

# Phuket Gazette

Volume 15 Issue 41

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

October 11 - 17, 2008

Daily news at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

25 Baht

The Gazette is published  
in association with

**The Nation**

## INSIDE



### Mujagic Magic

The Sheraton Laguna Puccini restaurant's head chef Robert Mujagic shares his secrets for one of his out-of-this-world dishes for Guest Chef.

See page 11.

**NEWS:** New Immigration cards issued; Pork sales drop during veg fest; Phuket Yesterday.

Pages 2 & 3

**INSIDE STORY:** Diplomatic immunity in Bangla.

Pages 4 & 5

**LIFESTYLE:** Fringe fest, veg fest, 4x4 driving tests.

Pages 16 & 17

**QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; AROUND THE SOUTH 8; ANDAMAN COASTING 10; GUEST CHEF 11; PEOPLE 12-13; HAPPENINGS 14; STREETS OF PATTAYA 15; WHAT'S ON 19; BUSINESS AND MONEY 20; TAKE A BREAK 22; BOOKS, WORD COURT 23; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 24; FIRST PERSON 25; TOWNINGS, HOROSCOPES 26; TRAVEL 27; SPORTS 28; DESIGN 31; HOME OF THE WEEK 33; PROPERTY WATCH 34; CONSTRUCTION 36; CLASSIFIED ADS 39-51.**

## Kamala beachfront shops destroyed

By Gazette Reporters

**KAMALA:** In an effort to beautify the beachfront at Kamala, nearly 50 illegally-built commercial structures were bulldozed on October 7.

Santi Atthasap, Vice-President of the Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), told the *Gazette* that the move was in line with a provincial policy to keep beaches tidy and attractive.

The temporary structures, many of them made from bamboo, encroached on public land and created an eyesore, he said.

"We are in favor of entrepreneurs, but they need to follow *OrBorTor* regulations; otherwise the result is no different from a slum. We want to see Kamala's beautiful beach back in its natural state," he said.

"These people were notified of the destruction one month ago, in accordance with the law. They had time to remove their belongings," he added.

"Most of the shops were tour shops, restaurants and bars. The people who ran them knew they were on public property, but insisted on squatting. They took



**Kamala OrBorTor Vice-President Santi Atthasap oversees the destruction of some 100 illegal structures that were clogging up a four-kilometer-long stretch of beachfront.**

the opportunity to encroach on public land during the gap between election periods," said Mr Santi.

"This beach is public property and belongs to everyone. Some 50 entrepreneurs have no more right to use it than anyone else here – including tourists. Besides, no permission to operate there was ever granted by the *OrBorTor*. We have to remove these structures before the situation gets even worse," he said.

The encroacher had built nearly 100 structures along a stretch of beach about four kilometers long, he said.

"Now there is [finally] enough space to walk to the beach without having to pass dining tables," he said.

The newly-cleared area will now be used as a public recreational area for tourists, with a small number of legally-registered souvenir shops allowed to operate there, he said.

## Guns seized at Tah Chat Chai checkpoint

By Atchaa Khamlo

**TAH CHAT CHAI:** Provincial and regional police held a press conference on October 5 to announce the seizure of 10 guns recovered during random checks at the Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint over a three-day period.

The press conference was conducted jointly by Police Region 8 Commander Lt Gen Santarn Chayanon and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongthong.

The seizures followed a handover in authority of the checkpoint from the regional to provincial police, in line with a policy to crack down on hired gunmen and other criminals coming to, and leaving, the island, Maj Gen Apirak said.

The crackdown involves more frequent searches and advanced detection technology to locate contraband items stashed inside vehicles, police said.

Also seized was a variety of other weapons and illegal drugs.

Similar "x-ray" inspections were conducted at checkpoints in Tung Tong and Kathu over the same period, but these failed to recover any weapons.

## More CCTV cameras to spy on Patong

By Akbar Khan

**PATONG:** Philandering husbands be warned: Phuket's premier adult entertainment district is gearing up for a huge expansion in its closed-circuit television (CCTV) coverage, with real-time images of the action along Soi Bangla to be available to the public 24 hours a day by year's end, according to the town's top cop.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonmark told the *Gazette* that the existing 16 CCTV cameras in Patong will

be supplemented with 26 more units, 16 of which will be provided by the Savoey Seafood restaurant.

All of the new cameras, to be installed along Soi Bangla and the beach road, will show viewers around the world just how safe and friendly Patong is for tourists, he said.

"CCTV security is a policy of national police chief Patcharawat Wongsuwan. Police Region 8 commander Santarn Chayanon has assigned Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongthong to evaluate which parts of Phuket, if any, should have CCTV,"

Col Grissak told the *Gazette*.

Maj Gen Apirak thinks that coverage should be extended to other parts of the island, including Chalong and Phuket City, he said.

Phuket City Municipality will fund 10 more cameras at a cost of 4 million baht, while the Savoey Restaurant is funding 16 cameras sourced from Singapore at a cost of 1 million baht.

All 16 cameras funded by the restaurant will be installed along Soi Bangla, he said.

Continued on page 2



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From page 1

## Patong CCTV to go online

"If there are any criminal activities there, these will help us investigate and catch the culprits. The images will be broadcast via the Internet, which means that the public can also help us watch what is going on.

"Businesses will be able to use the web feeds as public relations tools for their businesses," he said.

"The cameras will not damage the tourism industry at all, because most tourists do not come to buy girls out of the bars. It is perfectly natural for them to have dinner and then go down to the bars for a few drinks and a fun night out with their friends. It is only a very small minority that will pay the bar fine to take a girl out for dinner," said Col Grissak.

"The cameras are not installed in an obtrusive way. They do not create the feeling that one's privacy is being invaded. I have selected all the locations for installation.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin has set December 15 as the deadline for this project, but we would like to have it in operation earlier than that," he said.

The owner of Savoei Seafood Restaurant, who asked that his name not be published, said, "I am very worried about my businesses here in Patong and have a vested interest in protecting the city, especially now that rebels in the three southern provinces have threatened to expand [their activities] throughout the South, including Phuket.

"The system that I have provided for Soi Bangla includes digital recording that is stored for 30 days.

"Each camera has infrared night vision capability that enables clear-image recording even in total darkness," he added.

# Thailand to issue new immigration card

BANGKOK (TNA): A new immigration card will be introduced for Thais and foreigners who frequently enter and leave Thailand, the state-run Thai News Agency (TNA) has reported.

The agency quoted Immigration Police chief Pol Lt Gen Chatchawan Suksomchit as saying that holders of the "Immigration Card" will include those who travel in and out of the country three to five times a year, regardless of their nationality.

Immigration Card holders will bypass

some Immigration procedures, such as being screened for being a criminal suspect or being on a police or immigration watch list.

The Immigration Card is part of the efforts to promote tourism and investment in Thailand, TNA reported.

Meanwhile, Immigration Police will open a 1178 call center early next year to provide tourism-related information in eight languages.

In addition, Immigration Police will take

part in the nationwide crackdown on the exploitation of foreign labor and the flesh trade throughout the country, Lt Gen Chatchawan was quoted as saying.

The report set off a frenzy of speculation and commentary on popular website forums, where many people posted comments such as "I'll believe it when I see it", and others called for more details – such as how much the card would cost, when it might really be available, and what the procedures might be to obtain one.

## Child labor in Phuket shames Burmese junta

By Akbar Khan

PHUKET: Burmese daily newspaper *True News* was ordered by the Press Scrutiny and Registration Board of Myanmar to suspend publication for two months, following its publication on September 30 of a large image depicting a Burmese child working on a construction site in Phuket.

Mr Yeni, News Editor at *The Irrawaddy*, told the *Gazette*, "An anonymous freelancer in Rangoon told us that the censorship board has ordered *True News* to suspend publication for two months due to a front page photograph that ran a caption reading: 'A Burmese child working on a construction site in Phuket, Thailand'. Apparently the editors of *True News* were found guilty of not sending clear draft layouts to the Press Scrutiny Board.

"Another Rangoon source said that *True News* had submitted the layouts, but the Board failed to censor the picture. Major Tint Swe, head of the censorship board, was then reportedly scolded by Information Minister



The photo on the front page of the Burmese daily newspaper *True News* showed a Burmese child working on a construction site in Phuket. Publication of the photo resulted in the newspaper being banned for two months.

Kyaw Hsan for the oversight," said Mr Yeni.

"The editors and reporters of *True News* are now afraid to give interviews with anyone outside Myanmar. We are unable to find out where, exactly, the construction site is in Phuket. We are very interested in covering stories about Burmese migrants in Phuket.

"The Junta are paranoid and strange. The Burmese regime is not like any other government; they focus only on how to control media, especially when they work with journalists outside Myanmar. With the exploitation of child laborers, the Junta feel that they have been exposed for lacking care for their own citizens. Later this year we plan to visit Phuket ourselves," Mr Yeni added.

There will be a lot for them to report on here. The plight of Burmese workers in Phuket is well known to island residents. They are commonly seen huddled into the back of trucks and at squalid workers' camps across the island.

The camps have mushroomed on the back of a real estate boom driven largely by foreign investment in recent years.

The situation made international headlines earlier this year when 54 Burmese workers illegally entering Thailand suffocated in the back of a truck in Ranong while en route to a construction site in Phuket.

A crackdown followed, and on June 11 former Kathu policeman Decho Kaewnabon was gunned down in front of his Patong home in a murder that remains unsolved.

Decho, dismissed from the force for involvement in Burmese labor rings, allegedly continued in the business. His murder is widely seen as a silencing killing ordered by other influential traffickers.

There have also been numerous extortion attempts made against Burmese workers and those who employ them, often by people posing as government officials.

One registered Burmese worker who resisted an extortion attempt was shot in the face and killed in Kathu on March 30. Although there were many witnesses, that case also remains unsolved.

## Prestigious dinner to help preserve local culture

PHUKET CITY: Thai and expat families will be meeting later this month to play an active role in preserving local cultures and traditions while building valuable ties with other distinguished members of the community. The meeting will be part of the annual Phuket Yesteryear event.

About 1,000 participants, including Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, are expected to attend the prestigious cocktail dinner to be held from 6:30 pm to 10 pm at the Grand Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on October 22.


The Old Phuket Foundation was established in 2003 by Phuket Municipality with the aim of encouraging participation from both local and foreign residents in preserving the island's varied arts and traditions, and to promote old Phuket Town as a cultural tourist destination.

President of the Old Phuket Foundation Dr Prasit Koysiripong said, "The main objectives of the Phuket Yesteryear event are to give Thai and expat families living in Phuket the chance to get to know each other and build friendly ties. The event will also raise public awareness of the Old Phuket Foundation and encourage further understanding and participation in future events and activities."

"Half of the the participants will be local members of the community and the other half will be foreigners. The event will also give participants opportunities to expand their business networks," Dr Prasit added.


Funds generated during the event will be donated to the Old Phuket Foundation. "The aim of the fund is to develop old Phuket City as a cultural tourist destination," said Dr Prasit, adding that the event will celebrate the island's historic diversity.

Tickets are 1,000 baht each and are on sale until October 20. Contact the Old Phuket Foundation (Telephone: 081-5976880, 081-7195493, or 081-8920618), or Khun Jib at the *Phuket Gazette* (Tel: 076-236555, ext 104. Email: jib@phuketgazette.net).



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# Pork sales plunged during Veggie Fest

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET CITY: Much has been written about high prices of vegetables during the Vegetarian Festival, especially with recent flooding in other parts of the country destroying crops.

But the 10-day period of vegetable-only consumption also had an impact on meat prices, especially in Phuket City, where the ethnic Chinese who make up the bulk of those taking part are typically enthusiastic consumers of a wide variety of meat products, including pork.

"Tek", who runs pork vending stalls in five different markets (Samkong, Rawai, Koh Sireh Bridge and two in Patong) said his average daily income of 80,000 baht a day is typically reduced by about 30% during the festival.

Tuadaeng, a beef seller at

a single stall in Samkong Market, estimated sales were down about 50% during the festival.

Jiraway, who sells chicken at the same market, said that income was about the same as normal, with the number of rival vendors closing down compensating in large part for the reduced number of buyers.

The relative resiliency of chicken sales in Phuket City during the festival is likely related to the fact that the Muslim population, estimated at about 30% in Phuket, refrains from pork consumption year-round as a matter of religious belief.

Few Muslims choose to take part in the Vegetarian Festival, which this year overlapped with the Ramadan period of fasting that ended on October 1.

In fact, one Muslim woman who sells "Muslim chicken" with sticky rice at a stall on Yaowarat

Rd in Samkong said sales were better during the Vegetarian Festival than at any other time of the year due to the lack of competition.

The festival also reduces processing rates at local slaughterhouses, of which there are 19 on the island.

Prasit, a 12-year-veteran of the pig slaughtering industry currently employed at the Phuket City Municipal Slaughterhouse, leads a team of a team of 10 Thai and Burmese butchers.

Mr Prasit and his team normally butcher about 80 swine per day, but the figure dips to about 25 per day during the festival due to a drop in demand.

Mr Prasit earns 100 baht per pig processed. However, he said he must use the proceeds to pay all of his staff.

## Coming soon: '5-Star Slaughterhouse'

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET CITY: While tens of thousands of Phuket residents walked the streets in all-white clothing and abstained from meat during the recent Vegetarian Festival, plans are afoot to build what authorities are describing as a "5-star" slaughterhouse capable of butchering up to 100 pigs per hour.

The Phuket Provincial Livestock Office announced the project as part of its plan to designate Phuket as Thailand's first "Food Safety City" in 2009, the Manager on-line news service reported on September 30.

Phuket Provincial Livestock Chief Dr Sunart Wongchawalit was quoted as saying the slaughterhouse will be a joint project between the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) and Phuket City



Municipality.

The facility will be located on OrBorJor land, the exact location of which was not included in the report.

Construction of the slaughterhouse, to cost somewhere between 60 and 80 million baht, will be completed within a year, Dr Sunart was quoted as saying.

The project will bring the island into compliance with Natural Resources and Environment Ministry regulations and force the closure of 17 smaller slaughterhouse facilities now operating on the island.

It is hoped the facility will help boost meat exports to Malaysia and Singapore.



## VEG-FEST VESTS

Flag-bearing children abandoned traditional dress for white T-shirts with big-store brand names to join the annual Vegetarian Festival processions through Phuket City last week.

## Top doc warns of Veggie Fest viruses

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET CITY: The Vegetarian Festival is ostensibly a period of purity, but the Phuket Provincial Health Office nevertheless issued a statement warning people about the risks of HIV/Aids and hepatitis infection during the 10-day event.

Phuket Public Health Office chief Dr Paisan Worrasathit told the *Gazette*, "We are cautioning people who hurt themselves with puncture wounds from items such as spades, spears, knives, pins. We fear some of them may contract diseases as a result".

Dr Paisan was speaking in reference to the scores of mah song (literally, "entranced horses") spirit mediums, who pierce such objects through their cheeks in acts of ritual self-mutilation, or do so with the assistance of "handlers" who escort them while they are entranced.

All involved should sterilize the instruments before piercing and then take steps to prevent viral and bacterial infection, both to the mah song and others who could come into contact with their



**SPADES ON PARADE:** A 'handler' in rubber gloves tends to a mah song spirit medium suffering from the effects of having two spades stuck through his cheeks.

blood, he said.

"Apart from the risks associated with sharp objects, we are also checking to ensure that proper hygiene is being maintained at food stalls by giving advice to vendors," he said.

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# A touch of diplomacy goes a long way.

A handful of ambassadors from around the world arrived in Phuket on the final leg of a familiarization tour of the Andaman provinces last week. The diplomats stopped in Phang Nga and Krabi before coming to Phuket to stay at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon.

They were also treated to a barbeque, seafood and vegetarian dinner hosted by Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat at the Holiday Inn Patong.

After the dinner, some of the diplomats went to observe vegetarian festival ceremonies, while others were accompanied on a tour of Bangla Road in Patong by Mr Weerasak, along with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban and Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonark.

Other local dignitaries who met the diplomats included Krabi Governor Siwa Sirisaowalak, Phuket senator and Honorary Consul for Austria Phummasak Hongyok, Phuket Senator (elected as chairwoman of the Upper House's Tourism Committee) Tanyarat Atchariyachai, and President of the Phuket Appreciation Organization Paiboon Upatising.

Here, the *Gazette* reports on what the diplomats and other distinguished guests had to say about the state of visitor safety for tourists holidaying in Phuket. Their comments were made during their dinner at the Holiday Inn Patong and following a speech by Minister Weerasak.



Minister of Tourism and Sports Weerasak Kowsurat:

"After the two-day closure of Phuket Airport three weeks ago, and the negative international news coverage that followed it, we thought it would be a good idea to bring down the ambassadors who are available as soon as possible to show them – to let them see with their own eyes – what's really happening in Phuket.

"We think business is picking up and tourists are coming back. I sent out invitations to members of the diplomatic corps to provide them with transportation and accommodation so that they can see for themselves and report back to their own home countries about what's really going on here.

"We have other international events to support here, such as beach volleyball and the King's Cup Regatta. There will also be a large-scale familiarity trip this month with 800 members of the media coming from all over the world. They will go all over the country, including the Andaman provinces.

"Most ambassadors have come with their families. They might have come before, but this time they have had a chance to see some things that they might not normally see.

"The Swiss ambassador has already booked another holiday here later this month. They've had great fun learning about Phuket's charismatic attractions other than the beaches, such as the shrines and Chinese culture here."



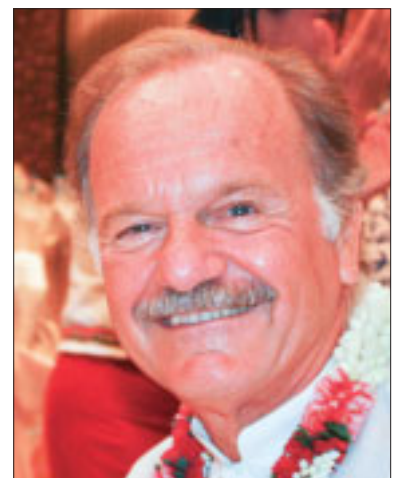
Khun Methee Tanmanatragul, President of the Thai Hotel Association:

"You know, after the plane crash at Phuket airport, and when the airport was closed for two days, many strategies were drawn up to regain confidence in tourists. We thought that the best thing to do would be to invite the ambassadors from those countries that have issued travel advisory warnings to take a look for themselves.

"If they come here and feel relaxed and comfortable, then we just hope that they will tell their own governments that everything is back to normal here and that there's nothing to worry about.

"There is nothing to fear, but it's best that when the ambassadors go home they can tell their own governments that Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi are safe places to visit.

"That way is much better than our going abroad to tell them."



Italian Ambassador H.E. Mr Ignazio Di Pace:



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# Diplomats on tourists' safety in Phuket



Danish Honorary Consul for Denmark, Mr Kennerth B. R. Carlson and his wife are escorted along Soi Bangla to see for themselves the sights and sounds that attract foreign tourists.

"There is no problem about safety in Phuket. There has never been a problem about safety.

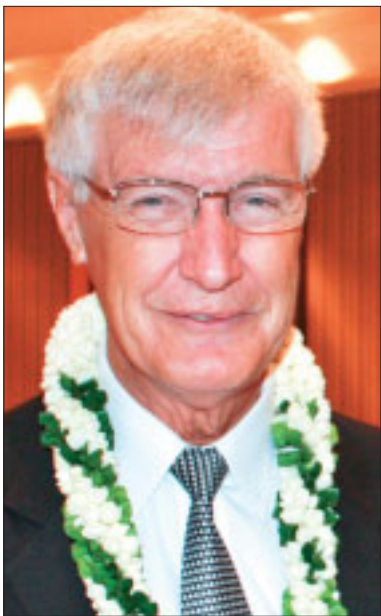
"The problem that existed for some time – maybe just a few days – was when there were the strikes (sic) and the airport was closed.

"That was on the television all over the world and it showed some of the hardships faced by tourists.

"That was not, I would say, a problem of safety, but a problem of discomfort for the tourists. Luckily, this is over now, and it's fine. I hope that many tourists will come back here.

"Phuket is an island of natural beauty. The sea is fantastic and there are a lot of activities no matter what your tastes.

"I have been here several times and I enjoy it every time. I always say I will come again."



Honorary Consul for Denmark Mr Kennerth B. R. Carlson:

"Actually I am from Sweden. Although I am Swedish, I am the Danish Consul. Anyway, I think that Phuket is absolutely

safe – no problem at all. Every day I recommend that people come here.

"I had three emails today from Danish citizens on their way here. They asked me if there were any problems here. My reply was 'No. Not at all. It is safe'.

"Phuket is wonderful because the beaches and the people are very nice.

"It is a very international area, so it is easy to communicate with everyone here. I think these are the main reasons that people come here."



Russian Federation Minister-Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission Mr Mikhail V Baranov:

"In Russia we have a proverb that says a bomb never strikes in the same place twice, so I think that after the 2004 tsunami, the possibility of such a large-scale natural catastrophe is not so great; so I think Phuket is quite safe in this respect.

"I don't think anyone can say that Phuket is not safe in any other aspects. The island is very well adapted for international tourism and the locals seem very friendly. The local police are also doing their jobs well.

"We have a constantly rising number of Russian tourists coming to Phuket as well. This year it's going to be 500,000 compared to 300,000 in the previous year. This shows that our people love Thailand and Phuket. They feel quite safe here, and if anything happens – things do happen in life – we have the embassy

and an honorary consul here in Phuket to help them overcome any problems.

"The police are not a problem for tourists unless they commit crimes. I do know of one example where a Russian tourist was falsely accused of a crime. This was not in Phuket though. It was on an island in Phang Nga province. The police carried out a good investigation; our tourist was acquitted and all accusations were dropped.

"We know that some Thai tour guides are concerned about the Russian tour guides and we are communicating with the authorities about that.

"There is a need for native Russian speakers in Thailand and Phuket, just as there is a need for Thai people to work in Russia and Moscow as experts in Thai massage and Thai cuisine, so the problem of people getting jobs in other countries should be solved on a mutually beneficial basis."



Having a good time? A tourist enjoying the vibrant night life that Patong has to offer.



Alan Cooke – ex British consul Phuket:

"Phuket has always been safe to visit. The present situation is no different from any other.

"It's important that the message gets back to the respective embassies in Bangkok that they can adjust and revise and give a true representation of the perceived risks of travel in Thailand.

"At the moment, Thailand is unfairly described in these travel advisories. This is not unusual, but embassies will always err on the side of caution.

"Essentially, they are bureaucrats, so that's the way they will operate. They are not commercially motivated; they are not aware of the realities of the commercial world out there; and they make what I think are unfair and unreasonable judgments. Just simply, dare I say it, to protect their own positions."

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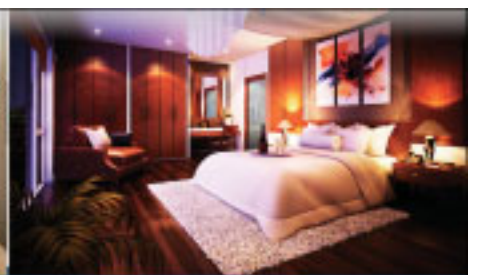
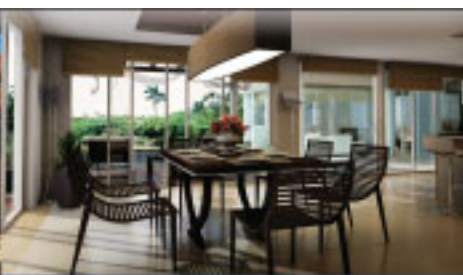
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## Queer News

# Drinking session takes tragic turn

SUKHOTHAI: The more dipsomaniacal among us will most likely have had the unsettling experience of coming round, after a heavy session, not quite sure where we are or how we got there.

Usually, this can be rectified by stumbling out, flagging down a taxi and demanding to be taken home, hopefully before the full force of the hangover sets in.

One unlucky drinker in the early hours of September 5 had a rather more tragic experience.

Regaining consciousness in the back seat of his own moving car after a night on the town, he mistook his friend, who was driving him home, for a robber stealing his vehicle – and emptied all six shots of his revolver into him, killing him at the wheel.

The sorry tale started on the afternoon of September 4, when 54-year-old Surakiat Kaewphet, the chauffeur of the director of Sri Samrong Hospital, drove into Sukhothai town to meet some of his friends in the local law enforcement community.

One drink led to another, and the group soon found themselves having a grand time in the Tor Phu Tao restaurant.

When it was finally time to go home, Surakiat's friend Sub Lt Songsak Jaidee offered to drive his pal, who was so intoxicated he could barely walk, back to his home in Sri Samrong District.

Lt Songsak laid Surakiat down in the back seat of the chauffeur's Honda City and asked one of his underlings, Sgt Maj Songsak Yahjai, to follow in his car so he could take Lt Songsak home when Surakiat

was safely tucked in bed.

Halfway home, however, Surakiat woke from his inebriated slumber. Realizing that someone else was driving his Honda, he jumped to the conclusion that the driver must be stealing the car.

Driven perhaps by instinct as much as alcohol, he pulled out his .38 revolver and emptied it into the "thief".

After the car came to a halt in the middle of the road, Sgt Maj Songsak, who had been following behind, pulled up alongside to see what was wrong.

On seeing the body of his boss, he shouted at Surakiat, demanding to know why he had shot Lt Songsak.

Realizing his mistake, he joined Sgt Maj Songsak in a desperate bid to resuscitate the lieutenant, but to no avail.

All who knew the tragic pair said that Surakiat and Lt Songsak were good friends and regular drinking partners. Surakiat used to say that he loved Lt Songsak like a younger brother.

Surakiat, a big fan of the police in general, was friends with all the officers in his local station and would often treat them to meals and drinks.

Whenever any policeman was ill, he would use his connections at the hospital to make sure the law enforcement officer got the best rooms.

These strong bonds with the boys in brown, however, were apparently not strong enough to get him out of trouble for his mistake, as he has been charged with murder and carrying a firearm in a public place without

## Meditation and Buddhism 101 course offered

PHUKET CITY: Middle Way Phuket, which has been conducting free monthly meditation training sessions in Phuket for more than a year, is now offering a twice-monthly course on Meditation and Introduction to Buddhism.

The course, to be taught by English-speaking monks, runs from October 12 to February 22. The ten 2½-hour sessions will take place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

The course outline is as follows: 1. Benefits of Meditation; 2. Nature of Mind; 3. Various Techniques in Meditation; 4. Right Attitudes in Meditation; 5. Five Hindrances; 6. What is Dhamma?; 7. Lord Buddha; 8. Noble Eight-Fold Path; 9. What is "Boon"?; 10. Virtues Development in a Team.

There is a registration fee of 5,000 baht, full

payment of which is due at the first session. The fee is to cover travel expenses for the monks, who will fly in for the sessions.

The fee may be reduced if more than five people register for the course.

The classes will take place at the Phuket Mediation Center. To get there from Central Festival Phuket, head south on the bypass road and turn left into Wirat Hongyok Rd at the first set of traffic lights, at the sign to Wat Naka.

Make a U-turn when you see the park on your right about one kilometer past the temple, then take the next left into Soi 7 and turn left again into Soi 7/2.

For more information, visit [www.meditationthai.org](http://www.meditationthai.org) or call 076-360846 or 083-9688717.

## STAMPS

# Thai Post honors 50 years of Thai-Korean relations

Thailand Post this month is marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between Thailand and the Republic of Korea with a special issue of two commemorative stamps.

One stamp features an image of the Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall in the Grand Palace, where royal banquets are held in honor of royal guests. Visitors are permitted to tour the hall and take pictures of the exemplary architecture daily from 9 am to 4 pm.

The Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall was built in 1876 and originally designed by British architect John Clunish, who was commissioned to draw up the plans by HM King Rama V.

On the ground floor of the three-story hall guard is the center and the weapons which from the east and the south museum in both sides of the floor. The second level is used for state banquets and for receiving foreign ambassadors. On the highest level are the sacred remains of Kings Rama IV, V, VI, VII and VIII and their queens as well as a large Buddha image.

The other stamp in the series features an image of the Juhammu Pavilion at Changdeokkung Palace ("Palace of Illustrious Virtue") in Seoul. The two-story pavilion once served as a library for Korean kings.



Today, the ground floor is still home to thousands of books and there are reading rooms on the upper floor.

Juhammu Pavilion was built in 1776, adding to the historic Changdeokkung Palace, which was built in 1405. The original palace was completed in 1412, covering 500,000 square meters. Throughout history, the palace has been damaged and restored many times. The last Korean emperor, Sunjong of the Joseon Dynasty, stayed in this palace until his death in 1926.

Both Changdeokkung Palace and the Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall in the Grand Palace in Bangkok have been listed as World Heritage Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO).

In a recent press release marking the 50-year anniversary of official relations between the two democracies, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Virasakdi Futrakul said that the Republic of Korea is now an economic powerhouse in Asia and a vital strategic partner for Thai trade and investment. Korea ranks as Thailand's 11<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner, while Thailand is one of the premier holiday destinations for Korean tourists. In 2007, more than one million Koreans visited Thailand. Phuket is the most popular honeymoon destination for Koreans.

Mr Virasakdi pointed out that both Thailand and the Republic of Korea are at important political junctures, as they have recently elected new governments. He believes that both governments will be pro-active and will expand their co-operation in all areas, such as trade, tourism, science and technology, education, cultural exchange, and people-to-people contact.

He explained that the friendship between Thailand and the Republic of Korea predates the official establishment of diplomatic ties. In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, Siamese envoys were sent to the Koryo Kingdom, now the Republic of Korea.

However, due to the difficulty of traveling from Siam to Koryo by sea, it was not until November 1950 that official con-

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Public Health Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung on October 2 launched a campaign to ban alcohol sales on public holidays.

Drinking leads to crime and road accidents, resulting in death and injuries, Mr Chalerm said.

He cited a 2006 report that 31%, or 16 million, of the population were drinkers. Nine million of them drink alcohol on a regular basis.

Mr Chalerm assigned the Disease Control Department to consider invoking Article 28 of the Alcohol Beverage Control Act of 2008, which prohibits the sale of alcohol on days designated by ministerial regulations.

The regulation should be issued in one month and include public holidays such as New Year's Day, Songkran and religious holidays, Mr Chalerm said.

Dr Saman Futrakul, head of the department's tobacco and alcohol consumption control group, said the regulation had been drafted and submitted to Deputy Permanent Secretary Pajit Warachit.

After obtaining the National Alcohol Consumption Control Committee's approval, the regulation would need Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's signature and be published in the *Royal Gazette* before it can be introduced.

Violators would face up to six months in jail and/or a fine of up to 10,000 baht.

The regulation would prohibit liquor sales from 11 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to midnight every day, except by vendors with special permission.

The Alcohol Watch Network and its allies quickly supported the plan, asking that it include major festivals, such as Loy Krathong and the Red Cross Society's annual fair.

**Green scheme.** Natural Resources and Environment Minister Anongwan Thepsuthin on October 2 floated the idea of giving "green label" status to some national parks as a way of turning them into fully "eco-friendly locations".

The minister plans to establish a working committee to pursue the idea and decide which parks would be part of the scheme.

Upai Wayupat, director-general of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation De-

# Health Minister Chalerm plans holiday booze ban



## CENTENNIAL SINKING SURVIVOR

**FLOAT YOUR BOAT:** Yen Kaewmanee, a 108-year-old resident of Phetchaburi, gives a thumb-ups from his wheelchair to the new boat granted him by HM Queen Sirikit after he nearly drowned in a September 19 boating accident.

partment, said key officials would report to the minister on how the scheme could be implemented.

The scheme aims to discourage the use of foam containers, plastic bags and loud-engine vehicles in the parks.

"We won't impose a ban, but we will seek tourists' co-operation in protecting the environment," he said.

Mr Upai confirmed that his department would abandon a plan to invite private investors to run accommodation services inside national parks. "The plan is suspended because society doesn't agree with it," he said.

**Flood recovery.** The Public Health Ministry will seek Cabinet approval to spend about 3 billion baht to help people affected by flooding, Deputy Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said on October 3.

More than 200,000 flood victims are suffering from waterborne diseases and 24 had died

during the previous 24 days, Health Ministry spokesperson Dr Suphan Srithamma said on October 5.

During three weeks in September, mobile medical teams treated 217,308 patients. Most were suffering from athlete's foot and skin rash. The second most common disease among flood victims was fever.

The Health Ministry will conduct surveillance to monitor the disease outbreak after the flood period for a month for diseases such as leptospirosis, diarrhea and dengue fever.

Dr. Suphan said the Health Ministry has sent over 490,000 relief items to help flood victims, including mosquito repellent and medicine.

The health ministry also provided relief items to flood victims including boots to prevent leptospirosis infection, bicarbonate, alum, and chlorine to kill bacteria which can cause severe symptoms in humans.

in the neck and one of his legs; and Jeerasak Feungsanthia suffered a knife wound to one of his arms.

A Poh Teck Tung Foundation worker claimed that a Siam Ruamjai supervisor gave his men the order to "get them all".

Two groups had agreed on separate territories to assist accident victims, but Siam Ruamjai had begun encroaching on the Foundation's turf, he alleged.

Pol Maj Gen Sakkachat Kittakajorn said that after dealing with the attack, police would call in rescue foundation chiefs for talks.

The trouble followed an incident between the same rescue teams on September 27 in Bang Kapi district that left two injured and five rescue trucks damaged.

**Chopper crash.** An Air Force helicopter crash-landed on Phu Kradueng mountain about 10 am on October 4, injuring two flight mechanics.

The helicopter from an Air Force base in Lop Buri was delivering supplies to the military telecom station on the mountain, which is a popular tourist attraction in Loei province, when the chopper crash-landed, Air Force deputy spokesman Group Captain Monthol Satchukorn said.

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

**Rescue rumble.** Four Poh Teck Tung Foundation workers were injured after "Siam Ruamjai" rescue workers allegedly opened fire on them on the night of October 1 at a gas station in Bangkok's Bang Bon district, police said.

Prapan Lomchan, 33, sustained an eye wound; Apirak Rakjaeng was shot in the stomach; Anek Saetho, 39, was shot

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# Stressed policeman goes on shooting spree, killing officer, injuring two

**J**ob-related stress apparently led to a police lieutenant killing a senior police officer and injuring two others in two shooting rampages on September 28.

Before he was shot dead in a gunfight at Muang Yala Police station, Lt Bunchuan Jatharawas, of Bannang Sata Police Station, was being questioned by Lt Col Danai Ratajai for his earlier shooting of a junior special operations officer, who was seriously injured.

While being escorted by Col Danai to a room, Lt Bunchuan, who was not handcuffed, in violation of security regulations, snatched Col Danai's service pistol from his holster and fired four shots at him, killing him instantly.

Lt Bunchuan later ran and fired one shot at Col Chaithat Inthanoojit, a Deputy Yala Provincial Commander, who was also about to question him, but the lone bullet merely grazed his back.

Col Chaithat survived by jumping out of a window on the second floor, but suffered a shoulder dislocation and other serious injuries.

In the ensuing gunfight, Lt Bunchuan fired three shots at Sr Sgt Maj Piding Jehkoh but all bullets missed. Sgt Piding then returned fire at Lt Bunchuan.

Two bullets hit him in the chest while a third hit him in the head, killing him.

Sr Sgt Maj Decha Chuayiam, the special operations officer, who had been shot in the stomach and a leg by Bunchuan on the morning of September 28 at his home, was last reported to still be in critical condition.

Bannang Sata Police Su-



A group of local fishermen in the fourth day of their blockade of the channel to Songkhla Harbor, which has caused great hardship among others needing access to the sea. The fishermen are protesting drilling work by an oil exploration company in an area they say should be reserved for fishing. Songkhla is the operations center for many oil companies with concessions to explore for oil in the Gulf of Thailand.

perintendent Col Somphian Eksomya said Lt Bunchuan, a Deputy Crime Suppression Inspector, had a good career record and was well liked by his colleagues.

However, he suffered from duty-related stress and had been away on leave since September 26. Col Somphian said it was being investigated why Lt Bunchuan went to Decha's home and fired into his house at around 6:30 am on the day of that incident.

An internal investigation is also trying to determine if any personal problems had added to Bunchuan's stress.

**Train track trauma.** A woman

was run over by a train in Surat Thani on September 28 after being tied to the tracks. Police are unsure whether she was alive when the train hit her.

The body of Nipharat Thawonphon, 27, from Ban Na Dem District, Surat Thani, was found by police at around 7am, about 3km from Ban Na Dem railway station, after the driver of a Bangkok-Yala train reported seeing a body on the track.

Her ankles and wrists had been tied to the rails.

Relatives of the victim told police that they had not seen her since about 7pm the previous evening and had been unable to contact her.

Police said they are investigating whether a jealous lover could have been behind the killing.

**Ungrateful child.** Police have arrested a former foster daughter and her boyfriend for the killing of a 62-year-old kindergarten teacher whose body was found dumped on a hill in Trang's Na Yong District on September 28.

Thipsuda Singkharat, 62, a teacher at Anuban Songkhla school, had been tied up and her mouth sealed with duct tape. She had also been beaten and electrocuted with a stun gun.

On September 29, Maj Gen Wirun Eamphajit, Commander of Songkhla Provincial Police, announced that his men had arrested Waragon Kaowpradit, 22, from Krabi, and her boyfriend Kormarudeen Rakchat, 19. Both had confessed to the crime, Gen Wirun said.

K. Thipsuda had looked after Waragon when she was a child and paid for her to study.

Police said that Waragon, who had moved away from K. Thipsuda 10 years ago, came back to K. Thipsuda's house with her boyfriend to steal money.

The police said that after breaking into K. Thipsuda's house in Muang District, Songkhla, Kormarudeen punched K. Thipsuda in the stomach and Waragon stunned her, leaving her unconscious.

They then bound and gagged her. She later died from her inju-

ries. After stealing 4,000 baht in cash and her ATM card, they loaded her into the back of her Toyota Soluna and drove her to Trang, where they dumped her, police said.

**Pricey nest egg.** The Koh Mak Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) in Phatthalung's Pak Phayun District is facing financial difficulties after being ordered to administer two nearby islands where bird's nests are collected.

The order followed an appeal to the court that there were irregularities in the tendering process for the concession to collect the nests.

The previous concession expired on September 30. The court ordered OrBorTor Koh Mak to administer bird's nest islands 4 and 5 pending investigations and a review of the new concession contract.

Pradit Jariya, President of OrBorTor Koh Mak, said that he has sent a temporary squad of 10 Volunteer Defense Corp (VDC) officers to watch over the islands before a full team of police, forestry and VDC officers can be assembled.

K. Pradit complained that the OrBorTor would have to pay commissioned police officers 300 baht a day each in bonuses, while NCOs would get 200 baht.

The OrBorTor would also have to spend 3,000 baht a day to hire two boats, and 80 baht per head for meals. All this would come to at least 500,000 baht per month, he said.

K. Pradit said that there had already been reports of people stealing bird's nests from the island, but that he thought the team of VDC officers would solve the problem.

He added that he would have to wait for the order from the Phatthalung Administrative Court before he could award any new concessions.

**Village chiefs shot dead.** A gunman using an M16 rifle shot dead a village chief in Tambon Kota Baru of Narathiwat's Raman District on September 29, one day after a similar incident took place in Rangae District.

Rosah Isormusorm, 47, was found lying dead on the side of a back road in Tambon Ngerngam of Raman district.

He was heading to a local fresh market on his motorbike at the time of the incident.

The same district on Sunday also witnessed the shooting death of Ahama Lakuning, 33, a former ranger from the area.

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

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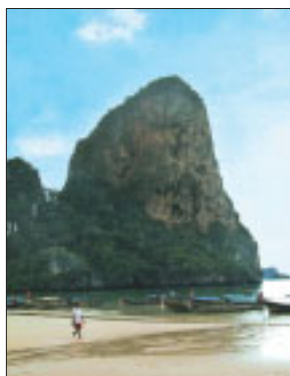
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# Nigerian scams just keep on coming



## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Well there hasn't been a whole lot of good news going around these days with the Thai government squabbles crushing the tourism industry and the Wall Street financial meltdown threatening the global economy, and lots of rain.

So why complain about what we have no control over? Well, we tend to complain anyway. Maybe it makes us feel better, or helps pass the time during these slow periods.

In the midst of all this disconcerting news, I keep receiving scam letters addressed to my resort trying to bilk me out of what little money I have left in my bank account.

I am sure you have at some time received a "Nigerian" scam letter. They usually originate from Nigeria or the Ivory Coast and refer to a large sum of money, in the millions of dollars, that some organization needs to transfer out of their country.

The writer usually claims to be the relative of the recently deposed head of state or the widow of the recently deceased Minister of Finance.

### RESERVATION ENQUIRY

Hi,  
I am Dr Eric XYZ from the UK, and would like to book reservation for 4 people coming for vacation in your area on the 11th to the 21st of NOV 2008.  
If you have vacancy for the specified period, give me the total cost for the whole period of 2 single or double rooms for 10 nights for 4 guest.

Also, confirm if you will accept major credit card for your payment.  
Thank you and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,  
Dr Eric XYZ

**SAMPLE**

### THE TYPICAL LETTER TO THE HOTEL AFTER CONFIRMING ROOM AVAILABILITY

Thanks for your reply. I am glad to tell you that the cost and conditions are acceptable by us and as such willing to make deposit payment immediately, due to our acceptance and willing detailed to stay in your facility.

A credit card detail would be send to you when I receive your confirmation mail, so that you would charge a part payment of 50% deposit for the booking as agreed by us. This will enable you secure the rooms for the period of time we will stay in your facility.

Furthermore, I have made an arrangement for the transportations and other necessary things that we will be needed when we arrive in your country...

For the security reason and confidentiality concerning my credit cards detail,  
I have decided that you will handle my credit card detail.

Sequel to this, once you receive the credit card details, you will charge a total sum of £3,800.00GBP Plus 50% deposit from it. Take your 50% deposit cost of your services and send the balance of £3,800.00 to my travel agent to enable him arrange all that would be needed on time.

please confirm this directives and provide me with your

- (1) YOUR FULL NAME
- (2) ADDRESS
- (3) PHONE NUMBERS

I also hope the stay of my family will be made comfortable.

Kind Regards,  
Dr. Stephen ABC

**This is a typical example of an email inquiry message from Nigerian scammers, along with the usual follow-up email offering to make payment in advance. The ruse is designed to make the victim think that or she will make a few extra bucks on the deal.**

For your troubles in helping to set up a bank account for them, they will pay you the cool sum of a million dollars or so. The catch? They need just \$1,000 for "admin fees" to get the paperwork complete to send you the money.

A thousand dollars to make a million? Sounds like a deal. But surprise, surprise, after you send

the money, they will never be heard from again.

The new, improved Nigerian hotel scam letter works like this. The "customer" contacts the hotel and says he has a big group that needs to stay for a relatively long period - 10 days to two weeks. It's a good booking for the hotel.

After you confirm the room availability to them, they will then advise you that because of some credit card problem, or regulation in their home country, they would like to charge their entire trip, airfare, transport, other hotels, etc to your hotel.

They will then ask you to forward this money to their agent. So instead of them paying you \$3,000 to stay at your hotel, they will send you \$25,000 for all of the expenses of the trip.

They will ask you to pay XYZ travel agent \$20,000, and you get your hotel's \$3,000, and another \$2,000 for your troubles. \$2,000 to make one money wire sounds pretty good.

So here's how it works.

They have a stolen credit card with which they pay you the \$25,000.

It clears through your credit

card machine and is approved as the card hasn't been reported stolen yet.

The "customer" then asks you to send the \$20,000 in cash by Western Union to XYZ Travel Agent Co Ltd. The "customer" and XYZ Travel Co are one and the same.

So you now withdraw the \$20,000 from your bank account, go to Western Union, wire the money and spend the rest of the day thinking about what you will spend your \$2,000 on.

Wrong. Your bank calls the next day and advises you that the credit card transaction from the day before was not valid as it was made with a stolen credit card, and that the charges are unauthorized and will be reversed.

This is called a charge-back. Your bank account will now have \$25,000 deducted from it, even though the day before you already withdrew the \$20,000 cash in order to wire the funds to XYZ Travel Co by Western Union.

Western Union transactions are not reversible and the scam is complete. You are now out the \$20,000.

No shopping trips for you.

The original hotel scam letters were hilarious in their ineptitude, still using improbable names and bookings for the Nigerian Oil Ministry.

Now, though, the letters have become more refined, but still share some common characteristics.

They now originate from the UK, which lends them a bit more legitimacy.

The person requesting the rooms is usually a doctor, minister or other authoritative figure.

They seem to always use capital letters, e.g., ROOM REQUEST. Don't ask me why.

And they usually ask to pay in full in the first letter and give the impression that they are in a hurry. (In reality, this is because they only have a day or two before the credit card is canceled by its owner).

Pictured on this page is a sample inquiry letter and a second letter after I replied to another "customer".

Note: they are both doctors! I have now prepared a form reply letter asking them to go to our on-line credit card facility to make payment, and so they are never heard from again.

They target small resorts and guesthouses that have a credit card machine, but not on-line credit card facilities.

Recently, I have seen letters to large restaurants for making pre-paid bookings for groups of 30 or more.

So, beware!

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## Guest chef

By Akbar Khan

# A chef from another planet

Forget fusion. Never mind nouveau. My epicurean excursion to Sheraton Laguna's Puccini restaurant was like tasting flavors of the future.

Robert Mujagic, the Executive Chef at Puccini, may have worked with Michelin Star chefs around the world but it seems that now he has entered a league of his own with treats that must be tasted to believe.

To help you understand what makes Robert's creations so special, I am going to reveal just a couple of his secrets, not to tantalize your taste buds but to help you understand that if I were to say he is a "chef from another planet", I mean it.

I won't reveal everything, nor drive you mad describing every course; just enough for readers to get the gist and be able to put their ovens to good use.

The prawn dipped in that sauce was splendid and to find out what the sauce was I tasted some alone and then realized that it was espresso foam.

Only the potato skins are used in the potato soup, and for the health conscious, it looks loaded with anti-oxidants.

I am not going to reveal the other ingredients; all I will say is that the color of the soup is identical to the ruby in the ring that Richard Burton used to win Elizabeth Taylor's heart.

It is delicious beyond description. If you need to impress someone who thinks they have tasted it all, then this is it. Perfect for a romantic dinner.

The black angus steak appeared grilled. It was well done on the outside and rare on the inside – extremely soft and succulent – but it was in fact poached. I won't reveal anymore, though, as it is not the recipe that is being exposed this week.

Phuket's steakhouses be warned; there is a now a new benchmark to try and beat.

The dessert was la pièce de résistance. It was a piece of hot Sicilian pudding with a scoop of raspberry ice cream. Now, although Chef Robert shared the recipe for the chocolate Sicilian, he did not share the recipe for the raspberry ice cream, which to-

gether are a match made in heaven.

To reproduce that raspberry ice cream would be very difficult, and before you think, "Hey, he said he would reveal, and I haven't read any top-secret details yet," I will just let you know that one of the ingredients in the ice cream that gives it a tang worth crossing the island for is wasabi.

### Warm Sicilian Pudding

Dark chocolate:	185g
Butter:	180g
Caster sugar:	200g
Egg whites:	170g
(6 egg whites)	
Plain flour:	95g

### Method

Melt the butter, sugar, and the chocolate together in Bain-marie (a cooking term for a container, usually a pot that takes heat from a larger pot of hot water), then add the egg whites and mix quickly before mixing in the flour.

### Tips

Keep the mix in a container in the fridge overnight.

Use a cake ring (diameter 4-5cm), (height 5-6cm).

Cut a strip of baking paper (15cm long, 7cm wide).

Grease the inside ring with butter and place the baking paper strip around.

Cut a square piece of baking paper (5cm<sup>2</sup>) and put the ring on it.

Finally, put the mix into ¾ of the ring (help with spoon or even finger).

Keep in the fridge as long as you want before baking.

### Baking

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Put your Sicilian Pudding on a baking tray and bake it for 12 minutes (time may vary depending on your oven).

Once your Sicilian Pudding is baked, take off the ring (be careful; it's very hot), and then the baking paper (slowly).

You are now ready to eat your Sicilian Pudding. Serve it up with the ice cream of your choice for a lovely hot and cold combo tailored for your tastebuds.



Warm Sicilian Pudding created by Robert Mujagic

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**July 4, 2006.** A remake of Thai cinema classic *Bangkok Dangerous*. Starring Nicolas Cage. Same directors: Danny & Oxide Pang from Hong Kong.

So far I've met only one Pang brother: Danny. They are twins, and apparently you rarely get them both together. They share the preparation and the shoot (one directs on Monday, one on Tuesday, etc). Seems like a good system; takes a lot of the stress out of the job.

**July 25.** OK. Met them both now. They are identical, so never know who I'm speaking to. Nicolas Cage will spend a week each in the Presidential suites of the 9 best hotels in Bangkok. In a production meeting, the accountant announced they had secured the rate of US\$1,800 a day at the Oriental. "But breakfast is not included," she dryly informed. "Breakfast?" The producer blurted out. "He has his own f\*\*king chef!"

**July 26.** Official memo: "Please note that Mr Cage uses the pseudonym Frank Cadillac. When referring to him in official paperwork please be sure to use his pseudonym."

**July 28.** I now have about 100 carpenters, painters and laborers on 6 sets on 2 huge stages.

**July 29.** Nic Cage will fly in a private jet from LA. This will cost upwards of \$250,000 and will take close to 4 days (the plane needs to touch down 4 times to refuel).

**Aug 7.** Five days before starting Principal Photography. In the flurry of paperwork I sign every day, I notice the animal wrangler's budget (6 elephants will be used in the shoot) included 3,000 baht (US\$85) for 6 days work for the "shit correcting boy".

**Aug 8.** Production meeting. It is noted that every day we will be providing meals for a minimum of 250 crew and cast.

**Aug 12.** Principal photography begins on a Bangkok street that we have dressed with signage, medieval stone walls and foreign

# Blog Dangerous

**W**riter Jim Newport, author of the *Vampire of Siam* books and his latest novel *Chasing Jimi*, was invited onto the set of *Bangkok Dangerous*, the Hollywood hit movie starring Nicolas Cage now screening around the world. His role: Production Designer.

Here, Jim lets the *Gazette* print parts of his blog written during the eventful months of filming on location in the Big Mango.

cars as a stand-in for Prague. Frank Cadillac likes the Oriental and will stay there the entire time.

**Aug 12.** Day 2: all-night shoot in Soi Cowboy. Within 24 hours a local newspaper reports: "Looking dangerously shift in a Hawaiian shirt and black wig, Hollywood superstar Nicolas Cage was, last night, spotted lurking outside the Tilac Bar on Soi Cowboy – the very same Bangkok go-go bar where fellow thespian Hugh Grant famously had his tackle felt."

**Aug 23.** Opening scene. Nic's character sits alone quietly eating in a Prague pub. He looks at his watch (counting down: 22 minutes) and leaves. This sets his pattern; it's 22 minutes before the hit.

This intense personal scene was shot in a 2-storey bar/restaurant/disco (The Witches Tavern) decorated for Prague. But we had the next 2 days off and Nic wanted to fly somewhere, so he "paid" to go into the club while it was open at 9 pm and do the scene rather than wait until 1 am when we could close it.

We shot on the second floor while downstairs was open to 200 drunken punters who did everything but flash their tits to get his attention. The DJ spun tunes and a band belted out their routine.

Nic is amazing. When you see the scene, I defy you to tell there is anything distracting him from his assignment.

**Sept 11.** Hard to believe it's been five years since 9/11. And hard to believe we are half way

through our shooting. When you work in a position like mine on a foreign production, you immerse yourself in the project. You live it day and night – week in, week out – with the sacrifice of all else in your life.

That is why film making is so seductive. We live in first-class hotels, are driven everywhere. And if you're fortunate enough to be a Production Designer, people think you are doing something important and leave you alone.

What a life.

You get paid to watch an actor of the caliber of Nicolas Cage perform his magic every day. You spend lots of somebody else's money enhancing your own ego (artists love to spend other people's money). And you're with a great group of fellow international gypsies.

Making movies is easy. Real life is hard.

**Sept 20.** Left the set early last night with food poisoning. Woke up this morning and found I had slept through the war. No CNN, BBC or any other TV coverage. Martial law imposed and Nic Cage, family & Norm G (producer) flew the coup to Korea.

But we'll muster on, I'm sure. You can't stop filming!

**Sept 22.** Nic is back. Found out that people just wanted to put flowers in the soldiers' gun barrels. But we have a few new problems: we can't fire guns anymore. We were in the midst of a huge four-night gun battle when



**ALTER EGO:** Jim Newport stands by a Bangkok Dangerous poster featuring Hollywood star Nicolas Cage - who Jim has come to respect as a true professional.

the coup happened. Also, our end scene involves the attempted assassination of a politician. This is a huge scene, thousands of extras, police, military, etc.

**Sept 23.** Nic is nervous... He has been protected by a squad of bodyguards, both his own professionals and Thai secret police. He is probably a choice target for anyone wanting to get in the news – and thus he's insisting we "shoot him out" as quickly as possible.

On the night of the coup (as

described to me): about 10 pm Thai police on our set start getting reports. We were setting up a scene in the middle of a warehouse complex where Nic shoots every guard in an attempt to get to Mr Big. Mr Big flees in his black Mercedes. Nic shoots the car and all in it except Mr Big.

Just as he's about to do Mr Big, a squad of police cars bursts through the gate, red lights flashing. At midnight, after an elaborate lighting set-up and many rehearsals, they were all set to roll, when suddenly Nic was whisked

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off the set by his guards, the police cars turned and headed off into the night (they were real police cars; there's a lesson there) and, as a final insult, the black Mercedes was seized (it belonged to an official of the party that had just been deposed) and was also driven away. All within minutes.

The Thai A.D. calls a "wrap".

**Sept 28.** Snakes. We have been inundated with rain for the past three nights and the major exterior set (the safe house, recreated with landscaping, garage and driveway, in jungle by a canal) is flooded.

We still owe a day's shooting, including the big explosion that destroys the house. All the canals in Bangkok have burst their banks. Our house and its beautiful gardens were flooded. Four feet of water swept in and stayed for three days.

As this was in the middle of acres of scrub and wetland, scores of snakes were swept up in the deluge. Not liking this any more than we did, they sought high ground. Inside the set.

The house was full of snakes when the first crew member braved the flooded roadway and crept inside. Cobras, pythons, vipers, dozens of them were lounging about the stairs and balcony – enjoying the sun and doing what snakes do.

Needless to say, we're not shooting there anytime soon.

**Sept 29.** Nic Cage finished a day early and left on the first plane out this morning. At his request I gave him a full set of plans for the house and grounds. He has just bought an island in the Caribbean and may build a version of the house I designed. I said I'd consider it an honor and he told me how much he admired my work.

When we started the project I wasn't sure how I felt about Nicolas Cage. I had admired his work in some things (*Leaving Las Vegas*, *Lord Of War*) and not in others (*Con-Air*, *National Treasure*). I realize now it was the films that were lousy – not the performance. Nic Cage is a pro. I am a fan.

**Oct 8.** Winding down. Five days

to go. Day 2 of the big parade scene. 1,500 extras. 2 elephants (and a shit-carry boy), marching band, 2 WWII Willys jeeps, 7 cameras... but somehow the edge is missing. Even though this is the biggest production number of the show, we all seem to just be going through the paces. For most – thoughts are on home, family... or the next job.

And there's no Nic. We've lost our star power. Even with this much of a circus, we draw only a couple of hundred onlookers. The second night in Nakon Pathom, we tied up Main Street for three nights and had 5,000 people behind the yellow riot tape.

Even Bruce, my new visual effects friend, and William, my new producer friend, will shortly be off to Prague to film the opening of the movie. Others will go back to the US, Germany, Australia, New Zealand – and the majority, back to their families scattered throughout Thailand.

**Oct 12.** Final shot. Chinatown. Just like the film of the same name, when we scout the location and add a bit of tin to an alley wall to make it match the next location, three cellphone pop out of three shopkeeper's aprons. The calls are to property owners, partners, husbands – to determine how much extra money this infringement on their life will cost us. The location manager looks at me and shrugs: "It's Chinatown." Cinema often repeats itself.

We shoot from 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm. There is a sense of jubilation, melancholy and relief on the set. We've been shooting a chase scene through Chinatown's backalleys) using a steadicam. But with a steadicam the entire crew is locked out of the set as the camera operator follows the actor, moving 360° around him to get the shot.

The last shot is inside a warehouse with the actor racing from one end to the other. On the last take they leave the camera rolling as it bursts through the door, shooting the entire crew who burst into shouts, screams, applause... and a few tears.

We can't believe it. It's over.

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# This week



**MAKING MIRACLES:** Chairman of Royal Phuket Marina Gulu Lalvani (left) and his wife Semiramis Lalvani (2nd left) congratulate Karl Buhlmann (right) and his partner Thomas Buhlmann (2nd right) during the Miracle Dream Grand Opening Ceremony for the Karl Buhlmann Foundation at the Town Square of Royal Phuket Marina on September 29. The foundation aims to provide education and health-care opportunities for children.



**COOL SERENITY:** Finnish Formula 1 driver Kimi "Iceman" Raikkonen (center) pulled in to Outrigger Serenity Terraces for a jazz brunch party pit stop on the beach on October 4. The event marked completion of phase 1 of the luxury residential property in Rawai.



**STARBUCKS BEACH CLEANUP:** Partners from all seven of Phuket's Starbucks outlets lent a hand during Community Cleanup Day on October 1. Starbucks volunteers bagged a bumper crop of beach rubbish at Patong Beach. Pictured are (from left): Inzee, Tina, Aey, Ann, Aor, Pump, Kwan, Pond, Thum, Beijing, Sun and Gift.



**VEG-FEST DONATIONS:** Laguna Phuket made merit during Phuket's annual vegetarian festival by donating food and clothes to nearby shrines, including Pasak Shrine, Baan Don Shrine and Bang Ku Shrine. Pictured are Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc Michael Ayling (4th from right) and Laguna Phuket staff handing over donations and 20,000 baht to Cherg Talay Shrine, which were received by Niramit Changlek.



**MARRIOTT MILESTONES:** JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and Marriott's Phuket Beach Club associates were recently awarded special Marriott pins for completion of five years of service in the "Marriott Milestone Celebration".



**HELPING HANDS:** The Elderly Persons Centre at Talang had a helping hand from Phuket-based employees of Bovis Lend Lease and parent company Lend Lease Corporation for the 2008 Bovis Lend Lease Community Day on September 25. Bovis employees around the world contributed their time, energy and skills to address various needs in communities on the annual.



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# Hissing the Literary Heights

Over the years, many people have commented rather favourably on my command and understanding of the language and literature of Thailand; some of these people have even been known to occasionally enter the realms of sobriety. So, in an effort to help my reader gain further insight into the mind of, for example, No 69 at the Lick Me Lots A Go Go, I thought it might be useful to share some of the knowledge I have gained from years of study into the Thai language and its literature.

As most people know, Thai is a tonal language and there are eight distinct tones: high, low, middle, rising, falling, guttural, glottal, and staggering.

For many foreigners, trying to learn the language is extremely difficult due to the number of words that sound the same, and others that are seriously tongue-Thaing.

For example, pronunciation of the word for 'snake' can lead

to serious upper back as well as respiratory problems.

The letter signifying the word 'snake' looks much like an innocent note on a music sheet.

It's a linguistic trap.

You need to place your tongue in a special position (most epileptics find this easy) and, half-way through pronouncing the letter/word, bring the upper part of your palate into contact with the lower part of your neck.

Most people find it easier simply to hiss in order to get their meaning across.

Many expats and regular visitors have asked me about the depth of Thai literature, so the following is a potted overview of the rich and varied history of written material as it pertains to the Kingdom.

Poetry is a very ancient art in Thailand and not many visitors to Fun Town realize that the nations' greatest poet laureate, Khun Deelan Toomars, died of liver failure in the next province

in the mid-19th century.

His most famous work, *Mai Kunglung Nom* (roughly translated as 'I Get Excited When I Glimpse Your Rack'), is acclaimed as the quintessential example of the fusion of the most commonly used distinct forms of poetic expression: the Schlong, the Clap, and the Clot.

The Schlong is similar to a limerick, for example:

"There was a young lady from Surin  
a beauty with legs that ran to her chin  
she spoke quite quick,  
'some like it short and thick,  
but I prefer it long and thin'."

The Clap is rhythmical, for example:

"I did but see her passing by,  
but I'll pay for medication til the day I die."

The Clot takes much of its inspiration from the Japanese Haiku, but due to the tropical nature of Thailand's climate the structure has been modified to concentrate on food rather than the seasons (the feature of Haiku).

The lines contain an equal number of syllables, arranged in stanzas of four lines each.

The last syllable of the first

line rhymes with the third syllable of the second line; the last of the second with the last of the third and also with the first of the fourth line; and the last syllable of the fourth line rhymes with the last of the second line of the next succeeding stanza.

This complex structure explains why so many poets became alcoholics or addicted to other mind-altering substances.

A favourite form of verse is called Nitwit poetry in which it is acceptable to use elements of Schlong, Clap, and Clot.

A stanza in Schlong can serve as a sort of argument at the head of a set of verses with the Clap.

This Nitwit poetry takes the form of narrative addressed by a traveler to his lady-love, of a journey in which every object and circumstance serves to remind the wanderer of some virtue or beauty of his correspondent.

For some unexplained reason, there is a very high inci-

dence of suicide among leading Nitwit poets.

Until the early 20th century, prose literature consisted largely of mythological and historical fables, almost all of which were of Indian origin.

Amongst them: 'Wetsokandshin', the tale of a king who became an ascetic after contemplation of a withered tree; 'Wartsandall', the story of a prince who loved a princess and was killed by the thrust of a spear which guarded her; 'Chuckawobblywan', the tale of a princess beloved by a crocodile; and 'Bhungiton', the tale of a princess beloved by an elephant.

'How Khum' is one of the theories of the genesis of mankind, the How Khum being the sacred goose from whose eggs the first human beings were supposed to have been hatched.

It is perhaps no surprise that when opium smoking was outlawed in the mid-20th century, the standard of literary works improved exponentially.



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## MAN MEETS MUD in race series splash-up

Driving in Phuket is always a thrill, but last weekend saw even more wild driving than usual in the Chaofa Challenge 2008 off-road racing event held behind the Honda showroom on Chao Fa West Rd.

Some 40 teams took part in the race, 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 Phanang and Koh Samui, respectively.

The final race event will be held in Trang from October 30 to November 2.



# Heaven sent...

By Sompratch Saowakhon  
& Chris Husted

If there was one aspect of this year's Phuket Vegetarian Festival that shone like a heavenly star it was how much the festival had grown on previous years. After the initial days of merit making at Chinese shrines around the island, thousands took to the streets either as part of the street processions or as engaged onlookers.

The processions began and ended according to schedule, keeping traffic delays to a minimum, and street sweepers pootled along behind, sweeping up the shreds of red paper left behind from exploded firecrackers. So diligent were these street sweepers that they even worked the witching hour before midnight on the last night of festivities to make sure the streets were clean before the sun rose the next day.

In short, the festival was so well co-ordinated this year it was nearly professional.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit celebrated the first official day of the festival like thousands of other Phuket residents, by dressing up in white and enjoying a meat-free meal at one of the nine participating shrines, in this case Jui Tui Shrine on Soi Phuton in Phuket City.

Gov Niran said he intended to refrain from eating meat and to observe other rituals throughout the festival, which kicked off late afternoon on September 28 with the traditional raising of *ko teng* poles at the many participating shrines in Phuket City and in Kathu, where the festival has its roots back in the tin mining era in the early 1800s.

Also making an appearance was Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Ubatising, a long-time supporter of Jui Tui Shrine.

The first major procession to draw parts of Phuket City to a standstill came on the fourth day of the festival with the parade from Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine in Samkong to Jui Tui Shrine in the heart of Old Phuket Town.

Crowds lined the streets for the procession, which started at



**PRE-OCCUPIED:** A *mah song* ('entranced horse') parades the streets of Phuket City while under the influence of a warrior god.

the auspicious time of 7:19 am after two hours of religious ceremonies.

Visual highlights of the spectacle included dancing dragons and teams of men carrying ornate Chinese palanquins, with the deafening sounds of exploding firecrackers and banging drums throughout to keep evil spirits at bay.

Scores of entranced devotees known as *mah song* (literally, "entranced horses") were carefully looked after by their handlers as they endured the long walk barefoot through the city.

Most were shaking, their eyes glazed over in a trance state allowing them to endure the pain of sharp objects thrust through their cheeks. Among the piercing objects were swords, shovels, scepters and large metal hoops, to name just a few.

The procession was the second of nine street processions held during the festival, which ended on the evening of October 7 with the lowering of the *ko teng* lantern poles and a farewell food offering to the Warrior Gods.

Although the lowering of the

*ko teng* poles is considered the "official" end of the Vegetarian festival, most locals know that the festival truly closes after the "running of the gods" at midnight on the last day of festivities at Saphan Hin.

Devotees from each shrine arrive in turn at Saphan Hin just before midnight, and run from the shrine's main gate to a pyre in the center of the grounds while carrying a palanquin with an effigy of their most-respected 'god' seated within.

As they run, other devotees and merit makers throw firecrackers at them. Most firecrackers are aimed at the devotees' feet, though some people aim a little higher, hoping for an auspicious shot to land the mild explosives in the palanquin, which happens to be head high.

The effigies and palanquins are then burned in a huge bonfire. As the gods return to the heavens on plumes of smoke, hundreds of devotees in the crowd set alight prayers written on sacred paper and pray aloud as their wishes are carried on the wind with the gods.

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*(Map showing location near Tesco Lotus and Chao Fa Road)*

### CORRECTION

In the story on the F&B Expo in the September 20-26 issue, the *Gazette* was given a results list stating that Songwut Chitiutipong, winner of the Flair Bartender open competition, works at the Banyan Tree.

However, he is actually a waiter with Phuket Brewery.

We regret publication of the error.





SHOW US YOUR FRINGE: The Power Crew breakdancers on stage at The Playhouse in Patong.

## Fringe Festival breaks out

Patong is famous for its nighttime adult entertainment, but into this hedonistic environment a little culture has arrived in the guise of the first Phuket Fringe Festival, which runs from October 3 to 14 at The Playhouse in Patong.

The festival was the brainchild of David Shrubsole, GM of The Playhouse and Creative director of the Manathai hotel group, whose passion and drive enabled the festival to become a reality in a short space of time.

The festival showcases talent from Phuket and abroad with a nightly show covering all tastes from classical Thai dance to the latest techno loops and beats with a large measure of theater, short films, fashion and one-man shows thrown into the eclectic mix.

Phuket was well represented, notably by The Phuket Academy of Dance, local theater group The Andaman Players, DJ Kensho, street artists Romadon and Manoo and musicians Khun Sak and Men in Black, among others.

Special guests included Students from Rajabhat Chiang Mai University, Canadian Storyteller Denise Bertrand and Pasukang Sriemas representing Southern Thailand.

The diversity, talent and organization of this first Fringe festival bodes well for next year's event and hopefully puts Phuket on the map as a place for entertainment and culture.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

**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)

There will be an awards party in the evening. In the event of bad weather, the swim will be canceled and a duathlon race will be run for each race (run, cycle, run).

Online registration is available at [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com)

For more details contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: [shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com](mailto:shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com)

**October 11. Phuket Surf Life-saving Carnival at Patong Beach.**

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](mailto:thailifeguard@gmail.com) Website: [www.phuketlifeguard.com](http://www.phuketlifeguard.com)

**October 11. Royal Ascot at Laguna.**

Are you ready for the most sensational party to hit Phuket? Ladies, dust off those magnificent hats; gentlemen, break out your dancing shoes and get ready for a breathtaking night of revelry, racing and live music at the one and only Royal Ascot at Laguna.

Saddle up and dress to the nines for the most outrageous



**WHAT'S SO FUNNY?** Russell Kane, who was nominated for the "if.comedy" Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2008, will be performing in Phuket on November 11.

## Punchline launches 'high season high jinks' November 11

The Punchline Comedy Club will launch a series of high-season shows starting with yet another rib-tickling stand-up comedy performance at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket on November 11.

Kicking off the series will be British TV star Andy Parsons, "if.comedy" Award Nominee 2008 Russell Kane, and the very funny and energetic Mark Walker.

Doors open at 8 pm. Show starts at 8.30 pm sharp.

Tickets are available from Woody's Sandwich Shoppes (call 076-282403 for locations) and in the Holiday Inn lobby from 5 pm to 7 pm on November 10 and 11.

Tickets are 960 baht in advance or 1,200 baht at the door.

For more information or to book tickets, call 083-6464671 or visit [www.phuketcomedy.com](http://www.phuketcomedy.com)

party of 2008, all in support of the Phuket Animal Welfare Society. And remember, girls, it's ladies' day, so there will be fabulous prizes for the most outrageous hats on the night.

For more information contact PAWS. Tel: 089-5884050, 081-5979416. Email: [paws@pawspuket.com](mailto:paws@pawspuket.com) Website: [www.pawspuket.com](http://www.pawspuket.com)

**Until October 13. Phuket Fringe Festival.**

From 4 pm-2 am at the Playhouse Theatre and Restaurant in Patong. The first Phuket

Fringe Festival opened with a party on October 4, with a special performance each night.

**Until October 13. 60 Years of Mövenpick.**

From 6:30 pm to 11 pm.

This year, Mövenpick celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com)

**October 12. PC Group Therapy Laguna.**

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

Join *For Dummies*... author Woody Leonhard for his weekly 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 Laguna (near the Laguna entrance), see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Contact Woody Leonhard for details. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) Website: [www.KhunWoody.com](http://www.KhunWoody.com)

**October 19. PC Group Therapy Chalong.**

Join *For Dummies*... author Woody Leonhard for his weekly PC Group Therapy sessions. They're absolutely free.

For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (1km north of

Chalong Circle), see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Contact Woody Leonhard for details. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) Website: [www.KhunWoody.com](http://www.KhunWoody.com)

**October 23. Chulalongkorn Day (Public Holiday)**

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

**October 26. PC Group Therapy Chalong.**

Join *For Dummies*... author Woody Leonhard for his weekly PC Group Therapy sessions. They're absolutely free.

For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (1km north of Chalong Circle), see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Contact Woody Leonhard for details. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) Website: [www.KhunWoody.com](http://www.KhunWoody.com)

**October 31. W6 – Watermark Birthday Party: 6 years on!**

Over the years, Watermark's birthday parties have become an island institution that signals the kick start to high season. This year will be no exception.

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For more information contact Stuart Bird. Tel: 0817-736184. Email: [stuart@watermarkphuket.com](mailto:stuart@watermarkphuket.com)

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## ON THE MOVE

West Sands has announced the appointment of **Claude Baltes** as Resort Director. Claude is a graduate of a hotel management school in Switzerland. He has opened and managed resorts and residential properties in Indonesia and Thailand for Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts and Six Senses Resorts & Spas since 1994. Before joining West Sands he was the Resort Manager of Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa.



Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket recently appointed Australian native **Lyndon Ellis** as Hotel Manager. Lyndon has worked in the international hospitality industry for 12 years at a variety of hotels and resorts, including Hayman Resort, Le Meridien Port Villa Resort & Casino, Vanuatu, Le Meridien Angkor, Cambodia. Lyndon was Director of Finance at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket before his role as hotel manager.



German native **Torsten Richter** was appointed General Manager for Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort Khao Lak on September 26. Torsten holds degrees in Hospitality and Food & Beverage Management from Cornell University, New York and has eighteen years experience in the hotel industry. He has held several key positions in Food and Beverage in Asia and Europe with Starwood Hotels and Resorts.



In 2008, the picture is not that different from the 1930s, when the world saw exactly what was meant by the economic term "depression".

This was in the wake of the Wall Street "crash" of October 1929 when a giant speculative bubble suddenly exploded. The ruling thought that went through lawmakers of that period was to essentially bring people to a better standard of behavior that, in turn, would lead to a sustained economic upturn based on rock solid foundations.

The 1920s had seen a great deal of speculation and credit creation which had come to an abrupt end. Therefore, it seemed that the best way forward was to bring in policies that would encourage Americans to save for what they wanted and to discourage borrowing and lending.

This, although American lawmakers did not realize it at the time, is called a "credit squeeze" or "credit crisis". The only guaranteed result is a recession and if policy is maintained it leads to "depression". In those days economics was not exactly a science; they were effectively groping around in the dark.

The Depression was relieved to a degree by the "New Deal" policy of then US President Roosevelt, in 1933 onwards. In today's economic terms his policies were actually "pump priming" or government spending.

However, it meant that, with the Federal Government spend-

# It's a matter of Depression

ing money, it alleviated some of the problems. In reality, it took World War II to bring an end to the economic slump as demand for a huge range of goods and services changed everything.

We are in the second year of a credit crunch, also the result of speculation, and, as this column is being written, we see US lawmakers in Congress turning down the Paulson plan to "bail out" the economy. Their thinking (lawmakers) was more to do with punishing Wall Street (Business) than helping Main Street (the American public).

The members of Congress that voted against the bailout were either guilty of stupidity or being totally unscrupulous. The fact that elections are imminent leads one to believe in the latter.

Congress is being assailed by members of the public who are incensed by the thought of up to US\$ 700 billion of taxpayers' money being used to bail out "these rich folks on Wall Street".

In addition, for Republican congressmen, there is a wish to strongly distance themselves from the Bush Administration, and for Democrats there is a perfect opportunity to look after the "little guy".

Turning off the Federal spending tap will, if continued, take us quickly back to a 1930s



Hundreds of unemployed men line up at a soup kitchen during the Great Depression. The financial events of 2008 are not too dissimilar from those preceding the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

type recession/depression. We are on very dangerous ground. This can rapidly spiral out of control; credit markets are already frozen. The next stage is for a rise in unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcies in a speedily increasing cycle. It is important to add that all these events are accompanied by a great deal of human misery. They are not called depressions without justification.

The original Paulson plan has been watered down by politicians to the point that it is not really a US\$ 700 billion bailout. Now it is a down payment of US\$ 250 billion with two separate tranches for the remainder. The first requires presidential approval for US\$ 100 billion, and the bal-

ance requires new congressional authorization.

Stephen Roach, the chairman of Morgan Stanley's Asian operations and former Chief Economist of the group, is extremely critical of the amended bill. "During times of crisis and panic, the policy response should err on the side of overkill. This approach errs on the side of under kill".

One of the main reasons for Congress refusing to pass the original (but amended) bill was the reality that most members are up for re-election in November. Enough of their constituents were loudly protesting about bailing out Wall Street, etc.

These same constituents appeared to be completely un-

aware that frozen credit markets were in the process of destroying the fabric of the American economy. Frozen credit markets mean that companies would have problems financing payrolls; small businesses would collapse.

Louis Alexander, Chief Economist of Citigroup, said the position was getting worse every day and doing more damage to the US economy. The US Senate eventually passed the bill. However, by that stage so many other unrelated measures had been attached as to make the original Paulson plan a bit like a "needle in a haystack".

Many people are watching stockmarket values and, whilst they are important, perhaps the remarks made by Art Cashin, director of floor trading operations for banking giant UBS in America, brings the whole situation into perspective. He noted that equities (stock markets) are currently a sideshow, the real center being the credit markets. He went on to say that on the day of congress refusing to pass the bill the US Federal Reserve, under chairman Ben Bernanke, had injected US\$ 600 billion into American and Global money markets. Cashin stated that Bernanke was scared, and that: "if he is scared, I am scared".

This column stated in the *Phuket Gazette's* issue of July 16-23, 2005 that: "It is very unlikely that the US housing bubble is just about to 'pop'. Unfortunately, bubbles, whether they are in such historical areas as tulips, stock markets or real estate, are inclined to go to extremes. It is the nature of markets to go too far in any direction before stability reasserts itself." This was an article on the reckless lending in the US Residential property market.

Last words to Warren Buffett: "The US economy is on its back, having suffered cardiac arrest."

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

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By Richard Watson



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PUZZLES

### Spot the Difference

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

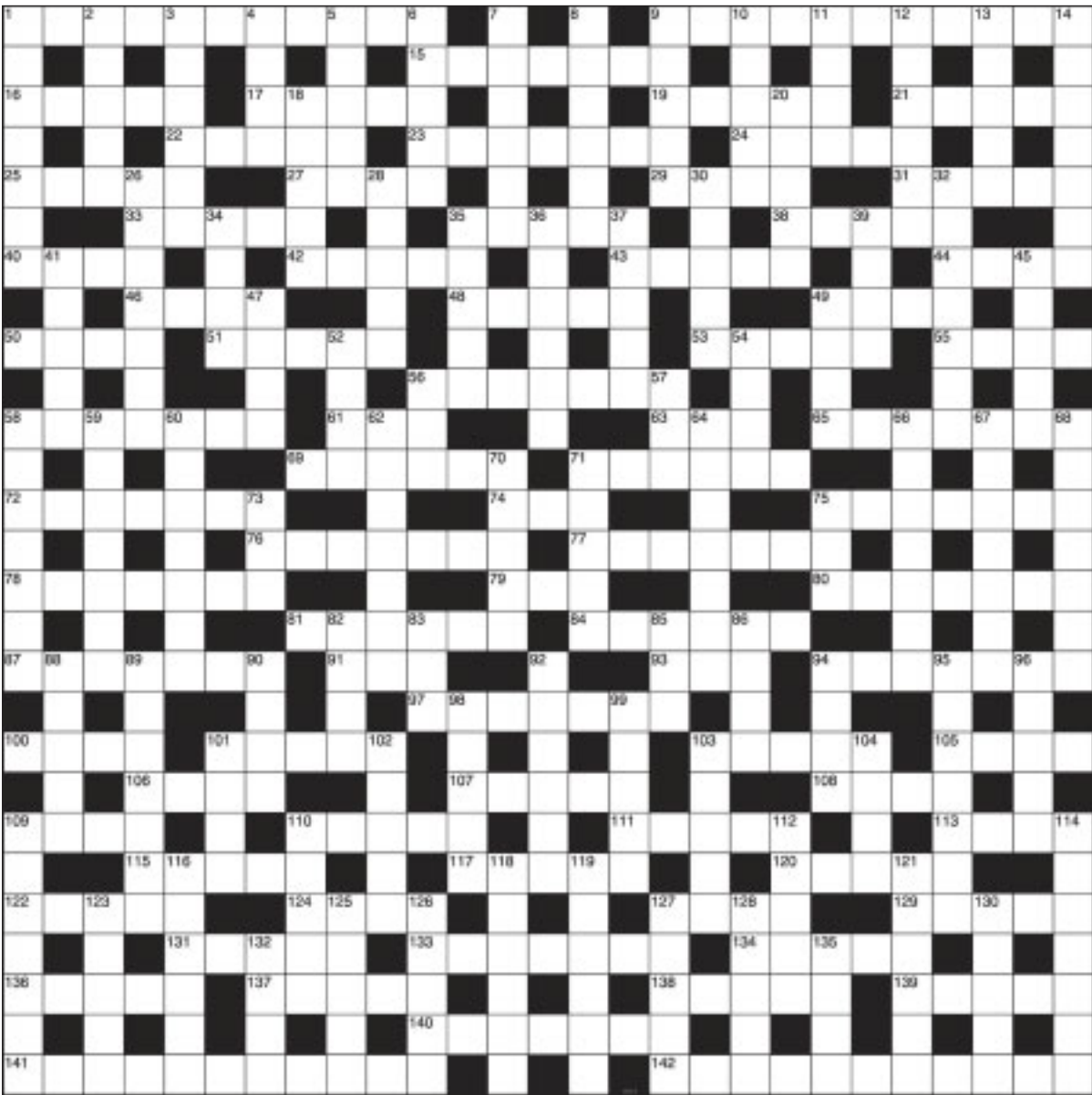
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Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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.



The BIG Crossword

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- Across**

  - 1. Makes confusing
  - 9. Doing well
  - 15. Squirm
  - 16. Muffled (sound)
  - 17. Basil sauce for pasta
  - 19. Humpback or minke
  - 21. Devoid (of)
  - 22. Country, ...Britain
  - 23. Acrobat's apparatus
  - 24. Floating log platforms
  - 25. Gag
  - 27. Brings into play
  - 29. Light beams
  - 31. Flavoring herb
  - 33. Aggravated
  - 35. All ...on deck
  - 38. Yesterday, ..., tomorrow
  - 40. Cooking fat
  - 42. Obliterate
  - 43. Russian mountains
  - 44. Adds soundtrack to
  - 46. Close
  - 48. Fluctuate
  - 49. Scoffing laugh
  - 50. Eyelid inflammation
  - 51. Titled
  - 53. Tibetan priests
  - 55. Slightly open
  - 56. Worship
  - 58. Chair meeting
  - 61. Also
  - 63. Foundation garment
  - 65. Fleeing (of horse)
  - 69. Convince
  - 71. Suave
  - 72. Ousts
  - 74. Horde
  - 75. Walks cautiously
  - 76. Immature
  - 77. Expand
  - 78. US honeymoon falls
- Down**

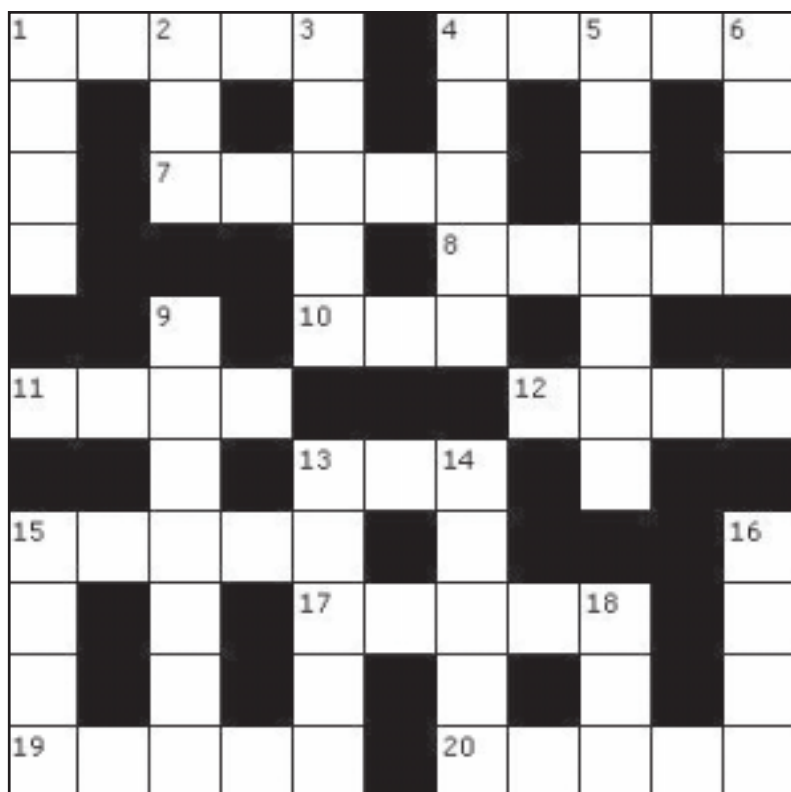
  - 1. Amusing
- Across**

  - 79. Insane, ...compos mentis
  - 80. Kenyan capital
  - 81. Crept (towards)
  - 84. Treachery
  - 87. Fragrant
  - 91. Unit of resistance
  - 93. Insecticide (1,1,1)
  - 94. Every evening
  - 97. Quits (premises)
  - 100. Wild feline animal
  - 101. Turkish doner...
  - 103. Cordless or mobile
  - 105. Pecans or almonds
  - 106. Chilled
  - 107. Out of condition
  - 108. Shrek is one
  - 109. Office circular
  - 110. Yields, ...in
  - 111. Wanders
  - 113. Appear to be
  - 115. Extremely
  - 117. Nailfile material
  - 120. Beginning (of illness)
  - 122. Gallows rope
  - 124. Animator, ...Disney
  - 127. Prison room
  - 129. Used word
  - 131. Ridicules
  - 133. Collector
  - 134. Door lock
  - 136. Tribe's spiritual emblem
  - 137. Edition
  - 138. Knowing
  - 139. Donkeys
  - 140. Wooden hammers
  - 141. Survey
  - 142. Callously
- Down**

  - 2. Family maxim
  - 3. Boarder
  - 4. Get by
  - 5. Exams
  - 6. Studies hard
  - 7. Noisy insect
  - 8. Said yes
  - 9. Not as many
  - 10. Reproductive gland
  - 11. Coral bar
  - 12. Spanish rest period
  - 13. Suggest
  - 14. Hot springs
  - 18. Perfume, ...toilette (3,2)
  - 20. Remains
  - 26. Bean-shaped body parts
  - 28. Antelope
  - 30. In vain, to no...
  - 32. Water-main outlet
  - 34. Ku Klux...
  - 35. Chopped
  - 36. Fiction books
  - 37. Rides waves
  - 39. Female rabbits
  - 41. Following
  - 45. Intelligence organ
  - 47. Flatten
  - 49. Post of doorway
  - 52. Dines
  - 54. Actor, ...Rickman
  - 56. Debtor's note (1,1,1)
  - 57. Recede
  - 58. Fussy people
  - 59. Make amends for
  - 60. Immediate
  - 62. Flightless bird
  - 64. Devastated
  - 66. Drifting (into coma)
  - 67. To remove difficulties (4,3)
  - 68. Chatty
  - 70. Edit (text)
  - 71. Sewage pipe trap (1-4)
  - 73. Jet-bath
  - 75. Years in decade
  - 82. Canadian province, ...Scotia
  - 83. Famous record label (1,1,1)
  - 85. Music discs (1,2)
  - 86. Desire
  - 88. Bonnie's crime partner
  - 89. Poisonous
  - 90. Perished
  - 92. Breakfast batter cake
  - 94. Weather feature, El...
  - 95. Truthfulness
  - 96. Milk coffee style
  - 98. Mistreat
  - 99. Admittance
  - 101. Conserved
  - 102. Slanted timber cut
  - 103. Platter
  - 104. Bacon &...
  - 109. Computer screen
  - 110. Gapes stupidly
  - 112. Of the sun
  - 114. Bashfulness
  - 116. Actor, Jack...
  - 118. Nastily
  - 119. Blush
  - 121. Flammable gas
  - 123. Of sight
  - 125. Valuable quality
  - 126. Topic
  - 127. Prang
  - 128. Peru beast
  - 130. Sits for portrait
  - 132. To say farewell, in Italy
  - 135. Canvas shelter

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Emblem
4. Flowing
7. Boxer, Mike...
8. Stop
10. Fib
11. Unpretty
12. Weather
13. Coffee cup
15. One of the senses
17. Women's clothing
19. Simple
20. Honorable

### Down

1. Water vessel
2. Spot
3. Artist's tool
4. Boundary
5. Weird
6. Nap
9. Specs
13. Doctor
14. Color
15. Grave
16. Fizzy drink
18. Cry

Solution below

## Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is the name given to a male swan?
2. In which country is Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world?
3. What major change at Wimbledon was made in 1969?
4. Who is the sympathetic lover of Bill Sikes in the novel *Oliver Twist*?
5. In which popular 1995 film was the main character replaced 48 times during the six months of filming?
6. Which company makes the sunglasses as worn by the Men in Black?
7. What is the name of the cat in the Dilbert cartoon series?
8. On which island is the Palace of Knossos?
9. Mount Usborne, which stands 2,312 feet tall, is the highest point in which British dependency?
10. What singer was nicknamed by his fans "The Lizard King"?
11. When was the last Japanese soldier found hiding in the Philippines?
12. In which country was OPEC founded in 1960: a) USA, b) Iraq, c) Venezuela, d) Kuwait?
13. Where was the Duke of Edinburgh born?
14. In the book *Little Women*, what is the sister's surname?
15. True or False: English is the official language of the United States of America?
16. What do pop star Britney Spears and Adolf Hitler's wife Eva Braun have in common?
17. How many degrees is the angle between the hands of a clock at 1 o'clock?
18. Which animal is the mascot of toy-chain Toys R Us?
19. Which unit of weight shares its name with the alternative name for a snow leopard?
20. What is the SI unit of frequency?

Answers below



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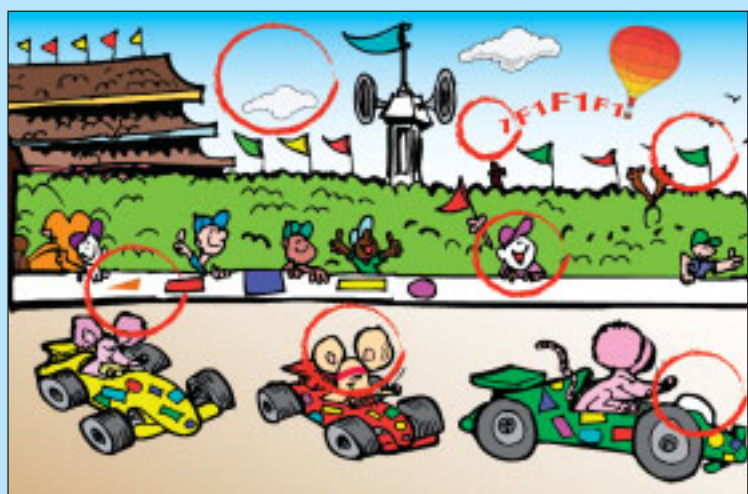
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# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



### Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Cob; 2. Ecuador; 3. The competition was opened to professionals; 4. Nancy; 5. Babe; 6. Ray-Ban; 7. Catbert; 8. Crete; 9. The Falklands; 10. Jim Morrison; 11. 1975; 12. Iraq; 13. Corfu; 14. March; 15. False (The US does not have an official language); 16. Both were married for less than one day; 17. 30 degrees; 18. Geoffrey the Giraffe; 19. Ounce; 20. Hertz.

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

C	O	M	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	S	C	A	F	L	O	U	R	I	S	H	I	N	G
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A			I	R	K	E	D		L	H	A	N	D	S	V		T	O	D	A	Y		
L	A	R	D		L	E	R	A	S	E	O	U	R	A	L	S	O	D	U	B	S		
F	N	E	A	R		N	W	A	V	E	R		I		J	E	E	R		R			
S	T	Y	E		N	A	M	E	D	E	E	F	L	A	M	A	S	A	J	A	R		
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E	X	N			A	S	S	U	R	E		U	R	B	A	N	E		A	R	O		
D	E	P	O	S	E	S		T			M	O	B		V			T	I	P	T	O	E
A	I		T		P	U	E	R	I	L	E		E	N	L	A	R	G	E	S	N	S	
N	I	A	G	A	R	A		I		N	O	N		G		N	A	I	R	O	B	I	
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S	C	E	N	T	E	D		O	H	M		W		D	D	T		N	I	G	H	T	
	L	O			I	V		V	A	C	A	T	E	S	C		I		O	A			
L	Y	N	X		K	E	B	A	B		B	F	N		P	H	O	N	E		N	U	
D	I	C	E	D		E		U	N	F	I	T		L		O	G	R	E		T		
M	E	M	O		P		G	I	V	E	S		L	R	O	A	M	S	G		S	E	
O			U	L	T	R	A		E		E	M	E	R	Y		T	O	N	S	E	T	
N	O	O	S	E		W	A	L	T		E		E		C	E	L	L		T	Y	P	
I	P		M	O	C	K	S		H	O	A	R	D	E	R		L	A	T	C	H	O	
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# The Return of the Wild Man

Thomas McGuane was once my hero. Over 30 years ago, I read his masterly third novel, *Ninety-two in the Shade*, and was entranced by the wild humor and magical clarity of his prose.

In this short, doomed, drug-and-booze fuelled tale of a would-be skiff fisherman in Key West, there are magnificent passages of pure prose-poetry that I've returned to again and again over the years, beginning with the classic opening line: "Nobody knows, from sea to shining sea, why we are having all this trouble with our republic."

It was a hard act to follow and McGuane hasn't, though he retains his mastery of the language.

His fictional territory has ranged from Upper Michigan to Key West to Montana – the old stamping grounds of Hemingway,

with whom he shares a love of fishing and hunting, though it's difficult to imagine a more different writer.

The last five of his nine novels take place in his adopted home of Montana as do most of the 10 stories in his latest collection *Gallatin Canyon* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2008, 220pp).

McGuane is almost 70 now and his choice of characters reflects his age: wealthy retired men striving, and failing, for a second life with a woman in rural Montana. These stories show the failings of his writing in later life: arch, mannered, baroque prose that succeeds as physical description but utterly fails as dialog or character development.

That said, he has produced a perfect gem of a short story, so perfect it belongs in the company of oft-anthologized masterworks like Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", Fitzgerald's

"Babylon Revisited" and Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily".

"North Coast" is a mere six pages but packs an enormous emotional wallop wrapped up in precise plot and pacing.

We meet two young wilderness guides, Austin and Ruth, trekking in deep Pacific coastal forest, following a GPS heading to a secret destination. The couple are heroin users, alternating between pure stints in the wild and urban drug excess.

"And they were wise; they never went to Vancouver unless, as a kind of enfranchisement, they were prepared to use."

"To land in that town with empty pockets hoping to improvise your way onto the golden thoroughfare was to risk terrible consequences, and they were too smart for that."

"Hence this trip through a primeval forest known with surprising intimacy by Austin."

"In certain respects, it was a perfect life: you descended from some of the wildest country left on the planet, sunburned and hard muscled after a season of gazing upon creation, straight down into the city of man where

bliss came in a blue Pacific wave and the most beautiful hookers lined up around the cruise-ship terminals and chatted about the future."

The ending is a shocker, a crude betrayal of all they hold sacred for chemical kicks.

"Miracle Boy" also breaks the mold of the disaffected elderly in the other stories. This is a first-person, seemingly autobiographical account of a boy's journey from the Midwest in the 1950s to his mother's home in Rhode Island and her extended Irish Catholic family. The occasion is the deathbed vigil for the boy's grandmother and, perversely enough, all hilarity breaks loose.

But as fine as these two stories are, they pale in the shadow of "The Refugee". Allowing him-

self the 50-age scope of an Alice Munro story, McGuane presents the saga of an alcoholic orange farm manager who sails his ketch across the Gulf of Mexico in search of a long-lost elderly female seer in Key West. It's McGuane's own "Babylon Revisited" – a refugee from the drug-soaked 1960s returns to his old haunts "where everyone had a gun". Ironically enough, he and his best friend's trade at the time had been smuggling Cuban refugees in their sailboat.

But just when you think you've figured out the arc of the story it expands into another seaborne ordeal and a trial of repentance and absolution.

And just when you've written off McGuane as calcified, he turns as lively and epic and penetrating as Conrad.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# A wimp with bad grammar

I am writing a story for young adults about bullying. In one scene, the bully tells the bullied, "You bump heads with someone as big and tough as me and you're going to end up shorter and squatter than you already are." To which the other boy, getting to his feet, says, "'As I.'

"To be correct, you should have said, '...as big and tough as I.'"

I've run this past several people, who think the bully is right.

Which should it be – I or me?

Robert Lytle  
Michigan

### Barbara replies:

I love your idea of having the kid show how plucky he is by correcting the bully's grammar – but not with that sentence.

A phrase like "someone as big and tough as..." might end with either "me" or "I", depending on its grammatical role: is it a subject or an object?

Try mentally replacing the whole phrase with "me" or "I" alone, and that should tell you which word is right.

You'd say, "you bump heads with me," correct? Therefore you should also say, "you bump heads with someone as big and tough as me."

Then again, if the bully suddenly had a change of heart and was good with grammar, he might say, "Someone as big and tough

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

as I shouldn't be picking on a little guy like you." At least, that's according to most traditionalists.

There are language commentators who argue in favor of using "as me" no matter what – mainly because they think "as I" sounds pretentious.

So, you could have the bully say "as big and tough as I" and have his victim correct him with "As me."

But I wouldn't recommend it, and here's why: people who want to sound educated but don't know the rules for using "me" and "I" tend to use "I" for everything.

No doubt you want your bully to seem ignorant – bullies usually are.

Therefore, he shouldn't know the rules about "me" and "I".

But I doubt he'd be interested in sounding educated (let alone pretentious) – so he probably wouldn't misuse "I".

Why not have him, instead, use a double negative, like "You don't know nothing or you

wouldn't be messing with me"? That's definitely, unmistakably ignorant.

### Misusing peruse

The verb "peruse" is commonly used when referring to reading something quickly, scanning or skimming, such as "peruse a magazine".

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "peruse" as "to read or examine, typically with great care".

Is "peruse" commonly misused, or is this word a contronym?

Shirley Sloan  
Michigan

### Barbara replies:

No doubt "peruse" will someday be a contronym – a word with two opposite meanings (as in "off" in "The alarm clock is going off – turn it off!"). But it isn't yet, according to the American Heritage Dictionary, the New Oxford American Dictionary and also me.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate and Webster's New World disagree – but what is the point of having a slightly fancy word that can mean both "read carefully" and "skim"?

If "peruse" can mean both equally, I think we'll almost surely stop using it to mean anything at all.

I hope you'll join me in sticking with the traditional use.



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



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## Turning on the tourists

As the high season approaches, (it officially begins on November 1), more tourists can already be seen around Phuket. This week the *Gazette* is carrying a number of reports related to recent efforts by authorities to boost security on the island as well as initiatives to reassure tourists of their comfort and safety.

The TAT and provincial authorities have had to work hard to counteract negative international news coverage of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protests that forced the closure of Phuket International Airport for two days in August.

One initiative by the Ministry of Tourism to counteract negative media coverage, as well as travel advisory warnings issued in some of the countries that feed Phuket's tourism industry, has been to invite foreign diplomats to experience Phuket's tourist attractions for themselves. (See this issue's 'Inside Story' on pages 4 and 5.)

In addition to visiting some of the region's natural beauty spots, the foreign diplomats experienced Thailand's unique brand of hospitality, with some being escorted along Soi Bangla. This initiative demonstrates that the region's tourism authorities are realistic about the attractions that draw foreign tourists to the island, and is quite possibly a more effective approach than other confidence-rebuilding initiatives, such as TAT roadshows staged abroad, because nothing sounds more attractive to others than a first-hand account. And it is the people who will be relating these first-hand accounts that can make a difference.

On matters of tourist security, one of this week's front-page stories in the *Gazette* reports on the installation of more CCTV cameras in Patong. Though these devices may or may not offer a solid deterrent against criminal acts, they certainly increase the chance of catching miscreants and demonstrate that tourist security is being taken seriously.

Security has also been beefed up at the Chart Chai checkpoint, (see page 1, this issue), where vehicles enter and leave Phuket. A number of weapons were seized at the checkpoint through the use of high-tech scanning equipment recently deployed there.

The fact that several weapons were found in a short period would suggest that crime is rife on the island. It is undeniable that crime exists in Phuket, as it does in any city; however, the threat of violent crime against tourists seems relatively low for those who take the same kind of preventative measures for personal safety as they would in their own countries.

In Chalong and Rawai, police have been seen more frequently and in greater numbers. Some of their arrests have included foreigners who chose to take risks and broke the law of the land they were visiting. We can be thankful to the police for that. — **The Editor**

**Do you have an opinion you want to share?**  
Email [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

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## Letters

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

### Safe in Rawai again

It is very interesting to see that the Rawai snatch-bandit fingered by Midnight Bar's Gopkul Se-jorhor was then identified online by Sheila McCormick as the mugger who had been attacking foreigners, after she saw the picture on the *Gazette* website [See *Gazette* news, October 4-10].

I now realize that law enforcement agencies need to work more closely with the media to suppress crime. Without the *Gazette*, I for one would still be paranoid. Congratulations to the Chalong cops and the *Gazette* newspaper for helping keep the island clean.

Cliff  
Chalong

### Why be a serial mugger?

I don't think that the *Gazette* editors will print my letter, but I am sending it anyway for the record. When I read the *Gazette*, I always try to come up with questions that the reporters have missed. Reading about the arrest of the "Rawai bandit", there are things the *Gazette* does not answer.

Is it that the money that Phuket attracts also brings these people? Why, if he had a criminal record already, was he not caught earlier? Are amphetamines a major cause of these crimes – and, if so, why is more not being done to stop this hard drug trade?

What is most important, though, is that Nop the robber had a partner when he mugged farang – why did the *Gazette* not report what happened to Nop's sidekick?

Annoying Mouse  
Phuket

### The evils of cocaine

I read about those Brits being busted for little bits of cocaine in Patong. Big cocaine dealers in Patong have a growing clientèle and are quite open about their activities.

I have little faith in the Kathu Police when it comes to exposing these guys and if the *Gazette* cannot do it, then I will try the *Bangkok Post*.

The dealers are largely fashionable Brits. Some have been busted, but they seem to be back on the streets soon after.

The main thing that bugs me is that I have lost a few good buddies who own businesses in Patong to this drug, which is often cut with things such as smack and speed to get people really hooked. Once hooked, nice people turn into obnoxious rude people.

Johnny Francesco  
Patong

### No reports on the real criminals

I was out shopping with my Thai girlfriend and learned that most of the street vendors are not Thai, but either Burmese or Nepalese. I wonder if they all have work permits and, if so, how were they issued?

I am surprised that the *Gazette* does not provide an Inside Story about this kind of thing that is happening now and chooses instead to do re-runs on the old air disaster.

The *Gazette* has also run a few stories on intellectual property violations in quiet areas of the island. Why does the *Gazette* seem to be afraid of revealing who is behind all the fake watches, bags and DVDs that

are sold openly under the neon lights all over Patong?

If your reporters have big enough spheres then they will prove me wrong and report on this. I buy the *Gazette* every week and will read with anticipation.

Jim  
Koh Phi Phi

### A farang apology

I was interested and saddened to read the letter "Why do farang look down on Thais?" [Letters, *Gazette* October 4-10].

As a foreigner who lives and works here, to my shame this is too often correct. Because my fellow expats are usually such an embarrassment, I try to have as little to do with them as I possibly can. Most are blissfully unaware of their gross ignorance and arrogance.

While the letter made a sweeping generalization, I will now do the same. The farang that the writer of the letter works with are probably in some form of property development.

They are too lazy to learn Thai properly, if at all, and understand very little of Thai culture, as they have been living here only a couple of years. They spend most of their time with fellow expats and only frequent certain farang restaurants and watering holes.

Phuket is too full of such people. Because they are intellectually challenged, they fail to understand that cultures are not inferior or superior – but simply different.

To all Thais, please accept my apologies on behalf of my fellow farang.

Carl  
Cherng Talay

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



# The case against Monkey Island

I set up the Wildlife Friends Foundation with the following objectives:

1. To rescue wild animals from places where they are maltreated or neglected, and to help them to spend the rest of their lives in a sanctuary as close to the natural environment as possible with the best possible care. In particular, to provide sanctuary for those animals that no-one else is prepared to care for, such as the sick and disabled.

2. To educate people, particularly children, in preventing cruelty to animals. In particular, to campaign against illegal trade in wild animals for the pet industry, and to discourage the use of animals for entertainment, such as performing animal shows.

3. To prevent hunting of wild animals and to promote conservation of all natural resources, fauna and flora alike; to educate local people, tourists and the international community to appreciate, understand and protect wild animals, their rain forest and mangrove and marine-park habitats. Also to assist the Royal Forestry Department and other organizations concerned with the rescue and conservation of wild animals.

4. To gather knowledge to implement release programs for animals that qualify for re-introduction into the wild.

## PHUKET - HELL ISLAND FOR ANIMALS

Phuket is a paradise for people but it can be hell for animals in tourism. Here some examples:

Elephants are still taken out of the wild as babies and trained to perform for tourists. They are later used as taxis for "elephant trekking" and rides. Although people are made to believe that

## FIRST PERSON

**E**dwin Wiek is the director and founder of the Wildlife Friends Foundation (Thailand). He has lived in Thailand since 1990. Between 1996 and 2000, he spent his weekends watching wildlife in the jungles of Kaengkrachan in Petchaburi province, where he also observed wild animals kept in confinement at people's homes, such as gibbons on chains and bears locked in tiny cages.

In an effort to take action against the hunting and confinement of wild animals, Edwin set up the Wildlife Friends Foundation in 2001. Here, he talks about his foundation's objectives and his objections to the proposed Monkey Island Project.



all these elephants are born in captivity and would otherwise be out of work due to the logging ban, the truth is different.

Many elephants make too many rides in the high season, walking for hours in the full sun with up to three people and a wooden frame on their backs. Many of the elephants are constantly stressed from spending days and nights near busy roads.

Baby gibbons, eagles and snakes seem to appear all over the island to be used as props in souvenir photos for tourists in and around the bars and beaches. These lovely baby gibbons are taken from the wild after their mothers are shot and can only be used for three to four years, because as they grow older, they become aggressive.

The animals are drugged so that they stay docile with people. Tourists should know better than to pay for a photo to be taken of them with an animal. Our campaign slogan says, "For a picture of you and me, my family got

killed". Shocking but very true.

Zoo animals are often kept in small enclosures, while tigers are kept on short chains and drugged to make it possible for tourists to have pictures taken with them. These animals are being used (read exploited) to the maximum level possible without any concern for their wellbeing.

## PHUKET MONKEY ISLAND MADNESS

I have read, with much interest, articles in the *Gazette* about plans for a Monkey Island off the coast of Phuket. This sanctuary has been presented as a "primate conservation project" run by "conservationists". In reality, I believe it is nothing more than a zoo - a collection of exotic animals - with the sole purpose of making money for a few individuals without any concern for wildlife conservation or the environment.

The MonkeyLand zoo in South Africa is run by the same

businessmen who are proposing Monkey Island off Phuket. The MonkeyLand zoo has been open since 1998. Visitors are charged an entrance fee and the zoo has never been able to prove where most of the animals kept there originate from.

MonkeyLand has neither a record of successful rehabilitation of any primates to the wild, nor any viable populations in captivity that are living in the (semi) wild. In the meantime, the zoo is constantly looking for new primate species to add in order to attract more visitors and more money.

The Jane Goodall institute suggested in an open letter to the South African government in 2003 that an additional "Chimpanzee conservation project" by MonkeyLand should not be supported, as the conservation issue would nowhere be served, and there would be a negative impact on the local environment. Consequently the new project was not granted permission.

Apart from that, conservation of African and South American primates on a Thai island, as suggested, is an unfortunate idea for a few reasons. Thailand has 14 primate species in the wild; 12 are under serious threats. If any island or any given piece of forest should be used for conservation of wildlife within Thailand, it should be used for Thai wildlife as areas of natural habitat become more and more scarce.

Claims that the islands in question could maintain healthy populations of various species are false. The islands are so small that probably only two different species of primate could co-exist there. Their numbers would reach just a few dozen each, which is never enough for a healthy gene pool, and inbreeding is one of the biggest concerns.

Any research on captive wildlife as suggested will have little or no value to the conservation of the wild populations.

Finally, there is the environmental impact of a monkey island to consider. The partially inhabited islands off the coast of Phuket are some of the last undisturbed breeding grounds for several species of rare birds, fruit bats and other small wildlife.

The introduction of free-roaming primates on these islands will see bird eggs eaten, nests destroyed, and damage to other animals and their habitats - the extent of which cannot yet be seen.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) currently undertaken for the Monkey Island project is paid for by MonkeyLand and can't be called unbiased. A proper EIA should be undertaken through the proper channels, and should take over a year to complete. It seems that MonkeyLand is trying to cut corners for their own benefit and objectives.

- Compiled by Akbar Khan

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# A New Ministry for the Supernatural

The Thai people have always had an affinity for the supernatural. They go to fortune tellers to have their futures predicted, wear amulets to protect themselves from danger, and consult soothsayers to get the winning lottery numbers.

The number of Thais who don't believe in ghosts is probably about the same as the number who don't have mobile phones, which is almost zero.

In times of stress, people turn to the supernatural for reassurance; and these are stressful times. So I was not surprised to hear that the government is planning to establish a Ministry of Supernatural Affairs. I interviewed the official widely tipped to become the minister, Dr Kluapee Kraseupong:

**Tsow:** Congratulations, Dr Kluapee. It's rumored that you're going to be appointed head of the new Ministry of Supernatural Affairs.

**Dr Kluapee:** Thank you, but before we begin this interview I must ask if you are a person of faith

**Tsow:** No. I'm a person of superstition, which is even better.

**Dr Kluapee:** But do you believe in the supernatural world?

**Tsow:** Well, I believe in the natural world, and things always sound better in threes, don't they? Logic suggests that if there's a natural world, there's got to be a subnatural world and a supernatural world to balance it.

**Dr Kluapee:** I'm glad you think logically. And do you believe in ghosts?

**Tsow:** I'm an American. We don't believe in ghosts, but our children do.

**Dr Kluapee:** That's good enough. You pass. What do you want to know?

**Tsow:** What is the purpose of your new ministry?

**Dr Kluapee:** Our ministry wants to mobilize all possible supernatural resources in the service of the country. Thailand is currently experiencing economic problems. To rectify this, we plan

to promote the worship of Kubera and Lakshmi, the Hindu god and goddess of wealth. Also Tsai Shen, the Chinese god of wealth. They've been sadly neglected in recent times. We hope that winning their favor will bring about an upsurge in the economy.

**Tsow:** I'm glad your ministry is adopting a scientific approach. Do you plan to sacrifice black chickens to Rahu?

**Dr Kluapee:** Of course. We're already doing that. We plan to leave no supernatural stone unturned. We're establishing a Department of Prognostication to predict future events. Nationally renowned astrologers and fortune tellers will be in charge. It will have a Rishi Section and a Board of Mediums, Soothsayers, and Channelers. And there'll be a Bureau of Wizards, Witches, and Warlocks whom citizens will be able to consult at the auspiciously named website [www.www.org](http://www.www.org).

**Tsow:** Lots of W's there.

Er, is W an auspicious letter?

**Dr Kluapee:** No. Don't be silly. There's no such thing as auspicious letters. There are only auspicious numbers. In fact, our Department of Prognostication

will be tasked with determining which dates of each month are auspicious. On inauspicious days, citizens will be urged to stay home. We believe this will lead to a dramatic improvement in the traffic flow.

**Tsow:** Good idea. I'm surprised nobody thought of that before.

**Dr Kluapee:** We're trying to be innovative. Now, astronomy has made great progress in recent years, but astrology too has not been idle.

Our scientifically trained astrologers have detected a new pantheon of gods and spirits out beyond the blogosphere. Despite the distance, we suspect that they are exercising a powerful influence on earthly affairs. So we are exerting every effort to identify and propitiate them.

One school of thought holds that they are ancient Aztec and Inca deities who fled the planet during the horrors of the Spanish conquest. If we can confirm this, we plan to earn their good will by sacrificing virgins every six months.

**Tsow:** Er, how do you plan to select the virgins?

**Dr Kluapee:** We'll have a national lottery twice a year. The fortunate virgins will be sacrificed on the winter and summer solstices.

**Tsow:** I guess it will be a great honor for them.

**Dr Kluapee:** Of course. Now, to attract greater wealth to Thailand, we plan to introduce a number of new names for our people that are associated with money.

We'll have boys with names like Satangchai and Ruaymak, girls with names like Bahtwadee and Ngernying. We believe that auspicious names like these will attract wealth to their owners.

We'll encourage people to give their children nicknames like Bank and Money, and new nicknames coined from the surnames of billionaires like Gates, Buffett, and Soros. Branson. Don't forget Branson. Rich and cool.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at [s.tsow@ymail.com](mailto:s.tsow@ymail.com), except when he's deciding whether to change his first name to Soros or Satangchai. And his new nickname, of course, will be Branson.*



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

# A calmer year ahead for Librans

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23). Most Librans will notice new faces in familiar places this week. During the rest of October your life is enhanced by introductions to people, some of whom may become useful business contacts. New romance is also indicated, but if your heart is already spoken for, this could lead to confusion. If you are celebrating a birthday this week, you should achieve more under calmer astral conditions in the year ahead.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22). Scorpions who are starting to run out of steam should

chill out this weekend. Cancer has the ideal solution to relieve your stress. The stars suggest a business proposition coming next week. Don't sell yourself short as this could be a way to earn more and work less. Number 9 can be lucky on Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21). You will discover the reason behind a friend's icy manner this week. Although your instinct is to help, think twice before doing so. The rest of October promises to become busy and fulfilling, but you will need a lot of energy to keep up. If you

are seeking romance, you will be impressed by Aries this weekend. Wear amber yellow to encourage positive energy.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20). Where finances are concerned, your focus should be on keeping your head above water. If you are tempted to invest in business this week, you will benefit from reflecting on lessons learned earlier this year. November is a more auspicious time to take chances. An ongoing property dispute could cost more than you'd anticipated, but allowing the sun to set on this issue will lighten your spirits.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19). Your usual dreamy nature gives way to a more practical outlook this week and you will have no trouble in succeeding until the end of this month. Another air sign could remind you of a forgotten debt this weekend. This is the ideal time to balance your books. Romance is well-starred and some kind of commitment is highlighted. The number 4 can be lucky on Tuesday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20). Your reluctance to ask for advice needs to be addressed this week. The stars suggest that you may not find your way out of a tricky situation. Swimming round in circles causes nothing but exhaustion and it appears the answer is much simpler than you imagine. Sunday is best for seeking the

pearls of wisdom you need. The scent of eucalyptus can help to sharpen your mental powers.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20). Your load of responsibilities lightens this week and the atmosphere begins to be more upbeat. Where romance is concerned, a meeting at the middle of the month could lead to the relationship you've been dreaming of. However, this may tempt you to put travel plans on hold, which would not be a wise move. An important missing item is forecast to come to light this weekend.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21). Taureans who suspect that someone is keener to become more intimately involved than they are must make their feelings clear. Your tendency to sweep difficult issues under the mat could allow an uncomfortable situation to brew. State your case clearly at work this week as there are signs your talents are being taken for granted. The number 7 can bring good fortune on Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21). Your powers of persuasion are a force to be reckoned with this week. Using them at the right moment will be the key to success and Wednesday is well highlighted for settling business agreements. Leo would like to get closer, but jealousy from someone else is indicated. Those already in a close relationship see a surprising side of their

partner this weekend.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23). Work continues to bring more satisfaction than usual and this trend should continue until the end of the month. If you who were recently tempted to move in a new career direction, you will probably put this idea on hold. There are signs that promotion in your present situation is about to be offered, but serious discussions should take place first. The number 8 can be lucky on Monday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22). Your knack for knowing when to pounce on a golden opportunity pays off this week. Being especially alert on Tuesday could lead to the opportunity of the year, although rivalry with another fire sign may be ignited. A family member is forecast to ask for assistance this weekend, which could interfere with your plans to relax. Romance is well-starred on Saturday and wearing marigold orange can enhance your attraction.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23). Keeping an even keel will be a challenge for you this week. Your emotions are subject to ups and downs until the end of October. Going off in hot romantic pursuit of Capricorn is not advised – play it cool to make a lasting impression. Finances improve after Wednesday, so delay negotiations until then. The number 9 can be lucky this weekend.

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# Dili Days... Matt Crook samples the simple life in Timor's capital

The word going around town was that there was going to be a Mexican party somewhere. It's difficult to say whether we were invited to the party, as a friend of a friend had been told not to bring too many people.

The idea of a Mexican party in the middle of Dili was just too good to turn down. I had not even an inkling of what such a party would be like, but if it were anything like the ones I'd seen on television, I could have dug it.

As a city populated by a tight-knit community of expats – aid workers, NGO staff, peace-keeping troops – the Mexican party had a muddled, global feel.

The three of us arrived to a garden full of foreigners. A Timorese security guard opened the gate for us; there would be no unwelcome guests here.

A short man, who I presumed was a real Mexican, went around with a large bag of masks. On several occasions he rolled his head back and howled into the night.

He ambled over to a bell hanging by a rope and began roaring, always with one hand on the bell rope, which he rang to the delight of all.

So this is Mexico, I thought to myself. On the dance floor was some sort of Timorese line dance going on to Macarena.

There weren't many Timorese people at the party. It's uncommon for expats to mingle with the locals in Timor-Leste much beyond work commitments.

There is an enormous social gap between the Timorese and everybody else, which is understandable given that it's only two years since violence erupted and up to 150,000 people fled their homes.

Many have still yet to return; the country is in a constant state of rebuilding.

But these Mexicans: what's the deal? My friend and I snuck



Modern conveniences are scarce and life is simple, but what you have is the chance to see a developing country and meet people who until very recently were forced to endure horrors the likes of which most people would not want to imagine.

out of the party. We left the Macarena and the man with the masks and sauntered along unlit roads back to the place we call home.

Dili is an eerie place by night. Attacks on foreigners are extremely rare, but when on my own I've been heckled and screamed at and even stalked on the streets.

We were halfway home when we came to the local pool hall: an open-air shack with a single table where bare-chested local youths play for kicks and bucks.

It was past midnight and before we knew it we were hanging out with six Timorese street punks. The stake was \$1.50 and the game was two-on-two, potting balls in ascending numerical order while playing cards were turned over, we didn't know what for.

Although confused at first, the pool kids were happy to have the company. Soon we all realized that none among us had any skill with a pool cue.

The game went on and on, the cards were turned and turned, and at the end of it all my friend and I had won. We were handed our buck-fifty back, and the stake of our opponents and there came the offer of more games and palm wine.

With an odor and appearance similar to raw eggs, palm wine, the preferred tippie of many Timorese, tastes so acidic and so bitter that your tongue retreats with astonishment with every mouthful. We declined the offer and left feeling content.

These two sides of the city – a Mexican party under lock and key and six kids hanging out just around the corner – is an indication of what travelers can experience in Dili. Thanks to the incredible presence of the UN, there are dozens of hotels, restaurants, bars and clubs catering to Western tourists.



their lives. The buildings lie in ruins, families are torn apart, and yet every day I meet people with amazing stories who are open and inviting and hopeful for the future.

Life in Dili is inspiring and interesting. To be among and talk to people who have been through so much in such a short time is a somber experience, but it gives you an insight into what life has been like for the Timorese.

Dili is easy to get to, with international airlines flying in and out several times a week. While not an obvious place for a vacation, I would recommend Dili to anyone, even if only to see firsthand what the place is like.

The city needs an influx of people who aren't interested in Mexican parties, but who want to see the place for what it is.

Once you are in Dili and have experienced a slice of Timorese life, there is an entire world waiting to be discovered around Timor-Leste, where few travelers have made the journey. Each of Timor-Leste's 13 districts offers something new and exciting.

Dili is only the gateway and is a very separate entity to the rest of the country.

Many times I've heard travelers talk about how Thailand has changed over the past 20 years, and how too many people now visit Pai, Koh Pha-ngan, Chiang Mai and so on; and yet these very same travelers have an adventure calling out to them, and it's just a few hours away.

However, Dili quickly becomes boring if you choose to frequent only these places.

Dili can be expensive and it doesn't have much of a backpacker scene, and the list of "things to see and do in Dili" is short.

Modern conveniences are scarce and life is simple, but what you have is the chance to see a developing country and meet people who until very recently were forced to endure horrors the likes of which most people would not want to imagine.

When I interact with Timorese people, they are excited to see a new face that doesn't come with a logo or a uniform. The people in Dili are rebuilding



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# Top volleyball teams to return to Phuket

KARON: While doubt lingers over whether Olympic champions Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh will return to Phuket to defend their FIVB champion title, tournament organizers have confirmed that eight of the world's top 10 beach volleyball teams will be in Phuket to vie for the honor.

At the time of going to press, May-Treanor was still recovering from an injury sustained when the duo from the US made sporting history by winning their second consecutive Olympic gold medal in the sport in Beijing earlier this year.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Phuket Thailand Open, the penultimate stop on the Swatch-FIVB Women's Beach Volleyball World Tour, will be held on Karon Beach from November 4 to 9.

The tournament, which offers prize money of US\$175,000, has attracted entries from the world's leading professional beach volleyball teams to what is regarded as one of the biggest beach volleyball tournaments in Asia.

More than teams from about 30 countries are expected to take part in the tournament, including Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the USA.

Thailand as the host country is allocated two teams in the main draw and an additional four teams to participate in the qualifying rounds.

The tournament is sanctioned by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and the Volleyball Association of Thailand (TVA), and is played over six days of competition. The country quota play-offs will be held on November 4, qualification rounds on November 5 and the main draw between November 6 and 9. Matches will start at 9 am daily, except on finals day, when matches will start at 3 pm.

There will be global TV cov-

erage of the semi-finals on November 8, and the final and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place play-offs on November 9.

The matches will be televised live on Thailand's national TV, on Eurosport and in the US. In addition to the live broadcast, a special highlight show of the tournament will go out to more than 4 million households worldwide.

Admission to the tournament is free. The program includes beach volleyball camps, and there will be cheerleaders and many other activities and games in the tent village adjacent to center court.

Local organizations sponsoring the tournament include the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the Sports Authority of Thailand, PTT Public Co Ltd, the Kata Group of Hotels, the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV, Haad Thip, Woraburi Resort, the FBT, the TOT and CS Loxinfo. International sponsors of the event are the Swatch Group, Mikasa and Descente.



Kerri Walsh (right) blocks yet another smash as she and her Olympic gold-winning teammate Misty May-Treanor win the Swatch FIVB Phuket Thailand Open on Karon Beach last year. Photo by FIVB

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: As the season enters its final weeks, the Patong Darts League is in for a thrilling finish. Leaders Queen Mary (125 points) will have a bye week on October 7, when second-place Offshore (122 points) meet third-place Piccadilly (118 points).

Queen Mary are set to play Offshore and Piccadilly in the final two weeks.

In fourth place, Market Bar (104 points) still has an outside

chance of winning the league.

In Piccadilly's six-point win over Sick Buffalo, Stephen had three closes and was looking good for the high score with a 140 when teammate Tony flipped in a 145 (t20, t20, x25).

In a six-point home win over last-place Hilltop, Pascal from Shakers topped the high score with 140, while teammate Greg closed out the beer leg in classic form with a double one.

### LEAGUE TABLE

**September 30 results:** Queen Mary\* 8 Market Bar 1; Piccadilly\* 5 Sick Buffalo 4; Offshore\* 6 Amigos 3; Shakers\* 5 -Hilltop 4; Celtic\* 5 Simply Red 4; Beach House = bye (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Queen Mary\* (125 points.); 2. Offshore (122); 3. Piccadilly (118); 4. Market Bar (104); 5. Sick Buffalo (85); 6. Shakers (82); 7. Beach House (74); 8. Celtic\* (67); 9. Amigos (63); 10. Simply Red\* (56); 11. Hilltop (54) (\* = missing a bye week).

**October 14 match-ups:** Queen Mary v Offshore; Market Bar v Piccadilly; Shakers v Sick Buffalo; Beach House v Amigos; Hilltop v Celtic; Simply Red = bye (home teams first).

## Call for sponsors to support junior cricketers

PHUKET: The Phuket Cricket Union (PCU) is calling for sponsors to support young cricketers on the island so they can compete in an inaugural international cricket tourney at the Royal Selangor Club (RSC) in Kuala Lumpur.

Organized in conjunction with the Kuala Lumpur branch of Malaysia's Federal Territory Cricket Association (FTCA), the inaugural RSC/FTCA International Youth Under-15 Cricket Carnival 2008 for the FTCA/RSC Challenge Trophy will be held from October 24-26.

Although the tournament organizers only ask for a US\$100 confirmation deposit, which is fully-refundable on the team registering their arrival in person, all other costs, including travel and accommodation must be paid at

the team's expense.

The eight-a-side tournament is limited to 20 teams. Teams touring from abroad will be recommended to stay at designated supporting hotels that are offering discounted rates and ground assistance.

"The team spirit will benefit tremendously from the presence of parents and officials, and considering the attendance of chaperones, a wholesome carnival is designed to keep everyone well fed and entertained. The 8-a-side promises to be a weekend of quality family time amidst healthy competition," Said FTCA President Wilfred Abraham.

"It is expected that the entire ground will be lined with A-boards and team tents sponsored by well-wishers. Teams in brightly colored uniforms mirroring the commitment of their sponsors will be the bright spark in the festive atmosphere of the carnival. Live-commentary on the back-to-back matches ensures there is never a dull moment in the three camaraderie-packed days," he added.

"The future of our young cricketers is in our hands. What better way to develop and expose our young talents than to enjoy this fantastic sport in the beautiful venues of Kiara Annexe and Kinrara Oval," he said.

For more information email *Phuket Cricket Union Honorary Secretary Richard Brown* at [richardwkbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:richardwkbrown@hotmail.com)

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## Design

by Semacote Suganya

Very few villa complexes manage to produce a truly distinctive and unique blend of design styles, but that is what Warayuth "Lek" Horkawe and Jaran Jongcharoenkamol have accomplished with their work at The Baray Villa in Kata.

The stunning result is a combination of Thai and Arabian designs that have been brought together at the complex, which sits on two rai attached to the Sawasdee Village resort. Baray Villa comprises 14 villas, each offering 110 square meters of living space, and a private pool of about 30sqm in front each villa.

"We started drawing up the design for Baray Villa last October. The whole process [to completion of construction] took about 11 months," explained Lek, managing director and owner of the resort.

His partner in the design, Jaran, is an architect who worked in Dubai for years and is also the man responsible for much of the design of Sawasdee Village.

The exterior and gardens at Baray Villa are mostly Thai, but the interior is unmistakably Arabian, Lek explained. The overall design of the villas is characteristically Thai in that individual homes are separated by gardens, but each villa is also encompassed by a fence lined with Arabian *sema*-style design along the top.

Inside the homes, instead of using small doorways as portals to separate chambers, Baray Villa uses very wide open-plan designs. A common feature of traditional Thai homes, these offer long sight lines with extensive use of mixed Thai-Arabian designs in the decor fitted throughout.

All the artifacts in the homes were handmade by the same team of craftsmen in Chiang Mai who made the ornaments dotted throughout Sawasdee Village. But the *kanok* above

# Arabian nights in the heart of Kata



Large divans and discreet lighting make you feel as if you are camped out in the Arabian desert.

the headboards forms only part of the border of the wall piece, encircling an Arabian-style geometric pattern, Lek explained.

There is extensive use of columns throughout the development. "All the columns feature Arabian-style capitals and many are covered with Arabian patterns. They would look too plain without them, so we had our artists create resin panels of intricate Arabic designs and cover the columns with them," Lek said.

Another common Middle Eastern design feature used in the homes are domes, the most prominent of which forms the ceiling of the master bedroom. "We used the same style domes seen in Turkish mosques and adapted them," explained Lek.

There is also a resin dome

above the pool bar that has a perforated design, allowing light to pass through and create an intricate reflective pattern off the water below.

As with the dome at the pool bar, the domes atop the villas can be illuminated at night in different colors to wonderful effect, Lek added.

So extensive is the use of Arabic designs in the resort's new restaurant, it even bears an Arabic name: Al Majlis. This word, which refers to the room in an Arabian house that is used for receiving guests, is consequently synonymous as a tea room, explained Lek.

"The same designer, Jaran, figured out how to make best use of the limited space we had. He came up with the idea of a chill-

out area with large divans. He also came up with the idea of using a canvas roof to represent the desert," Lek said.

Fitted into the walls at Al Majlis are large light fittings with tiny shards of colored glass contained within an Arabian-style frame, while in the villas hang Moroccan-style lanterns.

Using glass fragments to refract light and thus provide a soft glow is more commonly seen in lanterns hung throughout Thai temples.

"Although the lighting is soft, we used many low-intensity light bulbs – more than 100 bulbs in each villa – to create a warm atmosphere," said Lek.

resin recreations of Arabian designs and geometric patterns have been used to create the or-

naments that adorn the walls and the panels separating areas throughout the villas.

"The molds, made of copper and aluminum, were created by one of the artists who helped cast the statue of Luang Por Chaem at Wat Chalong. He worked with our team to custom-make many other molds, such as for door knobs, door locks and other forms of domestic art," said Lek.

"Without close inspection, much of the artwork could easily be mistaken to have been crafted from wood, but actually it's resin," he added. "Resin now has roles in construction and decoration. It's easy to mold and fast to make."

To add to the Arabian ambience of the resort, Lek and Jaran used the color of golden sand throughout the villas.

In Lek's opinion, even photographs fail to capture the impact on the senses that Baray Villa has.

"There's only one way to see how beautiful it is, and that's to come and visit," he said.



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This week's Home of the Week is a magnificent two-storey, four-bedroom pool villa in Kata that is on the market for a cool 100 million baht.

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The 700-square-meter villa rests on a 1,600sqm plot surrounded at the end of a private driveway that is part of an exclusive estate.

The architecture is essentially traditional Thai with hardwoods and sandstone featured throughout, a theme which is carried through to the solid wood and rattan furniture.

The Thai-style roofs with broad overhangs of hardwood beams provide shade around the pool terrace, which is the villa's centerpiece.

The 18-meter infinity-view swimming pool is surrounded by three separate pavilions arranged in a U shape of two separate living areas and a lower-floor bedroom.

The villa's layout celebrates life in the open with high ceilings



High ceilings, high-quality hardwoods and the home's high vantage point all add up to a pretty high price for this taste of Thai-style luxury living atop a Kata hillside in an exclusive estate.

and wall-to-wall sliding glass and wood doors that can be opened to allow air to flow unobstructed through the home.

Other outdoor features worth mentioning are the "floating sala" dining area, which rests on a pond, and a lotus pond framed by a rock garden.

The openness of the home's interior architecture allows natural light to pour into the upper floor, which is reached by an open staircase. Another staircase leads to the master bedroom, which boasts superior views, as it is the highest point on the estate.

The home also features a

modern fully-equipped European-style kitchen and two large ensuite guest bedrooms.

There is also a separate maid's quarters with enough space for two live-in staff.

The homeowner can take advantage of the private estate's clubhouse, tennis courts, fitness

centre and restaurant.

For more information contact Norbert Zuber at Tropical Homes Real Estate. Tel: 081-8088898. Email: [norbert@tropical-homes.net](mailto:norbert@tropical-homes.net) Website: [www.tropical-homes.net](http://www.tropical-homes.net)



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Laguna Village. Phuket.



It seems you cannot turn on the TV, read a newspaper or magazine these days and fail to be confronted by apocalyptic images of ozone depletion, vanishing rainforests and melting polar ice caps.

Recently, I received a call from a large international media outfit that was working on a story about exemplary green real estate and hotel developments. They wanted to know if I could provide them with some local success stories. As my mind became more clouded than London fog, I promptly descended into a listless stupor that very nearly spoiled my lunch.

In the days and weeks that followed, I became increasingly aware of the many environmentally-friendly ways in which Phuket could help to save our planet. One of the Bangkok dailies recently reported that 70% of the world's population live in urban areas, a figure which is expected to rise significantly in the coming years.

Paved areas such as highways, walkways and parking lots account for some 35% of all surface area. If you factor in roof-space the figure jumps by a further 25%. In many parts of the world, the use of white roofing has become common practice in order to lower surface temperature by reflecting heat. Many US states mandate both the building of flat-roofed homes and the use of white in order to reduce energy consumption.

Even simple things like light bulbs have enormous potential for savings. Every time you turn on a normal incandescent bulb a little over 10% of the power is used for light with close to 90% being lost through heat dissipation.

Energy-saving compact fluorescent lights are not only six times more efficient, but they last up to 10 times longer than regular light bulbs. The math is easy. You save electricity, have lower power bills and get better value for money while doing your bit for Mother Earth. It is hard not to "see the light" with this seemingly no-brainer bit of logic.

I recently came across an article about Virgin boss Richard Branson's private Caribbean is-

# Tackling the Green Giant



**ABOVE:** This chic rainwater collection stem designed by the Scenic Blue design team, pictured here at the Chelsea Flower Show in the UK earlier this year, demonstrates that going green does not mean having ugly tanks spoil your garden view.

**LEFT:** This 'Leaf Eater' gutter design from Australian company Rain Harvesting ([rain-water-harvesting.com](http://rain-water-harvesting.com)) keeps leaves from joining the rainwater collected.

lands, which share many common energy issues with Phuket. The extensive use of solar panels and wind turbines is being planned there, as is the introduction of new technologies to allow natural airflow to cool dwellings, thus replacing that mother of all energy wasters: the air-conditioner. Transport will be by highly efficient "carts" that will run on biofuels.

While most islands in that part of the world struggle with water problems, the extensive use of flat-roofing and continuous guttering to catch rainfall allows for better storage of this precious resource.

Given Phuket's growing water shortages and its mushrooming population, it is surprising that such simple, cost-effective solutions do not figure more prominently on developers' agendas.

As global food shortages

continue and rising gas prices drive up the cost of basic commodities, the future trend will be towards renewed growth in local agriculture and home gardening, both in rural and urban areas.

Crucially, this will depend upon the availability of water. Collecting rainfall and creating large water storage facilities adds synergy to the entire process.

Urban organic farming is becoming a global phenomenon. One example in Phuket, West Sands in Mai Khao, was a pioneer in community organic gardening in a residential resort setting. With our tourism-based economy and growing trend towards healthier

eating, organic foods are becoming more common on restaurant menus. Local entrepreneurs will no doubt identify and act on these opportunities.

Local gardening is doubly beneficial because it lowers petrol consumption by reducing the distances that food needs to be transported, while lowering pressure on commodity prices by reducing demand.

Thinking globally but acting locally is neither formidable nor complex. It is about taking simple steps and making responsible decisions; even small actions can help.

There are bright spots on the horizon, with hotel chains such

as Six Senses sponsoring group-wide initiatives as well as smaller but equally meaningful solutions like the garden plots at West Sands.

Phuket is sorely lagging behind when compared with many other leisure destinations, where eco-accommodation, recycling and the harnessing of wind, wave and solar energy are becoming key agenda items.

While our island looks to tourism and property as important economic providers, looking after our planet needs to become more a part of our daily lives.

*Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks ([c9hotelworks.com](http://c9hotelworks.com)), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.*



## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

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<p>3 Laguna Townhome II THB 24 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 25 sqm private pool</li> <li>• on golf course</li> </ul>	<p>4 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 36 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 2 beds • rooftop pool</li> <li>• guaranteed rental return</li> </ul>
<p>5 Laguna Residence I THB 39 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey detached house</li> <li>• 4 beds 3 baths</li> <li>• 48 sqm pool • on golf course</li> <li>• guaranteed rental return</li> </ul>	

For more information on these and other properties, please call:  
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## Construction

by Nick Davies

# Cherng Talay to get new bi-lingual kindergarten

**B**aan Kajonkiet Suksa bi-lingual pre-school and kindergarten is currently under construction on one rai at 13/3 Sri Soonthorn Road, Cherng Talay.

Construction of the school is set to be completed this month, with the school set to open its doors to students on October 27.

The new school is a sister school of the existing bilingual Kajonkietsuksa School in Wichit.

The new building will be a single-storey school near Laguna. Teaching will be based on the Thai Education Ministry's curriculum, translated into English and supplemented with international materials and teaching methods.

The new school is being built by Vasi Construction Co., Ltd.

When complete, the school will have four classrooms, each with capacity for 25 children. Classes will comprise Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2 and Kindergarten 3. Students ages will range from two-and-a-half to six years old.

Apart from the classrooms,

facilities at the school will include various laboratories, such as a kindergarten learning center and library, a computer room and a song and drama room.

School grounds, providing space for the children to play and learn outdoors, will include a sandpit, herb garden, treehouse and Wendy playhouse.

School director Permkiat Ketkul said, "Lessons will be conducted with a holistic approach to learning.

"We integrate yoga, art and dance into the lessons under the guidance of qualified and experienced teachers.

"In each air-conditioned classroom there will be a native English teacher, a Filipino teacher and a Thai teacher."

Mr Permkiat added that teachers at the school will emphasize the importance of morality, kindness and tolerance in a multi-national environment.

"In a school with so many different nationalities, children will learn this automatically and playfully," he said.

The school's co-ordinator Barbara van Oers told the *Ga-*



**Baan Kajonkiet Suksa bi-lingual kindergarten in Cherng Talay is set to be completed in time to welcome new students on October 27.**

*zette* that the children will be instructed in English about 80% of the time and there will also be Thai culture and Thai language classes.

She added that the school

has been designed to be open to the elements and allow as much natural light into the building as possible.

"The children will benefit from the inclusion of many win-

dows in the new school, allowing natural light and fresh air to fill the classrooms.

"Although all the classrooms are air conditioned, we will open the windows whenever it is practical to ensure the children receive plenty of fresh air," Ms van Oers said.

Mr Permkiat went on to say that the school's aim is to focus on promoting healthy bodies and healthy minds among the students, especially with yoga as an integral part of the children's everyday activities.

"The children will be encouraged to be creative, self confident, flexible, and open through yoga and meditation classes designed to be fun, along with creative activities, such as painting, drawing, modeling and making sand creations. We also make sure the children will have healthy, varied lunches and lots of fruit at snack times," he said.

School hours will be from 8.30 am to 3.30 and there will be extra Thai and English lessons available from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm," Mr Permkiat added.

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## A miracle in the making

**C**onstruction of Chalong Miracle Lakeview began earlier this month on 66 rai at Soi Nanai off Chao Fa West Road. The luxury village will comprise condominium units, home offices and houses set around a 22-rai lake with trees circling the development.

Construction is being carried out by Bangkok-based construction company Ritta Co., Ltd. The project's designer is Khun Urapong Prateep Na Thalung.

Two five-storey buildings will comprise five types of condominium unit ranging in size from one-bedroom units covering 162.53 square meters each to three-bedroom penthouse units measuring 525.9 sqm. Prices for these units range between just over 8 million baht to 26 million baht.

The home-office buildings will be four-storey units occupy-



ing 791.33 sqm and will cost exactly 26 million baht, while the two-storey houses will each occupy 433.02 sqm and cost exactly 24 million baht each.

Plans for the homes include several luxury features, such as three-meter high ceilings, swimming pools with direct access from the living rooms, pool terraces and pavilions with views across the lake and secluded gardens with water features at the

rear, along with covered parking areas.

The home offices will also have three-meter-high ceilings and will have large, partially-shaded roof terraces ideal for barbecues.

Project owner Chanakarn Bousangin told the *Gazette*, "Construction has just started on Chalong Miracle Lakeview and we expect it to be complete within two and a half years."

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### WOODLANDS HOUSE



Largest lot: 1,320sqm. Private corner villa, 5 bedrooms, 2-storey with open loft. 52sqm pool. Large sala & guest house. 10-minute walk to BIS. Rent-to-own option. 28.5 million baht ono. Tel: +66-89-652-7818, +852-9686-8475.

### RAWAI, 2-STOREY HOUSE

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

### ON THE BEACH

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

### FOR URGENT SALE

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

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

2km from Heroines Monument. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, big kitchen, 24-hr security. Tel: 083-1036578.

### 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](http://www.karlssons-phuket.com/villa/index.htm)

### 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](http://www.phuketluxuryland.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

### FOREIGN FREEHOLD

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

### 50-RAI LAND, CHANOTE TITLE

Phang Nga, 8km from town center, 30 rai of powered licensed factory for meat + fish, walk in fridge + freezer 8,000 hardwood trees planted on 20 rai. Genuine sale. Tel: 087-2694083.

### 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](http://www.phuket-besthomes.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

### 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

### LUXURY HOUSE

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

### NEW POOL VILLA

near Kata. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. [www.landandhouseforsale.phuket.net](http://www.landandhouseforsale.phuket.net) Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 086-2809416.

### 2 HILLTOP VILLAS

and apartment. Private residence, Loch Palm Golf. 65 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

### SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

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### LARGE POOL VILLAS



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

### LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land, Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.

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### SEAFRONT LAND AT KOH YAO

5,320sqm of seafront land on Koh Yao Yai. Price: 7.5 million baht. Email: m\_rombaut@yahoo.com

### BACHELOR PAD/PENTHOUSE FOR SALE

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### 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](mailto:a.pueng@gmail.com)

### HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN

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### LAND IN PATTAYA

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### URGENT SALE: NEW TOWNHOUSE

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### GARDEN VILLA AT BAAN SAKOO



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# Property Gazette

## NEW KATHU POOL VILLA



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## NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



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- \* Chanote title
- \* Electricity, water
- \* 2 minutes to the beach

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Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

## TRANG LAND



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity access, road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 7 million baht ono. No agents please. Tel: 075-210646, 087-2709093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

## ONE-STOREY HOME



for sale in Parichart-Land & House park. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 96sq wah. Fully furnished, aircon throughout, top-class design & decoration, telephone line, water tank, pressure pump. Tel: 081-8921715.

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## NEW HOUSE, NAI HARN-RAWAI



3-storey 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

## 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

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## NATAI LAND

Chanote title, 4 rai 150sq wah on the main road, 2km from Natai Beach. 7 million baht. Direct to owner. Contact K. Nid (081-9707019) or K. Joi (089-5920438) for further info. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.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

## 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

## 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.

## LAND AT NATAI

near Khao Pilai Beach. 20rai with Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach, road, electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Contact by phone. Tel: 081-5399269.

## 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.

## BEACH SHOPHOUSE

in Kamala. 5 bedrooms, perfect guesthouse. Great investment. 25 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

## 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.

## PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-9442065, 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

## BRAND-NEW CONDO

Great location near Tesco and Big C. Pool, gym, fully furnished with washer, dryer, fridge, aircon and TV. 45sqm, corner unit with 2 balconies. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

## 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

## 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.

## KATA TOWNHOUSE

Urgent sale. 84-sqm house. For sale by owner. Call or email for details. Tel: 081-4985915. Email: rajay001@hotmail.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL

Land: 700sqm. Chalong. Asking 6.5 million. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

## HOUSES IN RAWAI

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

## 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

## 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

## CORNER SHOPHOUSE

Cherng Talay, brand-new, 3 storeys, near main road. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 089-1956822.

## 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

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# Property Gazette

## SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



Small plots from 1 rai up to 100 rai with very good sea view. A few minutes from city center and beaches. Chanote, road, electricity & water supply. Priced from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

## 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.

## 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: 32sq wah. Tel: 089-4729118.

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## GUESTHOUSE IN THE HEART OF PATONG

7 rooms, very nice and clean, small bar and good atmosphere, ready for high season. 2.5 Mil. baht. No key money. Contact Niklas. Tel: 087-0896721. Email: kingkongphuket@hotmail.com

## PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Duplex renovation project directly on the 15th fairway for sale. Email: tom.fekete@gmail.com Please see the website below for details. http://www.fairway15.com

## KALIM CONDO

for sale. Freehold. 2 bedrooms, hotel service, seaview, high rental return. 10 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

## 3-STOREY BUILDING

and nice restaurant. Luxurious rooms in front of 5-star hotel and beach. 1.9 million baht. Contact Atom. Tel: 086-9401015.

## DOUBLE VILLA, KATA

Superior sea view, 4 bedrooms. 36-sqm pool, 800-sqm plot. Only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

## GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

1 rai, Kathu (near BIS): B5.7m. 1 rai, Pa Khlok: B2m. 1 rai, Baan Porn: B3.5m. Tel: 086-5205564, 084-1069906. jank\_filtech@hotmail.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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## MY WIFE GAMBLER

so now you get it cheap. Land and/or house for sale. Tel: 086-6831964.

## 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

## PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai. Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

## 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 details, see our website at www.jikkycar.com

## PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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

## Urgent! House For Sale in Kamala



One-story house in Kamala with 2 beds, 1 bathroom, 2 parking spaces and separate maid's house. 120sqm living area; 1,400sqm land plot. Big garden at the back with mountain view; 2 mins' drive to the beach. For sale: B6.9m (with Chanote title).

Contact K. Dome. Tel: 081-1994356. Email: domeglover@hotmail.com

## LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1 rai up to 50 rai. Good road, electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

## PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherg Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

## THALANG, PA KHLOK - CHEAP

single house, 190sqm, big fruit tree garden, 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 room without aircon, store room, car port, 30-year-old fruit trees, more than 1 rai. Chanote title, surrounded by wall. 5 million baht ono. Call Kamonwan at 084-4454574.

## HOUSE IN KATHU

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, patio, garden. 86sq wah, 7.4 million baht. Tel: 081-9565650, 089-6469278. Photos, map and more details at www.kathu-property.com

## HOUSE WITH AMAZING SEA VIEW



in Rawai. Super-modern, furnished, 3-storey house, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. All rooms are air-conditioned. Alarm system, water-filter system, large private pool and safe car-parking space. 320sqm block of land with Chanote title. The price is only 11.5 million baht. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

## VILLA + 2 HOUSES IN PATONG

Villa + 2 houses with 8 small apartments. The owner is now using the villa + pool and 2 apartments. Six apartments are available for rental. 700sqm freehold land. For sale by owner direct at 40 million baht. For more photos, contact me. Further details also on the website shown below. No agents, please. Thank you. Tel: +66-89-2909567. Fax: +46-8-380492. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se www.bromma-thaihouse.com

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### RAWAI SERVICED APARTMENTS



78-sqm suite apartment. ADSL, aircon. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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.

### 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

### KATHU RENTAL 28 B/MONTH

Newly built modern house near Loch Palm. 3 bedrooms, aircon, European kitchen. ADSL Internet, True TV. 28,000 baht per month. Call or mail for details. Tel: 086-3355408. Email: nokskelton@hotmail.com http://phuketrental.googlepages.com/home

### HOUSE WITH SWIMMING POOL



for rent. 1km from Heroines' Monument, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 dining room. European-style kitchen. Rental price: 25,000 baht per month, minimum 1-year contract. Internet, telephone, electricity (no extra cost). For more details please contact Tel: 089-8746770 or email noi\_fluk@hotmail.com

### 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

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

near Heroines' Monument. Furnished. ADSL, aircon. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2778461. Or email to: bruniuviv@hotmail.com

### NEW HOME, CHALONG

2-bedroom furnished home for rent with telephone. True TV and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

### TOWNHOUSE, TAINA ROAD, KATA CENTER

for rent. 2 units, long-term rent for 5 years up. Ideal for bar or restaurant. Contact Khun Charoon. Tel: 086-9538692.

### BOAT LAGOON VILLA



Luxury villa: 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 300sqm, pool. 85,000 baht/month long term, incl Wi-Fi & cable TV. Tel: 081-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com

### RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE



Private aircon room, fridge. True TV, 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### BRAND-NEW TOWNHOUSE

close to BIS. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished throughout. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Beautifully furnished 3-bedroom house with secured garden, large pool, phone, True TV, Internet. Close to Boat Lagoon. 29,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-260400, 084-6903446.

### SINGLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 60sq wah. Fully furnished, located in front of Meaju Garden Place project. Aircon in big bedroom. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6912526.

### 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

### 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

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

For long-term rent in a quiet road in Kamala. Walking distance to beach, total re-furbishment completed in Oct, 2008 to a very high standard. New kitchen and bathrooms. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8974180. Email: kul@islandtechnology.com

### TWO VILLA CONDO

Oxygen Condo - Baan Saiyuan. Two-storeys, fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private pool, Jacuzzi, and 24-hour security. True TV, Wi-Fi, garden & pool maintenance included. Available for long- and short-term rental. Tel: 081-0909296. Email: majones73@hotmail.com

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent/sale. 60sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 1km from Heroines' 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.



### BOAT LAGOON TOWNHOUSE



2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, roof terrace, very high standards, 55,000 baht/month, incl Wi-Fi & cable TV. Tel: 081-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com

### RAWAI-HOUSE & POOL

for rent. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot water. Jacuzzi, kitchen. Price for long term: 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-7286242. Or email to: purimas\_re@yahoo.com

### RESTAURANT

Thai restaurant for rent in Soi Patong Resort, Bangla. Fully furnished with 70 seats. Tel: 081-8912273. Fax: 076-340182. Email: rkfashion@phuket.ksc.co.th

### STYLISH 3-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Luxury, modern, furnished Villa on 800sqm plot. Garden. ADSL. True TV, alarm system, mid- or long-term rent: 73,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-3863388. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, please visit www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/

### STYLISH HOUSE FOR RENT

Spacious 2-story gallery-house, 2 air-conditioned 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.susemiehl@freenet.de

### 3 MINUTES TO BIS

House for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hot shower, 3 aircons. Western kitchen, True TV, phone line, ADSL, covered parking. 35,000 baht/month. Call 081-8942009.

### STUDIO APARTMENT, KAMALA

Aircon, True TV, near beach, pool, kitchen, private car park. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

### RAWAI BEACHFRONT



house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon. True TV. ADSL, furnished. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

### 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.

### RENTALS

Covering all of Phuket. Short and long term. Tel: 089-9087597. Email: info@seekers-property-services.com

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, living room, aircon, cable TV. ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

### SURIN BEACH APARTMENTS

Beautiful 1 bedroom & 3 bedroom apts. 300m from Surin Beach. Contact jgstryker@gmail.com for details.

### CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

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40ft-long, 12ft-wide, 18-ton fishing boat for sale. Will be at the ship yard during week 40-41 for service. Fully equipped for fishing, snorkeling. Diving no problem. Capt and deck crew available. 1.8 million baht. Owner moving to Philippines. Tel: 087-2825008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

## SEA RAY (USA) 260 SUNDANCER

Year 2006. LOA: 8.53m; Beam: 2.59m; Draft: 1.55m. 2 double cabins. Motor: Mercury 350 Magnum MPI Bravo. This Sea Ray has been fully optioned plus more with the Germin large multi-screen display with interfaced radar. Can go anywhere as a weekender and with all the comforts of 220V power and air conditioning. It is ready to go and explore the surrounding areas. New condition and highly recommended for viewing. Please contact me for more details. Tel: 081-9786086. Fax 076-273476. Email: jurg@phuket-yachts.com

## MUSTANG M43 FLYBRIDGE



New 47 footer, available Dec, Volvo IPS drivers, 2- or 3-cabin layout, call James Egan today for pre-boat show special price. Tel: 089-8668876.

## MUSTANG M37 FLYBRIDGE



New 2008 model arriving soon for PIMEX. Available in December, many upgrades. Call James Egan today for pre-boat show special price. Tel: 089-8668876.

## DINGHY FOR SALE

3.1m, 15hp Yamaha. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-7874690.

## 14' SEA DOO JET BOAT

Twin 85hp engines. Rebuilt, fast, cover, canopy, trailer, GPS. Price: 395,000 baht. Tel: 085-7851597. Email: kcoyle@pinn.net

## COBALT 262 BOWRIDER

Brand-new 2008 Cobalt 262 bowrider for sale. Full options and ready to turn heads! Tel: 084-4425460. Email: phuket@starshipyachts.com

## DIVE BOAT FOR SALE

Long-term rent. For details call 081-3973291 or email spmtour@csloxinfo.com

## NEW 10-METER CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area. 9HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

## BRAND-NEW BOAT

Brand-new flybridge boat. Fiberglass. Offers. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

## COROL 25 SPORTSBOAT

Corol 25 Alan Warnick designed sportsboat built in 2007. She is 25ft with 175hp Suzuki engine and has twin-berth cabin and toilet. Only US\$25,000. For details contact Jurg Hofer. Tel: 076-273476, 081-9786086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: jurg@phuket-yachts.com

## THAI SPEEDBOAT

14m long, takes 25 people, twin Yamaha 200hp V6 engines in good condition. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 085-782-0586.

## SPEEDBOAT, DEC 2006

33ft wooden hull, 2x200hp Yamaha, 23 pax + 2 crew. Fully equipped. 900,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-1922174.

## SKI & WAKEBOARD BOAT

19ft, fiberglass, 300hp Mercruiser, tower, tow trailer & many extras. Must sell quickly. 240,000 baht. For more details. Tel: 086-2697138. Email: tye\_cotter@yahoo.com.au

## TOUR CRUISER FOR SALE

38ft tour cruiser for sale. All fiberglass. Excellent fuel economy. Mercruiser inboard diesel engine, cruises comfortably at 27 knots. Very low hours on the engine. Toilet & freshwater shower, large sun roof, s/s ladder at bow and stern for beach access. Commercial Thai registration. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 081-9790525. Email: bosch.michael@gmail.com

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Lagoon 67

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Donzi 38 ZSF

She is equal part fisherman, cruiser and performance machine. Lots of options improvement. Better than new.

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Bavaria 39

Year of construction 2006.

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Steel Hull Catamaran

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## Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office

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Email: broker@asia-marine.net  
www.asia-marine.net

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 854 1030 / 01 908 1437  
tel/fax: 076 239 729  
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office:  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 081 891 3237  
tel/fax: 076 206 260  
email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

Patteya Office:  
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## Executive Secretary

### Qualifications:

- Thai national, age between 23-35
- Bachelor's degree
- Excellent command of written and spoken English is a must
- At least 2 years' working experience in hospitality. Real estate experience is preferred.
- Computer literate

### Responsibilities:

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- Assist in the planning and preparation of meetings, conferences and conference telephone calls
- Maintain an adequate inventory of office supplies
- Respond to public inquiries
- Provide word-processing and secretarial support

## Sales & Marketing Executive

### Qualifications:

- Thai national, age between 23-35
- Bachelor's degree
- Excellent command of written and spoken English is a must
- Able to work independently and complete assignments within deadlines
- Highly self-motivated
- Excellent presentation skills
- Pleasant personality and appearance
- Computer literate

### Responsibilities:

- Contact potential advertisers for magazine
- Conduct meetings with potential advertisers
- Present magazine and its benefits to potential customers
- Seek independently for advertising opportunities
- Secure distribution channels for magazine
- Report regularly about assignments to marketing supervisor

## PA FOR FASHION BUSINESS

Excellent English, computer skills, initiative, confidence and own transport required. Immediate start, exciting, varied position. Tel: 087-9078528. Email: boxergirl@boxergirl.net

## NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Teach English for Mattayom 3-6, MLP/EP. Location: Chalemprakit School. Phuket City. Tel: 076-224125 ext 323. Email: swpk\_mlp@yahoo.com

## REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

One of Phuket's leading real estate agencies is looking for a representative for its booth at Jungceylon. Good command of English is a must. Salary + Bonus. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-8822856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

## RECEPTIONIST AND THERAPISTS

Required for Phuket Spa. Receptionist must have good English skills. Tel: 085-567-8929. Fax: 076-282703. Email: natali1800@hotmail.com

## BLACK AND WHITE

Restaurant in Kathu is expanding. Patong staff wanted. Contact Nat. Tel: 086-9432976.

## 12 SALESPeople REQUIRED

Home-based Phuket marketing: www.skyumtravelimages.com. 15% commission. Native-speaking salespeople from each of the following countries: USA, UK, Australia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Russia, Thailand, China, Japan. Send CV to bwskyum@mail.dk

## LEE MARINE

*International Marine Brokerage*

Thailand's Leading Marine Brokerage and New Yacht Dealership has a vacancy in its Boat Lagoon office. Be a part of our dedicated team. Position available immediately.

### Accountant (2 positions)

#### Qualifications:

- ▶ Thai national, male or female
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Accounting (preferred)
- ▶ Proficient in QuickBooks programme
- ▶ Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English

We offer attractive salary and fringe benefits. Please submit a resume stating educational background, work experience, expected salary, contact telephone number and a recent photograph to oah@leemarine.net. For more information, please call 076-238 803

## SECURITY SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

We need a foreigner with security-systems technician knowledge. Ability to speak Thai would be an advantage. Must be flexible. We also need two Thai salespersons who can speak fluent English. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-8440008. Fax: 084-203426. Email: wit@phuketsecurity.com For further details, please visit our website: www.phuketsecurity.com

## SECRETARY TO MANAGER

Kajonkietsuksa school requires a secretary to the School Manager. Female, Thai national with strong, friendly communication skills, computer literacy and good spoken and written English. Salary: 12,000-15,000 baht. Email: manager@kajonkietsuksa.ac.th

## PROOFREADER & COPYWRITER

Looking for a native English speaker to proofread and write articles for publication. Email: mueller.1971@gmail.com

## NURSERY SCHOOL

Requires teacher. 45-hour work week. Must love children and have good English. Children ages 18 months to 3 years. Chalong. 12,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 080-6247060.

### LIVE-IN NANNY

Wanted: live-in nanny for 2 children aged 4 and 11. Must speak English and have experience, age 25-45. Own room with private bathroom provided. For more information or to apply call Gala at Tel: 083-3955336.

## amanpuri

Amanresorts' flagship property, recently voted the World's Best Hotel by Virtuoso, is currently recruiting highly-motivated and service-minded individuals for permanent and casual positions. A host of excellent benefits are guaranteed for permanent employees, including a generous service charge.

### MANAGEMENT POSITION:

#### RESTAURANT MANAGER

We are seeking a strong young individual with a passion for people and service. Must be fluent in English, friendly, outgoing with exceptional communication skills and an eye for details.

The candidate must have the ability to provide the finest guest dining experience in F&B outlets while leading a highly motivated and guest-service focused team. 6 years' work experience in F&B Department in 5-star international hotel with at least 2 years' fine dining restaurant leadership experience is required. Previous experience in Japanese restaurant is preferable.

### OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE ARE:

- MALE GUEST SERVICES AGENT
- VILLA HOUSEKEEPER
- VILLA THAI CHEF
- SPA SUPERVISOR
- SPA THERAPIST / SPA ATTENDANT
- GYM RECEPTIONIST
- WAITER / WAITRESS / BEACH BOY
- COOK / COOK HELPER / STEWARD
- AMANCUISES CAPTAIN
- VILLA MAID ASSISTANT
- ITALIAN RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR
- BAR SUPERVISOR
- HOUSEKEEPING UNIFORM & FLORIST ATTENDANT
- LINEN FOLDER
- PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
- ROOM MAID / ROOM BOY
- BELLMAN / LIMOUSINE DRIVER
- COOK HELPER CANTEN
- CRUISES BEACH BOY

Please send your resumé with a recent photo, or apply in person to the personnel department

118/1 Moo 3 Soi Pansea, Srisoonthorn Road, Tambon Chermglalay, Talang, Phuket, Thailand 83110  
Phone: 66(0)76-324333 (731) Fax: 66(0) 76-324100  
E-mail address: recruitment@amanpuri.th.com  
Web: www.amanresorts.com



## HOLIDAY VILLAGES (THAILAND)

Club Med.  
We are currently seeking a Security Co-ordinator (1 position).  
- Male, Thai national  
- Salary commensurate with experience  
- Good English communication skills  
Tel: 076-330456-9 ext 304.  
Fax: 076-284154. Please send CV, recent photo and references by email to: phucrehu01@clubmed.com

## STAFF REQUIRED

Therapist required for spa at small boutique hotel in Kalim, Patong. Tel: 081-8920038.

## RECEPTIONIST, KATA

Hotel requires a female Thai receptionist. Must be reliable and speak English. Tel: 089-4073698.

## SALESPERSON

Real Estate, Phuket branch requires dynamic salespersons aged 30-40. Thai nationals, 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

## ADMIN: ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

Female, Thai national, English (spoken and written), assistant to accountant, good with 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

## DANISH-THAI RESTAURANT

in Patong requires staff: Chef, kitchen helpers, waitresses and bartender wanted. Working hours: 6 pm-2 am. 60/6-7 Aroonsom Square. Tel: 076-290452.

## SEEKING TOUR LEADER

for daytrip boat and live-aboard with good experience from Phuket, Similan and Burma dive sites. Please send CV and picture. Email: dive@chalongseasport.com

## LOCAL AGENTS REQUIRED

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: thailand@me.com

Looking for a job? Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at

[www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)



# Island Job Mart

## G4S Security Services (Thailand) Ltd



A Thai national is required for the position of **Security Project Manager**. Manned guarding experience is a must. The successful applicant must be computer literate, and able to read, write and speak English.

Please e-mail your CV to [chris.benn@th.g4s.com](mailto:chris.benn@th.g4s.com) with a covering letter. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for an interview.

## Asia Marine is recruiting for an Insurance & Admin Executive.

- Female
- Thai national
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Previous experience in this field a plus

Please send your resumé with cover letter in English to [insurance@asia-marine.net](mailto:insurance@asia-marine.net)

## Staff Required

- 1 x Chef/Hostess
- 1 x Hostess

A luxury motor yacht charter company is looking for 2 English-speaking Thai national staff to fill the above positions.

A background in five-star service is essential as is a fun personality.

Please contact [prue@tawancruises.com](mailto:prue@tawancruises.com) for further information.

## KHA - SOUS CHEF

A chic, modern Thai restaurant in the heart of Singapore's new Hort Park – recently voted "Best New Restaurant – Singapore 2008" by *Time Out* magazine is seeking a SOUS CHEF to join its dynamic team.

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 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](mailto:recruit@epicure.sg)

Closing date for applications is October 8, 2008.

KHA is part of the Epicure group of restaurants. [www.epicure.sg](http://www.epicure.sg)

For further details, please visit our website at [www.kha.sg](http://www.kha.sg)

## SEEKING STAFF

New staff needed for great Chalong restaurant. Good salary, great fun. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-4760380. Email: [jeff@phuket-rentals.com](mailto:jeff@phuket-rentals.com) [www.salamexicali.com](http://www.salamexicali.com)

## TELE-SALES JOBS

Full training given. Must speak excellent English. Good salary, commission and career prospects. Work from home. Email: [georgina.brian@hotmail.com](mailto:georgina.brian@hotmail.com)

## HARRYS, KARON BEACH



### Staff wanted.

We need your application before October 30.

Harrys Karon is now preparing for the upcoming high season. This is a great opportunity to be a member of a happy and hard-working team.

We are now looking to fill the following positions:

- 2 Chefs (European food).
- 2 Chefs' assistants (Thai food).
- 4 Waiters / waitresses
- 2 Bartenders

Good English skills are necessary for all positions, except Chefs' assistants. Only Thai nationals need apply.

Please call Khun Henrik at 089-0088146.

Please visit our website: [www.harrys.se/karon](http://www.harrys.se/karon)

Harrys is one of the biggest and most successful restaurant franchises in Sweden. Besides the 2 restaurants in Phuket, there are 34 Harrys in Sweden and 1 in Norway. The original venue, located at Radhustorget in Falkenberg, first opened in 1993.

## SALES EXECUTIVE & MARKETING

- Good command of English
- 2 years' experience in property
- Enthusiastic
- Team player
- Creative

Tel: 076-273466. Email: [tan@phuketpropertytrip.com](mailto:tan@phuketpropertytrip.com). For more details please visit our website at [www.phuketpropertytrip.com](http://www.phuketpropertytrip.com)

## BEAUTY SALON STAFF

wanted. Good salary, accommodation, commission, negotiable. Contact Khun Dee for more information at Tel: 086-9488593.



The Village Coconut Island is now recruiting for the following position:

## Construction Quality Control Assistant Inspector

### Job Requirements:

- Thai national
- At least 25 years old
- Experience in construction essential, specifically quality control or finishing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good knowledge of MS Office
- An "eye for detail"
- Hard working and flexible approach to work

### Job Description:

- Daily inspection of all stages of the construction process
- Identifying defects of all finishing work within luxury pool villas
- Reporting all defects to the construction team
- Monitoring defect schedules

CV to [phorn@thevillage-coconutisland.com](mailto:phorn@thevillage-coconutisland.com)

Tel: 081 968 6912

## The Village Coconut Island

51/7 Moo 6, Tambon Koh Kaew, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83200  
[www.thevillage-coconutisland.com](http://www.thevillage-coconutisland.com)



A 4-star tropical resort on Phi Phi Island, Krabi, Thailand, seeks qualified candidates for the following positions:

1. HR & Training Manager (based in Phuket)
2. F&B Director (Non-Thai)
3. Activity Manager (Non-Thai)
4. Executive Housekeeper
5. Personal Assistant to Senior Deputy Managing Director (based in Phuket)

### Requirements:

1. Minimum 2-3 years' experience in the position applied for.
2. Team leader; creative; good negotiation, problem-solving and analytical skills.
3. Good command of English & computer literate.
4. Positions 2 & 3: any nationals with experience in Thailand and understand basic Thai language preferred.
5. Positions 2-4: willing to work on Phi Phi Island.

Please send a letter of application and updated resumé, references, expected salary and a recent photo to: **HR Department**

89 Satoon Rd, Talad Neua, Muang, Phuket 83000  
Email: [hr@ppisland.com](mailto:hr@ppisland.com)  
[www.ppisland.com](http://www.ppisland.com)

## GARDENER

and handyman for private house in Rawai. Experience required in gardening. Look after ponds, painting and general house maintenance. Need Thai with basic English. Driving license a plus. Call Gretta. Tel: 085-7833494. Email: [gretta\\_returns@gmail.com](mailto:gretta_returns@gmail.com)

## EXPERIENCED WRITER

Writer needed to assist me, part-time, writing articles for publication. I live in the Chalong area. Email for details. Email: [ltresneg@aol.com](mailto:ltresneg@aol.com)

## WEBMASTER WANTED

Expert webmaster familiar with VPS, Control Panel, etc, wanted. Work from home. Email your rates to: [thailove@me.com](mailto:thailove@me.com)

## Employment Wanted

## BUILDING MANAGER

On-site supervisor, 15 years' experience, 2 years in Thailand. English, 44, experience with Thai and Burmese. Honest, reliable. Just finished project in Kata. Min wage: 60,000 baht/month. William. Tel: 083-1750485.

## GERMAN CHEF AVAILABLE

Looking for a job, all types of cuisine. Please contact for more information at Tel: 083-3917422. Email: [danilo077@yahoo.de](mailto:danilo077@yahoo.de)

## HOUSE WORK

I am going back to the UK. I wish I could take my housekeeper with me. She is a fantastic worker, speaks reasonable English, very punctual and honest, great with children. Will work in Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Laeye "Peang" has all her papers. Her contact is Tel: 089-0099768.



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### LEAVING THAILAND

Red and white leather beanbag: 800 baht. Karana tent, sleeps 5: 1,000 baht. Karana Tent, sleeps 3: 500 baht. Tel: 084-8577706. Email: shertin@gmail.com

### NINTENDO WII

Almost brand new Nintendo Wii, with extra remotes. Also Guitar Hero III. Both still in boxes. For sale due to country relocation. Please send email for complete details. Email: yantyhong@yahoo.com

### THE FIRST YEARS

Imported quality Quinny three wheel baby/toddler stroller with Maxi-Cosi car seat < 13kg: 10,000 baht. Good quality traditional dark wood crib with pads and mattress: 7,500 baht. Or everything: 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-7879454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

### SIZE 41 WOMENS' SHOES, HOT!

I bought these on Ebay and they are too big for me. Turquoise leather, open-toe cork wedges, from the UK. Very unique and great condition. Email for photos. 650 baht. Email: sylvie@andamanavenue.com

### STEREO HI-FI (TEAC)

Combination record player (33 1/3 and 45 rpm), double-deck tape player/recorder & AM/FM radio. Twin speakers. Includes new spare stylus, plus about 20 LP records. All for 2,500 baht. Tel: 089-5944236. Email: franksoper@yahoo.com

### DRAFTING EQUIPMENT (UNUSED)

Leroy 13-piece lettering set. 450mm. Brass rolling parallel rule. Rotring bow compass w/ ext. Rotr drop comp. Faber drop comp. 14 Rotr Rapidograph Pens. 4 tri scales. Set sqs, French cvs, etc. Cost 22,000 baht. Selling for 7,500 baht. Tel: 089-5944236. Email: franksoper@yahoo.com

### GYM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Call Gerry on Tel: 086-120-3660. Or Email chilligarden@hotmail.com

### BIG DOGHOUSE

Size: 2mx1.5m. 12,000 baht. Small doghouse, 1mx1m, for sale at 2,000 baht. Tel: 080-5334044.

### AUDIO & VIDEO EQUIPMENT

- Cambridge Audio amplifier: 4,000 baht
- Celestion speakers: 3,000 baht
- High-spec InFocus projector: 10,000 baht

...and much more audio, video and computing equipment. All nearly new and all prices negotiable.

Tel: 083-1998142. Email: peter\_curtis@hotmail.com

### 12,000 BTU CARRIER PORTABLE

12,000 BTU Carrier portable aircon with ventilation tubes to hook up to a window. 3 years old. Needs 6,000 baht in repairs. Cost 23,000 at Power Buy. Any offer considered. Tel: 081-0771006 or just email me at jeremy@jpwdesigns.com

## Bulletins

### 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.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Mission Hospital  
Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 pm  
Bangkok Hospital Phuket  
Phuket City  
Fri 7 pm  
Patong Hospital Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
Chalong Health  
Clinic-near Chalong Circle  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English)  
call 081-9564031,  
081-8912895  
Scandinavian speaking Group  
Wat Karon School-Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)  
087-2795636 (Nor)  
086-7458910 (Swe)  
For info on other Thailand  
AA meetings inquire  
at Tel: 02-2318300  
(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or  
email info@aathailand.org  
phuketaa@yahoo.com

### SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 Email: carol.fryer@piwv.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwv.info).

## Business Opportunities

### RESTAURANT CLUB

Must Sell! Under renovation 500 sqm Club 100%. Restaurant 60%. 80 metres from beach. All offers considered. New 12-year lease. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

for sale in Paradise. 30-room restaurant. 25 million baht. Mail: docucolumns@hotmail.com

### BEER BAR

Bar at Soi Sukumvit in Patong. 400,000 baht, 10,000 baht/month. 2 years, 4 months left on lease. Pool table and all equipment included. Telephone: 087-1133043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

### NICE CLOTHING SHOP

Best location in town, ready for products, 90% furnished. Tourist traffic. 550,000 baht. Tel: 089-7333318.

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE, 5 ROOMS + 1

No Key Money, 600,000 baht per year. Lease includes rental + 200,000 baht deposit. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-1731773. Email: seanthepilot@hotmail.com

### STOP BAR FOR RENT/SALE

Newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most beautiful bar in Patong.

- 2 units.
  - Top location near Soi Bangla.
  - 12 small rooms.
  - Top audio/video equipment (Bose, Behringer etc).
  - Running as a go-go or open bar is possible.
- Fully equipped. Contact for information. Tel: 084-8483495 (K.Osi in German), 089-5903968 (K.Holger in English). Email: stop-bar@holgervolp.com Photos at www.holgervolp.com

### HOTEL FOR SALE, PATONG BEACH

Bromma Guesthouse. 22 rooms in 800 sqm building. 400 sqm of freehold land. For sale by owner direct at 45 million baht. Tel: 089-2909567. Fax + 46-8-380492. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se

For further details, please see our website at <http://www.brommathaihouse.com>

### ESTABLISHED BAR

in busy Soi Bangla. Strong customer base. 1.95 million baht. Tel: 086-9433056.

### OCEAN VIEW PATONG

Bar/restaurant and 6-room guesthouse for 8.5-year lease. Remarkable ocean views, 3.5 million ono. Contact Lucas. Tel: 089-6483093.

### 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.

### INTERNET, RENTAL CYCLE, GAMES

Internet cafe, coffee shop, computer games, bicycle rental shop. Low rent. Steady income. Tel: 086-2771046. Email: jvfcoltd@aol.com

### RESTAURANT CLUB

500sqm, 12-year lease. Recently renovated. Great location: 80m from the beach. Must sell. All offers considered. Tel: 081-5350202. Email: info@thaijobseeker.com

### RESTAURANT

Well-established restaurant and bar. Live entertainment venue in premium Patong location. For sale at 14 million baht. Genuine buyers only. Tel: 083-1736521, 084-0782753.

### LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-5399269. Please see our website: [www.jan-property.com](http://www.jan-property.com)

### GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

6 well-appointed guest rooms, busy bar/coffee shop, 5 bikes. 5-year lease. Turnkey business. Tel: 084-8424850.

### KATA BAR



for sale. Perfect location, good profit, seats 35. Priced for quick sale: 550,000 baht. Tel: 087-2815795.

## Business Products & Services

**INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN DRIVERS LICENSE**

- < 5,500 baht, valid up to 10 years
- < 6,500 baht, valid up to 20 years
- < 100% legal
- < Sole agent in Thailand Internationally recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suan Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Phuket. Tel: 084-0068736 Fax: 076-209058. Email: [iaa@intllicense.com](mailto:iaa@intllicense.com) [www.intllicense.com](http://www.intllicense.com)

**SUNLEY KIDZ**

A SUNLEY KID is a happy kid  
[www.sunley-kids.com](http://www.sunley-kids.com)  
076-381522

- English nursery school with qualified English teachers
- Baby center from 12 months up
- Kindergarten and preschool for children between the ages of 3 and 6 years old
- Enrolling now for Grade 1 (P1).
- Full-day and half-day program available.
- Free transport within Land and Weave Park complex

interior decorator  
architectural designer  
budgeting  
sourcing ..... fabrics  
fittings & accessories  
for your home & property  
around Thailand from  
spectacular hidden sources.

**zhu naumann**  
[www.zhunaumann.com](http://www.zhunaumann.com)  
t> 089 448 3639  
[zhu@junkseilon.com](mailto:zhu@junkseilon.com)

### WEB DESIGN, ONLINE BOOKING

Logos, business cards, brochures etc. Tel: 089-2350969. Email: [sales@lfr-asia.com](mailto:sales@lfr-asia.com) Websire: <http://www.lfr-asia.com/eng.html>

### A&D LEGAL AND ACCOUNTING

Work permit, visas 6,999 baht. Company set up 15,999 baht. Accounting 2,000 baht. All other legal matters. Tel: 087-8881761.

### ACCOUNTING SERVICE

Monthly and annual accounts, tax, VAT, payroll, accounting system. Reliable, efficient, economical. Contact Khun Mam for details. Tel: 086-4705809.

### BUDS PRESCHOOL / NURSERY

High-quality structured bi-lingual child care, native English teachers to teach ages 1 1/2 - 6 years. Mon-Fri 8am-3pm. Transportation available from Patong, Karon, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-282232, 080-6247060. Website: [www.buds-phuket.com](http://www.buds-phuket.com)

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

<b>Julapan Stationery</b> Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)	Tel: 076-282254
<b>Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe</b> Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd	Tel: 076-282403
<b>K.L. Mart</b> Patak Rd, Chalong	Tel: 076-280400/3 Fax: 076-280403
<b>Earth Language School</b> Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-232398/9 Fax: 076-232398
<b>Sin &amp; Lee</b> Thalang Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-258369 Fax: 076-211230
<b>Taurus Travel</b> Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-344521/2 Fax: 076-344523
<b>41 Minimart</b> Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay	Tel/Fax: 076-324312
<b>Deli Supermarket</b> Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-342275 Fax: 076-344314
<b>Property Information Center [PIC]</b> 2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)	



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## VISA INFORMATION

Service for any kind of Thai visa. We help, always. Call Peter at 081-676 7512. Email: sgoldy2@yahoo.com

## WEDDING SERVICE

Choose your preferred type of wedding style. Thai, Western religious or non religious. We can help you... in Phuket. Email: wdng.ph@gmail.com

## JEAB JUMPING CASTLES

8 models. For children's parties. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-893 9742. Website: www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

## SURF SHOP NAUTILUS

Kata. Sell or rent surf, skim and boogieboards. Tel: 089-8749147. Website: www.phuket surfing.com

## PHUKET CITY TOUR

Tour around the island in one day, according to your wishes. From 9am to 3pm, by car or minibus. Other taxi services available. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 087-6899679, 087-2709093.

Email: allservices29@gmail.com

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

print work, web design, multimedia. Good rates. Tel: 081-0850301. Email: sales@purple-panda.net

# S I A M L E G A L

- 1-year Thai visa.
- Retirement visa.
- UK & US visas.
- Work permit.
- Company registration.
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## Personals

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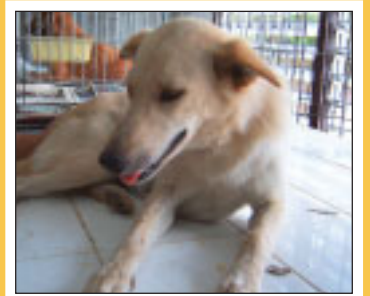
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### NEW CIVIC



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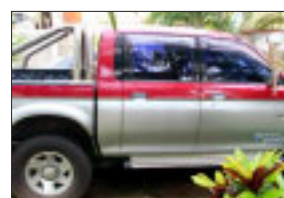


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