams will be competing in the Chaofa Challenge 2008, which forms Race 5 in the Nas Challenge race series. The Nas Challenge is a 'Southern Thailand only' event, with the first four stages already held in Krabi, Songkhla, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Samui, respectively.

Wannabe offroaders can join the Phuket event, which comprises three divisions: 1) Front Beam (long beam, coil spring) division; 2) hard beam (without coil spring) division; and 3) Open & Super division (for any off-road 4WDs).

The top three in each division will win cash prizes and a trophy.

There will also be a "VIP" contest, in which anyone can enter any 4WD vehicle. No prizes will be awarded in this event, as the drivers will be racing just for fun.

Drivers can register to enter any of the races at the track on Friday, October 3, from 10 am, or before 9 am on Saturday.

Entry is free.

For details, call Pattarawoot "Top" Meunpan at 089-9711465 or Nattapon "Chareon" Rodyoi at 089-4713149.

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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

Perfect blend of elegance and comfort

Part of a secured estate, this property is nestled in a quiet residential area just a 10-minute walk to beautiful Nai Harn Beach. Rock-Pool villa gets its name from the magnificent natural rock formation which is the centerpiece of the tropical landscaped gardens of the villa, and the large turquoise swimming pool around which the villa is built.

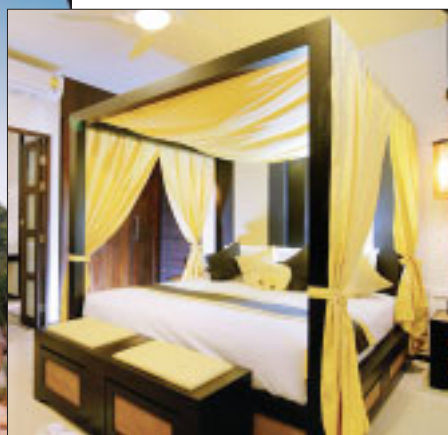
More than just a retreat, this villa, specially designed for luxury getaways, offers a sound investment opportunity with strong rental income over the past two years (since the home was built). Professionally marketed, this property comes with a complete package that includes a website, logo, continuous web promotion and an optional Toyota Fortuner.

The villa is constructed in a U shape around a 56-square-meter pool (7m x 8 m) with a six-person sandstone Jacuzzi and large sun deck equipped with sun loungers, a dining table to seat 12, and a barbecue area.

The villa comprises two buildings. The main building includes three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living room, a dining area and a modern fully-equipped kitchen as well as a maid's



LEFT: The natural rock formation that is the centerpiece of the entire villa sits proud by the pool.



ABOVE: The Gold Bedroom.

room with bathroom, laundry room and technical room.

The second building houses two additional bedrooms and bathrooms with views over the large garden and rock formation.

All rooms of the villa have direct access to the pool.

Centrally situated, the living room offers a 10-seater sofa, low white granite coffee table and a full range of audiovisual equipment, including 46-inch plasma

TV, DVD, Dolby surround sound and a high-speed wireless Internet connection.

The very modern open-plan kitchen is fully equipped with all necessary appliances, utensils and cooking amenities, including a large professional oven as well as a wine cooler. Adjacent to the kitchen is the dining area with a large, eight-seat granite dining table.

Directly off the living room

is, on one side, the master bedroom, featuring a king-size four-poster bed, a built-in wardrobe, and en-suite master bathroom with dual wash basins and large shower.

On the other side of the living room is the second bedroom with twin beds and en-suite bathroom with shower. The other three bedrooms, with access from the sun deck, are fully furnished with built-in wardrobes

and en-suite bathrooms. All rooms face the pool with unspoiled hills as the backdrop.

Directly in front of the infinity-edge pool are the beautiful landscaped tropical garden with its unique rock formation, well-shaded areas, and a large playground for children with sandbox, climbing frames, slides and swings to complete the host of leisure facilities that this villa offers.

Additional villa facilities include a laundry room with washer and dryer, maid's quarters with bedroom and bathroom, and a two-car covered garage with electrical gate. The villa is fully air-conditioned and has ceiling fans in all rooms.

Offered for sale at 30 million baht, the villa comes fully furnished with all marketing tools and an extensive repeat client database.

For more information or to view the property, contact Diane Stoffel at Phuket Premier Property, quoting reference name: Rockpool Villa. Tel: 076-289-702 or 086-7888080. Email: diane@phuketpremierproperty.com Website: www.phuketpremierproperty.com



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Decor

Akbar Khan

Enter the wonderful world of wallpaper

From fantasy and fun to contemporary and classic designs

The world of wallpaper is bigger, better and wilder than ever with advances in photographic and adhesive technology spawning a wallpaper revolution in Korea that is catching on in Phuket.

Gone are the days of choosing from a limited selection of tacky wallpaper designs, then filling the house with toxic fumes from wallpaper paste and literally watching it dry in case any bubbles appear.

These days, there are thousands of wallpaper designs to choose from, many of which use images photographed with extremely high-resolution cameras, enabling the images on the wallpaper to be any size.

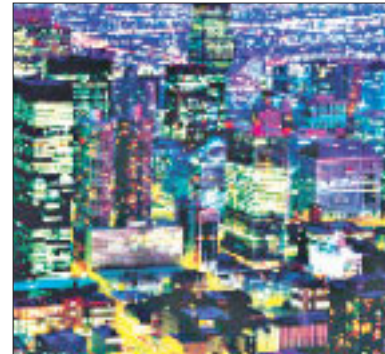
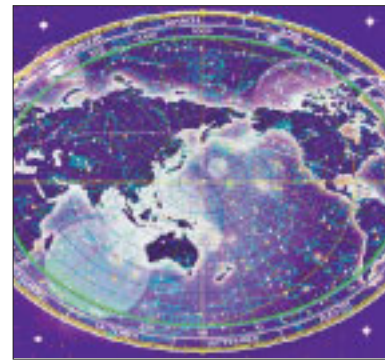
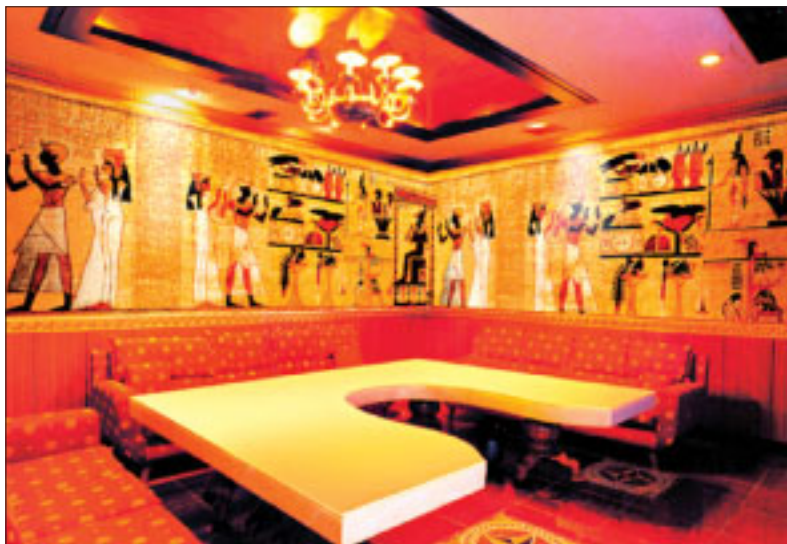
It's also a lot easier to apply wallpaper now because it comes with its own adhesive backing.

IDO is a wallpaper shop in Phuket that stocks the latest high-tech wallpapers from Korea. The shop's director, Ms Kim Jung Sun (Jiny), stocks over 3,000 designs for customers to choose from.

"In Korea, 99% of homes use these kinds of wallpaper, not only because of the design flexibility but to provide an odorless wall covering that is safe for children. All of the wallpapers have odorless glue. Just remove the backing and hang it," said Jiny.

"Our customers don't have to hang the wallpaper themselves, though, as installation is included in the price of the wallpaper. They are also washable and fungus resistant," she added.

Many of the wallpapers have true-to-life textures, such as brick and wood designs that feel like the real thing. There are also designs that appeal to the olfac-



tory senses. Some of the flower designs at IDO not only look pretty; they can be rubbed to release a floral scent into the room.

There is also flexibility in the way designs appear on the wallpaper. Pictures can be blown up to any size and made into giant sheets of wallpaper that can cover an entire ballroom wall – a creative shortcut for ambitious developers looking for something unique and possibly a lot cheaper

than having someone paint it with an original design.

With so many designs to choose from, the task of selecting the right one might seem daunting, but Jiny has all the different designs categorized to help make things a little easier.

There is a range of fluorescent and reflective wallpapers, some of which would look great in nightclubs, especially one design that appears to be made up

of thousands of little diamonds.

If you're keen on a particular cultural or national theme, you can choose from categories such as Japan, China, and Egypt. The Japan and China categories include the kind of scenes one can see depicted on antique vases, such as characters in traditional dress, or you can make your walls look as if you are inside one of Egypt's pyramids – complete with the ancient hieroglyphics.

Waterfalls, mountains, poppy and sunflower fields can appear as views beyond virtual windows. Or you might want to imagine that your living room looks out over a tropical beach with eternal sunshine or a night-time cityscape.

There are topical designs for children, too, which are more than just rows of cute rabbits. "Educational" wallpapers include a giant world map surrounded by flags and a map of the stars in the night sky.

For adults, the selection is massive, and ranges from classical Roman- and Greek-style designs to modern art, while there are numerous psychedelic and erotic designs for those who are so inclined.

IDO customers can have custom-size wallpapers made to order, while off-the-rack rolls are all a standard 106-cm wide and 15.5 metres in length. They all cost 350 baht per square metre, including installation, except those made by LG Chemicals, which cost 380 baht per square metre.

The wallpapers by LG Chemicals are fun to look at and include designs by the famous Korean fashion designer André Kim.

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The IDO showroom is located on Chao Fa West Rd. Driving from Central Festival, the showroom is on the left, just before the Kwang Road junction. For more information, call 076-521637.

Construction

by Nick Davies

Lotus Gardens nears completion

Construction of luxury residential development Lotus Gardens near Layan Beach began about two and a half years ago and is almost complete with 15 of the development's 26 units (60%) already sold to a variety of international buyers.

As the project nears completion, remaining aspects of the development yet to be completed include floorings, built-in fittings and furnishings depending on buyers' preferences.

Interior furnishing packages highlight the use of natural textiles, woods and fibers.

Lotus Gardens is located on Soi Layan 2, on the west coast of Phuket and adjacent to Shangri-La Phuket. The development's contemporary open-plan design was conceived by Singapore-based architects HB Design, which also has offices in Phuket.

Initial construction was carried out by Bellwater Construction under the guidance of partners Layan Property Development Co., Ltd and Nakatani Group, which owns a 51% controlling share in the partnership.



The landscaping and surrounding residential buildings that make up the Lotus Gardens development are complete and almost ready to move in to. Interiors will be completed as buyers decide on finishings.

The Nakatani Group is a well-established developer of several projects in Phuket, including Nakatani Villa, Surin Heights and Palm Beach, while Lotus Gardens is the first construction project in Thailand for Layan Property Development's director

Tony Nixon who previously developed villas in Australia.

The master landscape design was created by Singapore-based landscape architects Sitetectonix Pte Ltd.

The design includes a variety of swimming pools, exercise

and yoga pavilions and an alfresco dining area with a bar.

The development comprises four different unit types surrounding the communal gardens.

They are 2-bedroom Garden Residences covering 194 square meters, 3-bedroom Garden Resi-

dences covering 308sqm, 2- and 3-bedroom Sunset Residences measuring 314sqm and two 4-bedroom Sunset Penthouse units – already sold out – each covering an area of 483sqm.

The homes face westward and can accommodate an office or other areas for recreation. Each residence and penthouse has a fully-equipped contemporary kitchen and dining room with views toward the sea, and each of the sunset residences and penthouses has a private splash pool, an outdoor sala and a covered area.

The Garden Penthouse and Sunset Penthouse units are two-storey duplexes set in a tiered configuration, while the other homes are single-storey units, with prices ranging from 15 million to 22.5 million baht.

Tony Nixon told the *Gazette*, "The quota for foreign freehold units is already exhausted, while the remaining units are available leasehold."

We offer financing for up to 60-70% of the cost of properties for Thais and units can also be included in the development's rental pool," he added.

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Gardening

By Bloomin' Bert

Feeling a bit stimulatory-challenged? Try your hand at growing a bonsai!

Some people just have too much time on their hands – way too much to kill. Unfortunately for us, we are all too frequently on the receiving end.

Internet computer geeks are possibly among the worst offenders. These are the sad types that wander aimlessly online from message board to message board, complaining about what the other equally sad geeks have said in response to something that didn't matter much to anyone.

They seem to spend their sorry little lives in these virtual chatrooms, eager to pounce on any unsuspecting "newbie" who dares to ask a question, totally oblivious to the fact that they're one of the main reasons these forums exist in the first place.

In reality, they have absolutely nothing to say for themselves; whether or not they agree with the other posters isn't important.

Then there are our inevitable transatlantic cousins, with their colorful (sic) 'psychobabble'. A sample dialog from a couple of people trying to communicate with each other in some way might read as follows.

"Hey, I'm down with it, and in a space where I'd really like you to relate to me more. Do you hear what I'm saying?"

"I'm just not in a zone to handle that right now, like I'm just really not into that trip, dude. But I can see the space you're coming from." Etc.

Verbal diarrhea, of course. A total waste of everyone's time – these people obviously have far too much time at their disposal.

When I was a little Bert, if I got sick, my parents took me to a hospital to see a doctor. Modern American parents take their offspring to a "health maintenance organization". Or a "wellness center" to consult a health care delivery professional.

Some people used to live in slums. Now the "economically disadvantaged" occupy "sub-standard housing" in the "inner cities". Unfortunately, many of



Got time to prune? How about 113 years? This trident maple bonsai in informal upright style, on display at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the United States National Arboretum, has been in training since 1895.

these people are poor. They don't have a "negative cash flow position." They're poor – simple as that. Because a lot of them were sacked. Management wanted to "curtail redundancies in the human resources area." So many people are no longer "viable members of the work force."

Psychologists have even started calling ugly people those with "severe appearance characteristic deficits." The list goes on and on. Who actually sits down and comes up with this nonsense? What utter drivel.

Rather than dreaming up new ways of over-complicating the English language, perhaps these buffoons could just take up gardening; certainly a lot less irritating for the rest of us. Specifically, a branch (excuse the pun) of gardening that requires a lot of time over a long period;

something to keep themselves busy.

Bonsai gardening is an art for people who aren't in any kind of rush and are looking for something to fill their day. Those who expect instant results are in for a massive disappointment.

You must have visited a nursery or garden center and seen tiny trees growing in shallow containers. These miniature trees have all the characteristics of larger, mature trees, but never seem to grow.

They're created by a specialized horticultural technique known universally as bonsai. I'm guessing, but it's probably the same word in Thai. Bonsai comes from two Japanese words meaning "pot" and "to plant".

It's an art form that comes from an ancient oriental culture that originated in China and was

later pinched by the Japanese. No doubt the Japanese would disagree somewhat with this version of history.

Today, techniques have been developed so that any numpty can create a bonsai. Plants for bonsai can be collected from the wild, or propagated from seeds, cuttings or grafting, "borrowed" from a neighbor's garden, or just bought from the nearest garden center.

When you're looking for a suitable plant, pick one that's well rooted and well branched.

All parts of the bonsai should be in proportion with the size of the tree, so choose a plant with small leaves or needles. If you use a large-leaf plant it may look a bit weird and out of balance.

There are loads of suitable candidates around Phuket, such as casuarina, cedar, bald cypress, elm, pyracantha, citrus, hibiscus, jacaranda, orchid tree and royal poinciana.

What about the shape then? Totally up to you, but you might want to think about the tree's natural form before you decide on the shape of the bonsai.

The most common bonsai styles are upright, slanted and cascading. The first two are fairly obvious, but "cascading" basically means clumps of foliage here and there. After you figure out the normal form of the tree, pick the style that will fit it best.

The basic procedures for creating a bonsai are pruning, pinching, wiring, potting and repotting, so after you've selected your plant you can start shoot and root pruning.

By pruning you can shape the plant, control growth, and remove any bits of foliage you don't want. In most cases, the tree will only need one heavy pruning to develop its shape.

After this pruning, pinch back the new growth to maintain the shaping process. The bottom line is that you want to prune the shoots to create the gnarled appearance of a full-sized tree.

The root system should be

pruned gradually, reducing that system over a period of years.

Prune the roots at the same time that you prune the shoots so that the bonsai does not become root bound. The surface roots should be left intact.

Wiring is next. It's this, together with the bending of the branches, that makes bonsai fairly unique. Wiring is done after the tree has been pruned to its essential branches. Copper wire is pretty flexible and is ideal for wiring. Start by wrapping the wiring around the lower parts of the tree and work up.

After you've got wire wrapped around most of the tree, shape the plant by hand by gradually bending the trunk and main branches to the position you want. You need to remove or loosen the wires before the bark becomes constricted and ridges form though.

In Phuket, we've got light and heat in abundance, so you can even grow your bonsai indoors, as long as you avoid air conditioning and the plant is near a window. They require the same care you would give any other potted plant. Water it when the soil surface feels dry, but avoid soggy soil.

Although making and maintaining a bonsai is not easy, the feeling of having created a living piece of art makes the effort all worthwhile.

These things can take a lifetime to finish. If you're in a rush, then you might want to grow something else.

Try an "alternative leisure resource activity." This one is definitely for those in "time advantaged positions".

Put that in your chatroom and whinge about it.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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Property Gazette

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126sq wah in Bang Tao area, very close to Amanpuri Resort and Surin Beach. Price: 22 million baht. Contact Khun Nantana. Tel: 084-2611161.

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Condo in Rawai, 250 meters from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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.

RAWAIYA SUITES CONDOMINIUMS

Rawai Beach, 27 units, fully furnished, 65sqm, one-bedroom condos with en-suite bathrooms. Construction complete November 2008. Available freehold. Price: 2.7-3.9 million baht, full facilities. Tel: 076-245964, 085-7842004. Fax: 076-245962. Email: hakan@tharadonestate.com For further details, see our website: www.tharadonestate.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Cherng Talay, in gated community, brand new. Only 3.5 million baht. Telephone 089-1956822.

LUXURY DEVELOPMENT LAND



Ao Po, Phuket, Thailand. 23.5 rai seafront/view. Ideal for development or subdivision. Neighbors include The Estate luxury development, the new Ao Po Marina and Jumeirah Private Island. Quick sale. Call 081-9704765. www.phuketluxuryland.com

MAI KHAO LAND



for sale. 11 rai, Nor Sor 3, 500 meters to the beach. Contact Tor. Tel: 084-5071834. Email: mrpantor@hotmail.com

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos: jihshand@gmail.com

1-RAI LOTS

in gated community. Sea view. East coast, Pa Khlok. Starting at 3.5 million per rai. Royal Coast Company Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-693-2791. Email: eam1008@mac.com

LUXURY VILLA FOR SALE

4-bedroom villa in prestigious managed estate, private pool and sea view. 25.9 million baht. Tel: 081-6919106. Email: kent@karlssons-phuket.com. For further details, please see our website at www.karlssons-phuket.com/villa/index.htm

NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-5399269.

RAWAI, 2-STOREY HOUSE

160sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 40m to beach. 1.7 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

FOR URGENT SALE

44sq wah, Chanote, for sale in Pen Villa soi, opposite The Plaza, Moo 3, Surin Beach. 1.5 million baht. Contact Khun Nantana. Tel: 084-2611161.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Thai-style villa at Phuket Country Club golf course, brand new, 800sqm plot. Villa living area: 320sqm. Beautiful villa, 21 million baht. Includes golf membership. Tel: 081-9241447.

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

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

- * 4-storey
 - * 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
 - * Chanote title
 - * Electricity, water
 - * 2 minutes to the beach
- Asking price: 52 million baht.
Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

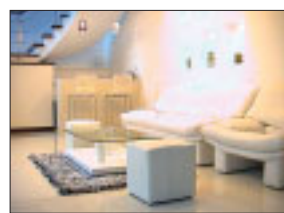
NICE 5-BEDROOM HOUSE, RAWAI

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.jikkycar.com

HOUSE NEAR BIS

2-storey 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

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for sale (27.5 million baht) or for rent. The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

HOUSE IN NAI YANG

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

HOUSES IN OLD PHUKET TOWN

At Thalung Rd. Price: 13 million baht. At Soi Soon-U-Thit. Price: 8.4 million baht. Land in Koh Sireh for sale: 1-1-66 rai. Price: 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3979809, 081-9700121.

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

The only unit in the prime area on Rat-U-Thit Rd. 5-story corner unit, more than 240sqm usable area. 9.5 million baht ono. Tel: 089-7804568. Email: taaree@yahoo.com

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On the Golf Course

One rai of prime land on a broad canal through the Laguna Phuket Golf course. The plot, located in Laguna Homes, is bordered by an attractive villa on each side, the golf course in front, and about 40 rai of buffalo land at the back. It is thus in a sea of lush, quiet green. For sale by owner at 22 million baht, inclusive of a family membership in the Golf Club at your front door.

To know more, please telephone **081-894 2204**. Private sale – no brokers please.

Property Gazette

LARGE POOL VILLAS



near Boat Lagoon marina.
Tel: 089-8731019. More
details and pictures at:
[www.phuketexclusive
holiday.com](http://www.phuketexclusiveholiday.com)

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: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com Website: www.phuket-besthomes.com

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq 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.

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

GARDEN VILLA AT BAAN SAKOO



on 1 rai with 3 big bungalows and 1 big house. 7 bedrooms & bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 2km to Nai Yang Beach and 5 minutes to Phuket International Airport. Only 9 million baht. Tel: 087-2709093, 087-6899679. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hill-side panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1/4 rai up to 5 1/4 rai. Good road, electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

1 rai, Kathu (near BIS): B5.7m. 1 rai, Pa Khlok: B2m. 1/4 rai, Baan Porn: B3.5m. Tel: 086-5205564, 084-1069906. Email: jack_filtech@hotmail.com

VILLA & LAND

Villa near Heroines' Monument. Built 2007, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, pool, furnished. Living space: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. 12.9 million baht. Also: Land: 1,100sqm, 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING PATONG

Centrally located commercial building at Patong Beach. Currently used as a bar/restaurant/guesthouse, but suitable for conversion. Call me to view. Tel: 076-341555, 086-2827779. Fax: 076-345444. Email: gritchank@gmail.com See full details at www.patonghouse.t35.com/index.html

HOUSES IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn from cheap to special luxury Jacuzzi villa priced at 4.8 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 085-7955383.

FRUIT FARM IN PHANG NGA

Chanote title. 9.8 rai, 4km from Phang Nga Town, 50km from Phuket Airport. 300 fruit trees, fish ponds, 2 farmhouses, 100sqm. 6 million baht. Tel: 085-1510823 (Thai), 086-2740056 (English). Email: stefanmariaschmitz@yahoo.com

THALANG, PA KHLOK - CHEAP

Single house, 190sqm, big fruit tree garden, 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 room without aircon, storeroom, 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.

LAND IN KATHU

Fabulous elevated block opposite national park in Kathu. 1,360sqm. Nor Sor 3. Comes with architect's plans for house and building permit. 6.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

LUXURY HOUSE

for sale or rent. Mission Heights community, 5 mins from Mission Hills Golf Club. 4 bedrooms, ensuite bathrooms with bath and shower, large Western kitchen, 90sqm pool, garden, service included. Fully furnished. Contact So. Tel: 081-8622962.

HOUSE NEAR MAIN ROAD

A single home in a garden connected to a main road. Suitable for residence. Tel: 081-8205266. Fax: 076-206220. Email: umavadee@cscoms.com For further details see www.phuketgifts.com

CAPE PANWA, KATHU

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms with sea view, fully furnished, ready to move in. House in Kathu: 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with Italian kitchen, aircon. Email: info@phuket-sunnyrentals.com For further details, see our website: www.phuket-sunnyrentals.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.

HACIENDA POOL HOUSE

in Cherrng Talay, garden, 4 bedrooms, furnished, ready to move in. Only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house on small development with 24-hour 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 aircons, 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.

KAMALA SEA-VIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote. Can be divided. All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Priced from 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

RAWAI APT, YANUI 2

84sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, pool, aircon, rental service. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 083-3964939. Email: smadh@hotmail.com

LAND IN 3 LOCATIONS

We have land in Ao Por, Laguna and Chalong. Very good locations. Tel: 083-1036578. Website: www.oriental-realestate.com

KATA TOWNHOUSE

Urgent sale. 84-sqm house. For sale by owner. Call or email for details. Tel: 081-4985915. Email: rajay001@hotmail.com

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.

SALE/RENT, KAMALA

Single house near beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 086-2773381.

SEAFRONT VILLA

in Chalong, direct beachfront. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, furnished. 35 million baht obo. Tel: 087-2095174.

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

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

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Property Gazette

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land, Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.

KARON SEA VIEW



Located between Centara Karon Resort and Secret Cliff Resort. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Very good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking price: 250 million baht. No agents. Please call: 087-2709093 or email a.pueng@gmail.com

CONDO @ THE PALMS, KAMALA

Brand-new luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment 20 metres from Kamala Beach. Highest quality furnishings, Plasma TV, etc. Every facility. A beautiful residence or investment with very high rental returns. Please call for further details. Tel: 084-6302416. Email: jonhassall@aol.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

2km from Heroines' Monument. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, big kitchen, 24-hr security. Tel: 083-1036578.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL

Land: 700sqm. Chalong. Asking 6.5 million. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.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

CHEAP KRABI LAND

2.5 rai at Ao Nang, Long block suitable for row of bungalows. Chanote title. 2 million baht per rai or nearest offer. Tel: 083-6450244. Email: neung1love@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

SAKU: 1 RAI, 4 HOUSES 9 MILLION BAHT

Saku Garden Villa. Chanote title, 1 rai with 4 houses, 2km to airport and beach, fully furnished, 2 swimming pools. 9 million baht. Call Sumon at Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

1-RAI LOTS

in gated community. Sea view. East coast, Pa Khlok starting at 3.5 million per rai. Royal Coast Company Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-693-2791. Email: eam1008@mac.com

MY WIFE GAMBLER

So now you get it cheap. Land and/or house for sale. Tel: 086-6831964.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. Priced from 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

2-storey house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. True TV. Internet. 300m from Heroines' Monument, toward Pa Khlok. For sale at 3.7 million baht, rent: 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

LAND IN PATTAYA

52sq wah in a nice village. Company and Chanote. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 085-159-0597.

MUST SELL FAST

155-sqm, 3-bedroom house on 1.54 rai. 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

TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel: 080-5358767, Tel (US): 0011-760-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

2 HILLTOP VILLAS

and apartment. Private residence, Loch Palm Golf. 65 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

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LUXURY APT NEAR BEACH

No 321, corner 2nd floor, 108sqm, freehold, 2 bedrooms, big balcony, kitchen, fully furnished, quiet and nice complex. Private use or for renting out. Special price: 9.85 million baht. Tel: 076-344350, 087-2646354. Email: gerard vanhal@gmail.com For further details, please visit our website: www.residencephuket.com

URGENT SALE: NEW TOWNHOUSE

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, opposite Boat Lagoon, close to British International School. Tel: 081-9793369.

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

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.

2-STOREY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Call Khun Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahnies@hotmail.com or okika_j@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

in housing estate near Heroines' Monument. 2.3 million baht. Tel: 089-9732917. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

in Srisuchart Grand Ville 3. 47.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, some furnishings. Located in Phuket City, near Tesco-Lotus. 2.8 million baht (negotiable). Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978.

FREEHOLD: NEW STUDIO

with pool in Patong, 45sqm, 3.2 million baht. Tel: 089-7284005. Email: rooms.kanchana@yahoo.com

BEACH SHOPHOUSE

in Kamala. 5 bedrooms, perfect guesthouse. Great investment. 25 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

NEW 3-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

at Mission Hills, near new international school. Finished December 2008. In quiet area. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8934636, 084-0605648. Email: info@phuketbedandbreakfast.com

NEW HOUSE, NAI HARN-RAWAI



3-story house villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 2 en-suites, 6 bathrooms, ADSL. Jacuzzi, big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. Private pool 8x3.5m, 2 parking spaces. Chanote. Tel: 081-6779837, 089-646-4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

NAI HARN LAND

700sqm. Residential area, road, electricity, water, fully fenced, ready to build on. Chanote. 4 million baht. Tel: 087-8821959.

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Quick sale, 5 million baht freehold, 6th floor, 75sqm, hill view. Tel: 085-7839062.

RAWAI-NAI HARN

Perfect walled land: 2x80 wah. Mains water, power, telephone. Chanote. 2.5 million baht each. Tel: 085-7827551.

CORNER SHOPHOUSE

Cherng Talay, brand-new, 3 storeys, near main road. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

LUXURY SEAVIEW CONDO, 120SQM

at Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Jacuzzi bathtub, fully furnished, pool, Jacuzzi + restaurant on roof. 7.2 million baht. Tel: 086-8147460. Email: nicthi77@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

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HOME OFFICE



for rent in Phuket. Perfect location in commercial area. 5 minutes to Tesco Lotus, on 2nd bypass road. 2.5 floors, ground floor ready to decorate for office. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon. Kitchen, 2 car parks, telephone land line, 1 number. Contact Bee. Tel: 081-8951581. Email: bee@layanhillsestate.com

NEW HOME, CHALONG

2-bedroom furnished home for rent with telephone. True TV and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

TWO VILLA CONDO

Oxygen Condo - Baan Saiyuan. Two-storeys, fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, with private pool/jacuzzi, 24-hr security. True TV, Wi-Fi, garden and pool maintenance included. Available for long- and short-term rental. Tel: 081-0909296. Email: majones73@hotmail.com

STYLISH HOUSE FOR RENT

Spacious 2-story gallery-house, 2 airconditioned bedrooms, partly furnished, cable TV, ADSL (TOT & TT&T). 2 terraces, walled garden, car park. Rent: 21,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-388639 or 083-1062680. Or email Hans at hans.susemehl@freenet.de

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 www.phuket-on-tour.blogspot.com

RAWAI FLAT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, swimming pool, balcony, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-6067410.

2 HOUSES FOR RENT

16,000-18,000 baht per month. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2km from Heroines' Monument. Tel: 083-1036578.

CAPE PANWA 5-STAR

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, direct pool access. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Ready to move in. Killer sea view. House in Kathu, 3 bedrooms. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketsunnyrentals.com

LUXURY TOWNHOME

at Layan Beach. Private garden estate with 20-meter swimming pool. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 90,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8954763. Email: peter@oceanbreezephuket.com

1-BEDROOM HOUSE

in Patong. 1 living room, aircon, hot water. Fully furnished. Tel: 085-0984239.

RAWAI VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms with pool. 30,000 baht per month, min 6 months. Tel: 087-8884895.

RAWAI SERVICED APARTMENTS



78-sqm suite apartment, ADSL, aircon. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent/sale. 60sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 1km from Heronies' Monument in Thalang. Rent 16,000 baht. Buy for 3.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2839181.

NEW HOUSE, VILLA 3

for rent or sale. Fully furnished, Villa 3 Soi 8/1, 70/76. Good price. Private area. Tel: 081-5376045.

BRAND-NEW TOWNHOUSE

close to BIS. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished throughout. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

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PATONG



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THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for rent or sale (27.5 million baht). The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

for rent or sale (27.5 million baht). The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

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3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms in a safe village. 3km to Tesco Lotus. Tel: 089-6458463.

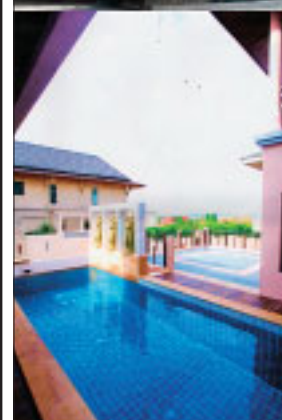
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near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, ADSL, aircon. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-277-8461. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

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New house in Soi Pasak, near Laguna Phuket. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, long term only. 18,000 baht per month. monthly. Contact K. Porn. Tel: 087-2740680. Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

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- Director of Sales and Marketing (Travel Trade)
- Director of Sales and Marketing (MICE)
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- Public Relations Manager (Thai)
- Food and Beverage Outlet Manager

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Applicants should demonstrate the following:

- Experience in related fields in the hotel industry
- Dynamic and outgoing personality
- Good communications skills and well organized

Apply in person or send your resume to
Director of Human Resources
 Indigo Pearl, 116 MI T. Sakoo D. Talang, Phuket 83110
 E-mail: samran@indigo-pearl.com
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We are looking for the right individual to fill the following position:

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Salary: excellent, depending on qualifications.

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 Location: Phuket.

Qualifications:

- Thai Nationality, aged 28 years or up;
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- A minimum of 5 years' experience including litigation experience working in a reputable law firm;
- Very good command of spoken and written English;
- Able to work independently, under pressure and complete assignments within the deadlines;
- Able to think critically and creatively solve problems;
- Experience in property, corporate and tax matters a big plus; and
- Management abilities and experience, also big plus.

Please apply by sending your cover letter, stating expected salary, and CV, including a recent photo to: nareerat@legalthai.com (www.legalthai.com)

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. Forward CV via mail. Tel: 086-0043008. Email: g.marchi12@gmail.com

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- Chief Engineer
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- Executive Housekeeping
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- Reservation Manager
- F&B Manager
- Spa Manager

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The Palm Beach Club
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Human Resources

• Human Resources Manager

Culinary

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 • Assistant Pastry Chef
 • Chef de Partie • Demi Chef
 • Commis I • Commis II
 • Butcher • Baker • Chef de Partie
 • Chief Steward • Steward Supervisor

Engineering

• Engineering Assistant Manager
 • Engineering Supervisor
 • Technician Coordinator • Technician

Food & Beverage

• Restaurant Manager
 • Assistant Restaurant Manager
 • Restaurant Supervisor
 • Hostess • Bartender • Server

Front Office

• Night Manager • Butler
 • Call Centre Agent
 • Guest Relations Officer
 • Guest Relations Officer
 (Japanese, Russian, Arabic speaker)
 • Retail Attendant • Airport Representative

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• Housekeeping Supervisor
 • Villa Attendant • Laundry Supervisor
 • Laundry Attendant
 • Seamstress & Uniform Attendant

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• Japanese Sales Manager
 • Sales Manager • Reservations Agent

Spa

• Esthetician • Massage Therapist
 • Spa Receptionist Supervisor
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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:

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Thai Kitchen Commis - Temporary
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FRONT OFFICE

Resort Host - Permanent
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Assistant Manager - Permanent
F&B Service Attendants - Permanent and Temporary

RECREATION

Recreation Attendant - Temporary

HOUSEKEEPING

Room Attendant - Temporary
Flower Attendant - Temporary
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SPA

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Contact in a person at Human Resources Department
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Tel. 076 310 350 Fax. 076 310 299
E-mail address hr@trisara.com

Sales Executive & Marketing

- Female / Male, Thai national
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- * Working time - 9:30am to 5pm

Phuket Spa

We are currently seeking

Administration Manager 1 position

- * Female, Thai nationality
- * Salary commensurate with experience
- * Good English language skills
- * Experience in hotel and property would be an advantage

Please send CV, recent photo and references to:
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kennyasumoto@gmail.com
Tel: 076-352013, 081-8937162 Fax: 076-352133

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Help Thai ladies find love online while you earn great commissions. Full or part time. Call Joy for more information at Tel: 084-8518847. Email: thailove@me.com

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The candidate reports directly to the Executive Chef and must be capable of assuming charge of the kitchen and culinary team in the absence of the Executive Chef. The Sous Chef is required to manage the daily operation of the kitchen and support the Executive Chef with cost control, food production, ordering and writing menus.

Job Criteria:

- Experience in preparing modern Thai cuisine.
- Versatility, and with at least 3 years' experience in a hotel or hospitality environment at Chef de Partie or Sous Chef level.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English.
- Initiative and positive attitude, leadership and management skills.
- Proficient in recipe writing, costings and computer systems.

Tel: + 65-9-3247007. Fax: + 65-6-5422283. Please email your detailed resume in MS Word format to : recruit@epicure.sg

Closing date for applications is October 8, 2008.

KHA is part of the Epicure group of restaurants. www.epicure.sg

For further details, please visit our website at www.kha.sg

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- 2 Chefs: European food.
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Please contact Khun Henrik + 66 (0) 89-0088146

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Employment Wanted

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Female, Thai national, English (spoken and written), assistant to accounting, good in Microsoft Office, Word, and Excel. Please send CV, references, and expected salary. Walk-in interviews are also possible.. Tel: 076-245962. Email: hakan@tharadonestate.com

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Expert webmaster familiar with VPS Control Panel etc wanted. Work from home. Email your rates to: thailove@me.com

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Hotel requires a female Thai receptionist. Must be reliable and speak English. Tel: 089-4073698.

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ROLLY TASKER SAILS

Rolly Tasker Sails (Thailand) Co Ltd gives notice that Harmex Group (Thailand) Co., Ltd has 30 days to settle all debts for rent, electricity, water, storage and transport owed to Rolly Tasker Sails (Thailand) Co., Ltd. If payment in full is not received by October 31, 2008, then all goods recovered from the leased premises at 26/2 Moo 6, Chao Fa Road, Tambon Chalong, Amphur Muang, Phuket Province, will be disposed of by any available means to offset the aforementioned debt. By motion of Board of Directors Rolly Tasker Sails (Thailand) Co Ltd 20/09/08.

Business Opportunities

SHOP AT BOAT LAGOON

for sale. Souvenir gift shop, clothing boutique and second-hand bookstore located opposite hotel and nestled among a constant tourist trade. For sale at 150,000 baht. Tel: 081-9583046.

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Restaurant/bar: 2 rooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, 2 plasma TVs, fully furnished. Nanai Rd. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-0562434.

URGENT SALE: NICE RESTAURANT

30m from Patong Beach, good location, good price. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-891-6697, 084-6509076.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Kathu, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, rent 12,000 baht. You can make money. Work permit. Tel: 081-7193928 (Thai). Tel: 085-0984239 (English).

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for sale. Prime location in Rawai, Phuket. Well established, fully licensed, includes cars, Internet cafe, PS2 Playstations, motorbike rental. Excellent turnover. Company with work permit. Large 2-bedroom apartment. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-0909640.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE



Garden setting, 1 rai, 2-bedroom house, low rent. Location: between Chalong and Rawai. Must see. Contact Jeff. Tel: 081-4760380. Email: jeff@phuket-rentals.com

NET CAFE IN PATONG

Good area on Prabamee Rd. Large area & low rent. Steady income & members, see report. Tel: 081-9088303.

UNIQUE BUSINESS FOR SALE

Established business with great prospects for sale. Not related to the bar/restaurant, hotel or property industry. Great opportunity if you are looking to keep yourself busy locally and do something different. Email: mrsouza@me.com

GASTRO PROFESSIONAL

Austrian gastronomy professional looking for a bar, restaurant, coffee shop or small hotel to lease or rent with a buy option. I would like to first manage it for a year, then have an opportunity to buy. Location: near beach or other 'buzzing', busy place anywhere in Thailand. Thanks in advance for sending me an informative offer, with photo of the venue if possible. Email: rickthegreek@gmx.at

GUESTHOUSE GEM

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in excellent condition. Only 18,000km. 5-speed, all options. 525,000 baht or trade for 4-door automatic car of similar value. Tel: 081-5350202. aadams007@yahoo.com

2002 4WD MITSUBISHI 4-DOOR

2.8 turbo diesel. 114,000km. 340,000 baht. 1st class insurance. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

TOYOTA TIGER 4WD

2006, 3.2L 4WD, manual, black. Only 5,400km. 22-inch wheels. A bargain at 550,000 baht. Tel: 089-0004400.

TOYOTA TIGER 4WD

December 1998, owner's manual, silver, 73,000km. Very good condition. Price: 280,000 baht. Tel: 081-0855765. Email: beat19@loxinfo.co.th

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