

Phuket Gazette

Volume 15 Issue 45

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

November 8 - 14, 2008

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

INSIDE



NEW! DIY DAVE

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Sea Gypsies fight eviction threat

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET CITY: On Tuesday November 4, some 300 members of the Rawai Sea Gypsy Community staged a protest, starting at Phuket Provincial Court, in an attempt to continue living on a disputed 12-rai tract of seaside land they say was first settled by their ancestors more than 100 years ago.

The land in question, in Rawai Village, is currently home to over 110 Sea Gypsy families, and is part of a larger 29-rai plot which the entire Rawai Sea Gypsy community calls home.

The court had been petitioned by the inheritor of the chanote title deed for the land to issue an eviction order for Kwanjit Bangjak and Aroon



Protesting Sea Gypsies on the march to meet the governor.

Khongthong, two of more than 1,000 Sea Gypsies now living on the 12-rai plot. In a show of solidarity and fearing they might be the next to get their marching or-

ders, some 300 other Rawai Sea Gypsies accompanied the pair when they went to acknowledge the court case with their lawyer. At the court, they handed over a

petition claiming that the land was rightfully theirs and requesting to continue living on it.

From the courthouse, they marched some 200 meters to Phuket Provincial Hall, carrying a banner that read "Phuket Community Network". Once there, Sea Gypsy Community leaders, including Supat Nunkhao, met with the new Governor, Preecha Ruangjan.

Governor Preecha listened to their plight and told them he was familiar with the community, but had only driven past it.

He said he would visit the site soon and do his best to work out an equitable solution to the problem.

Sea Gypsy Niran Yangpan, who contacted the *Gazette*, said he suspected that the chanote holder eventually wanted to evict all the Sea Gypsies so that a resort or other tourist business could be built there.

Police to seek arrest warrant following fatal bus crash

Salaeng driver blamed for highway tragedy

MAI KHAO: Police are set to issue an arrest warrant for the driver of the *salaeng* (motorcycle with side-car attached) that caused the bus crash on the night of Sunday November 2 in Mai Khao Village.

Having already questioned four eye-witnesses as well as the victims of the accident, police are convinced that the *salaeng* was primarily to blame for the accident that occurred when a fully-loaded bus, heading for Satun, overturned and crashed at about

9 pm on Sunday, killing two people and injuring over thirty.

Eyewitnesses at the scene told police that the bus was heading north on the outbound lane of Thepkassatri Road when the *salaeng* approached, driving against the flow of traffic.

The bus driver was forced to swerve to avoid colliding with the oncoming vehicle, but subsequently lost control, careering off the road and crashing into an electric pole on the median strip.

"Police know the identity of

the *salaeng* driver on this road at the time that the accident occurred.

We will ask the court for an arrest warrant once the investigation is complete", said Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen.

Sakchai added that the police also planned to bring charges against the bus driver.

Eyewitness reports suggested that the bus driver, Watchara Wangklaew, had been driving well in excess of the legal speed

limit at the time of the accident.

The two passengers of the bus who died in the accident were later named as Saowitree Klongyuan, a 23 year-old woman from Krabi, and Ampa Kanom, 29, from Nong-Kai. Police also confirmed that only one passenger remains in hospital, with a broken leg. All the others have already been discharged.

It is illegal to drive in the wrong direction on Thai roads, but the law is rarely enforced.

Source: NBT



Loi Kratong Festival

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Community members display hand-made products at Nai Harn Beach as part of a 5-day training session on economic self-sustainability.

Community training a big hit in Nai Harn

RAWAI: The Austrian-Phuket Community Center, in association with the Phuket Provincial Office, held a five-day training session late last month to help people from east coast communities develop local products and services to achieve economic self-sustainability.

The training, held from October 25 to 29, was hosted by the All Seasons Naiharn Phuket resort at Nai Harn Beach.

The hotel's management staff gave talks on a variety of community development strategies on topics including product development, marketing and advertising. Guest speakers included Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development Director Promchote Traivate.

A total of 66 people from 17 communities attended the training. They came from Rawai (50 participants), Pa Khlock (10) and Rassada (6).

The Austrian-Phuket Community Center, established on Koh Sireh after the 2004 tsunami by international humanitarian aid organization Hilfswerk Austria, has remained active in a number of community development programs on the island since the disaster.

Local manager Kamaewalai Teerasuwannachak opened the training, which ended with a closing ceremony presided over by Phuket Vice Governor Worapot Ratthasima.

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Box jellyfish discovered off Phi Phi

PHUKET: The Marine and Coastal Resources Department has warned of box jellyfish attacks after the highly poisonous species was found off Koh Phi Phi in Krabi province.

The box jellyfish is not common in Thai waters but the recent discovery of the species off Phuket's East coast and some beaches in Krabi and PhiPhi has sparked fears for tourists' safety and a possible impact on the tourism industry.

So far, two deaths in Thailand have been attributed to the jellyfish. The first was in 2002 on Koh Phangan in Surat Thani province and the latest in April at Koh Lanta in Krabi.

Earlier this year, the son of an Australian journalist was stung while swimming off Koh Mak in Trat. The jellyfish has most recently been spotted at Loh Sama bay on Koh Phi Phi.

Box jellyfish are known for their powerful venom, which has caused at least 5,567 recorded deaths since 1954. The Phuket Marine Biological Center, has circulated letters to all coastal provinces, urging authorities to set up signs warning of the presence of box jellyfish in swimming areas.

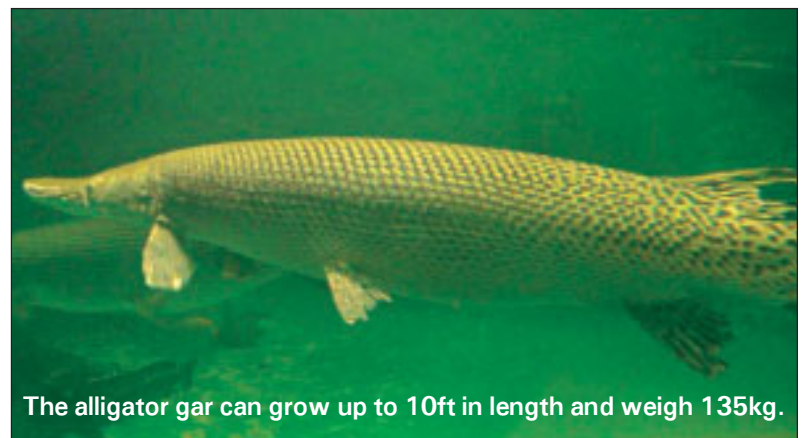
Vinegar is the best solution to reduce the pain from a jellyfish sting before the victim is sent to hospital.

Nakok agog over strange fish

CHALONG: Residents of Ban Nakok in Chalong Village 5 were taken by surprise last Thursday afternoon, when a local fisherman caught a large fish in a local pond quite unlike anything ever seen in the area before. The creature had a mouth and sharp teeth like a crocodile, two sets of strange flippers and scales described as "like those of a cobra".

A local Thai-language newspaper reported that the strange catch was made by 38-year-old Nareupol Sanguan-naam, who spotted the large fish while angling for much smaller *plaa chon* (snake-head fish), a species commonly found in the many tin mining ponds on the island.

Mr Nareupol quickly returned home to get bait and tackle large enough to catch the fish, which had round black eyes, a white underbelly and weighed in at a hefty 25 kilograms. The caught fish was carefully moved



The alligator gar can grow up to 10ft in length and weigh 135kg.

to a water well in the area and the local Fisheries Department office were called in to try and determine what kind of fish it actually was.

The fish was taken to the Fisheries Department office, where it was later identified as an alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*). Native to the southeastern United States, the fish can reach lengths of up to 10 feet long and weigh up to 135 kilograms.

Adapted to brackish, low-oxygen environments, it can breath air and can survive up to two hours out of water. Although an aggressive carnivore, attacks on humans are extremely rare.

The fish was later returned to its original owner, a resident of the Chao Fa Thani housing estate identified as Mr Jamrieng, who said he was raising the fish at home but that it accidentally escaped into the tin mine.

Police catch serial cat burglar red handed in Kathu house

TUNG TONG: A serial cat burglar is behind bars thanks to some good detective work by the Tung Tong Police, the state-run Andaman News service has reported.

The thief, identified as 33-

year-old Sanchai Choophol, was arrested on Saturday night in front of a house in Kathu. Police said Sanchai acted suspiciously after being seen by officers, first going into the house and later emerging to flee on a motorcycle.

After his capture, the native of Phang Nga's Thai Muang District confessed that he broken into the house, using a knife to cut through a mosquito screen.

He also admitted to having committed several thefts in Chalong, Patong, Kamala and Chermg Talay, using the stolen money to gamble on football matches.

Sanchai was previously jailed for two-and-a-half years on theft charges in Nonthaburi. Upon his release in 2006, he moved to Phuket and resumed his career of crime.

At a press conference on Monday morning, he was presented to the media along with numerous stolen items that were recovered. They included computers, motorcycles, gold rings, watches and some cash.

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Hearing investigates land encroachment crimes in Phuket



Locals voice their concerns at the hearing at Royal Phuket City hotel.

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

PHUKET CITY: The Justice Ministry's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) arranged a public hearing on Monday to listen to views and suggestions from local community members in Phuket who are affected by natural resources exploitation or encroachment, the state-run Andaman News service reported on the NBT network.

During the open session, held at the Royal Phuket City hotel on November 3, villagers filed complaints about many development projects with DSI Director General Thavee Sodsong.

Among them was the proposed Monkey Island project on two islands in Chalong Bay. Opponents of the project argued that the primates could spread disease among themselves and possibly to humans.

They also noted that both islands are listed as crown land designated for public fishing use under the Fisheries Act of 1947. As such, the project would infringe upon their constitutional rights, they said.

Rawai residents voiced their concerns over a plan for private investors to build a 74-room hotel off Soi Ruamjai at Bang Kontee Beach in Rawai Village.

The hotel would restrict public access to the beach and reserve public land for exclusive use by hotel guests. Such a move would deny local residents access to the beachfront, which would impinge upon their livelihoods as

fishermen, they said.

The DSI were also reminded of the case of a long-contested 21-rai plot of alleged mangrove deforestation in tambon Rassada Village.

A chanote title deed for part of the land was issued to a national high-ranking civil servant in 1984. The land was then passed on by his inheritors, who began to develop it, until local residents objected.

In April this year, Monthon "Palad Rambo" Chartsuwan filed a police complaint at the Phuket City Police Station, charging Land Department Director Chairerk Dissaya-amnaji for dereliction of duty in failing to revoke the chanote deed, which he claimed was illegally issued.

Residents of Pa Khlok also complained of mangrove forest encroachment near the Home for the Elderly.

After listening to all the locals' problems and concerns, Pol Col Thavee Sodsong said most of the cases involved encroachment on public land.

Such cases are sometimes difficult for local police, so the DSI would step in by coordinating efforts with relevant agencies and collecting evidence, he said.

The day before the hearing, the DSI team went on a boat tour of coastal areas, including Ao Por, Cape Yamu Koh Raed and Koh Sireh, where permission has been sought to build a marina.

Some developers had encroached upon government land in some of these areas, he said.

PHUKET: Royal Phuket Marina developer Gulu Lalvani was awarded the title "Real Estate Personality of the Year" in the annual Thailand Property Awards at the Conrad hotel in Bangkok last weekend.

Mr Lalvani was recognized for founding Thailand's most exclusive luxury lifestyle yachting community and "turning Phuket into a world-class yachting destination and magnet for celebrities and the rich and famous".

The Hong Kong and London based tycoon embarked on the marina project on Phuket's eastern seaboard overlooking Phang Na Bay on retiring from his company Binatone, the world's second largest manufacturer of digital cordless phones, which he co-founded in 1958.

Mr Lalvani then set about creating his vision to construct Thailand's first world-class luxury lifestyle community, rivaling top marina resorts in Europe and the Caribbean.

He also envisaged Phuket becoming a world class yachting hub in one of the world's most stunning locations.

Royal Phuket Marina's first phase of luxury condos, apartments and penthouses was a sell-out success.

The venue has also developed into a vibrant entertainment and lifestyle center with open air restaurants and bars overlooking mega-yachts moored in the Mediterranean-style marina.

Facilities include a world-class health club, flood-lit tennis courts and a French-owned day spa.

The soon-to-be-opened 2,500 sqm Waterfront International Exhibition Center at the Royal Phuket Marina constitutes Phuket's largest single space and will pave the way for a new era of large-scale conferences and expos as well as being the ideal venue for weddings and functions.

As the development of villas and innovative apartments continues, along with plans for a 5-star boutique hotel, Mr Lalvani was hailed at the awards on November 1 for "raising the profile of Thailand's luxury real estate".

The Real Estate Personality of the Year award is for individuals making "a significant contribution to Thailand's property industry".

Mr Lalvani was described as "an individual whose success

Tycoon wins Real Estate Personality of the Year



Gulu Lalvani (right) is congratulated by Duncan Worthington of Thailand Property Report.

in business is matched by his strength of character; someone who mixes charm and sophistication with a good measure of glamor and flamboyance; a relative newcomer to the industry, yet a person whose experience in business is beyond reproach."

Mr Lalvani said he was committed to promoting the island paradise of Phuket as one of the world's premier tourist destinations, as well as somewhere to own a holiday or retirement home and live like a king at a fraction of the cost of Europe or the United States.

"Phuket also has the potential to become a leading international venue for conventions and exhibitions. We are continuing to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the Phuket community in every possible way we can," he added.

Visitors to Phuket exceeded a record five million in 2007, an increase of 11.25 per cent on the previous year.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects growth of another 20 per cent in 2008 as the number of flights to Phuket reaches 120 per day.

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TDA to launch 'Marine Scouts' project

Thai Dive Association Technical Committee CEO/President Rainer Gottwald is a very busy man. Recently back from a trip to Libya, where he met with that country's leader Muammar al-Gaddafi to discuss ways of improving Libya's dive tourism industry, he hit the ground running in Phuket, where he's working on several TDA projects.

The projects include the sinking of the Coral Reef Squadron in Bangtao Bay later this month and organizing for Phuket's hosting of a major "monofins" swim-racing competition next year.

Here, he tells *Gazette* News Editor Stephen Fein about the TDA's "Marine Scouts" project.

At its most basic, the TDA Marine Scout Project is intended to help Thai youngsters gain a better understanding and appreciation of marine ecology so that in the future they will be good stewards of the country's marine and coastal resources.

Although ultimately intended for use at schools in coastal regions throughout the country, the pilot project will soon kick off in Phuket and then move to schools in neighboring provinces Phang Nga and Krabi.

Mr Gottwald explained that the project actually follows on the success of a venture on Koh Lanta in Krabi back in 2006, when the TDA teamed up with the German-based SharkProtect

project (SharkProtect.Com) to teach kids there about the vital role sharks play in marine ecosystems.

To accomplish this, they translated into the Thai language the script from the documentary film *The Language of the Sharks* by researcher Dr Erich Ritter, who has pioneered ways of teaching people to avoid shark bites by better understanding shark behavior. Then, with the film-maker's permission, the TDA pressed 3,000 DVDs and distributed them to schools and universities.

In explaining the Marine Scout project and how it is able to integrate international research and multi-media resources to accomplish its goals locally, Mr

Gottwald started off by saying that the TDA, as a member of the World Underwater Federation (CMAS), is far more than just an association of dive industry operators in Thailand.

"I think you misunderstand a little bit about TDA. It's not only about diving. The World Underwater Federation [The Confederation Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques, or CMAS for short] was established in 1959 under Commander Jacques Cousteau. It was built under the umbrella of scientific, sports and technical committees.

"With its main office at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters in Rome, CMAS currently has 400 associations in 123 countries, all work-



TAKING THE PLUNGE: One of the goals of the Marine Scouts project is to get kids in coastal areas interested in what goes on beneath the water's surface.

ing together under one umbrella. All this international cooperation is getting better on a range of scientific, environmental and sports projects," he said.

After the TDA received funding for the first 10,000 handbooks for the Marine Scout program, well-known local diver Detlef "Franky" Hewer kindly donated 650,000 baht to cover the costs of printing 50,000 more handbooks.

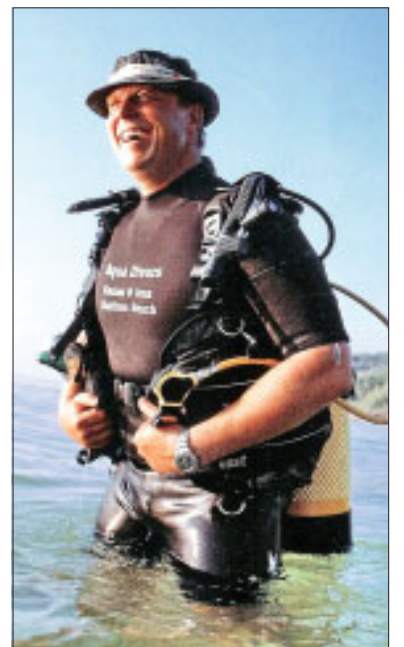
The new handbooks, which were in the final phases of production as this went to print, include a bilingual Thai-English section entitled: *Corals and Mangroves, All You Have to Know*.

This section was produced with cooperation from UK-based charity Reef World Foundation (Reef-World.Org) and the Bangkok-based United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which operates its well-known Greenfins Thailand project out of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) at Cape Panwa.

PMBC reef researcher Dr Nippon Phongsuwan negotiated with Reef World founder Anna Miller to obtain the rights to reprint the book, originally published five years ago by Reef World and UNEP, Mr Gottwald explained.

So how did the idea for Marine Scouts all get started?

"The idea for this project came from Rawat Chindapol, who is the brother of TDA President Ronnachai Chindaphol. He came up with the idea as he was thinking about how difficult it was to teach older people to better take care of the environment, such as by not eating sharks.



When he is not having lunch with Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi or working on one of the many TDA projects, Rainer Gottwald spends much of his time at Naithon Beach.

The name 'Marine Scouts' actually came from him," Mr Gottwald said.

The main project team will be Mr Gottwald, Dr Nippon and his PMBC associate Dr Hansa Changsang, Anna Miller and Ronnachai Chindaphol.

"Once the team was established we decided to move forward quickly with this project. Fortunately, the head of the TDA Sports Committee, Ajarn Wichan Aiyarak, also happens to be the former head of the Phang Nga Teacher's Association. He helped us introduce the project to the educational curriculum. We are making it a one-day course for

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children of all ages, but starting with the first year of the secondary school."

The children will get the booklet, which is in English and Thai, from the beginning of the course. It is called *TDA Marine Scout Handbook: All You Have to Know*.

The laminated booklet contains a complete listing of marina and coastal flora and fauna for both the Andaman Sea and the Gulf coasts, with information about mangroves ecosystems, food chains and environmental conservation.

It includes pictures and descriptions, everything that is necessary – but not too complicated. "The course is designed to be based around a half-day teaching lesson using a Powerpoint presentation in Thai. The presentation basically introduces the book. The material is designed so that teachers without a background in marine biology can still teach it effectively, simply by reading though the material slowly," he explained.

When the more academic first half-day of the project is completed, the students will then watch *Language of the Sharks*.

"It's a very attractive movie and very nice for the children to see after a half day of Powerpoint presentations. We have translated it into Thai. It's about a two-hour movie, covering the essential role that sharks play as the 'policemen' of the sea.

The movie is intended to change the scary image of the shark a little bit, after movies like *Jaws 1-3*, or whatever," he said.

According to the website at SharkProtect.Com, humans kill sharks 10 million times more often than sharks kill humans.

"After the movie they will take a short test together, and after that they will be certified as TDA Marine Scouts. They will go home with a nice certificate that they can put on the walls and be proud of. They can then take this small, laminated book with them as a reference source whenever they go to the beach, and get tips on how to clean up or take steps to protect the environment," he said.

"Being a TDA Marine Scout will be a precursor to becoming a



Detlef 'Franky' Hewer kindly donated 650,000 baht to cover the cost of printing 50,000 Marine Scout handbooks. The books are now in the final stages of production.

future TDA Snorkel Scout or TDA Swim Scout. These will be future programs in the schools, based on curriculum from universities in Germany that are now in translation," he said.

"We will also establish a Thailand-wide Marine Scout Day every January 3, which is the birthday of our president Mr Ronnachai," he said.

The *Gazette* also talked to Detlef "Franky" Hewer to ask why he chose to make such a sizable donation to this particular project.

He said he was always happy to provide financial assistance to support good projects.

As a member of the Lion's

Club Phuket Andaman Sea, he also supports the Phuket Sunshine Village project on Koh Sireh.

Established in 2004 after the tsunami, the project, run by ChildWatch Phuket, revolves around the desire to give children who are either orphaned or otherwise no longer able to live with their natural parents, a stable environment.

Mr Hewer feels that it's a shame that so many Thai kids now growing up in coastal regions know so little about the sea or coastal ecosystems. He sees the Marine Scouts project as a way to educate all these kids.

"We have to help all the kids here in Thailand. How many kids here in Thailand live right on the sea and yet still cannot even swim?" he asked rhetorically.

Mr Hewer said he hoped the program would teach the Thai kids to love the water, first by swimming and then later, possibly, as snorkelers or divers.

"But diving is very expensive, more than many people can afford," he noted.

"We would like to increase their knowledge about the sea progressively, and with time they will learn to love the sea and protect the marine environment," he said.

For more information about the many Thai Diving Association projects and activities, visit www.tda-cmas.org.


Name: TDA Marine Scouts Project.

Location: Universities and schools in Thai coastal regions.

Duration: one day.

Stated purpose: Promote conservation and protection of marine and coastal life in Thailand, and to establish and implement environmentally friendly guidelines.

Award: Booklet about the Thai Marine Environment. Also a Wall Certificate and Free TDA Membership.



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Missing person located

PHUKET: In last week's issue of the *Gazette* (page 6, November 1), we ran a missing person report sent to us by Tracey Shilling in Australia, who was unable to contact her 45-year-old brother Stephen, known to his friends as "Mr Bear".

The *Gazette* is pleased to report that Ms Shilling has since been in contact with her brother and that Mr Bear is safe and in good health.

SKAL announces charity dinner

SKAL Phuket has announced that it will hold its first annual charity gala dinner at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Phuket on November 22.

All profits from the event will be donated to the SKAL Phuket Children Fund, which supports the educational costs for tsunami affected and underprivileged children in Phuket and Phang Nga.

SKAL is a global travel and tourism organization with an exclusive membership made up of top executives in the travel and hospitality industry. SKAL International-Phuket and South Thailand comprises more than 60 members, who aim to promote global tourism and friendship.

The club's dinner meetings, usually held on the third Thursday of each month, offer members and Guests a venue for networking and discussion.

Most meetings feature a presentation by a notable speaker or member of the business community. For more information about the gala dinner or dates, times and venues of SKAL events visit www.skalphuket.org or contact Fredy R Muenger. Tel: 089-9734421.

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Queer News

Cobra cocktails and other roadside rat-ions

SUPHANBURI: The sight of roadside stalls selling seasonal fruit, diesel-flavored roast chicken or other comestibles is a common one on any road trip in Thailand. Along the roads of Suphanburi, however, the offerings are a bit more exotic, with cobras and field rats the current hits.

On October 27, Sala Phromphim, who owns five stalls selling the unusual delicacies along the Suphanburi-Bangbua-thong stretch of Highway 340, said that he has been running his operation for around 10 years.

Recently, the demand for snakes and rats has soared, he was happy to report.

The field rat meat sells for 80-90 baht per kilogram, while whole cobras fetch 500 to 600 baht each, depending on their size.

These prices are for fresh, live-caught animals, with the price tags significantly lower for prepared meat, Mr Sala said.

Among his customers, he

counted many regular locals, people just passing through, and a number of snake-meat enthusiasts who travelled a long way to buy at his stalls.

Folks in this last group usually demand live snakes and knew all about the best way to prepare them, he said.

Though he was happy for the extra business, Mr Sala said he was worried the increased interest in rat meat would put a strain on the local population of the rodents, which had already been hit hard by changes in local farming techniques.

Local farmer Phairat Wang-dee disagreed, however. He said he was glad to see the rats being caught and sold off because they breed fast, damage crops and can spread disease.

Contrary to popular belief, eating rats is not only for poor people, he said.

The price of rat meat is considerably higher than the price of pork, meaning that only wealthier locals could afford to

buy it.

Poorer folks had to catch the rats themselves if they wanted to dine on them, he lamented. But not everyone was so pleased with the new-found popularity of the exotic dishes. Dr Surin Prasithiran, from the Suphanburi Public Health Office, said that properly-cooked rat meat should pose no health risks.

Cobra consumption presented more of a problem, however.

The practice of drinking freshly-killed cobra blood could lead to parasitic infection and gastrointestinal disease, he said.

Assistant Professor Panthep Ratanakon, Director of the Centre for Wildlife Protection, added that not only did eating cobras pose a health risk, it was also illegal under the 1997 Wildlife Protection Act.

Trade in cobras is punishable with a prison sentence of up to four years and/or a fine of up to 40,000 baht for both seller and buyer, he said.

4-day Loy Krathong festivities planned for Rawai

RAWAI: Loy Krathong festivities dubbed "Rawai Sky Festival" organised by Rawai Municipality between November 9-13 will officially mark the beginning of the tourist high season and will help boost awareness among tourists of the area as a cultural destination, announced Rawai Mayor Mr Aroun Soroust last month.

Festivities will include parades, krathong design competitions and singing contests. Locals and visitors can also compete in "Miss Nai Harn" and "Miss Prang Chumpu" beauty contests to win cash prizes of up to 100,000 baht.

Popular Thai singers Jeap Banjapon and Cinderella will be performing mini concerts on the evenings of November 12 and 13 respectively. Miss



Photo: Robert pol-

Tiffani Universe 2008 contestants are also due to make appearances on November 13.

For more information contact Rawai Municipality. Tel: 076-613796-8.

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Authorities caring for the aged report growing numbers of complaints about paid nursing care given to elderly people, a rapidly growing sector straining already-strained health care resources.

Grievances include poor services, abuse and theft.

Speaking at an October 30 forum on government policy on how to establish a nursing care system for the elderly, Ubon Limsakul, deputy permanent secretary of the Social Development and Human Security Ministry, said some attendants have been giving sleeping pills to old people under their care, while others have stolen their patients' valuables.

Standards should be set for nursing homes and other nursing services for the elderly, as this business is set to grow in the future, she said.

She estimated that in the next few years, 15.3% of the country's population – about 10.77 million people – will be older than 60 years. With younger people leaving their home provinces for jobs in Bangkok, more elderly people will need paid services.

Dr Siriphan Sasat of the Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Nursing said that among Thailand's current elderly population, about 25% are too ill to live independently. The number of dependent elderly will reach 742,000 by 2020, she estimated.

Dr Siriphan also called for the establishment of a national-level committee to tackle problems relating to the care given to the elderly.

Dr Nonglak Pagaiya, an academic at the Human Resource for Health Research and Development Office, said there were now just 97,972 registered nurses in the country. Of them, less than 25% are taking care of the elderly.

Ultimate protest: A construction worker from Yasothorn immolated himself on the evening of October 28 after he was cheated out of his pay and couldn't give his parents money

Aged numbers rising as elderly care declines



SEXING UP SOUND SYSTEMS

Scantly-clad "coyote girls" dance along with the fun music to promote a 1-million-baht car stereo system, which in this case was installed on a bus on display at a recent exhibition at Bitec Bangna in Bangkok.

to hire hands to harvest rice on their farm.

Thawatchai Tothaiya, 30, set himself on fire in the middle of a street in Sawad Village of Lerng Noktha District. He succumbed to his burn wounds early the following morning at Ubon Ratchathani's Sappasithprasong Hospital, police said.

His brother-in-law Srisak Netwong, 42, told police that Thawatchai was a hardworking bachelor who used his free time from growing rice to do construction work in Suphan Buri.

War on TB: The World Health Organization (WHO) plans to give the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) 35.5 million baht to find the best way to control the spread of tuberculosis in the country, the ministry's permanent secretary, Dr Prat Boonyawongvirot, has announced.

Speaking at a conference on MoPH policies for 2009, he said the WHO wanted Thailand to conduct the study because recent reports estimated that the country had 57,236 TB patients, with 90,000 new cases per year.

As a country with a high number of TB patients, WHO believes that Thailand could find a way to control the disease and come up with guidelines for other

countries, he said.

The ministry is also planning to sanitize all 141 prisons nationwide after 18,000 inmates were found infected with TB. Conditions within prisons were terrible, with damp cells and filthy bedclothes, which made prisoners more susceptible to infections, he said.

Eggcellent news: Chicken eggs produced in Thailand are safe for consumption and no melamine contamination has been found in them, FDA secretary-general Dr Pipat Yingseri has announced.

After Chinese authorities detected melamine contamination in eggs in Hong Kong late last month, Thai FDA inspectors collected seven samples from three local companies. Results from the Medical Science Department found no melamine contamination.

Melamine is a toxic chemical used in the manufacture of plastics and fertilizers. It was previously detected in Chinese milk and dairy products. Milk powder containing melamine was responsible for the deaths of four infants in China, while another 54,000 have fallen ill.

In a bid to prevent adverse effects from melamine contami-

nation in food products, Thailand's FDA has issued regulations allowing no more than 1 milligram per kilogram of melamine in milk products, and no more than 2.5mg/kg in milk-based products.

So far, the FDA has collected 1,123 samples of milk and milk-based products to test for melamine. Of those, only seven have tested positive, 955 have tested negative, and 161 are still being tested.

Mr Pipat urged companies to act responsibly and obtain raw materials only from FDA-accredited suppliers.

If possible, mothers concerned about the safety of powdered infant-milk formulas should breastfeed their babies instead, he said.

Melamine fallout: With consumers in Thailand worried about the impact on health from tainted food products after the melamine contamination in China, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should set up an early warning system similar to that of the European Union to immediately warn the public against dangerous consumer products, a consumer rights group has said.

Saree Ongsomwang, Manager of the Foundation for Consumers, said the FDA should take advantage of this opportunity to learn from the EU's Rapid Alert System for non-food products, or "RAPEX".

Smarty pants: Thai students chalked up three golds at the International Mathematics Competition 2008 in Chiang Mai. The event ended on October 30.

Some 800 primary and secondary students from 25 countries participated in the six-day tournament.

The Thai gold medalists in the individual category of the primary level were Jettapol Thepauporn, a sixth-grader from Anubal Nakhon Ratcha-sima School and Kritameth Lengraksa, a fifth-grader at Bangkok Christian Wittayalai School. Uthaipon Tantipongpipat, a ninth-grader from Bangkok Christian Wittayalai School, won a gold medal in the secondary level.

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

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Second suspect in journo killing comes in

The second suspect wanted for the killing of Matichon journalist Athiwat Chainurat gave himself up to Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Governor Phanu Uthairat on October 31.

Sakchai "Chai" Abdullah-ree came to Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Hall accompanied by a well-known member of the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Administration Organization. He was then handed over to police.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police superintendent Phusit Narasing told the media that Mr Sakchai denied any involvement in the killing. However, he said that police had witnesses who could confirm that Mr Sakchai, who knew the victim, walked into Mr Athiwat's kitchen, called out his nickname, and then shot him. Police refused bail to the suspect and said they would recommend that the court do the same, Col Phusit added.

Earlier in the week, on October 26, more than 500 people gathered outside Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Station to protest the arrest of Lamduan "Kop" Kaowsisot, 25,



Police inspect Haj pilgrims on the way to Haad Yai Airport on October 30. Around 250 residents of the Deep South were due to travel to Saudi Arabia to make the sacred journey, with more than a thousand relatives and friends coming to the airport to see them off.

another suspect in the case who turned himself in on October 22.

The leaders of the protest accused the police of 'scapegoating' Mr Lamduan in the high-profile case.

The protest was led by the suspect's mother, Prasert Kaow-

sisot, and Amnuay Jarit-ngam, headman of Village 1 in Tambon Ban Lamnao, Bang Khan District.

Prasert also handed the police a petition, signed by the protesters, demanding justice for Mr Lamduan and attesting to his good character.

The protest leaders also questioned apparent irregularities in the arrest, such as why it took the police almost two months to arrest Mr Lamduan following issuance of the arrest warrant on August 28, despite the fact that the suspect had been at home the whole time and made no attempt to hide from the authorities.

The petition also called for police to reveal what evidence they had against Mr Lamduan.

The crowd dispersed only after Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sarawut Phiranon came and assured the protesters that Mr Lamduan's case would be dealt with fairly. Maj Gen Sarawut added that he had only recently taken up the post of Nakhon Sri Thammarat police chief and needed time to do a thorough review of the details of the case.

Police would hunt down everyone involved in Mr Athiwat's killing, including the gunmen and the people who ordered the murder, he promised.

Drugs bust: Police in Surat Thani have busted a ya bah (methamphetamine) ring, arresting six people, including a police officer, and seizing more than 1,700 ya bah pills.

The arrests were announced by the Surat Thani Provincial Police Commander Thetsa Siriawath on October 26.

Maj Gen Thetsa named the six suspects as: Surasit "Dam" Phatphuang, 33; Yothika "Yo" Sombun, 23; Bunleu "Den" Wichit, 32; Prasit "Yai" Inthajiat, 46; Nathaphat "Aor" Dechdang, 38; and Pol Cpl Phira Phromsuwan, 28.

Police seized 1,758 ya bah pills, a 9mm pistol with 13 rounds of ammunition, and 162,000 baht in cash in the raids.

Maj Gen Thetsa said the breakthrough came following a sting operation on Mr Surasit. After receiving intelligence that Mr Surasit was dealing ya bah, police arranged to buy some from him. Mr Surasit sent his girlfriend "Yothika" to deliver the drugs, he said.

Police arrested the pair and Mr Surasit admitted that he had bought the drugs from Mr Bunleu, Maj Gen Thetsa said. Mr Surasit then agreed to order another batch of ya bah from Bunleu and a meeting was arranged at a hotel in Surat Thani. When Bunleu arrived along with Prasit, police arrested the pair. The suspects

then implicated Nathaphat and Pol Cpl Phira who were also arrested, Maj Gen Thetsa said.

All six have been charged with possession of Class 1 drugs with intent to supply. Bunleu was also charged with possession a firearm without a permit.

Snitch targeted: A police informant was shot dead as he was riding his motorcycle in Trang on October 28. Manat "Seuamon" Chaiwiset, 49, was found lying dead on his motorcycle in Ban Thung Khuan Village 3 in Muang District. He had been shot twice in the head.

Witnesses reported seeing two youths on a Honda Sonic motorcycle pull up alongside Mr Manat and the pillion passenger shooting him with a pistol.

Manat worked as a pig tender on a farm belonging to a senior sergeant major from the Trang Provincial Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau. He had previously served time in prison for murder, but was released last year. He had also formerly worked for the police as an informant, providing information on local drug dealers.

Police said that Mr Manat may have been killed because of his links with the police. However, he was also known to be involved in the drug trade himself and police are investigating whether the attack could have been motivated by a dispute with rival dealers.

Violence follows visits: Eight people, including three soldiers, were injured when a powerful bomb went off near the entrance to a fresh market in Yala's Muang District on October 29. The attack came one day after Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat completed his visit to the region.

Authorities immediately cut off traffic routes leading to and from the market for fear that a second bomb might go off.

Pol Colonel Poompet Pipatpetpoom, deputy commander of Yala Provincial Police, said the bombing was in response to the authorities' crackdown on insurgent cells in the area.

Police found pieces of a metal box at the crime scene, along with traces of explosive materials and fragments of a mobile phone. This led them to believe that the device was detonated from a remote location.

The bomb was set off just as three security officers entered the immediate area. The soldiers, all of whom are members of the Yala 11th Task Force, were sent to hospital for treatment.

On the day of the blast, a spate of violence had greeted the prime minister and Army chief Gen Anupong Paochinda. PM Somchai told reporters the security situation had been improving and downplayed the need for structural reform in Thailand's Malay-speaking South.

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

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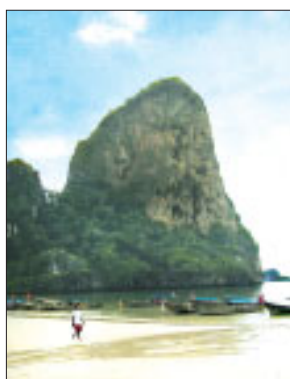
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Help and Hope for Tsunami Victims

The latest developments in Krabi



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Between October 22-25, the Siphong Phukaoluan Foundation (SPF) held a three-day camp for tsunami orphans and their families at the SPF Community Center.

Two days of programs were organized by volunteers from Projects Abroad, a US based organization that sends volunteers worldwide to take part in a variety of projects. Projects Abroad has been in Krabi for several years, active in conservation projects, cleaning the coral reefs and re-planting mangrove trees. In addition, they conduct English language classes for local schools and government officials.

The volunteers ran a well

organized program, which included English language instruction, singing and a field trip to a new art gallery in Krabi. Afterwards, the children took part in art and painting classes. The children were also taught about conservation of the environment and then taken to local areas to plant mangrove trees.

While the children were busy with their projects, the relatives who have been caring for them (usually grandparents or aunts and uncles) were also attending courses. The SPF Community Bank, which provides micro-loans for tsunami families, was giving a course in basic business management and book-keeping.

The bank has copied the model of Noble Prize winner Mohammed Yunus, whose banks offer credit to poor families to help them start or expand their businesses. All prospective clients of the SPF Community Bank must take this course and prepare a detailed business plan for the bank's approval.

Certified public accountant Nate-dao Sengate and her team from Krabi Consultants conducted the classes and assisted the prospective borrowers in developing their business plans. The hope is that with this training, their businesses will stand a bet-



Project Abroad volunteers organising activities with tsunami orphans in Krabi.

ter chance of success. All in all, a job well done by all the volunteers during the camp.

Identity Theft hits Krabi

The lows of the low season seem to have passed now and we are beginning to see tourists trickling into the local hotels, bars and restaurants. With so much negative news around the world, not to mention here in our own capital, there are lots of reasons for people to stay at home this holiday season.

However, the Scandinavian tourist market appears to be holding up well and the introduction of the Krabi Air direct flight from Oslo to Krabi has boosted arrival numbers. Hoteliers and booking agents are guardedly optimistic, pointing to strong peak-season bookings, and hoping the political shenanigans in Bangkok will quieten down sufficiently to entice tourists back during the second half of the high season. Let's hope so.

In my previous article, I highlighted the Nigerian hotel scam letters doing the rounds on the Internet. Since then, I have received more of the same, plus the usual spam that accounts for the vast majority of email these days. But I also received one very special letter from a friend of mine; the general manager of a resort here in Krabi. It appears

he was robbed whilst in London and emailed me to ask me to wire him some money. However, although the email was from his personal email address and the letter bore his name, there were a few inconsistencies that raised a red flag.

First, the spelling and grammar were poor. Second, he requested that I transfer the money via Western Union – widely known as the method of choice for scam artists. Lastly, I was surprised to learn that my friend was in London, since he would typically have informed me if he was leaving the country.

Perplexed, I called my friend, and by the tone of his voice I could tell something was wrong. He had not, as it turned out, been robbed in London. He had been sitting at his computer in Krabi when his Yahoo account was hacked into. He had earlier received an email from Yahoo, or so he thought, asking him to log on and update his account. It was not, however, a genuine Yahoo email, or even a real Yahoo webpage.

I am sure many of you have received similar emails from banks, Ebay, PayPal and the like, requesting that you update your account. When you log on and enter your password or pin number, hackers can then access your account. Within seconds, the hackers can begin misappropri-

ating your personal information, such as bank account numbers and passwords, perpetrating identity theft.

In my friend's case, the hackers broke into his email account, gaining access to all his emails, which included information about his credit card purchases. Later, they sent out the letter asking all the people in his address book to send him money to help him out of his "predicament".

I duly responded to the hackers, telling them I would forward the money. Immediately, they replied, providing details on how to wire the money by Western Union and asking me to provide the Money Transfer Control Number so they could pick up the money from the Western Union office in London.

When I answered that my close friend, who was the chief of security at the US Embassy in London, would be dropping by their hotel to deliver the money in person, their e-mails came to an abrupt halt.

Funny old world. What's next? Hacking your telephone, perhaps?

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Where a rewarding experience awaits

By Sam Wilko

There's something almost mystical about out-of-the-way restaurants. You know, the ones that take some effort and brainpower to find. Somehow the food's more rewarding, the welcome drink that much more appreciated and there's a smug satisfaction of being in the know.

Le Celtique, in Rawai, is such a place. Up a side soi off Soi Samakae 4 and 2, Le Celtique, despite being out of the way, is signposted enough to make it findable, albeit perhaps with the aid of a compass, military map and an SOS flare gun. Oh, don't forget your thigh-high waders and waterproof miner's lamp in the rainy season.

If you're already familiar with Le Celtique and scratching your head while wondering if I've lost my marbles let me explain: This is the same popular Le Celtique that was until recently in Kata.

Apparently, owner Bertrand Plumer and his wife Lek decided that they'd had enough of the astronomical rents there and simply moved over the hill as smoothly as a Google Earth cursor to settle into life in the leafy lanes of Rawai some months ago.

With an eclectic mix of Thai and Breton artifacts, wall hangings, chunky wooden furniture and warm lighting arrangements, the 80-cover new Le Celtique is a cosy and fascinating place.

Even the most jaded eye couldn't help but appreciate the golden kinnarees, the fantastic Buddhist wall frieze, the solid block tables and chairs and the overall spanking cleanliness of the restaurant. On top of all this, Le Celtique exudes a friendly, family business vibe and that's no bad thing at all.

It must be quite different working in such tranquil surroundings after having been years in Krazy old Kata with its swarms of tourists, but Bertrand and Lek seem perfectly happy with the slings and arrows of their particular fate, merci bien.

In the 70's Belgium spawned its own version of al-

ternative rock in the form of a garish 'mec' called Plastic Bertrand. His huge European-wide hit "Ca Plane pour Moi" – meaning "Everything's Cool" could be Breton Bertrand's anthem, considering the circumstances. But no – the background music at Le Celtique has no Belgian Punk even though *ca plane pour ce* Bertrand.

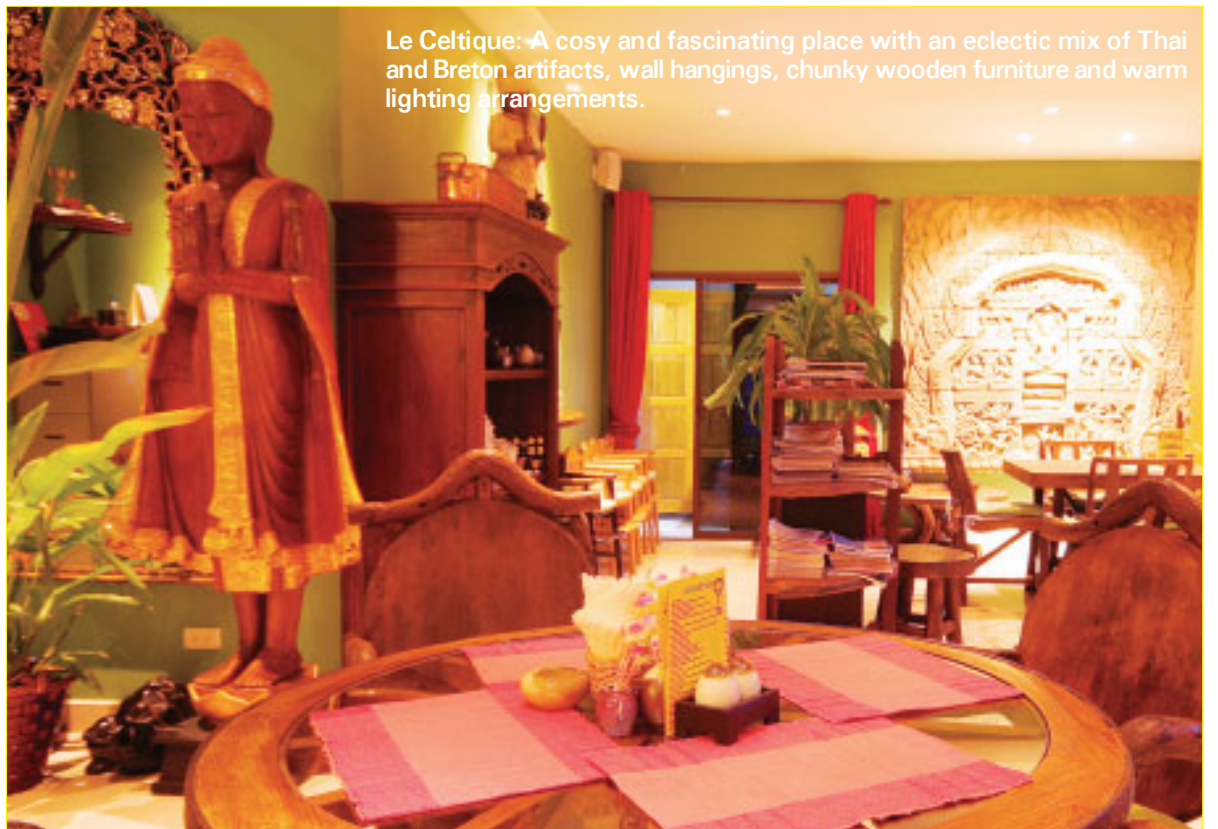
A simple 15-label wine list contains enough choices with South American and French labels all at reasonable cost, the most expensive being a Chateau Belle Garde Bordeaux. There's a sizeable bar to prop up too, with a plethora of spirits to keep island imbibers happily working on their biceps and Le Celtique even has Duche de Longueville dry apple cider if you're looking for a real Breton buzz.

Still, it's all about food, isn't it? Here, Bertrand's experience shows as the three-language menu is amazingly extensive with a hefty 18-page, 205-dish selection containing seafood and meats presented European style along with eleven types of pizza before careening head first into Thai culinary territory with pizzazz.

We order the *plat du jour* which on this day happens to be a blanquette of pork (340 baht) with potatoes, carrots, a dash of rice and the most heavenly cream sauce. *Nom d'un nom*, this dish brings it on home in regal style. That, along with a bottle of Argentine red and a sliced baguette, is about the closest I get to paradise after a hard week of slogging away at the computer and dodging motorcycles.

It's raining cats and dogs out in the street, I've got too much work to handle and a worldwide financial crisis threatens to spiral out of control, but here, surrounded by Celtic whorls and Buddha heads, we're safe from outrageous fortune as we tuck into the fantastically yielding blanquette.

Brittany, with its rolling vales, quaint stone-cottage villages, delicious cider and crepe blowouts, is a place definitely worth visiting and Bertrand, from Lorient, brings a Breton dash to the cuisine with Lek no less en-



Le Celtique: A cosy and fascinating place with an eclectic mix of Thai and Breton artifacts, wall hangings, chunky wooden furniture and warm lighting arrangements.

thusiastic about the Thai segment of the menu. Prices are not bargain basement but neither are they in the silly tourist domain; a chicken fried rice will set you back 90 baht while pizzas are from 250 baht up. For once, the background music is kept to a discreet level and there's also the option of fan, air conditioning or Mother Nature's al fresco breeze to keep things cool. The bath-

rooms look as though they've been blitzed with industrial cleansing agents while the kitchen fairly sparkles.

Le Celtique has lots of little touches that make this place a home away from home, such as children's chairs as well as two rocking horses outside. Even though it's brand new, the spirit of the place is pleasingly mature.

To get there, head down to

Rawai from what's left of Chalong Circle, then take a right turn at Soi Sayuan (at the 7-Eleven). Drive down past Don's Mall and take the first right after. Then follow the road to the T-junction at the very end. Opposite is a small soi leading up the hill. Le Celtique is 350 metres up the road on the right. Sayuan Rd., 80/90 Soi Samakae 4, Rawai. Tel: 089-5889517, 084-8426233. Email: celtiquethai@hotmail.com

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The Bicycle Chief

By Atchaa Khamlo

Sunanta Gollassaman has much to be thankful for. Having graduated from Sonklanakarin University with a bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management, she moved to Australia where she studied for a Master's degree at New South Wales University.

Armed with her MA and by now fluent in both French and English, Sunanta returned to Phuket where she worked as a tour manager at the Pacific Island Club in Laguna for three years. Then, deciding to start her own business, she opened the first company on the island to offer history tours to visitors.

Twelve years on, she was supervising more than ten tourism representatives both in Thailand and overseas, catering to tourists from Scandinavia, Great Britain and Germany who were staying at Laguna, JW Marriott or Amanpuri. Away from work, she married a marketing lecturer at Sonklanakarin University.

Shortly after, Sunanta and her husband were blessed with

two beautiful children, now enrolled at the British International School.

Life seemed perfect. But it was not to last.

Business was in Sunanta's blood and turning a profit had seemingly come easy. She had always been a very "hands-on" operator, taking care of all aspects of the business herself, from marketing to accounting to selling. She launched herself into the property business when a group of foreign businessmen purchased a piece of ocean-front land that she owned.

Over the next eight years, the business flourished, with Sunanta, all the while, juggling the management and administration of the company.

She made the headlines when she sold a sizable piece of real estate to JW Marriott.

All the time, Sunanta was working assiduously, following the stressful and unforgiving working practices of her foreign customers.

At the same time, she was eating poorly, often skipping meals, drinking gallons of coffee and generally neglecting the

needs of her ever-tiring and run-down body.

And then, one day, just as she was reaching to pick up a cup of coffee, her hand froze. This episode came a few days after she had awoken in the middle of the night with severe heart palpitations.

She went to see a doctor, who diagnosed her as chronically fatigued, the result of having worked virtually non-stop for too many years.

The combination of too much stress, no rest and a poor diet had left Sunanta's body too weak to withstand the pressure that her intense lifestyle had exerted upon it. The choices were stark but straightforward: either slow down, strengthen up or suffer the consequences. Needless to say, Sunanta did not opt for the latter.

She embarked on a strict regimen of exercise to strengthen her heart. A friend, whom she called "Iron Man", suggested that she take up cycling and even bought her a bicycle.

Sunanta quickly caught the exercise bug and was soon cycling for up to two hours a day.



Sunanta Gollassaman faced stark choices. Lead a healthier lifestyle or suffer the consequences.

These days, after dropping her children off at school, she now heads out on the bike or, if it is raining, over to the Royal Phuket Marina for her daily workout, before heading to the office for a full eight-hour shift.

Sunanta has some advice for anyone experiencing the same problems that almost caused her to have a complete physical collapse. "Make sure you get a good eight hours sleep to allow your body to recover; drink lots of water; eat lots of vegetables; avoid too many carbohydrates and try

to avoid beef," she said.

Sunanta told the *Gazette* that nowadays she feels much fresher and a lot more energetic when she wakes up in the morning, and that she's far less irritable than before.

She urges *Gazette* readers who do not exercise regularly to give it a go, even if their busy schedules make it difficult.

"It is very worthwhile to start exercising," said Sunanta. "Your body is just like an engine. If you take care of it, it will be with you for a long time," she added.



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Old Is Okay



Some time ago, two columnists for *The Nation*, Catherine Bowers and Natayada na Songkhla, more familiarly known as Cat and Nat, wrote a column musing on their dread of old age.

Cat stressed the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and having annual health check-ups. Nat was looking forward to the pleasures of being able to order younger people around. But he was worried about the decline into helplessness which accompanies the aging process.

Well, these two fine young people have nothing to worry about... yet. I gather they're both in their 40s. That's not old; that's just middle-aged. When I was 40, I thought 50 was old. When I was 50, I thought 60 was old, and when I turned 60, I thought 70 was old. Now that I'm almost 70, I'm thinking that 70 is pretty youthful if you think about it, and old age doesn't really kick in till 80. "Old" gets older the older you get.

I consider myself an expert on old age. I know there are

people out there who are older than I am, but I'm pretty sure there aren't many who are as senile. In fact, I consider myself the Dean of Senile Seniors in my neighborhood, and I'd like to point out to Cat, Nat, and all their youthful contemporaries some of the benefits of old age.

Many people worry about getting wrinkles when they get old. There's a way to beat wrinkles, and with the cunning born of old age I've mastered it.

Get fat. Fat smoothes out the wrinkles. People won't notice your wrinkles; they'll notice the fat. I believe that most people, given a choice between looking like Pruneface or Jabba the Hutt, would pick Jabba every time.

Nat was worried about the helplessness that afflicts old people. That can be a problem, and it's one of the reasons I advocate bringing back slavery. If you have a slave, you don't have to worry about being helpless. Your slave can do everything for you.

Slavery has a very bad reputation nowadays, especially among slaves, but there is good news in the offing. I envision a day – and I pray it will come soon – when we will have personal robots as slaves. They'll be called slabots, and they will cater to all our needs:

"Bring me a cup of coffee, slabot."

"Yes, master. Espresso, cappuccino, or decaf?"

"Espresso. How do I look today, slabot?"

"Extremely youthful, master! Even though you're 182."

Some people worry that they won't be able to do all the things they did when they were young – play football, go swimming, sing and dance the night away, go skiing and windsurfing and whatnot.

Don't worry about it. When you get old, you won't feel like doing any of those things. Tsow's First Law of Senility declares: "By the time you can't do something, you don't feel like doing it anyway." This is nature's way of taking care of us in our dotage.

Take me, for example. I used to love climbing mountains. Now I don't even want to look at them. Climbing mountains is stupid. Once you get to the top you just have to climb down again. What's the point of that? To see the view from the top? Buy a postcard of the view and look at the postcard.

Because it's there? That's what George Leigh-Mallory said when he was asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, and it's one of the stupidest answers that ever made its way into the lexicon of popular sayings.

The ocean is also there. Does that mean we have to swim it? The desert is also there. Does that mean we have to cross it? The tiger is also there. Does that mean we have to stick our head into its mouth?

You will object that those

who are young and adventurous are eager to perform such feats of derring-do. And that is precisely my point. Let the young and foolish exhaust themselves with pointless heroics if they want to. When you're old, all you'll want to do is lie in bed and drool.

Yes, elderly is excellent, senior is super, ancient is awesome, Jurassic is jolly, and old is okay. Especially when you consider the alternative, which is to be dead.

Mr S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@ymail.com, except when he's trying to think of some of the benefits of being dead.

Correction

Last week, the *Gazette* featured "An introduction to Phuket's Sikh community" (Nov 1, page 12).

There were some errors in the story. We would now like to make the following corrections:

Sikhism's founding Guru, Guru Nanak Dev, was succeeded by nine Gurus, not 11 as stated in the article.

The last Guru "in person", Guru Gobind Singh, conferred the Guruship upon the Holy Book, *Granth Sahib*, to be the Eternal Guru (Enlightener) of the Sikhs, thus putting an end to the tradition of a person becoming the Guru after him. Sikhs now revere the Holy Book as their spiritual master.

Upon the multi-domed spiritual throne is placed the Holy Scripture itself. Sikhs revere the teachings within, not any idols or images.

The Sikh Community made a donation to the Phuket Special Education Center, with Phuket Vice Governor Tri Akhara-decha presiding as Chairman. He did not make a donation to the temple.



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This week



CHECK OUT FOR CHILDREN: Associates of Sheraton Grande Laguna held a UNICEF Check Out for Children Thai-Temple-style charity fair on Thursday, September 18. Guests and associates enjoyed fundraising activities, including traditional Thai games, Thai classical performances and Thai food. The event raised awareness and support amongst participants of UNICEF's aid to children around the world. All proceeds



LOCAL SHABU SHABU: Vice Governor Tri Akkaradacha (center) and owner of Moto Shabu Shabu Chairot Lojanarungsiri cut a ribbon to mark the Grand Opening of the restaurant, located on the first floor of HomeWorks, on October 25.



FRONT OFFICE FUN: More than 120 staff with The Crissey Group gathered at Phuket Merlin Hotel on September 27 for the group's annual staff party. Pictured are the Front Office Team of Royal Phawadee Village, who won the event's talent competition. The Crissey Group comprises: All 4 Diving, Aquamaster, Mermaid Cruises, Royal Phawadee Village and Sea



JOIN THE CLUB: Honored guest Phuket Senator Phumisak Hongyok (third from left) cuts a ribbon with President of the Phuket Real Estate Club Tanan Tantraphaibul (front row, 2nd from left) to officially open a real estate promotional event organized by the Phuket Real Estate Club at HomeWorks. A total of 30 property related booths for customer enquiries were set up at the event, which ran from October 25 to No-



THE RIGHT TO FIGHT: During a recent visit to Germany, Thai Dive Association (TDA) Technical Committee CEO Rainer Gottwald (right) met with Global Boxing Union (GBU) and Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) President Mr Juergen Lutz to accept his appointment as GBU and WIBF President for Asia. The GBU and WIBF are sanctioning bodies for women's professional boxing.



VISIT VIJITT: Vijitt Resort executives Managing Director Pongsura Khoopongsakorn (back row, 2nd from left) and Assistant Managing Director Kongsak Khoopongsakorn (front left) with VIP guests during the Vijitt Resort's Grand Opening party at Friendship Beach on October 24.



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Live Grooves: Rommanee Music House

If you're a fan of live music and are looking for an early-evening hangout, you might care to take a peek at Rommanee Music House on Thalang Road.

Decorated in a laid-back oriental style, with soft lighting and comfy couches, the Rommanee is popular with an after-work Phuket Town crowd, looking to chill out and chat with friends, before heading on to more frenetic late-night fare.

Opened seven months ago and filling two floors of a unique old building on Thalang Road, Rommanee Music House serves up an eclectic blend of live acts, each creating a different ambience depending on the night of the week, ranging from Indy, reggae and ska to jazz and classical guitar.

Go there on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday nights and the The Panic Band will be playing their energetic brand of reggae and ska.

On Wednesday nights, the mood is jazz, courtesy of the Rommanee Jazz band, and on Fridays and Saturdays, the Dummie Doll Band entertain with Indy sets. Baby Blue also rock the house on Saturday nights, while Sunday winds down the week in suitably mellow fashion with jazz from the Romanee Jazz band again.



Photo: Anne Powell



Freestyle fun: Yoonique's

Fondly known simply as "Yoonique's" by its regular customers (The owner's name is Yoon, and he's very friendly with his customers.), Yoonique Stone Bar next to the lake behind Nai Harn Beach is a laid-back venue with seating inside and out.

There are a couple of well-worn sofas around a pool table that has seen better days, and benches among trees and shrubbery, which are softly lit with cloth lanterns. Alcoholic drinks are limited to a few kinds of beer in small or large bottles, but they do serve good fresh coffee.

The musical theme is mostly reggae with live music from Ska Band on Wednesday and Friday nights. Ska Band also performs on the first and last Saturday of each month.

Monday nights are open jam nights – any one can play – and on the middle Saturday and Tuesday of each month, 101 Band tones things down with mixed jazz.

Yoon is currently planning a three-day, two-night "Little Woodstock" from December 19 to 21, with popular reggae band Job 2 Do booked to play, and there will be a lot of freestyle jamming during the event. Customers will be allowed to camp out overnight and artists with things to sell can set up shop.

Beautiful Objects Make You Smile.



Le Hoang Nguyen, "Praying"
Lacquer painting on board
100 x 100cm.



Andy Warhol, "Jane Fonda"
Screen-print in colors, 1982
Signed in pencil, 39.5 x 31.5 in.



Bui Huu Hung, "Princess"
Lacquer painting on board
120 x 120cm.



Sung HaiZheng, "Whisper"
Oil painting on canvas
156 x 187cm.



Dinh Quan, "Two Sisters"
Lacquer painting on board
90 x 120cm.



Yue Min Jun, "Kung Fu"
Signed Lithograph,
105 x 115 cm.

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Halloween Happenings

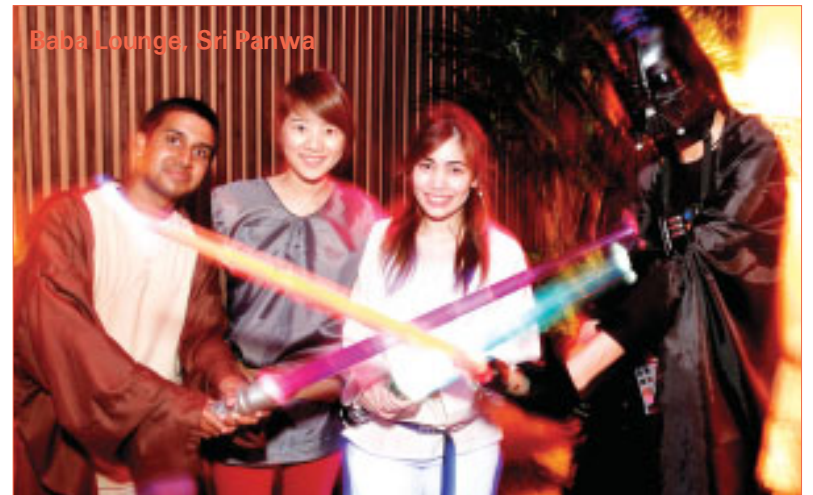


Halloween, on Friday October 31, was the perfect excuse for many of Phuket's party people to dress up and have a devilishly good time.

The Watermark at the Boat Lagoon threw a lavish 'Dress in Sexy Black and Gold' party as the venue also celebrated its 6th anniversary.

The music spots along Soi Romannee were packed with revellers dressed in ghoulish garb. For some, just wearing black was enough to go with the morbid theme.

And Pirates mutinied to music and Star Wars look-alikes battled it out at Sri Panwa's Baba Lounge.



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Magic Money

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach put on an evening of "Magic & Enchantment" at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket on November 1 for the club's annual fund-raising event this year. The evening's entertainment included a Cosmic Dinner Show with magic from illusionists, prestidigitators and psychics performing on stage and mingling with the crowd.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

November 8. Special BBQ Buffet Dinner at "Wine Connection", Chalong.

Super BBQ Buffet Dinner including Cheese & Cold Cuts @ 650++ baht. Live Band. Reservations recommended. For more information contact Pascal at Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

November 9. PC Group Therapy, Laguna.

Is your Internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the 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. For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Laguna (near the Laguna entrance), go to www.khunwoody.com. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

November 9. Boathouse hosts Chateau Palmer Dinner.

Mom Tri's Boathouse, the first establishment in Thailand awarded the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence in 1995 and the only Best of Awards of Excellence since 2006, will host a Chateau Palmer wine dinner on Sunday, 9 November. The fine dining menu is devised by Boathouse executive chef Tummanoon and the first and only Maître Cuisinier de France in Thailand, chef Jean-Noël Lumineau. Limited seating. Price: 4,800 baht++. For details contact Pinyo Thippimas at Tel: 076-330 015. Email: fb@boathousephuket.com

November 11. Loy Krathong Festival at Dusit Laguna.

Experience the true spirit of the most popular Loy Krathong Festival with authentic Thai ambience at the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Be entertained by live Thai classical music and performances while enjoying our extensive Loy Krathong Buffet showcasing the flavors of Thailand's four regions. Be part of judging the "Krathong contest and Traditional Miss Noppamas Contest". Be amazed with flying lanterns and floating Krathongs



Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament 2008

November 19-22

Registration at Captain Hook on 19 November 2008 from 6pm onwards. Fishing days are 20, 21 and 22 November, starting at 8am. Free food and beer for all anglers. For more information, please contact Uwe at Tel: 081-719 5766 or visit www.phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com

launched to show respect and gratitude to the Water Goddess, and be rid of all your misfortunes.

Adults: 1,800++ baht. Children 4-12 years: 900++ baht. 10% discount for Laguna Privilege Card holders. For more information contact Ms Natsaran at Tel: 076-362 999. Email: dtlfb@disit.com

November 11. Punchline Comedy Club, Live Stand-Up Comedy

The Punchline Comedy Club presents another night of merriment and mirth at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket in Patong. Three top class, headline UK comedians booked by the London Comedy Store are flying all the way to Phuket to tickle your ribs, yes, YOUR ribs.

Tickets available in advance from Woody's Sandwich Shoppes in Patong, Chalong, and Laguna. For maps and more details, contact Khun Boom at Tel:

083-6464671. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com or visit www.phuketcomedy.com

November 12. Loy Krathong Celebration at the Sheraton Grande Laguna.

Help celebrate one of Thailand's most colorful festivals, Loy Krathong, at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket with a cocktail reception from 5.30pm at Loy Krathong Garden. From 6.30pm, enjoy a Thai buffet dinner, while a Thai cultural performance entertains you at the Poolside Garden. Price: 2,200++ baht per person (includes welcome cocktails, dinner with a glass of Thai wine, live traditional Thai performance and a complimentary Krathong.)

To book or purchase tickets, contact F&B Reservations. 076-324101/7. Or email: fbreservation@sheratonphuket.com

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ON THE MOVE

Mr Glenn R Ferrer has recently been promoted to Director of Training and Product Development at Kata Group Resorts Thailand. Mr Ferrer will spearhead a new department focusing on human and product development. Mr. Ferrer previously held the position of Director of Marketing, responsible for marketing the four resorts in the group: the Kata Beach Resort & Spa, Karon Beach Resort & Spa, Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa and Kanaburi Resort & Spa.



Mr Robert J Lohrmann has been appointed Vice President and General Manager of the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, Marriott Vacation Club International, Phuket Beach Club, and the newly-opened Mai Khao Beach Club.

A native American, Mr Lohrmann was most recently the Managing Director of the JW Marriott Beijing and the Ritz-Carlton Beijing. He has been with Marriott for twenty-five years and has spent the past ten years in Asia.



Mr Kanakorn Sagarik has been appointed as the new Food & Beverage (F&B) Director of Club Andaman Beach Resort and Club Andaman Beach Suite hotel, Patong. A native of Bangkok, Mr Kanakorn has twenty years' experience in the hospitality industry, including nine months as Resident Manager of the Hot Spring Beach Resort and Spa, six years as F&B Manager at the Merlin Beach Resort and two and a half years as F&B Manager of Phuket Arcadia Resort & Hotel.



Money Talks

By Richard Watson

The phenomenon that began life as a credit crunch has since evolved into a far more complex entity, creating volatility on so many fronts.

A perfect example of this is the Australian dollar, which over a period of around three months has declined from near parity with the US Dollar to around 64 US cents, a drop of around 33%. However, this has more to do with capital flows back to Japan than economic fundamentals. During the current period of massive 'de-leveraging', a number of hedge funds and other leveraged investors have become forced sellers of assets. Faced with the need to generate capital, they are confronted with the fact that it is their best assets that are the easiest to sell, especially for a fair price.

The "VIX" index, which tracks levels of market volatility, has been consistently reaching record levels, reflecting the wide-

'Vehicles' with reckless drivers at forefront of crisis, but not alone

spread feeling of trepidation. Currently, there are two predominant currencies in the world: the US dollar and the Japanese yen. The Chinese Yuan also holds considerable sway, but its influence is somewhat diminished as the currency is not convertible.

Americans may be surprised to find their currency so strong, but it is largely due to the dollar's remaining a safe haven as well as calls on cash previously held abroad by US entities. This pressure to repatriate capital has, in turn, increased losses in many other foreign markets, particularly the emerging markets.

When forced sellers are abundant, bargains appear, with prices often becoming ridiculously

cheap. The challenge is to identify what a real bargain is, as opposed to what will become cheaper still. "Never try to catch a falling knife," goes a Japanese saying.

The Japanese are certainly not relishing the prospect of an ever-stronger Yen. The Bank of Japan recently intervened to weaken the currency. If this doesn't work, other central banks will move in to assist. However, with around US\$ 1 trillion in foreign exchange reserves, the Bank of Japan has no shortage of ammunition.

The Australian central bank (The Reserve Bank of Australia) has been intervening almost daily to stop the Aussie dollar from falling too rapidly. One surprising area of central bank intervention has been that of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, which has actively supported the Hong Kong dollar despite it remaining "pegged" within a tight range to the rising US dollar. David Bloom, head of currency strategy for global banking giant HSBC, calls the move into the US Dollar a "flight to quality". He also describes markets worldwide as "disorderly".

The interest rate cut of 50 basis points by the US Federal Reserve at the end of October

took the Fed Funds Rate back to 1%. This interest rate was last seen in 2004, and before that in the 1950s. The timing and size of the interest rate cut was widely anticipated by the market and by the end of the day, the main US indices (Dow Jones Industrial and Standard & Poor's 500) had moved into negative territory.

The US Federal Reserve under the previous chairmanship of Alan Greenspan was widely criticized for holding rates for too long at 1%. Many said this was the root cause of the "credit crunch". Whilst most economists would concur that when interest rates are below inflation, problems will occur, it seems something of a stretch to blame this situation for the credit crunch.

In reality, it was the banks that were involved in lending, especially for mortgages, who were mostly to blame. They indiscriminately lent money to borrowers, regardless of the latter's ability to repay. With hindsight, this may seem insane, but when you consider that the lenders were simply packaging these mortgages into 'vehicles' such as collateralized debt obligations, structured investment paper, etc, to sell off to other

investors, you begin to understand why the banks in question were not sufficiently interested in the quality of their borrowers.

Without the active participation of the credit ratings agencies who were dishing out AA and AAA investment grade assessments on these 'vehicles', this Pandora's Box might never have been opened. The ultimate responsibility, however, lies with government.

It has suddenly become the concept du jour that government involvement in all areas of the financial system is the panacea for all its ills. For years to come, levels of government intervention in the financial markets will, no doubt, increase markedly.

We have already witnessed vast increases in regulation, especially since 9/11, in global anti-money laundering. This intervention was supposed to reduce the ability of terrorists and of organized crime to move funds. The reality is that if organized crime cannot find its way around the current regulations, then they are not very organized. It is equally doubtful whether terrorists have been inconvenienced either.

The real problems arise for members of the public who now require extensive documentation when opening bank accounts, making investments, and so on. This is what happens when governments interfere.

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PUZZLES



Spot the Difference

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



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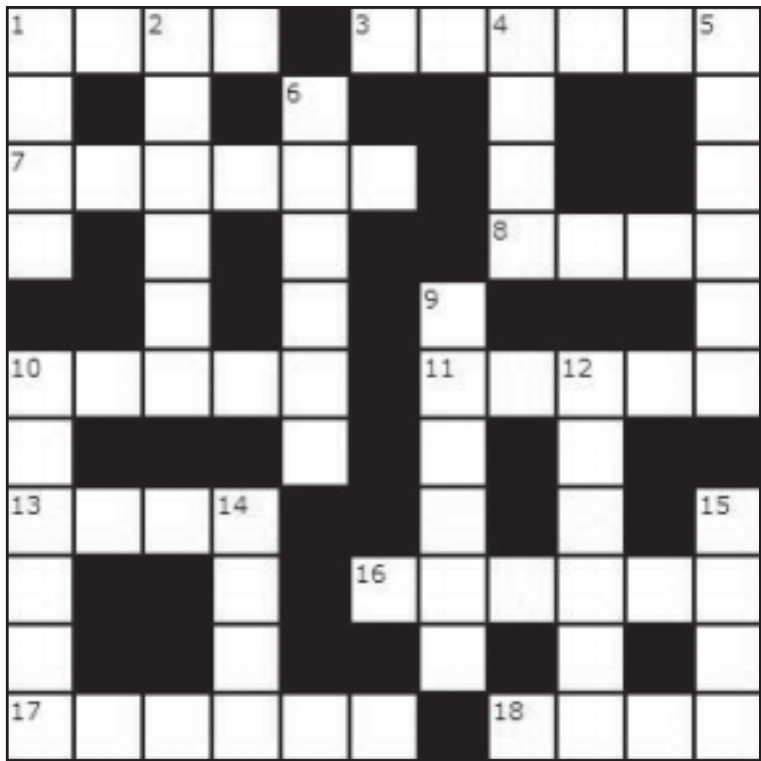
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Quick Crossword

Across

1. Nervous
3. Fast food
7. Chase
8. Noisy
10. Opera singer
11. Movie star
13. Lots of money
16. Cried
17. Young people
18. Worry

Down

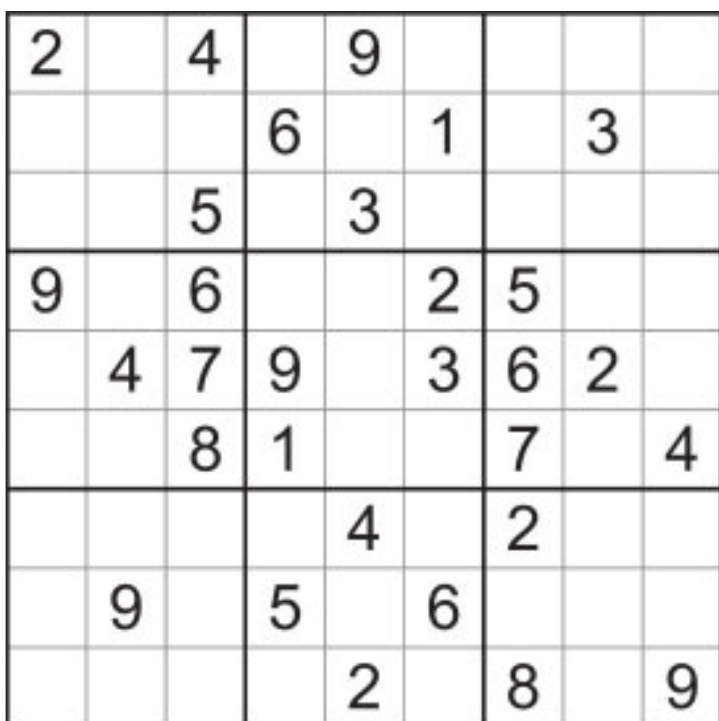
1. Sports channel
2. Chef, ...Ramsay
4. Lofty
5. Male and female
6. Still to come
9. Water
10. Bird
12. Wood
14. Clue
15. Change

Solution below, right

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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



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 this page.

MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is Europe's largest active volcano called?
2. Which European country's capital city changed its name from Christiana?
3. In which city is the 'Wailing Wall'?
4. What was the first team sport to be publicly televised?
5. Whose 1981 debut album was called 'Boy'?
6. What do the letters 'TT' stand for in the Isle of Man TT race?
7. The Iroquois Cup is contested in what sport?
8. February is the shortest month in the year in the UK, but which is the longest?
9. What is the one place in all of Great Britain that the Queen cannot visit?
10. In New Orleans, the Mardi Gras festival occurs each year in which month?
11. What film stars thirteen-year-old English actress Dakota Blue Richards in her debut role?
12. Which film actor's real first names are Kong Sung?
13. In which administrative capital city would you literally be living in peace?
14. Which E.U. country's population is 30% less today than it was 150 years ago?
15. Which island, named after a Dutchman, is said to have the cleanest air in the world?
16. Which deceptive animals name stems from the Greek word for "Earth Lion"?
17. The sound made by a whale can be heard over a distance of a: 30km; b: 300km; or c: 3,000km.
18. The USA and Canada are the only two countries that have a border with what?
19. Which European country has the highest tax rate?
20. The "Atomium" is one of the landmarks of which city?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Mount Etna; 2. Norway; 3. Jerusalem; 4. Baseball; 5. U2; 6. Tourist Trophy; 7. Lacrosse (Iroquois Indians); 8. October, because the clocks go back so it lasts 31 days and 1 hr; 9. House Of Commons; 10. February; 11. The Golden Compass; 12. Jackie Chan; 13. La Paz, Bolivia; 14. Ireland; 15. Tasmania; 16. Chameleon; 17. 3,000km; 18. Three oceans - Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic; 19. Denmark; 20. Brussels.

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



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

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Testimony to our fragile Earth

According to authors Michael Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison, protecting innocence is perhaps humanity's deepest procreative instinct, and celebrating nature our highest calling. In *Sanctuary: "Global Oases of Innocence"* (published by Council Oak), Tobias and Morrison profile globally significant sanctuaries at the forefront of an emerging multinational movement to sanctify nature and save her last pristine places, a vital step toward the total renewal of the biosphere.

Sanctuary offers an urgent reminder that the extinction of life on Earth has accelerated up to 10,000 times its normal, natural rate, putting our modern consumer culture in a league with super-volcanic eruptions and catastrophic asteroid impacts earlier in Earth's history. Pictured on its pages are species whose numbers are so low that every last individual is known by name. From microbes to mammals, the academically-acclaimed conservationist couple re-examines humanity's role in the natural order of life on Earth, and our responsibility as a sentient species to consciously care for creation



Off the SHELF

in ways that best integrate science, public policy, spiritual values and sustainable economics.

From wildlife habitats set aside to save rare species on the brink of extinction to urban shelters set up to rescue abused farm animals, Sanctuary takes you on an epic photographic journey to many of the world's most extraordinary sanctuaries, complete with in-depth, science-based case studies that inspire a sense of awe at nature's beauty, and at the damage we have already done to her. But far from being a tale of gloom and doom, Sanctuary celebrates living examples of one of humanity's highest callings, to transform modern societies based

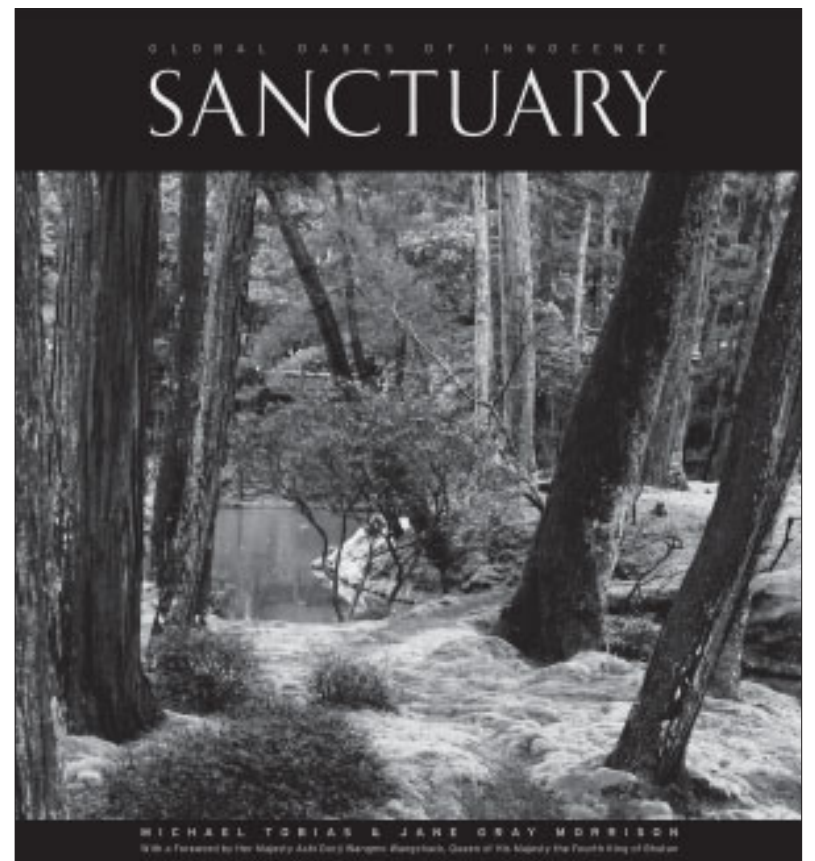
on extraction and exploitation into a unified global culture of economic and ecological restoration.

Sanctuary showcases the continuing work of such animal protection luminaries as Michael Aufhauser, Brigitte Bardot, Gene Baur, and Howard Buffett. Over 800 color photographs take readers on a 360-page journey through more than 20 countries, visiting sanctuaries in Alaska, Austria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Borneo, Brunei, California, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Manhattan, Namibia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Suriname, South Africa, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Yemen. Its mission is to inform policymakers and scientists and inspire a new generation of activists to be the change that creates a better world.

"Sanctuary is a sumptuous coffee table book characterized by expeditionary photography and emotional story-telling," explained co-author Michael Tobias. Tobias, a global ecologist, author and filmmaker, is president of the Dancing Star Foundation. As the author of 37 books and writer/director/producer of more than 100 films pertaining to environmental,

cultural, social or scientific issues, he has been called the Carl Sagan of the humanities. Fellow author Jane Gray Morrison has been making films about the environment ever since retiring at a

young age as an opera singer in Europe. In more than 30 countries, she has brought to public focus issues pertaining to biodiversity loss, animal protection, pollution and human health.



No such thing as "first annual" event

I have always been told that there is no such thing as a "first annual" event. Only after an event has been held can there be a "second annual" one and so on. Has this changed? I grit my teeth when I see that our local area will have a "first annual film festival".

Norinne Daly
Old Town, Maine

Barbara replies:

I've heard that objection to "first annual" more than once, and I must admit, it puzzles me. The folks putting on a "first annual" event are declaring their intention to hold another of the same every year.

If a young couple told me they'd just celebrated their first wedding anniversary, I wouldn't say, "Excuse me — you're incorrect. That was only an anniversary. It won't be your first until you've had another one." This is like that, it seems to me.

Please discuss the proper use of "if not". It is used in contradictory ways.

Cory Padfield
Royal Oak, Michigan

Barbara replies:

"If not" sows a lot of confusion. For instance, here it is in a recent Wall Street Journal interview with Carlos Ghosn, chief executive of Nissan and Renault: "It's a double impact in terms of profit on most of the car manufacturers, if not

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 readers' questions.

all of them." Did Ghosn mean "or even all of them" or "though not all of them"? "If not" can be used both ways, and not even in context is it clear which meaning he had in mind.

The rule about "if not" is this: Avoid it unless it will be perfectly obvious which of the two opposite meanings you intend.

The phrase, if not the speaker (here it is again — am I being insulting or polite?), is untrustworthy.

On the radio in the US, I often hear the phrase "not available in all states", especially at the end of insurance ads. If it isn't available in all states, where are they selling their product? Canada? Mexico?

When did the phrase "not available in all states" take on the same meaning as "not available in some states"?

Bill Schryer
Wilton, NY

Barbara replies:

Another slippery "not." You might imagine that "not available" and "unavailable" mean the same thing — but "unavailable in all states" is definitely the wrong idea. "Available in not all states" is more like it, but this version sounds impossibly awkward. "Available in some states" or "in many states" is literally right but gets the tone wrong — the copywriters might as well add "though maybe not in yours." Can you learn to live with "not available in all states"?

Today I saw an example of what I think is illogical or incorrect usage: "Ex-Indonesian dictator Suharto dies at 86". To me, this means Mr. Suharto was a dictator, but not in Indonesia recently. That is obviously untrue. What I'd say is "Indonesian ex-dictator Suharto dies at 86." Care to comment?"

EZ Polch of TK

Barbara replies:

Dear EZ: You neglected to tell me the town and state where you live. I wouldn't publish that information without your permission (though I rarely publish letters whose writers omit it), but I thought I might find out at least what paper you read by searching online for the phrase "Ex-Indonesian dictator" in news sources.

This search returned 268 results, including an Associated Press story — which tells us it's a fairly conventional way of putting it. In contrast, a search for "Indonesian ex-dictator" got just 21 results.

The problem is that we think of Suharto (that was his complete name) as having been an Indonesian dictator, in much the same way that Bowie Kuhn was the US baseball commissioner and Anna Nicole Smith was once a Playboy centerfold model.

Kuhn, when he died last year, was not a baseball ex-commissioner but an ex-baseball com-

missioner.

Smith was not a Playboy centerfold ex-model or a Playboy ex-centerfold model — she was an ex-Playboy centerfold model.

Take comfort in the fact that "ex-" in phrases like these tends to turn up only in headlines, where space is at a premium. "Former" is almost invariably used where there's room for it.

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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High season approacheth

When it comes to administrative power, Thailand is among the most centralized nations in the world. Law enforcement across the entire country falls under a single police force that is administered, just like every government ministry, from Bangkok. Even the post office boxes in Phuket and other provinces have two slots for outgoing mail. They are marked "Bangkok" and "Other".

Just as the whole body suffers paralysis when the brain malfunctions, so too are entire over-centralized nations at risk when that center is disrupted or destabilized. Unfortunately, Thailand is now suffering a sort of administrative paralysis due to events in the capital. While the elected government operates out of a semi-mothballed airport on the outskirts of Bangkok, the traditional seat of executive power – Government House – remains under an unprecedented occupation by the People's Alliance for Democracy, now in its third month.

In the meantime, here in low-season Phuket, the tourism industry continues to turn over surprisingly well considering the political mess in the capital, the fragile state of world financial markets and the latest threat to tourism here: the discovery of the deadly box jellyfish in local waters. [See news pages for update.]

Given Phuket's demonstrated resiliency, however, there is no reason to expect the rapidly approaching high season to be anything other than another banner year. Already, climate refugees are starting to trickle in with the addition of several new direct charter routes from Europe. This year's high season will officially kick off November 15 with the Phuket Carnival in Patong. The annual event used to start on November 1, but was sensibly been pushed back two weeks by the Phuket Tourist Association after last year's festivities were considerably dampened by heavy rains that often extend into early November.

Another private sector group that deserves credit for taking initiative where government efforts have fallen short is the Thai Dive Association, which will soon oversee the sinking of the Coral Reef Squadron artificial reef project off Bangtao Bay.

Other commendable TDA efforts include its Marine Scout Project [see Inside Story, pp 4-5] and the announcement that the Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS, or World Underwater Federation) general assembly will take place here next May 2-9, bringing in hundreds of delegates from all over the world during the low season and giving a huge promotional boost to Thailand's dive tourism industry.

New Governor Preecha Ruangjan's enthusiastic support for these activities is also encouraging, especially given the unreasonably confrontational stance some past provincial administrations have taken against this very important segment of our economy.

- The Editor

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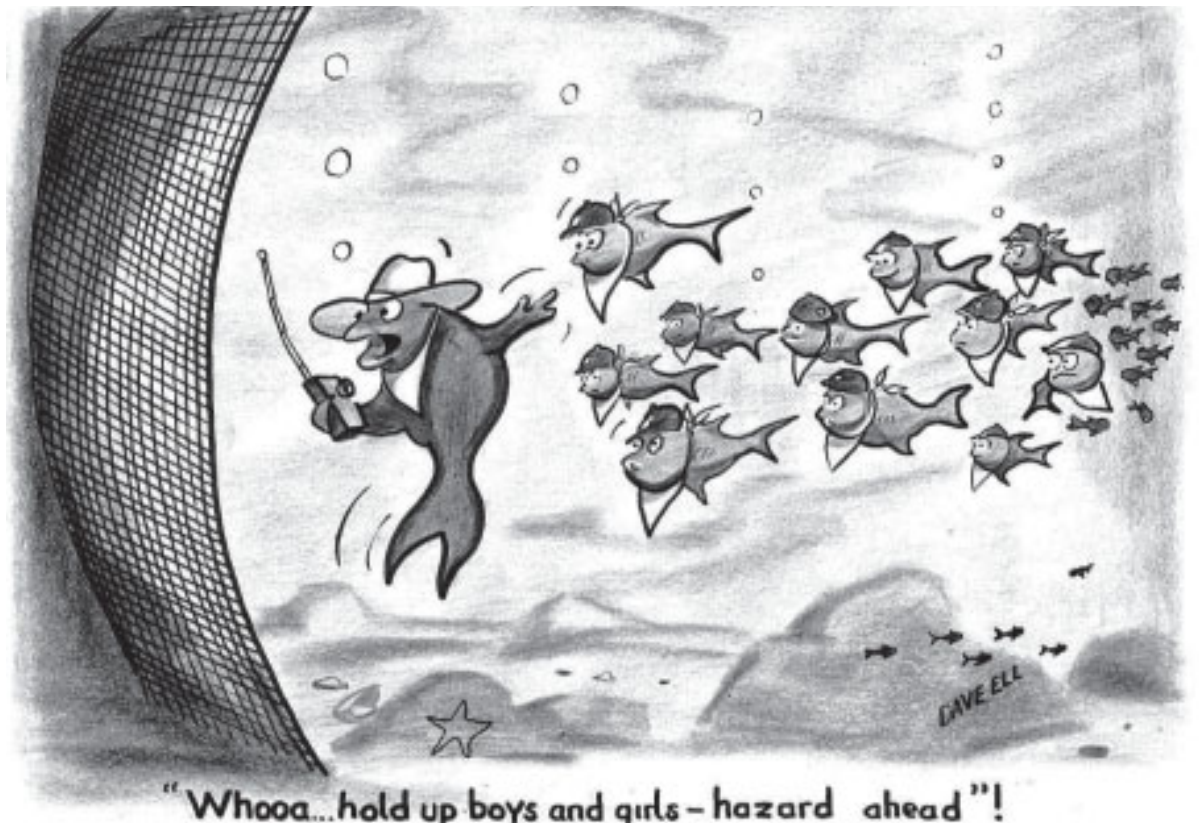
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Letters

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

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

Jellyfish in Bangtao

Regarding the article on box jellyfish being found in Phuket waters, I can attest that some form of jellyfish are present on the western side of the island and not just on the east coast as the article implied.

Two weeks ago, while swimming on Bangtao Beach, I was stung by a jellyfish on both feet. The stings were very painful and rashes appeared on both of my feet and legs. While obviously not fatal, the stings were severe and the pain lasted for about two hours.

I would suggest that the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) test the waters on the western side of the island, not just the eastern side while assuming that the waters on the western side are too salty for box jellyfish. Something is 'out there'. Let's find out what.

Steve Rubenstein,
(former) swimmer
Bangtao Beach

A letter of thanks

I was dragged from the water unconscious after a diving accident about three weeks ago. As a result, I got to meet a lot of very professional people working under extreme circumstances.

The people on the dive boat – John, Bee, Liam and the rest of the crew – had to make an unexpected dash for the emergency clinic on the island of Koh Tao. The doctor and nurses received me on a backboard where I was monitored, stabilized and prepared for a long speedboat trip back to Koh Samui, 70 kilometers away. I was fading in and out of consciousness, looking up

from the bottom of the boat into beautiful smiling eyes, and could hear the words of a nurse: "You're alright..."

The ambulance transferred me to the Thai International Hospital where Doctor M. Goong assessed me. I was numb from the shoulders down and could barely move. After more tests, the decision was made to move me to the decompression chamber which I now call the "Bubble Hotel".

The real reason for me writing this letter is to thank all the people who helped me.

As large as I am, I felt sorry for the 20 odd people that had to handle me from the boat, ambulance, trolley and chamber. They got me to safety within eight hours.

To Doctor M. Goong, the invisible Doctor Lupa and the staff of the Thai International Hospital: I cannot thank you enough. I have always had a love for Thailand and its people, but more so now than ever.

After 15 visits and 62 hours of treatment in the "Bubble Hotel", I got to know six of the nicest people in what is now my "new life". I thank you with all my heart: Kylie, Mike, Gui, Alex, Paul and Ian. I will never forget you. I'm walking again.

Greg Costello
Sawtell Hotel, Australia

Traffic crackdown a good idea

I am glad to see that the police in Phuket are going to try to do something about the extremely bad driving one encounters here ["Police to launch traffic law crackdown", Gazette, October 25].

I am a retired aerospace manager with extensive safety

and accident prevention training and experience. There are two main causes of accidents. Unsafe conditions and unsafe actions. Most accidents are caused by unsafe actions, or people doing dumb and/or illegal things. In my five-year residence in Phuket, I have never seen police stopping anyone for committing an unsafe or illegal act.

The police can spend their time stopping non-helmeted motorbike riders or drivers without seat belts, but the lack of a helmet or a seat belt never stopped an accident from happening.

Don't get me wrong: helmets and seat belts are important if an accident should occur. But the root cause of most accidents, injuries and deaths is unsafe or illegal acts.

Start cracking down on speeding, illegal merging into traffic, failing to stop or yield, driving the wrong way against the traffic, failure to signal, illegal or unsafe passing, going too slow or impeding traffic.

I commend the police for finally doing something about this concern. But why finish the exercise in July? It should be ongoing. Why punish offenders with a "slap on the wrist" fine? Make the fine a real deterrent by impounding offenders' vehicles, taking away driving privileges (it is a privilege, not a right).

Education is important, but don't all licensed drivers have to pass a written exam? They have been taught the rules but just choose to ignore them. I have seen written here in the Gazette that the cost is too great to put police on the roads to attack this problem. But, what is the cost of the hundreds of deaths that occur here yearly?

Jack H.
Phuket

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

The election prospects of the Democrat Party

By Chang Noi

To its credit, the Democrat Party is pushing for a dissolution of Parliament and a new election as a way forward from the current deadlock. What do the 2007 election results tell us about their prospects?

At the December 23, 2007 polls, the Democrats lost decisively to the People Power Party (PPP), yet they still scored their second-best results ever, taking 164 of the 480 seats.

Only in 1976 did they win a larger proportion (114 of 279). At the 1992 poll, the last time an election led to a Democrat-headed government, they won less than a quarter.

How did the Democrats do so well in 2007?

Perhaps the most startling result was on the party list, the 80 seats decided on a vote by party. Nationwide, the Democrats trailed the PPP by only 190,399 votes, and won only one less seat (33 against 34). At the 2001 and 2005 polls, the Democrats had won only a little over 7 million each time, and had trailed the TRT by a mile. This time, both parties gained a little over 12 million votes. How did the Democrats do so much better?

Several voters picked a mi-

nor party on the constituency vote, but then plumped for one of the two big parties (Democrats or PPP) on the party list. Possibly they made their constituency choice for "local" reasons (they liked the candidate) but their party list choice for "national" reasons – for or against Thaksin.

The same thing had happened at the 2001 and 2005 polls. But this time many more people (around 15% of the voters) switched from small parties at the constituency vote to the two big parties at the party-list. And two out of three of these shifters moved to the Democrats, only one to PPP. That was what gave the Democrats their superior showing on the party-list poll.

This shift has a clear implication: if the Democrats had some better candidates, they should do better in the constituencies.

But where?

The two main parties now have an electoral heartland. The TRT/PPP has the upper north and the core northeast. The Democrats have the south, excluding the predominantly Malay-Muslim deep south. Over the last three polls, this geographical division has become clearer and deeper. In these heartlands, the opponent is nowhere. In the northeast, the Democrats gained

a pitiful 8% of the votes in the constituency polls.

By contrast to these heartlands, the lower north and central regions have become an electoral checkerboard. Several 3-member constituencies returned MPs from two or three parties. Neighboring areas voted in completely different ways. In the Chao Phya plain from the hill fringe down to the sea, voters



have reverted to the old pattern of selecting candidates on local grounds, with less attention to party. This is where the Democrats have to fish for opportunities.

The return to multi-member voting has produced many more close contests. At the 2001 and 2005 polls, most winners won by a mile. The multi-member format with more parties has fragmented the vote. In several constituencies, the winners gained only about 30%, and rivals were hot on their heels.

If only 1% of voters voted differently, 11 seats could change hands. A 5% shift could change

a total of 60 seats, and a 10% shift could change 104.

Many of these "marginal" seats are in the checkerboard region of the center and lower north. These have to be the Democrats' targets at the next poll.

What chance do they have?

Let's suppose that all the seats that are vulnerable to small shifts by the voters do indeed change hands.

If there is a 1% shift, the Democrats end up with three more seats, two won from PPP and one from a small party. If there is a 5% shift, the PPP loses 23 seats, and the Democrats gain 18. That would be enough to give the Democrats a chance to head a coalition.

But it's not that simple. There are also seats where the Democrats won narrowly in 2007 and are vulnerable to a slight shift in voting. They would gain 18 seats but lose 14 elsewhere. The net result would be that the PPP lose 9 seats while the Democrats gain 4 and other parties gain the other 5. If there is a 10% shift in voting, the result is even more ambiguous. PPP loses 20 seats, but the Democrats gain only 3.

This is just a statistical exercise with not much bearing on reality. But what it shows is that small shifts in voting could change

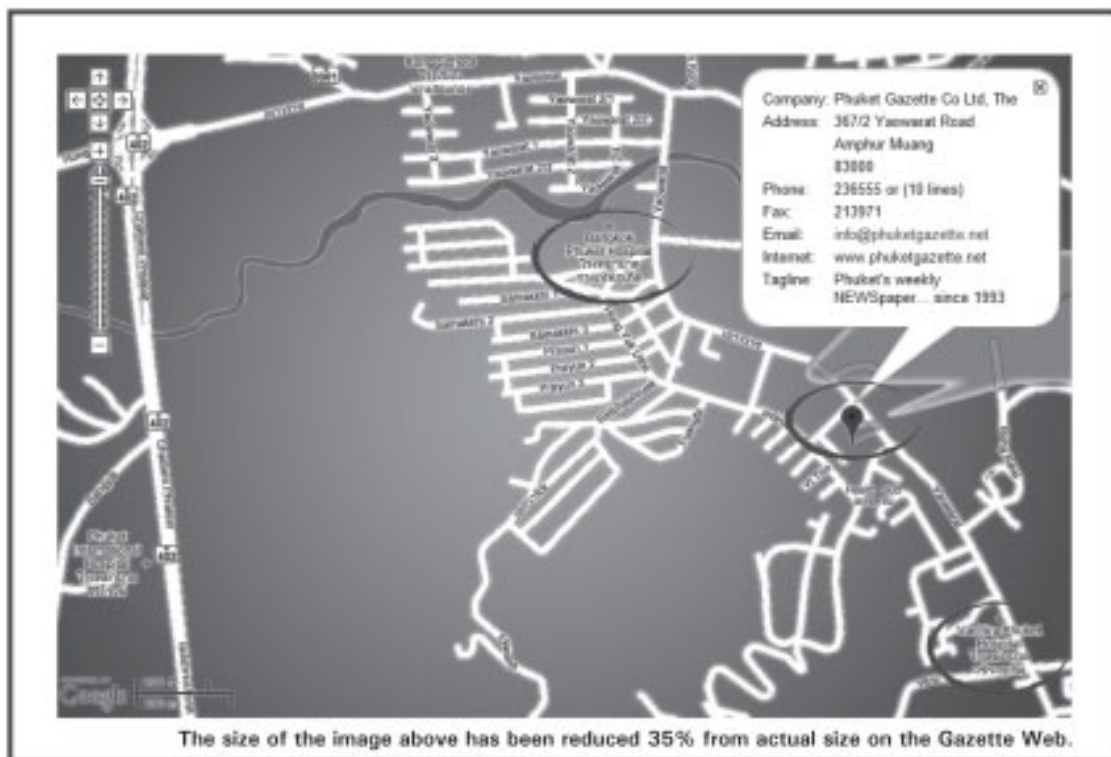
the result in contradictory ways. The Democrats have a good chance of winning some. But in others, especially in Bangkok and the east where the Democrats gained ground in 2007, the Democrats themselves are vulnerable.

Consider Chonburi and Rayong, the political fiefdom of Kamnan Poh. In 2005, Kamnan Poh delivered all the seats to TRT. But by 2007, Kamnan Poh had fled the country to avoid sentencing – and the Democrats won all the seats. Local opinion reckons there were two factors behind this astonishing swing: Poh's sons did not pay enough attention, and the large number of army and navy personnel in the area were mobilized to oust the PPP.

At provincial and municipal elections only a few months later, the Poh family candidates won by a mile. The family was paying attention and the military was not a factor.

The Democrats have a chance to win at the polls rather than by another "accident". But it won't be easy. At the 2007 poll, a lot of public money and resources were mobilized behind the attempt to prevent a PPP victory. How much this benefited the Democrats is impossible to gauge – and how far it will be a factor at the next poll is unknown.

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Getting tooled up for DIY

Welcome to our new home-improvement DIY column. The term DIY is probably familiar to most of you, but for the uninitiated, it simply means "Do-It-Yourself".

This column is dedicated to folks who, like myself, are living and working (or retired) here, and who enjoy handyman-type tasks and small home-improvement construction projects. We will try to provide some helpful tips on what to buy, and what to avoid, as far as tools and materials go, and that includes getting the most for your money by buying affordable tools and making the best of them.

Of course, if finances allow, purchasing top-of-the line tools is always recommended, as their reliability, quality, and the availability of replacement parts (bearings, brushes, etc) will save you money in the long run.

The column will address mainly small jobs around the house, basic repairs to the house itself, installation of easy items (shelves, lights, fans, etc), maintenance of small electrical and hardware items, plumbing repairs,

furniture repairs/construction and perhaps a few things for the garden and patio. Working around the house can often turn into a 'blue-vocabulary' session, but with deference to our wives' and children's sensitive ears, and our blood pressure, we'll try to provide shortcuts and tips that may help avoid problems ahead of time. Suggestions about future repair topics or projects would also be most welcome.

In this, our first column, we'll start with the most basic tools. In the next article, we'll discuss some additional tools and some basic supplies. Most of you will be familiar with all the basic tools, but to be safe, I'll define some of them for those out there who may be newcomers to the manual crafts.

Toolbox. The place to start is, obviously, the toolbox. The most practical is the metal type having a top with two cover-flaps, hinged on the outside edges, which lift

up to reveal trays, which also then lift up and out, like a tackle box. These are available at Big C or Tesco-Lotus for around 300 baht.

Plastic toolboxes are okay, but are usually not as roomy and the catches break frequently. You will discover that, over time – as the box accommodates an assortment of extra tools, odd parts, screws and nuts 'n' bolts – the extra space helps. The two trays are divided into compartments; good for keeping small items organized.



David E. Schmidt

Hammers: Ah yes... Get in touch with your caveman roots. After all, our hands were made for blunt impact devices. Get the fiberglass-handled, claw-type (carpenter's hammer).

I recommend getting one standard and one smaller size, for different size nails, and nails in tight places, (corners, close to other items, etc). Lighter nails require a lighter touch, and the

smaller size is easier to control for these occasions. If you do a lot of furniture repair, get a tack-hammer, too. These have smaller, tapered-cylinder shaped heads.

Wrenches: Get two sets of wrenches, as often the head of a bolt must be held while the nut is tightened, and many times, (especially on bicycles) the head and the nut will be the same size.

Try to get one set of wrenches that are open at each end, and one set with a boxed end. In addition, buy a few more loose wrenches of the most popular sizes (for bicycles, 10mm and 13mm).

Check for straight, accurate-looking machining on the openings, and thick shafts for strength. Look for forged sets, as the cheaper, chrome-plated ones are cast from cheaper metal, and can break with hard use.

Screwdrivers: Look for screwdrivers with carbide-steel tips, usually black in color.

Avoid those with cheap chrome plating, which flakes off easily, leaving the metal susceptible to rust, and ones with machining-marks visible beneath the plating. Get ones with plastic handles, not wood, with through-handle shafts ending in a cap over

the end of the handle. These are much stronger, and can withstand harder use, and the occasional dropping onto concrete, better than those without.

Pliers: One of the handiest tools ever invented! You should have at least one of the "standard" type, plus one pair of the heavier style, with more squared jaws, called "dykes" (I've no idea!), with a wire-cutter on the side.

Pliers with plastic, insulated handles are nice, but unless the handles flare at the bottom, the plastic has an annoying tendency to slip off during use. Needle-nose pliers are also quite handy, as are a pair of sturdy wire-cutters. Get several sizes of each.

Locking pliers: These are extremely handy tools to have. I'm spoiled by having grown up with "Vise-Grips", the original (and best) locking pliers, which are made in my home state, back in the US.

The ones available here, with the folded-metal handles, are adequate, but beware: sometimes the toothed jaw-inserts can break loose with heavy use. Grease the threaded shaft inside the handle for easier operation, and put a drop of oil in all the pivots. Get several sizes.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

New friends open up wider vistas for birthday Scorpios!

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The stars suggest that this is auspicious timing for Scorpios to follow their hearts. If your birthday is due during the coming week, expect your circle of friends to broaden in the year ahead and this should lead to more travel. In the realm of personal relationships, a shy Piscean is still content to admire from afar. Those already spoken for will see new ways to appreciate their partner this week.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A niggling question needs answering before it blows up out of proportion. Certain Sagittarians with something on their mind are advised

to seek a trusted opinion and act accordingly. Practical Virgo is worth listening to, but an Aquarius acquaintance won't see the logical side. Where love is concerned, the skies clear and recent disagreements become history. However, you should endeavor to include your partner more when making plans.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Changes are rustling in the undergrowth concerning your career. Capricorns who are impatient to make a move should receive invigorating news towards the end of next week. Intimate relationships are affected by confusing signals; Pisces in particular is ready to lead you up the jungle path. For someone to rely on, accept a social invitation from another Capricorn and this could develop into something more. The number five can bring some luck on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are liable to believe they are capable of even the most impossible chal-

lenges and this tendency could cause much time wasting this week. You are advised to concentrate on being realistic, especially regarding property matters. On Wednesday, an employment prospect might not seem suitable at first, but further investigation should reveal that there is scope for diversity. Wear the color royal blue to encourage more sensible thinking.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Putting the brakes on unnecessary monetary transactions is still recommended for Pisceans. A Libran friend luckily has a brainwave for creative ways to find enjoyment with minimum cost involved this weekend, but a romantic partner is ready to encourage you to spend more than you can afford. This could force a disagreement that has been brewing for some time. Delay official appointments until after Tuesday as your mood should have softened by then.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Losing sleep over a minor health concern needs to be avoided by scheduling a visit to the doctor. The astral atmosphere on Monday should make it easier for you to attend to this and other matters that have been conveniently set on the back burner. This weekend, Arians see an opportunity to make amends for a misunderstanding that took place last month. Your lucky number this week is six.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans are advised to continue on the same path they took last week. The stars predict that wishes can come true as long as your attention doesn't wander. However, a minor romantic diversion this weekend won't disrupt your plans too much and should be a welcome confidence booster. A Gemini family member has some good news to share, although your first reaction could be one of disbelief. The number eight can be lucky next Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Most of those born under the sign of Gemini will have found a healthier balance between work and play recently, but natural party animals could be tempted to go astray this weekend. Sagittarius is a calming influence, but an Aquarian friend should be avoided if you want to stay in control. The best day for romance is Tuesday, and business deals are well-starred on Wednesday. Your lucky number this week is nine.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A modest financial windfall may seem like a drop in the ocean, but it is a sign of things to come. An employment offer made by Aries could be worth considering if you are ready to come out of your shell. Those Cancerians who know they are better equipped to work solo should wait for a more suitable opportunity. In the meantime, moonlighting appears to be a viable possibility.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your good intentions could be misinterpreted this weekend. Those born under the sign of Leo who would like to help a friend in need should inquire whether this would be welcome before pouncing into action. At work, stormy skies clear, but your mistrust of another Leo seems to be justified. A dream you have early next week could hold the key to a private dilemma. The scent of lavender encourages patience.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans still pining for a long-lost love are advised to get out of the doldrums. Elephants will fly before this ill-starred relationship is rekindled and promising romantic chances are being passed by. Libra would love to take your mind away from the past and into the present. You are about to be amazed at how satisfying work can be when your fear of the unknown is overcome. Wear pineapple yellow to encourage more determination.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your plans for a winter getaway are subject to alteration this week, but Librans should not compromise too much. The stars suggest that a partner would like to have the last word when final arrangements are made. With work, a window of opportunity opens when Pisces is let down by someone else. If you're ready to move faster than lightning, the rewards will be more than worthwhile.

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Brains, Planes & Automobiles

The ancient city of Ayudhaya, Thailand's former capital, is rightly famous for its many magnificent temples; around 200 of them to be precise.

It is also home to the Honda Automobile (Thailand) plant, the country's second largest manufacturer and exporter of passenger vehicles.

Recently, Honda opened a second plant in Ayutthaya, investing around 6.2 billion baht and employing an additional 2,000 workers.

This plant doubles Honda's annual capacity to 240,000 vehicles. The investment in the plant was driven by the growing demand, even in these troubled economic times, for Honda vehicles in the Asian region.

The new plant will build or assemble the Accord, the Civic, the popular sports utility CR-V, the compact Jazz and the unique-to-Thailand Honda City.

The City is loosely based on an outgoing Civic model and is designed with value-for-money in mind.

Five-speed automatic transmission, column-mounted paddle shift levers, active headrests, dual airbags and an advanced audio system, including CD player all come as standard.

The entry-level City comes with a manual gearbox, but most people would probably opt for the comfort and ease of operation of the automatic. The throttle is a drive-by-wire electronic arrangement.

Power is supplied by Honda's latest i-VTEC 1.5 liter engine, packing a robust 120 bhp at 6,600 rpm.

Honda introduced the VTEC engine in 1989, the first power unit to provide variable valve timing with lift electronic control.

This system uses two camshaft profiles and electronically selects between them. It was invented by Honda R&D engineer Ikuo Kajitani and produces more



The Honda City: a no-nonsense family car with unexpected features.

power, lower emissions and improved fuel economy.

Other manufacturers, including Mitsubishi, Toyota, Porsche and Nissan, have all subsequently developed systems similar to the one pioneered by Honda.

It is a little-known fact that Honda builds more engines than any other company in the world.

In addition to cars and motorbikes, Honda also manufactures lawnmowers, diggers, earth movers, generators and even aircraft, which are currently being developed in conjunction with the GE Corporation of the US.

The GE Honda HF120 engine was formally launched in late 2006 when it was selected to power the HondaJet advanced light jet, as well as the Spectrum Aeronautical business jet.

Certification of the HF120 is expected early next year, with entry into service on both aircraft in 2010.

Initially, production of the Honda engine will be concentrated at GE's Lynn facility in Massachusetts, but recently Honda Aero Inc. announced plans to build an engine production facility in Burlington,

North Carolina.

Honda claims that the key cost-of-ownership of the engine will be its ability to operate in service for an industry-best 5,000 hours before its first major overhaul, with no need to open the engine for interim hot-section inspections.

Back to earth and the altogether more terrestrial, not to say mundane Honda City.

This is a no-nonsense family car with one or two unexpected features. Seating four or five, it is well appointed with plenty of room inside.

A number of accessories are available as options on the City, most of them essentially cosmetic.

At 564,000 baht for the entry-level model, this compact Honda is unquestionably excellent value for money.

For more information, go to www.honda.co.th

Jeff Heselwood can be reached by email: jhc@netvigat.com



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Hats off to newcomers

CAPE PANWA: Fickle winds and shifting tides, resulting in a shortened course, saw the 10-boat fleet employing some interesting manoeuvres and tactics in Race 13 of the IMAGE asia ACYC 2008 race series on Sunday October 26.

Simple beats to upwind marks and later beam reaches on the final sausage, with some of the more desperate boats flying spinnakers on the final leg of the shortened course, provided the main action for the day. It was an idyllic route, with the fleet catching glimpses of the kids sailing in the Optimist Regatta held at Ao Yon.

Race Official Tony set the start/finish line to allow a sail-past, enabling the big kids to study the little ones, perhaps to get some pointers. After a brief delay, allowing latecomers to join the race, the fleet got away a few minutes after the scheduled 12pm start.

Bravo and a bottle of Captain Morgan to Tia from *Ooh La La* for getting out there, plus congratulations to the skipper and crew of the *Pink Boat* for winning the IMAGE asia Encouragement Award. And yet, despite a race well sailed, the brownie points earned for sailing the extra sausage cost them first place in Cruising.

SEA Property had a close encounter of the red kind with the Safe Water Mark off Baan Nit, adding a decidedly red hue to the otherwise blue and green theme of *The Firefly*.

Her penalty spin was completed at her convenience some way down the track. *The Frog* took line honors overall as a re-

sult of some inspired tactical decisions, which favored the skipper and 2-man crew. With *Katsu* uncharacteristically absent for the day, the Multihulls led the fleet. *Charro* tried valiantly to steal a march and negotiated the reefs around Hamburger Island to bring up the rear of the Cats.

A warm welcome to Andrew, Donna and their son Finn for sailing *Awatea* in her first ACYC race since re-acquiring her. Hats off too for their fancy mast and foredeck work as a fast and impressive spinnaker hoist was achieved.

Dismay, however, from the cast and crew as there was, in fact, no spinnaker attached. Kevin Gillow's impressive physical feat in ascending the mast to reclaim the halyard did, though, go some way to redeeming the situation.

Race 13 results Racing

Nerida Roger Diggelmann 1
Awatea Andrew de Bruin 2
Simone Roger Harris 3

Cruising

Chetak Jim Kane 1
The Four Winds John Fenn 2
Ooh La La Tia 3

Multihulls

The Frog Chris Jongerius 1
SEA Property Peter Dyer 2
X Cat Riot Bob Brindley 3

The full results for the day, the progressive series results and the performance handicap can be viewed at:

www.acyc.asiaaustraliattech.com
Race 14 of the IMAGE Asia ACYC 2008 race series will take place on November 2 and Race 15 on November 16. Call Tony on 081-7470074 for info.

Phuket sailors to represent Thailand in NZ Keelboat championships



Keelboats racing in the Raimon Land Platu Championship 2008.

PHUKET: Phuket's Scott Duncanson and his crew of Trent Pederson, Jerry Chase and Kevin Scott have been selected by the Royal Akarana Yacht Club to represent Thailand in the 2008 New Zealand Keelboat championships, to be held November 12 to 16.

Duncanson gained selection after a convincing overall victory in the Raimon Land Platu Championship 2008, which consisted of five regattas: The Platu Open, the Coronation Cup, the Hua Hin Regatta, the Platu Nationals, and the Royal Varuna Cup, finishing 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd and 1st respectively.

For the first time, the New Zealand Keelboat championships will be contested in the Bruce Farr designed Platu 25 Class, which has seen a resurgence in popularity over the last few years after gaining International One

Design status from sailing's governing body, the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). European regattas are now attracting fleets nearing one hundred boats, and with a new manufacturer based in Indonesia, fleets are expected to grow rapidly throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Invitations to challenge for the title were issued only to New Zealand recognized, class champions and selected international Platu crews of recognized world standard.

With confirmed entries from America's Cup helmsman Dean Barker (Emirates, Team New Zealand), Andrew Wills, Farr 1020 / Young 88 champion, Richard Pagani (the current title holder), and a yet-to-be-named Kiwi yacht racing 'legend', the competition will no doubt be of the highest level.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Duncanson said, "We've had an intensive seven months of racing in the Platu, competing in seven regattas, which means over fifty races."

A lot of time and effort has been put into rig tuning, sail design and development, but ultimately it has been the training and dedication of the crew that has secured us the opportunity to compete.

"Unfortunately, due to the lack of a suitable Marina in Phuket, the bulk of the Thai Platu fleet is now based at Ocean Marina, Pattaya, and this has made attending all the regattas a little difficult, not to mention costly," he added.

"Indeed, it is only because of the generous support of our sponsors Raimon Land and my employer PCS, for allowing me the time off, that we are able to compete internationally."

The team, sailing under the name The Lofts Southshore, has recruited New Zealand Olympic medalist and coach Bruce Kendall as strategist and tactician. "We've been very successful racing in the warm and usually peaceful waters of Thailand," said Duncanson, who added that he expected the racing in New Zealand to be much tougher and certainly a lot colder.

"Having some local knowledge and expertise on board will hopefully ensure that we're a little more competitive in such a high-class fleet," he observed.

When asked about his chances of winning in New Zealand, Duncanson was realistic.

"As our crew are mostly amateur sailors, we don't expect to be at the same level as the professionals; but since the Platu class is still quite new to New Zealand, we do have experience and 'time on the water' on our side."

He concluded, "Of course we hope to do well, but, more importantly, we view our selection as a very fortunate opportunity to represent Thailand abroad, and to race against the world's best sailors."

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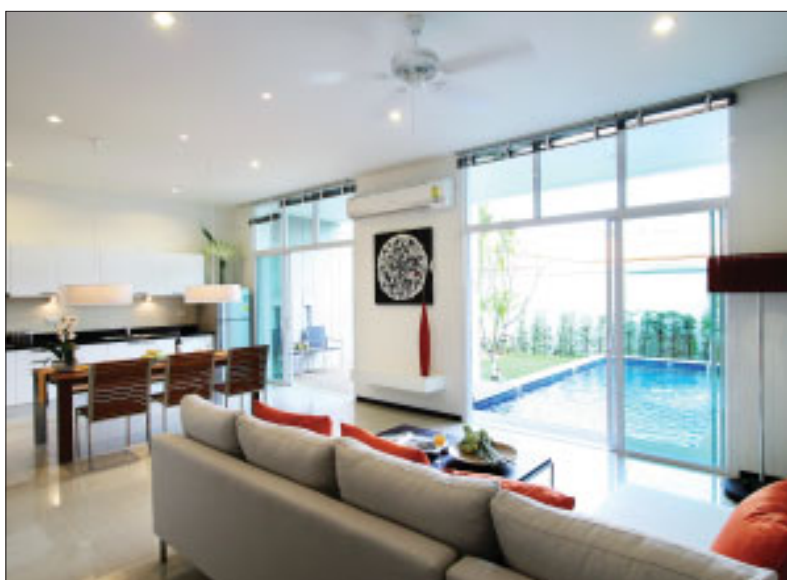
Currently under construction in Bangtao is the latest addition to the popular Oxygen Condominium concept. With half a dozen projects already up and running on the island, Oxygen condominiums and its sister brand Two Villas have established a tried and trusted formula centered around the concept of two-story, open plan, condominium-style duplex homes.

Oxygen Condominiums come with a private pool and walled garden and are fully furnished in a contemporary Asian theme with international fittings and high-end quality appliances. Situated in a prime residential area, and never far from the beach but with all amenities on hand, the objective is to create a community atmosphere for couples and families.

The spacious ground-floor combination living area has been designed to be adaptable for individual privacy or family socializing. Covering an area of over 200 square meters, the lower level comprises a roomy open-plan living and dining area, which looks out over the pool and high-walled garden.

High ceilings allow for ample natural light to stream in through large floor-to-ceiling glass doors, which open onto a sheltered wooden pool deck with a rainwater shower. There is also a kitchen with an extended granite counter-top and breakfast bar, a washroom and a laundry room. An additional living room could be closed off and adapted or used as a home theater, office or guest bedroom.

Broad balconies of the two upper-floor bedrooms both overlook the pool and garden.



The upper level covers around 300 square meters in total. A narrow staircase runs up toward the back of the home leading to two equally voluminous bedrooms on each side. Each of the bedrooms has a balcony and both bedrooms are fitted with built-in hardwood-framed wardrobes. They also feature sunken bathtubs en suite, creating something of a home spa environment.

Although the bathrooms are at the rear of each bedroom, glass is used for the front-facing walls so that natural light fills the bathroom and offers a view through the bedroom out to the balcony and beyond.

Oxygen duplex homes are a harmonious combination of architectural precision and creative interior design that the developers refer to as "minimalist Asian".

Furnishings can be selected to suit buyers' tastes from a range of quality furniture.

The Oxygen Bangtao development comprises 26 units, ten of which have already been sold off plan. Construction will be spread over two phases, with the second phase due to be completed by the end of 2009. Prices of the condominiums will range from 10.6 million to 16.8 million baht.



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Rawai

A tropical country garden

The unique selling point of this modern, large three-bedroom house, located near the beach in Rawai, is undoubtedly the expansive tropical garden, complete with swimming pool and its very own Sala (a Thai gazebo).

The property is also surrounded by rubber trees, which help to isolate the home and add a sense of privacy.

The house itself is also extensively appointed, with three en-suite bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, a laundry room and an area on the second floor that could function equally well as a study or a home office.

Inside this Thai-style pool villa is a cozy open-plan living area comprising a lounge, dining room, and modern Western kitchen, and featuring ceramic tiled flooring and painted walls.

Outside, the generously proportioned tropical garden is elegantly designed, incorporating a lawn surrounded by small trees and shrubs, with the 8x4-meter pool and Sala as its centerpiece. It offers an idyllic setting for those who enjoy hosting garden parties, barbecues or simply relaxing in the sun. The property is



surrounded by dense foliage, creating a restful ambiance.

Rawai, situated at the southernmost tip of Phuket, is renowned for its fresh seafood and tranquility. There are numerous beaches and restaurants within close proximity, ensuring that you will never be short of something to do or something to eat.

The land has a Chanote title

and the asking price for the property, freehold, is 12.5 million baht.

For more information about this home, contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Quote reference number HSIL2263. Phone: 076-288908. E-mail: Patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com



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Vines & Vindaloo

By Bloomin' Bert

I'm rather partial to a good curry. It's in my blood. After all, I am a Yorkshireman, and the centre of the curry universe in the UK (many would argue the world), is only a few miles from my former home in sunny England – the glorious city of Bradford. There are few things I miss from that corner of the planet, but curry is definitely one of them.

Bradford rarely gets a mention in gastronomic circles, even though it's probably solely responsible for one of the greatest culinary inventions in the history of mankind; a creation rarely uttered in the hushed, hallowed halls of whatever clubs those executive chef types probably belong to. Bradford invented curry and chips.

There are those who will maintain that the only appropriate accompaniments to a curry would be rice or *chapattis*, but these people are missing out on an incredibly pleasurable dining experience. They have never experienced the culinary delight of dunking a big fat chip into a



bowl of curry, and munching on the combination... Heavenly.

By the way, for any Americans who may be a little confused at this stage, the chips to which I refer are what you bizarrely call French fries, or even freedom fries more recently, I'm led to believe. If you could please refer to your so-called 'chips' as 'crisps', as they are obviously more correctly known, this would avoid any confusion in this regard. Thank you.

Anyway, getting back to curries. What's on offer? The options generally available start off with the *korma*, which to be honest, is a bit of a girls-blouse curry. It can be quite tasty, but there isn't a great deal of bite to it. The kids and girls will love it, as it's fairly innocuous.

Then there's the inevitable chicken tikka massala, which for some reason seems to have taken over from roast beef and Yorkshire pudding as Britain's national dish. Again, it's a curry for wimps – flavorsome and pleasant enough, but not really one for the lads.

Then we get on to the more serious stuff, moving up to the Madras stage. This is where things get interesting, as these curries start to bite back. They aren't *phet* in the same way as Thai food; they somehow hurt more. This is especially true when you move on to the more serious vindaloo, which, if the chef puts his mind to it, can cause serious pain.

Unfortunately, many of my compatriots only think about indulging in a curry when they leave the pub after a few pints, and think it will be a good idea to hurl a bit of abuse at the waiter, and ask for "the hottest thing on the menu". A hint, gentlemen. Don't upset the waiting staff. The word gets back to the bloke cooking the stuff, and he will inevitably make you hurt, the degree of pain wholly dependent on the scale of the insult.

Once consumed, even strapping chaps are crying from

the strength of the curry's punishment, but all remain adamant that they can handle it, even though what has been created is hotter than the next step up from a vindaloo; a *pahl*. This is an evil concoction, designed, I would suspect, only to satisfy the certainly justified lust for revenge from Indian restaurant staff.

The term vindaloo, I am led to believe, actually derives from the fact that for centuries, the meat for these curries was marinated in vinegar, which comes from wine, which is of course made from the fruit of vines. At last, we get to something which is vaguely connected to something green and growing.

Vines are technically "plants that grow horizontally over the ground or climb by twining or attaching appendages to a support." There are many different types here in Phuket; woody and herbaceous, and evergreen and deciduous. Around these parts, people mostly grow them for their flowers, as many vines have longer and more frequent blooming cycles than many other plant forms.

There are vines in bloom every month of the year. Most of these vines are evergreen, making them do their job year-round. Many vines which grow in this part of the world have unusual and striking foliage and flowers; it doesn't seem to matter whether they are growing wild or if someone has deliberately put them there – they're everywhere, in one form or another.

Vines can be used in a variety of ways in your garden. Posts and poles, and even ugly trees you can't bear to get rid of can be transformed using vines to alter their form, texture and color. Species of vines exist that cling or climb on wood, stone, brick, or even sheet metal, so you can choose vines to give character to boring walls or fences. Closely clinging vines can also be used to accentuate architectural lines of buildings, or larger, branching vines can soften lines you'd rather not see.

They're not particularly independent, so vines often need some type of support if you grow them upright. To choose the proper support for a particular species of vine, it's important to understand how the vine is going to climb. They can be separated into three basic types of climbers: clingers, twiners, and winders.

Clingers are vines which grab hold of rough surfaces by means of rootlets or sticky disk things. I'm sure 'sticky disk things' aren't the official term but you know what I mean. Examples of these are the ivy you see in more temperate climates, the climbing fig, and the philodendrons.

These types of vines are often used to cover solid upright surfaces such as trees, fences or walls. You shouldn't grow them on wood-covered walls because they prevent the wood surface from drying, which increases the chance of decay. Clinging vines may also loosen mortar between bricks in masonry walls and can sometimes be hard to remove.

Twining vines get around by encircling anything they can. They are often used on poles, vertical wires, or lattice structures. Most of these vines will spiral in only one direction that is characteristic to the species. If you attempt to train one to spiral in the opposite direction, it probably won't co-operate, and you might even damage it. Checking out the spirals that are already there is probably the best way to avoid upsetting it. Twining vines include mandevilla, silver morning glory, confederate jasmine, allamanda, and the inevitable bougainvillea.

Winders climb by means of tendrils, which come in many forms and sizes. It's the tendrils that wind themselves around some kind of support, rather than the stems themselves. You can use these to cover lattice, wire mesh, or other supports when you want them to spread horizontally. Examples of tendril vines include the glory lily (the spectacular *gloriosa superba*), many members of the pea family, and the passion flower.

If you watch many of these at work, you'll see tendrils almost visibly moving – give them a push in the right direction and their tendrils will be well and truly locked around whatever they can find in just a few hours.

Vines and vindaloo? Yes, I know – tenuous doesn't even begin to describe it. So whinge to the *Gazette* editor.

Alternatively, do yourself a favor. The next time you're in the mood for a curry, say no to the rice or *chapattis*. Order a plate of chips instead. You'll be glad you did. Oh, and be careful not to upset the chef.

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Construction

Chalong

Plans for a prestigious port of call

With a completion date scheduled for mid 2010, construction of Palai Residential Decks is currently underway. When complete, the moated residential community will cover 9,600 square-meters (6 rai) of ocean-front land bordering Chalong Bay Pier and Marina.

This low-rise development of three storeys, comprising six buildings and housing 42 one- and two-bedroom apartments is directed at international buyers of luxury property. It has already attracted interest from an overseas yachting-oriented clientele with eight units already pre sold.

The project is owned by Bangkok-based developer Trio Gold Estate Co., Ltd and is under the management and sole agency of Arawan Property Company Ltd.

The company's managing director Mr Arawat Mosrijai, emphasized the community aspect of the new development.

"Of the six rai occupied by the project, only 35% will be taken up by buildings and infrastructure, with the remaining 65% being designated as green areas," he told the *Gazette*.

Mr Arawat highlighted the communal environment and facilities that residents of the Palai Residential Decks will enjoy, such as the landscaped lawns, lotus pools, fitness sala and expansive freshwater swimming pools.

The development will comprise four separate apartment blocks, each three storeys high and sporting a swimming pool running along the length of the front of the complex, giving ground floor unit owners direct



Artist impressions of how Palai Residential Decks will look when completed. The development will comprise one- and two-bedroom units and will cover six rai.

access to the pools from their wooden sun decks. Top floor apartments will have roof-top terraces and will also have private pools.

Mr Arawat also pointed out that the apartments have been designed to ensure that the new home owners will enjoy space, tranquility and privacy complemented by sea views.

Prices for the units will start at 9.5 million baht for the 105-square-meter one-bedroom apartments and 14 million baht for the 155-sqm 2-bedroom units. A showroom is due to be opened on-site in mid 2009.



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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KARON SEA VIEW



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TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel: 080-5358767, Tel (US): 0011-760-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276-5117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

KOH YAO YAI

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Property Gazette

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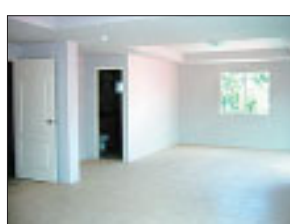
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Brand-new luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment, 20 metres from Kamala Beach. Highest quality furnishings, plasma TV. Every facility. A beautiful residence or investment with very high rental returns. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-630-2416. Email: jonhassall@aol.com

RPM MARINA CONDO

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 150sqm + 50-sqm terrace. Freehold, corner view, pool, fitness, tennis. B27m. Tel: 081-4772189. Email: thunderor-edigger@gmail.com

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



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

- * 4-storey
- * 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
- * Chanote title
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Asking price:

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Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, big kitchen, air con, swimming pool. Can park 2 cars. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 083-1036578.

NEW POOL VILLA

near Kata. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. www.landandhouseforsale.phuket.net 6.8 million baht. Tel: 086-2809416.

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Freehold, 5 million baht, furnished, 1 bedroom, lease / option to buy. Tel: 084-6301770.

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.

3 BED HOUSE

Detached 3 bed, 2 bath with phone line and own water. 24 hour security. Approx 70 sq/ wah. Kathu. 3.3 million baht ono. Interest free installments considered. Tel: +66-85-789 5092. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

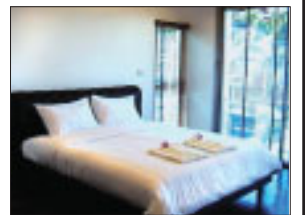
7 RAI

180 meters of waterfront. Opposite Yacht Haven marina. Cleared land. Great sea views. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

3 levels, only 3.3 million baht. 1 min to beach. Owner moving. Bargain. Tel: 084-840-5834.

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

NEAR CHALONG CIRCLE

New 2-3 bed villa on small, quiet estate. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521951. Email: notley.peter@gmail.com

1/2 RAI LAND NEAR LAGUNA

Land plot 1/2 rai (800 sqm) in Baan Don near Laguna. Chanote title, filled and ready to build a villa on. For sale at 2 million baht. Tel: 086-943-4824. Email: orchids_hkt@yahoo.com

NICE 5 BED HOUSE

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

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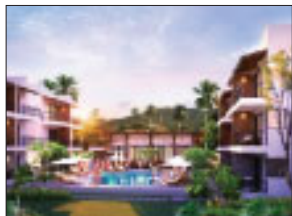
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Property Gazette

RAWAIYA SUITES CONDOMINIUMS



Rawai Beach, 1 and 2 bedrooms, ensuite bathroom, fully furnished, 65 to 130 sqm, total 27 units. Ready to move into in December, rent out in high season. Full facilities, freehold available. Prices: 3.7 to 3.9 million baht. Sales: +66 (0)76 245964 or email to: sales@tharadonestate.com. Tel: 076-245964, 085-784-2004. Fax: 076-245962. For further details, please see our website at www.tharadonestate.com

VILLA + 2 HOUSES IN PATONG

Villa + 2 houses with 8 small apartments. The owner is using the villa + pool and 2 apartments. Six apartments are for rent. 700 sqm freehold land. For sale by owner direct at 40 million baht. No agents. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se For further details, please see our website at www.bromma.thaihouse.com

LAND, BAAN MANEEKRAM

for sale. 161sq wah. Baan Maneekeam. Nice corner block toward rear of estate. 22,000 baht/sq wah. Please call for more details. Tel: 085-0691327, 084-6267730.

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

CORNER BUILDING OFF BYPASS

2 units, 24 + 33 sq wah, 4 stories. Located opposite Kejmukda restaurant, 300m from the Bypass road. 7-Eleven is on the ground floor. Price for the building is 15 million baht. Tel: 081-893 6630. Fax: 076-241408. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

11 RAI - WAT CHALONG

Flat land with road and water frontage. Next to Land & House Park and Wat Chalong. Chanote: 11-3-60 rai. 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-893 6630. Fax: 076-241408. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

SPACIOUS HOME IN LOCH PLAM

Secure estate, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 6 aircons, 1 year old, 327sqm on 560sqm. Asking 20.9 million baht ono. Owner. Tel: 083-967 5777.

MAI KHAO LAND



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

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, aircon. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288-047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

HOUSE PATONG

for sale and rent. 2 stories, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, well furnished, air conditioning. Tel: 081-797-7199. Email: oscarfashion12@hotmail.com

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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 Visit our website at www.jikkycar.com

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COCONUT ISLAND LAND



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

FREEHOLD: GOLF-VIEW CONDO



bed + bath + living + dining + pantry + terrace = 2.5 MB. Tel: 076-202771, 089-4880955. Fax: 076-202717. Email: anama_ltd@yahoo.com

LAND NEAR LAGUNA

Soi Pasak, 2 rai with Chanote. 6.5 million baht per rai. Call Khun Noi. Tel: 087-281 8006, 081-737 3711.

NAI HARN LAND

for sale. High-end walled plot 720 or 360 sqm. Chanote, cable TV, mains, tel line, good views. Price: 4.4 million baht or 2.25 million baht. Tel: 076-613227, 085-782 7551.

FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSE

5 mins to Cape Panwa, Phuket City. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-852 8096.

PLANTATION SALE

26 rai, Bangpae waterfall, best for residential. 2.2 million baht per rai, whole plot or divide. Nick. Email: stoptong@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

1 Rai, Ao Yon Khao Khad Road, Chalong Bay sea view. 6 million baht. Tel: 087-273-6590. Email: peter.duethorn@web.de

BIG COLONIAL HOUSE



Anuphas Golf View, built 2005, 600sqm, living space, 2 floors with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, dream kitchen, large foyer, large dining and sitting area, separate entertainment room and snooker room, maid's room, on a 1,700sqm tropical garden. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-587 8173.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

for sale. 120 rai agricultural land for sale, 20km from Khao Lak. 3.84 million baht. Call for further information. Tel: 087-020 0191.

SEA, HILL & GARDEN VIEWS

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 160sqm, beautifully appointed designer apartment in peaceful Kata Noi. 150 metres to the beach. Well-established, meticulously maintained and secluded development with 24-hour security. Handicap accessible. Many extras included. 14.7 million baht. Offers invited. Tel: 087-265-8801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com For further details, please see our websites at www.katanoicondo.com or www.photoshow.com/watch/aT6bx5cx

NEW TOWNHOUSE

at Tharnthong villa 7. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen. Email: datchanee09@hotmail.com

LAND IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn. Many small and big plots. Special: 1,773sqm w/ sea view, 5.9 million baht. Tel: 085-795 5383.

NEW 3 BED POOL VILLA

Land: 700sqm; house: 200sqm. Agents welcome. 6.5 million baht obo. Tel: +66-86-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA, NAI HARN



Best location in Nai Harn. Excellent investment. Rental income of 75,000 baht per month for 8 months in low season. For high season, US\$550 per night is possible. Cedar roof, 2 bedrooms. Jacuzzi, waterfall, zeroscape. Only 12.5 million baht. Tel: 085-1111155. Email: alexander.kbh@gmail.com

7 RAI

180 meters of waterfront. Opposite Yacht Haven marina. Cleared land. Great sea views. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.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 Visit our website at www.jikkycar.com

KRABI AREA SEAVIEW LAND

19 rai of hillside land overlooking mountains and Phang-nga Bay. 1.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-9410410. Email: here@fastmail.fm For further details, please see our website at <http://krabi.land.here.fastmail.fm/>

LAND, ANY SIZE

19 + rai. Chanote, 24 million baht, sea view, beachfront land available. Tel: 087-284-9541.

HOUSE IN BANGTAO

2, 3, 4 bedrooms from 3.6 million baht to 13 million baht. Tel: 087-2688752. Website: www.phukethome.ws

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



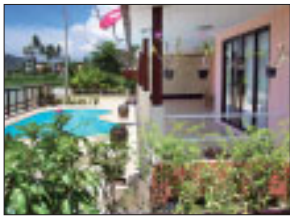
house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon. True TV. ADSL, furnished. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

THAI VILLA AND POOL
in Nai Harn, 1km to beach, very quiet location, stunning view, 2 bedrooms, en-suite Jacuzzi, open-plan lounge, diner, European kitchen, private garden with parking. Rent long term for 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-2705126.

POOL VILLA
for rent. 2 or 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ADSL, sat TV. Tel: 087-268 8752. Visit our website at www.phuket-home.ws

2 BEDROOM HOUSE
Bypass Rd, behind Soi Soho Roast Duck. Fully furnished, cable TV, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, fully furnished, warm water, 2 aircons, ADSL, parking and garden. 14,000 baht per month. 1.5km to Tesco Lotus. Tel: 084-848-7474. Email: kasina_navama_chiti@yahoo.com www.phuket-land-paradise.blogspot.com

RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE



Private aircon room, fridge. Cable TV, Wi Fi. 10,000 baht per month. Contact for more info. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in. Tel: 089-6628733.

KAMALA HOUSE
for rent, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, private gated estate. True TV, plasma TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-811 1067.

BEAUTIFUL VILLA
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, in small secure development. Sala, overflow swimming pool in secluded garden, large car port, quality kitchen, beautifully furnished. 60,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-784 0569.

HOUSES FROM WELLTA
Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com Please see my website at: www.houseinphuket.com/

LUXURY VILLA POOL
near Laguna. Has everything, short or long term, reasonable. Tel: 089-594 4067.

NEW HOUSE, PA KHLOK



for rent. In Pa Khlok, just 1 km from Heroines' Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, small garden. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690-0626. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

KAMALA FOR RENT

4-bedroom detached house in select quiet compound. 20-meter pool, sat TV. Wifi, 24-hr security. Tel: 081-9560527.

TOWNHOUSE, TAINA ROAD, KATA

for rent. Taina Road, Kata Center. 2 units, long-term rent for five years up. Ideal for bar or restaurant. Contact Khun Charoon. Tel: 086-9538692.

NEW HOUSE

for rent/sale. Fully furnished. Villa 3, Soi 8/1, 70/76. Good price, private area, 65sq wah. Tel: 081-537 6045.

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NEW HOUSE (BANDON)



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LITTLE HOUSE



in a quiet area for rent. 10-minute walk to Kata Beach, 1 bedroom, kitchenette, bathroom (hot water), big terrace, fully furnished, cable TV, aircon. 2,500 baht per day, 25,000 baht per month or 252,000 baht per year. Tel: 076-333232, 083-180 8653.

CHALONG NEW HOME
2 bedroom, furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Tel: 089-652-1473.

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bed, 2 bath, aircon. 25,000 baht per month, long term. Contact. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

GOLF-VIEW VILLA STUDIO

120sqm, top view, furnished, pool, quiet, 4km to BIS, Wifi. True TV and TV set, long-term rent: 18,500 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



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

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool & gardening service. Daily rental: 8,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com www.phuket-island-homes.com

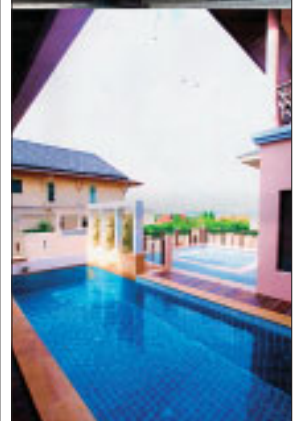
3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. Brand new, fully furnished, fully air-conditioned with communal swimming pool. Near Boat Lagoon and British International School. Please contact: Eng: 086-940 5187, Thai: 086-952 2070.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 5 min to Boat Lagoon & BIS. 75,000 baht per month. Email: simon@worrall.info

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL. Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-6779837, 089-6464786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

for rent at Topland Phuket project, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, near Tesco Lotus. 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-270 0895.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, kitchen, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

LAND AND HOUSE PARK

Chalong. 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, 2 bathrooms, garden, 26,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-4761677.

HOUSE, TALANG

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, covered parking, garden, quiet soi/gated, part/full furnished: 10,000 baht per month, Pa Khlok, Talang. Tel: 085-0691327, 084-626-7730.

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DINGHY

3.1 metres with Yamaha 15hp, red, hyperlon, 2.5 years old, good condition. Tel: 081-787 4690. Email: michael@scuba-quest.de

HOBIE 14 FOR SALE

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Twin 85hp engines. Rebuilt, fast, cover, canopy, trailer, GPS. Price: 395,000 baht. Tel: 085-7851597. Email: kcoyle@pinn.net

SPEED BOAT, 33FT

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DIVE BOAT FOR SALE

Long-term rent. For details call 081-3973291 or email spmtour@csloxinfo.com

SPEEDBOAT 85 HP FOR SALE

For sale: fiberglass speedboat, 85hp, with trailer. 330,000 baht. Tel: 087-975-7672. Email: eric.jehannin@neuf.fr

12 FOOT SEARAY JET BOAT

Very fast 90 hp jet boat. Lots of fun. Low hours. Comes with trailer. Contact Joseph. Tel: 089-8744635. Email: kirkasia@hotmail.com

HOBIE 14 FOR SALE

with launching trolley. View near Tesco. 65,000 baht. Tel: 076-224596.

BAYLINER 225 BOWRIDER

2006 Mercruiser 5.0l mpi v8 petrol & alpha 1 stern drive. Thai registered, many extras. 1.35 million baht. Tel: 081-2713447. Email: abannock@gmail.com

35-FT SPEEDBOAT

Fiberglass, 2x200hp, Yamaha, fuel tank: 600L, water tank: 100L. GPS, radio, CD player, trailer. 2.35 million baht. Contact. Tel: 084-625-4712. Email: wingerest@hotmail.com

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Huge dinghy, sailing equipment available. 80,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

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

DEEP-SEA FISHING BOAT

40ft-long, 12ft-wide, 18-ton fishing boat for sale. Will be at the shipyard 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

TOUR CRUISER FOR SALE

38-ft tour cruiser for sale. All fiberglass. Excellent fuel economy. Mercruiser in-board 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: 081-979-0525. Email: bosch.michael@gmail.com

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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

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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

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THE PARADISE KOH YAO

Island hideaway near Phuket

www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort, is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket. The resort caters to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking outstanding personalities to join our motivated team, committed to personalized and superior customer service.

- Executive Housekeeper
- Assistant Restaurant Manager
- Receptionist (2 positions)

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidates.

Send your latest resume with recent photo and references to e-mail: gm@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao - Boutique Beach Resort & Spa (Phuket Office)
12/39 Moo 2, THEPKRASATTI ROAD, KOH KAEW, MUANG, PHUKET 83000
Tel: 076-238081, 377861- 3 Fax: 076-238913 Website: www.theparadise.biz

The new high-end Andara Luxury Boutique Hotel & Villa Resort located at Kamala Beach Phuket is looking for a qualified & energetic person to fill the following position:



PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

Candidates should have proven hotel management experience in similar positions as well as possessing the following:

Qualifications:

- Foreigner only, with at least a Bachelor's Degree in a related field
- Minimum 5 years' experience in selling Luxury branded residential properties
- Entrepreneurial, excellent service-mind, Positive thinking with "Can Do" attitude
- Ability to understand all aspects of sales management.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in the real estate market with successful sales results is essential.
- Highly professional and able to maintain poise under pressure.

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or e-mail to **PARADISE GROUP:**
The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Chermgthalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
t: 66-76-271242 e: hr@paradisep Phuket.com and apple@paradisep Phuket.com

campbell kane

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd. the developer of The Cape Residential Villas, The Bay, and The Yamu Resort Hotel and Villas, is seeking an experienced senior sales manager for all three of its properties in Phuket.

These are luxury oceanfront homes selling for between one and ten million USD each.

Villa Sales Manager

Qualification:

- Thai national with 5 year's successful track record selling luxury property to foreigners
- Excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written
- Familiarity with Thai real estate law is a plus
- Pleasant personality and professional appearance

Remuneration:

The position provides an excellent salary, competitive sales bonuses, and full benefits.

Please send resumé with covering letter stating salary expectations to
annie@campbellkane.com

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd., 28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasattiri Rd., Koh Kaew, Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: +66 (0)76-204008-9 Fax: +66 (0)76-239836



Richmond Group is one of Phuket's leading property-development and resort management companies through its sister company, Phuket Resort-Management. We are a young, energetic company looking for fashionable, service-orientated staff to join our continued expansion. We currently have the following position:

Personal Assistant to CEO Experienced Sales Executive: Real Estate

Qualifications:

- Foreign or Thai national (good English)
- Male or female
- Computer literate (MS Excel, Word, Power Point)
- Own transportation
- Good communicator, energetic, pleasant personality.



Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Richmond Group or send your resumé with expected salary package and recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
100/30-35 Moo 5 Bangtao Beach, Srisoonthon Road, Chermg Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-326130-4, Email: hr@richmondth.com



SILK RESTAURANT & BAR a Lan Kwai Fong Group Company.
One of Phuket Island's most popular restaurants. We are seeking motivated and dynamic professionals to join our team of professionals for the following positions:

RESTAURANT MANAGER

- Male/Female with 5 years' experience in Thai Restaurant
- Excellent command of English language, MS Office skills, Internet & others
- Able to control & run a restaurant, co-operating in promotional events and managing on Restaurant advertisements
- Able to work within fiscal controls & meet budget forecast requirements
- Ability to lead staff by example
- Very pleasant personality, customer relationship management experience, have initiative, creative with good interpersonal, presentation, self motivated great organizer & organization skills.
- Knowledge of food & wine, Phuket's hotel & travel agencies a definite advantage

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Thai nationality with degree in Sales & Marketing or related field
- At least 5 years' experience with background in Sales & Marketing of Thai Restaurant and Tourism background is preferable
- Strong communication skill with customer's decision-making level. Should be aggressive in the pursuit of sales, independent, creative and smart thinking, co-operating in promotional events and managing restaurant advertisements & able to set up menu will be advantage
- Very pleasant personality, have initiative, creative with good interpersonal presentation & organization skills
- Excellent command of English language, MS Office skills, Internet & others
- Knowledge of Phuket's hotel and travel agents a definite advantage

Attractive salary with benefits and career opportunities are offered to successful candidates. Please submit your full resumé, expected salary and enclosed a recent photo by fax or email to:

SILK ENTERTAINMENT LTD.

5/50 moo 3, chermgthalay, thalang, phuket 83110 thailand
t: 076-271242 e: hr@paradisep Phuket.com website: www.silkphuket.com

SWEDISH/GERMAN GUIDE

Looking for Swedish/German sp. tour guides for land and sea excursions. Please contact. Tel: 076-485411, 087-887 0276. Fax: 076-485-412. Email: info@khaolaklanddiscovery.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaolaklanddiscovery.com

WEB PROGRAMMER

We are looking for a Web programmer for freelance or full-time employment. The successful candidate must be able to start work immediately. Tel: 076-280-838 or 084-845 8881. Fax: 076-280837. Or email: info@phuketbutler.com Please send resume /CV to: info@phuketbutler.com

SELL LUXURY TECHNOLOGY

for our special luxury products. We need a marketing/sales person to expand our team. Experience in sales considered an asset. Salary + commissions over 60,000 baht/month. Please send a CV to: pascal@tailand-electricity.com

SHOP ASSISTANT WANTED

Thai nationality, computer skills (MS Office), good command of English. Tel: 076-282425, 086-470 8125. Fax: 076-384018. Email: prapaipit@octopuswetsuit.com

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Hotel requires a female Thai receptionist. Must be reliable and speak English. Tel: 081-892 1621.

THAI ENGLISH TEACHER

Thai National fluent in English to teach conversation to other Thai nationals working in the tourist industry. 9 hours/week: 12,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-624 7060.

SALES MANAGER ASSISTANT

RAILAND Real Estate is looking for a skillful and responsible female to work in its Laguna office. BA degree, work experience in real estate, excellent Thai and English. Company provides social insurance and a good salary. Tel: 076-324448, 084-845 5111. Fax 076-324448. Email: info@railand.ru

UNLIMITED EARNINGS

Thai nationals required for marketing office in Patong. 5-day working week, 9am-4pm. Will be working outside. Please contact Annie for more details. Tel: 080-529 0087.

+ 50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

Swedish/Norwegian/Danish/Finnish speaking, work permit free. Contact Marc for info. Tel: 086-683 3526. Email: marcjonker_69@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT MAMMA MIA

Skandinavian restaurant in Patong is seeking:

- 2 full-time Waitresses
 - 2 part-time Waitresses, 19-23
 - 2 European-cooking Chefs
- Good salary and tips guaranteed. Please contact Khun Lee. Phone: 081-787 8231, 081-866 9738. Or email: peterlomm@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTS, MEMBER SERVICE, HR

We need:

- 1 Member Service staff
- an HR officer with knowledge of visas and work permits and experience in HR field
- 1 Accounting Manager with experience of more than 5 years and the ability to use advanced Excel program.

All positions are for Thai nationals. Candidates must have a strong command of English - written and spoken (business level). Please contact for more additional Tel: 076-326291. Email: recruitment@premierpropertyleisure.com

TOURIST BOAT

We require for our tourist boat an English-speaking Thai female cook and cleaner. The job requires being on board the boat for island trips of up to 14 days. Email: davidbutler6@bigpond.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/

Island Job Mart



URGENTLY REQUIRED: Phuket Office
The BayCliff Development Co., Ltd. a real estate and development company is currently looking for capable and reliable employees for it's affiliated hotel in Phuket for the following positions:

Receptionist/ Reservation Officer

- Thai Nationality
- Male or Female age 20-35 years old
- At least 1 year's experience
- Service mind, flexible working hours
- Must be reliable and speak English
- Fair computer skills

Housekeeping Attendant

- Female age 20-40 years old
- At least 1 year's experience
- Service mind

Engineering

- Male age 25-40 years old
- At least 1 year's experience

Chief Accountant

- Female age 25-40 years old
- At least 2 years's experience
- An excellent working knowledge of operational and communication skills

Sales Manager/Assistant Sales Manager: Bangkok Office
Qualifications:

- Thai, Male or Female, age at least 25 years
- Bachelor's Degree in Sales or other related field
- Previous real estate sales management experience required
- Must be technically literate
- Proficiency in MS Office
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Service mind, hardworking and able to work under pressure
- Friendly personality, positive attitude and must be a team player
- Good leadership
- Active listener
- Be able to work upcountry occasionally

Sales Representative Super Car Showroom in Phuket
Qualifications:

- Male/Female age 25-40 years old
- Previous experience in Phuket field
- An excellent working knowledge of operation and communication skills
- Service mind
- Good command of spoken and written English

Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photo via email: niramon@thebaycliff.com

The BayCliff Co., Ltd.
39/12 Prabaramee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Thailand.
Tel: (+66) 076-342696
Fax: (+66) 076-342686
Website: www.thebaycliff.com

PSS Asia Co., Ltd. Innovative Security Solutions is looking to fill the following positions:

Sales Manager:

- Thai nationality, male or female, age 26 to 45 years
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer knowledge and technical know-how

Secretary:

- Thai nationality, female, age 26 to 45 years
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Knowledge of common computer programs is an advantage
- Accounting knowledge is a plus

Please contact in person at **Vimami Co., Ltd.**
74/8-9 Moo 2, Chao Fa West Rd., Vichit, Muang, Phuket,
or send your application and CV to vimami@vimami.com



Phuket IT & Software Solutions Co Ltd

Due to the expansion of our business, Phuket IT & Software Solutions is in need of the following:

Secretary • Computer literate, w/ bookkeeping, basic accounting, and administrative tasks experience

Marketing Assistant • 2 years experience in marketing; computer literate, outgoing, and motivated

2 Sales Representatives • previous experience in telemarketing; tasks include selling banners

3 Web Designers • Create graphics for websites; Flash, HTML, PHP knowledge required

SEO Executive • At least 2 years experience in SEO and Search Engine Marketing

Junior Programmer • With knowledge of Java, PHP, ASP, Database Design with MySQL

NOTE: All candidates must be of Thai nationality with proficiency in English both verbal and written. Kindly send your CV at hr@phuketitsolutions.com or call Khun Mai at 081 8941162
<http://www.phuketitsolutions.com/en/employ>

100/18 Chalermprakit Rd., T. Rassada, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076 261988 Fax: 076 610263
Email: info@phuketitsolutions.com
Web: www.phuketitsolutions.com



LIMONCELLO RESTAURANT
FINE ITALIAN DINING

Limoncello 2007 Ltd. is currently offering opportunities in these positions:

- Service Supervisor
- Waiters
- Runners
- Cook Helper
- Steward

Thai nationals only. Some experience, excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

Limoncello 2007 Ltd.
Royal Phuket Marina
63/202 Moo 2, Thepkasatti Rd, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
For interview send resume to luca@limoncello.co.th
Tel: 076-360869, 087-8928495

Bio Latex Co Ltd
(Phuket branch)

We are currently seeking

Salesperson

- * Russian nationality only (female/male, 3 persons)
- * Japanese nationality only (female, 2 persons)

- Accommodation
- Salary commensurate with experience (first 3 months 70% + accommodation) (after 3 months 100% + accommodation + commission)
- Working time - 9am to 5pm

Please send CV, recent photo and references to:
Email: ellezza-phuket@hotmail.com
kennyyasumoto@gmail.com

Tel: 076-352013, 081-8937162 Fax: 076-352133

New restaurant opening



Kalim Bay

Looking for staff:

- Waiter, Waitress
- Bartender
- Cook (all sections)
- Cashier
- Steward

Speak English

To apply, email employment@acquarestaurantphuket.com or put in mail box at 322/5 Prabaram Road, Kathu, Patong 83150



Black Forest
Distribution Co., Ltd. is looking for:

Driver with Licence 2 (Truck)	2 Messengers
Salary starts at 10,000 THB + Food Costs	Salary starts at 7,500 THB + Food Costs

Black Forest Distribution Co., Ltd. PHUKET
204/42 Rat-u-lhit Road, Patong Beach, Phuket 83140
076 - 344 705



Asia Marine is now recruiting:

1. Administration and Front Office Secretary: 1 position
2. Charter Customer Service Executive Based in Yacht Haven Marina Office: 1 position

Qualifications:

- Good command of written and spoken English is a must.
- Good computer literacy.
- Active and pleasant personality.

Please send your resumé with cover letter in English to: marine@asia-marine.net

RESTAURANT CASA D'ORASA
We need one professional waiter/waitress, English speaking. We also need one cook's assistant for Italian cuisine. Contact K. Orasa. Tel: 087-518 8837. Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED
Qualified teachers preferred. Usually need at the last minute. If interested, please send your information to email: alan-siporin@qsi.org

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

CHILD CAR SEAT

Used child's car seat in very good condition. European safety standards. Suits child 9-18kg. 2,000 baht. Email: supanova999@yahoo.com

450 BAHT EACH

Large fans: 1,500 baht. 2 lazy boy beige chairs: 8,000 baht. Large fan: 1,500 baht. Painting: 3,000 baht. Plus garden art, tools, drill, lamp: 1,000 baht. Contact Pat (12pm - 8 pm). Tel: 084-846 4256. Email: funfair2000@yahoo.com

EXPAT LEAVING SALE

Quality teakwood furniture. Display/Book case, Desk, Side/display table, Sun-lounger with fabric cushion, pair bedside tables w/ drawers, 6 drawer chest, telephone cabinet. Tel: 087-274 7648. Email: deb spatterson@gmail.com

LG 42" PLASMA TV

Excellent condition, complete with wall brackets. Price: 24,950 baht. Tel: 086-943-3056.

MOVING SALE ONE YEAR OLD

surround sound TV: LG 37" w/ 5 speakers + cabinet: 46,000 baht. 2 small teak dressers: 4,000 baht. Samsung fridge, 67": 5,500 baht. Imported portable oven with 2 top burners (electric): 5,000 baht. King support mattress with sheets and pillows: 6,000 baht. Also have 5 plants, 4 sets of curtains and rods. Telephone 084-846 4256.

GAS GRIDDLE

Cost 20,000 baht, will accept 13,000 baht. Double 3-liter french fries machine. Will accept 10,000 baht. Both new. Located in Rawai. Telephone: 089-473 1351.

POOL TABLE WITH SLATE TOP

for sale 35,000 ono. Chest-type beer fridge: 5,000 baht. Wardrobes. Tel (English): 086-1490 005. Tel (Thai): 089-487 5126.

LEAVING THAILAND

Red and white leather beanbag: 800 baht. Karana tent, sleeps 5: 1,000 baht. Karana Tent, sleeps 3: 500 baht. Tel: 084-857 7706. Email: shertin@gmail.com

ARTICLES FOR SALE

1. Crafted wood antique vase.
2. Glass food display cabinet. Brand new: 7,000 baht.
3. Painting of Louisiana street scene. Best for restaurant, pub, bar.
Tel: 081-294 5441.

MOVING SALE

Never used sofa, bed, mattress, cooker, 3 fridges, coffee machine, 2,000 DVDs in Italian/French, Pioneer DVD recorder, computer scanner-laser, Acer laptop, Samsung TV 21". Tel: 081-294 5441.

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. Price 650 baht. Email: sylvie@andamanavenue.com

WHEEL CHAIR

used one time. Bought for 5,230 baht, selling for 3,500 baht. Contact Colette. Tel: 089-212 1254.

FURNITURE ELECTRONIC SALE

Moving sale. All beautiful and contemporary. For info call after October 20. Contact Ben. Tel: 087-897 5175.

NINTENDO WII

Almost brand new Nintendo Wii, with extra remotes. Also Guitar Hero III. Both still in boxes. For sale due to country relocation. Email: yantyhong@yahoo.com

Articles Wanted

LOOKING FOR POOL TABLE

I'm looking for a pool table, second hand, good condition. Tel: 089-939 5127.

Bulletins

LIVE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY

Punchline Comedy Club, in association with the London Comedy Store, presents international stand-up comedy at the Holiday Inn Resort, Patong, on Tuesday, 11th November, 2008. Tel: 083-646 4671. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Is holding meetings in English at the following places in Phuket:

Mission Hospital Phuket City
On Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Hospital Phuket City
On Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong
On 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 081-8564031, 081-8912895 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School Karon
On Tue 7 pm and (Sat Nov-April only) 7 pm
Tel: 086-9443461 Sue, 082-2765958 Nor
Krabi Group Call: 094-4463130 for details

TO ALL FILIPINOS

Need help? Call Emelda. Tel: 084-305 0963.

BRIDGE

Play Wednesday afternoons at Royal Phuket Marina. Tapas + drinks included. Contact Alan. Tel: 084-065 7590.

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 Email: carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948. Email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

LOOKING FOR BOAT PARTNER

I am looking for someone in Phuket who is interested in buying a small speed boat, such as "Crownline", as a half owner. I live in Rawai. Please contact me, Gary, as above if you might be interested. Tel: 089-090 6969. Email: tropicalbreez_1@hotmail.com

LADIES SOCIAL TENNIS

Anyone interested in getting a group of Ladies, 40+, together to enjoy social Tennis? Contact me by email or mobile. Tel: 089-469 8100. Email: didee51@yahoo.com.au

Business Opportunities

HOTEL FOR SALE, PATONG

Bromma Guesthouse. 22 rooms in 3-unit, 800-sqm building. 400 sqm of freehold land. By owner direct at 45 million baht. Tel: 076-512-151, 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se www.brommathaihouse.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Internet Cafe in Patong, 210sqm. Tel: 081-908 8303. www.dream-cafe.com

HOTEL FOR SALE

Beach front hotels in Pattaya and Phuket. Contact Nick. Email: stoptong@yahoo.com

RESORT FOR SALE

A well-known resort for sale in Koh Jum (Krabi), 7 rai with Chanote title in the center of the beach. Access road, water. Power will be installed mid-2009. www.woodland-koh-jum.com

BAR FOR SALE

Equipped with TV, pool table and fully-stocked bar. Great spot on Nanai 89, opposite Baan Zan Market. Only 750,000 baht. Tel: 076-323-219, 089-971 2989. Email: roger.sjoblom@hotmail.com

RUNNING RESTAURANT

in Patong for lease on the main road. 2nd & 3rd levels sea view, fully equipped, 60 seats, air conditioning. For 2 million baht only. Tel: 081-797 7199. Email: oscarfashion12@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT & BAR

Guesthouse for sale, opposite Royal Paradise Hotel Patong. 8 guest rooms, shower, aircon. TV, luxury. Tel: 081-895 6587.

PATONG NICE GUESTHOUSE

26 rooms, restaurant and bar, long lease 9 years. 6.4 million baht. Contact Khun Pla. Tel: 081-925 1730.

QUINL THAI EXPORT DIRECTORY

Quinl Thailand Co Ltd has just launched the free online Thailand Export Directory. With QuinL, you can list your company and its products, services online - with your own subdomain. Email: mr@quinl.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.quinl.com

RESTAURANT / BAR IN KAMALA

Over 200 sqm restaurant/bar with unique concept on 1/2 rai of land in Kamala. Plus Kids Corner and (pool table) lounge. New 5-year lease at 20,000 baht per month will be signed. Great potentials. Contact. Tel: 087-277 0636. Email: info@svenskaskola.com

ESTABLISHED BUSINESS FOR SALE

Quality publications, fully operational, start now to take high season Profits. Includes long established company set-up and work permits. Tel: 085-574 4414. Email: nim@c-publishing.com

SMALL RESORT/HOME

Income opportunity. 3 fully-furnished private pool villas, close to Nai Harn Beach, spacious and high quality, 10% return. 38.5 million baht. Contact owner. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery Tel: 076-282254

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-282403

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

K.L. Mart Tel: 076-280400/3

Patak Rd, Chalong Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School Tel: 076-232398/9

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee Tel: 076-258369

Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521/2

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Deli Supermarket Tel: 076-342275

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344314

Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at

Taurus Travel

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!

Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette is always on top in Google!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

18 rooms, bar, restaurant, long lease, excellent location, Thai Ltd company, 2 work permits. Reduced price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 080-697 1744.

PATONG PARADISE

30-room successful hotel, only 25 million baht (no agents). Email: docucolumns@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE, CHEAP!

Bar at Soi Sukumvit 1st floor, Patong. Pool table, ready to run for the high season. 250,000 / 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-113 3043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

RETAIL SHOP FOR SALE

Retail shop located between Laguna and Surin: fully stocked and professionally fitted with own designated parking. Ready for the high season. Genuine reason for sale; would be happy to discuss possible partnership. Reasonable 5-year lease. One million baht. Tel: 084-363 5126. Email: atisacj@hotmail.com

SHOP IN PATONG

for rent. Best location. Soi Foodland, 50sqm. All branches, please contact Khun Peter. Tel: 081-892-8526.

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-539 9269. Website at: www.jan-property.com

SHOP FOR RENT

19 sqm with aircon, ground floor of Minotel hotel, 19 Sawasdirak Rd, Patong. Please contact Taxie for more details. Tel: 076-296-654. Email: info@minotelpatong.com

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain: 4-story shophouse with Chanote. Fully-equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-891 5602.

BEACHFRONT RESTAURANT

Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) is accepting tender proposals for operation of the F&B facilities in its new Beachfront Club House at Chalong Bay. Applicants must submit a resume showing a minimum of 5 years experience in restaurant management. For tender application information, please contact Allan Mossop: allan@pipsphuket.com, or Tel: 076-270752, +66-(0)81-737 0722. Applications must be submitted before 3pm on Friday, 7 November, 2008.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

8 rooms, 3 shops, motorbike parking, new building. Contract: 10 years. Fully furnished. Key money: 1.7 million baht only. Tel: 086-739 1348.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Chicken farm project for sale, next to Phang-nga. Monthly income of 120,000 baht. E-mail for info. 30% downpayment and the balance up to 3 years. Contact at email: bourslis@hotmail.com

SPACE FOR RENT

Prime location in Phuket City, 80 sqm. Rent for yoga or dance studio. Please contact to George. Tel: 081-892 7860.

VERY WELL SITUATED

restaurant at the main southern 3 junction of Phuket. Kata, Rawai, Nai Harn. All completely furnished, kitchen, bar, dining. More than 50 seats, balcony, terrace, parking, office, staff rooms, including a shop. Nice light & sound system. Special price: 3.2 million baht. Low rent: 28,000 baht/month, 3-year contract, can be extended. Contact (English) George: 089-725 6994, (Thai) Wee: 086-745 3359. Email: delatorrejorge@hotmail.com

SKY STEAKHOUSE

Well established, 3-year lease, includes company and work permit. Website: www.skysteakhouse.net Price 28 million baht, low rent. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-265 6089.

BANGLA BAR

for sale. Soi Crocodile. 13-month contract: 1,200,000 baht. Contact George. Tel: 081-088 1451.

BAR AND RESTAURANT

(inside hotel) for rent in Patong, Rat-U-Thit Rd. Key money: 800,000 baht. Rent per month: 30,000 baht. Tel: 087-895 6704.

MASSAGE SHOP

Busy soi, central Patong, 9 bedrooms, 5 chairs, 13 staff, 3-year lease. 990,000 baht. Tel: 085-473 7847. Email: business@worrall.info

SALE: MASSAGE SHOP

Located at Patong Beach, near Simon Cabaret. Tel: 083-635-6239.

BEER BAR

Bar at Soi Sukumvit, Patong, on the 1st fl. Ready to run for the high season. Pool table. Cheap: only 280,000 baht for 2 year and 3 month lease. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-113 3043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

HOT SALE. NICE RESTAURANT

Only 30 meters from Patong Beach. Good price. Tel: 081-891 6697.

BARS AND GUESTHOUSES

Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities at www.janepropertyphuket.com

HONGKONG EXHIBITION 25,000

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