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Police colonel to be dismissed for tsunami fund misappropriation

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET CITY: The Royal Thai Police force (RTP) has concluded its one-year investigation into alleged malfeasance by the senior officer responsible for finances at the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) center.

The panel has found Col Pornprasert Karnjanarin guilty of misappropriating funds and will now move to have him dismissed from the force.

Charges of malfeasance were filed against Col Pornprasert in early February last year, just two days before a resignation letter he had tendered was scheduled to take effect.

The investigation into the TTVI finances followed a formal request by 13 ambassadors representing countries that collectively donated 88 million baht to help pay for the TTVI's work in identifying and repatriating the bodies of tsunami victims.

The center, since renamed the Thai Disaster Victim Identification center (TDVI), was later relocated from Phuket to Bangkok.

Pol Col Chaipayorn Wannapra of the RTP's Disciplinary Division told the *Gazette* that the investigation committee called on



From left: TTVI Joint Chief of Staff Pol Col Pornprasert Kanjanarin poses with then Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, US Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce and TTVI Chief Pol Lt Gen Acharawit Supanpesat. The event, in November 2005, marked the signing of US\$1.5 million in funding for TTVI. File photo.

Col Pornprasert several times for questioning, but was unable to contact him.

His current whereabouts remain unknown.

Col Pornprasert changed his first name to "Paramate", it was reported a year ago.

Col Chaipayorn declined to give specific details about the investigation panel's findings, except to say that Col Pornprasert was deemed guilty of a serious disciplinary breach because he was unable to account for funds under

his control and responsibility.

Col Chaipayorn declined to elaborate on how much money had gone missing, how many people had been questioned, or what efforts had been made to track down Col Pornprasert, who was Deputy Commander of the Royal Thai Police Foreign Affairs Division during his work at the TTVI.

As punishment, Col Pornprasert will be dismissed from the force and be stripped of his rank, he said.

The loss of one's police rank

is considered very serious in the Royal Thai Police; even former prime Thaksin Shinawatra still formally maintains his rank as a police lieutenant colonel, despite having been convicted *in absentia* of abuse of power while in office.

Other punitive measures against Col Pornprasert, and the decision on whether to charge him with criminal offenses, rest with the RTP board. The committee is expected to make a decision within two or three months, Col Chaipayorn said.

The US Embassy's Deputy Press Attaché in Bangkok, Cynthia A Brown, said, "We are pleased that a serious investigation has been conducted into this matter and we look forward to a full accounting of donor money."

The US signed a grant agreement with the Royal Thai Police, under the auspices of the TTVI, in September 2005. The grant provided for up to US\$1.5 million to be used by the TTVI for the purposes of identifying the victims of the 2004 tsunami.

The grant expired on March 31, 2008. Approximately US\$600,000 from the agreement was used, she said.

Patong burns again as fire hits Kebsup Shopping Plaza

PATONG: A fire broke out at the Kebsup Shopping Plaza along the beach road in Patong on Tuesday night, causing over a million baht in damages – but no injuries.

The blaze erupted at around midnight at one of the many stalls selling tourist-oriented items at the beginning of the soi, well known for its tailor shops, bars and massage parlors.

It took 11 firetrucks and 32 firefighters about three-and-a-half hours to finally bring the blaze

under control.

The charred remains of some 10 damaged shops were still smoldering at noontime today.

The firefighting effort was hampered by limited access and the amount of thick smoke generated by the fire, which was fueled by garments and other combustible materials.

The value of the damaged goods was estimated at no more than two million baht.

An electrical short-circuit

is suspected to have started the fire, though the cause is still under investigation.

Tourist Steve Rothwell from Manchester told the *Gazette* from his stool at the nearby Piccadilly Bar that he and about 100 other guests staying in hotels and guesthouses in the area were afraid to retire for the night for fear that the fire would spread to their buildings.

About 50 dwellings in the area lost water and power, he

said. At about 3 am, flames 20 meters high were still blazing from one tailor shop, he added.

In mid-February two major fires within four days caused an estimated 15 million-baht worth of damage at the Jintana Shopping Plaza, more than a kilometer up Patong Beach Road to the north of Soi Kebsup.

Police are still investigating those fires, which they suspect were the work of arsonists.

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Local businessman gunned down on Sakdidet Road

WICHIT: Phuket City Police are investigating the murder of a local businessman shot dead in his car on the night of Saturday February 28.

The murder was reported to the police at about 10:15 pm.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong rushed to the scene with Phuket City Police, forensics officers and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation.

At the scene, near the Chinese cemetery on Sakdidet Rd, a large crowd of onlookers had already formed around a Bangkok-registered Toyota Fortuner, the engine of which was still running.

The driver's side window had three bullet holes in it.

Opening the door, they found the car stereo still playing and the cabin splattered with blood.

The body of the victim, 33-year-old Kiatisak Rakchue, was found lying face down over the passenger's side seat and gear shift.

Mr Kiatisak, a resident of Sakdidet Rd in Wichit, was part owner of a car care business located nearby on Chao Fa East Rd in Phuket City.

He had been shot three

times by 9mm bullets, once in the right shoulder, once in the chest and once in the ribs.

Three bullet casings found on the ground about three meters from the vehicle were collected as evidence.

Mr Kiatisak's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Witnesses said the victim had parked the vehicle and went to drink beer at an unnamed convenience store about 20 meters away from the murder scene.

He went back to the car and had already started the engine when his assailant pulled up on a motorcycle and fired three times through the driver's side window before fleeing.

No description of the attacker was provided and it is not even known if there was more than one assailant on the motorbike.

Police think the motive for the murder may have been a business or personal dispute, as the victim was known to be a strong-willed, outspoken individual.

They will now question the victim's wife, business partner and friends, and try to track down the killer.

Father decapitated, son killed in truck crash

MAI KHAO: A father and son were killed and another man seriously injured after their 22-wheel truck flipped over on a bend on Thepkrassatri Road in tambon Mai Khao.

Suchakorn Veruvannarak, 39, was decapitated in the incident, which happened at around 10.30 pm on March 2.

It took Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers around 30 minutes to find his head, which was severed by a sharp rubber

sheet that flew from the back of the vehicle into the driving cabin.

A local Thai language newspaper printed a photograph on March 3 of a rescue worker holding Mr Suchakorn's severed head for the camera.

Mr Suchakorn's son, 10-year-old Suchasit, also died at the scene.

The other man, Atisorn Chukorn, almost had his legs severed in the crash. He remains in Vachira Hospital.



BROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT: Volunteers take a quick break from cleaning up Rassada Pier.

Phuket gets cleaned up

PHUKET: Individuals and organizations around the island did their bit to spruce up their neighborhood as part of a "Big clean-up Day" in Phuket on March 3.

Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan rolled up his sleeves and rounded up the support of volunteers from Kathu, Cherg Talay and Rassada districts to join the big clean-up operation. Clean-up activities were held at Kathu waterfall, Rassada pier and the Thalang National Museum.

Aside from the obvious im-

mediate benefits, the initiative was also aimed at educating young people about the importance of keeping Phuket a clean place for them to live, as well as for the ever-increasing number of tourists to visit.

Of course, more people means more waste, so the governor and the local district authorities are encouraging as many people as possible to sign up to the new campaign, which will be held on March 3 every year.

Raimon Land puts Phuket villa-resort project on hold

PHUKET: Marketing Director of Raimon Land, Henri Young, said in an interview with *The Nation* last week that the company has delayed plans to build three new projects in Thailand, one of which is the Amalfi in Phuket.

Located on the headland that separates Surin and Bang Tao beaches, Amalfi is planned to be a villa-style resort built on a 37-rai plot adjacent to the exclusive Amanpuri and Chedi resorts.

In announcing the company's decision to put the project on hold, Young described conditions this year as being too tough, mainly as a result of the economic crisis. The company has to be cautious with new investment over the next 12 months, he said.

It may begin construction of the delayed project within the next two years, depending on the economic situation, he explained.

"Starting new projects this year is very tough. We have to borrow money from banks because each project needs investment of at least Bt2 billion to Bt3 billion, and we absolutely don't have enough cash. And as everyone knows, banks nowadays are very cautious when lending to customers. They require pre-sales of at least 40 to 50 per cent of total project value. It is very difficult for us to achieve that figure amid the economic situation. So, we don't think that we will start our new projects this year, he concluded."

Temple booze ban campaign launched

PHUKET CITY: Temple fair enthusiasts take note: it is now not only immoral to drink on temple grounds – it is also illegal.

This is the message of the new "Temples are not Bars; Salas are not Gambling Dens" campaign launched by Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan on February 26.

The campaign was launched as part of a merit-making ceremony at Manik Temple in tambon Srisoonthorn, Thalang. It aims to raise public awareness that drinking or gambling on temple grounds is now against the law.

Unbeknown to many, the new Alcohol Control Act 2008 came into force on February 14 this year. The Act bans the consumption of alcohol at temples and other places used to hold religious rites, as well as hospitals, government offices, schools, and petrol stations.

Those who enjoy a drunken water fight at *Songkran* (Thai New Year) will also be in for a shock this year: the Act also bans alcohol sales during a number of Thai festivals – including *Songkran*.

The new provincial campaign has a budget of 54,000 baht, most of which will be spent on signs informing people that drinking and gambling will no longer be tolerated in places of worship.

The signs will be displayed at all 37 temples in Phuket.

Large billboards will be erected at Saphan Hin, the Tesco-Lotus intersection and Patong.

Kriangsak Jinaphong, chief of the Phuket Provincial Buddhism Office, said, "We now have the Alcohol Control Act 2008. This is because alcohol causes health and family problems, accidents and crime, and damages the economy and the image of the country."

Most people are still unaware the new law has come into effect, and some are still drinking or buying and selling alcohol on temple grounds, especially at ordainment celebrations and funerals, he said.

Articles 27 and 31 of the new Act forbid this behavior and violators will be punished with fines and imprisonment, he added.

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Burmese rounded up 'Abusive' Brit faces porridge in Phuket

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Immigration officers on February 28 recorded fingerprints of 128 Burmese workers who entered the country illegally.

Of the group, 105 were male and 23 female. They were taken on two prison trucks to be repatriated to Burma via Ranong. Some of the workers were among those caught in a raid on a large Burmese workers camp in Rassada Village 6, behind Supercheap retail store.

About 500 Burmese were reportedly living in the camp. When 40 government officers entered to check their papers, some managed to flee.

The raid and others like it follow the Phuket Governor's policy to tackle illegal foreign workers after a spate of public complaints.

Tourist visa fees waived for three months

THAILAND: The Thai government is to waive tourist visa fees for a three-month period, as part of a drive to revive the tourism industry.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) stated that the government has agreed to exempt the fees for all foreigners making tourist visa applications effective from March 5 to June 4, 2009.

Thailand presently offers 'visa on arrival' for citizens of 20 countries for a stay not exceeding 15 days. Citizens from another 42 countries are permitted a visa-free stay in Thailand not over 30 days.

Those who wish to stay longer have to apply for visas at Thai embassies or diplomatic missions abroad before their arrival in the Kingdom.

PHUKET: A British citizen is facing a possible two-year jail sentence after allegedly insulting an immigration official at Phuket International Airport.

Simon Burrowes, from Wembley, north London was detained on suspicion of passport forgery as he attempted to leave Thailand following a holiday on the island.

The Director General of Immigration at Phuket International Airport, Suksopon Manee-son, told the *Gazette* that Mr Burrowes was rude to his colleague and his country, and that they believed the photo in the passport was unsuitable.

"We don't want ill-behaved tourists coming to Thailand," he said.

The story was first broken by *The Voice Online*. The article said that Mr Burrowes informed them that a woman had inspected his passport closely before handing it to another man who scrutinized it with a magnifying glass for 30 minutes.

The report went on to say, "He was told that he was not getting on the plane and was taken to a detention center, while his friend Matthew was able to fly back to the UK."

The report claimed that 44-year-old Mr Burrowes was imprisoned for three weeks "with 126 men in a cramped cell", before being charged with "rude and aggressive behavior" towards an Immigration official.

After reportedly paying 100,000 baht, Mr Burrowes was released on bail on February 22 and according to *The Voice*, is set to stand trial on April 26.

Honorary British Consul Martin Carpenter spoke to the *Gazette* and confirmed that the British Embassy in Bangkok had verified Mr Burrowes's passport.

School milk safe but quality below standard, say local health officials



Phuket schoolchildren prepare to receive their daily milk rations, which may be safe, but lack nutrition.

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Public Health Office has released test results indicating that milk provided to government school students under the free "school milk" scheme is below standard in terms of nutrition, but safe to drink.

Office chief Dr Pongsawas Ratanasang said samples of milk from three government schools in Phuket were last week sent for analysis to the Ministry of Public Health's Regional Medical Sciences Center in Surat Thani.

The three schools were the Baan Don nursery, the Wichit Songkram School and the Laem Panwa School, where teachers last month found maggot-infested cartons of spoiled UHT milk.

The province sent samples of both ultra-high temperature treated (UHT) milk in cartons and pasteurized milk in bags to the center.

The researchers found the non-fat milk solids content of both the pasteurized and UHT milk was measured at 8.17% and

8.22% by weight respectively, both below the standard of 8.25%.

Random sampling for total protein and fat content in both types of milk revealed 2.6% by total weight, both below the standard of 2.8%.

Dr Pongsawas said his office will notify the milk producer, the Nong Pho Dairy Cooperative plant in Ratchaburi province, warning them to improve the quality of the milk so that it meets Ministry of Public Health standards.

The below-standard nutritional content of the milk was unrelated to the incident at the Laem Panwa School, which was the result of improper transport and storage, he reiterated.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Korbsak Sabhavasut will tomorrow convene a meeting on how best to solve the Thai milk industry's problems.

The industry attracted attention after dairy farmers staged several protests just as the multi-

billion-baht school milk project had been facing a barrage of allegations about collusion and poor-quality milk.

The Phuket office of the public sector Anti-Corruption Commission reported on March 3 that there are grounds to suspect that the project is mired in corruption.

Justice Minister Pirapan Salirathavibhaga said that as the school milk scandal implicated many political-office holders and high-ranking government officials, he would forward the case to the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

The probe into the school-milk project was not politically motivated, even though many implicated figures were considered members of the "old power" clique, he said.

On March 4, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva was quoted in the Bangkok press as saying the government will overhaul the free milk procurement system to make it more transparent.

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Police Traffic Center analyzes accidents

Driver behavior seen as main cause of accidents in the province with the highest rate of vehicle ownership

PHUKET CITY: Phuket ranks within Thailand's top five provinces in terms of the number of road injuries and deaths each year, according to Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police Chalit Tinthanee.

Figures from state hospitals on the island show that in 2008, they coped with 13,840 injuries and 136 deaths resulting from accidents on the island's roads.

These figures do not include admissions to Phuket's three private hospitals, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Mission Hospital and Phuket International Hospital, meaning the total figures are, in reality, significantly higher.

There are three basic causes of road accidents: road conditions, vehicle condition and driver behavior. Phuket has 297,645 registered vehicles, 208,183 of which are motorcycles.

This equates to roughly one vehicle per island resident, which is the highest rate of vehicle ownership of all the provinces in Thailand. This is the principal reason for the large number of accidents, with between 33 and 35 injuries each day and 15 to 16 deaths each

month, according to Pol Col Chalit.

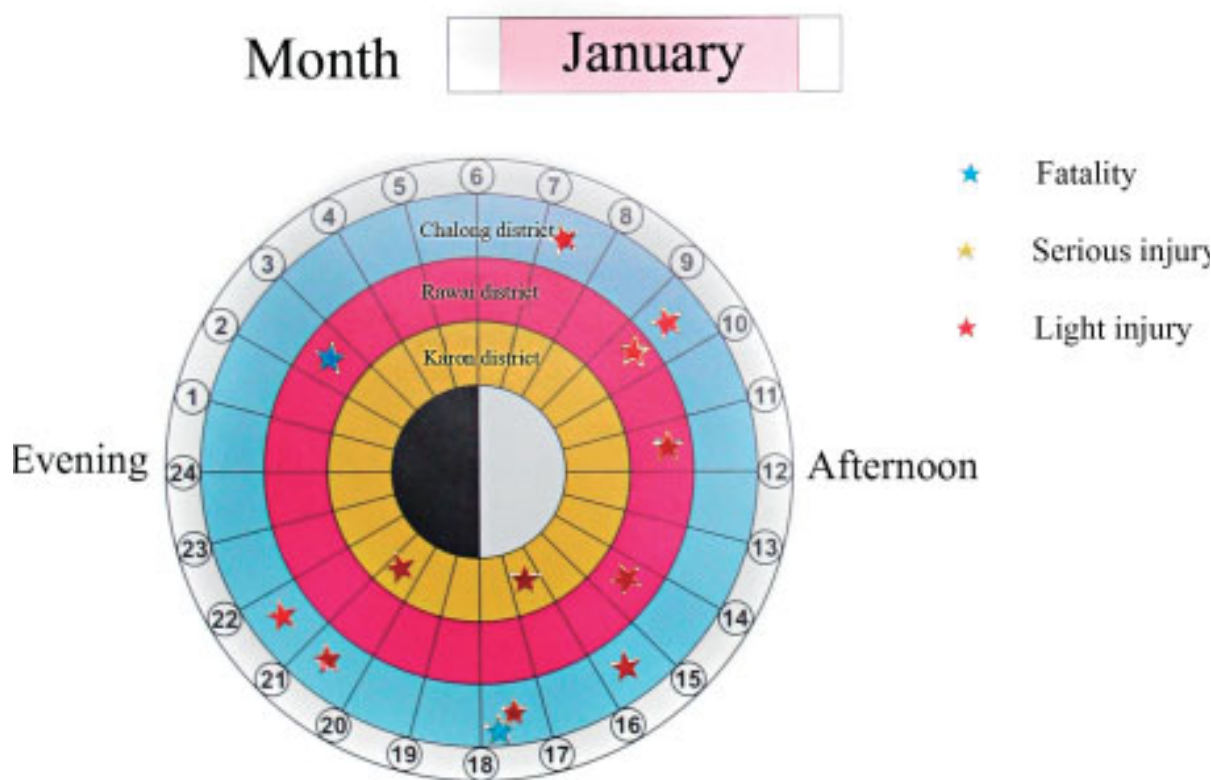
The new Phuket Provincial Police Traffic Center was launched in August last year. The center is located in the Phuket Provincial Police Station building and employs 15 police officers, tasked with collecting information on road accidents, analyzing the information and ultimately reducing the risk of accidents on the island's roads.

Officers at the center record and analyze each road accident and identify the cause. A large number of accidents occur at intersections with traffic lights.

These cases are referred to by the police as "*ching lueang, ching daeng*" cases, roughly translated as "scramble for yellow, scramble for red" cases.

These cases occur when drivers put their foot down to make it across an intersection while the yellow light is still displayed, or speed off as soon as the red light changes to green without noticing straggling vehicles still entering the intersection from another lane.

The result: collisions in the



A "traffic accident clock" from Chalong Police Station (the labels have been digitally altered to English from the original Thai).

middle of the intersection.

Accidents are also common at intersections without traffic lights. Police refer to these cases

as "*wat jai - ching wai ching pri*" cases, which roughly translates as "test yourself, pit your wits" cases. This is where drivers try to instinctively guess what those coming from the opposite lane are going to do or take risks to get ahead of other vehicles. It happens a lot at the Soi Bangyai intersection near the Index Living Mall, according to Pol Col Chalit.

Police at Phuket Provincial Police Traffic Center are working to reduce these kinds of accidents by analyzing where they occur and at what times of day. A "traffic accident clock", like the one in the figure, is used to show when and where accidents happen.

As a result of the analysis, Pol Col Chalit says Phuket Po-

lice have increased the number of CCTV monitors, set up traffic light countdown displays together with traffic lights at seven new locations, co-ordinated with local government to have cat's eyes planted into roads and set up blinking warning lights near U-turns and the exits to small streets.

"The police's approach to solving the problems is to use a method that fits with the accident spot, rather than casting a wide net, since every place is different."

"Phuket is a world-class tourist destination and Phuket police naturally don't want to let tourists from all over the world come and lose their lives in the province," Pol Col Chalit added.

Source: Manager online

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Ranong Road goes up market

By Stephen Fein

PHUKET CITY: Structural work on the new municipal market on Ranong Road is now almost complete and the market should be ready for business around mid-2009, after the city signs long-term lease agreements with all the vendors.

The market, designed in the Sino-Portuguese style, will comprise a wet market on the basement and ground floors, above which will be enough parking for 200 vehicles in the covered parking garage on the third floor and an open parking lot on the roof.

The main entranceway faces Ranong Road, while the back and sides are surrounded by 27 three-storey commercial shophouse units that will also be rented out.

The rows of shop-houses are separated from the main market by a number of multi-level walkways, which are sunlit by panels on the ceiling above.

Watcharapont Anuntakool, one of Phuket City's four deputy mayors, told the *Gazette* that site work, being carried out by Bangkok-based project contractor Phraram 2 Civil Engineering Co Ltd, is both on time and on budget at 260 million baht.

The city is spending 215 million baht on the market itself



The new market will include two floors of parking. The area just in front has long served as the terminus for the large *songthews* that ply the island's roads.

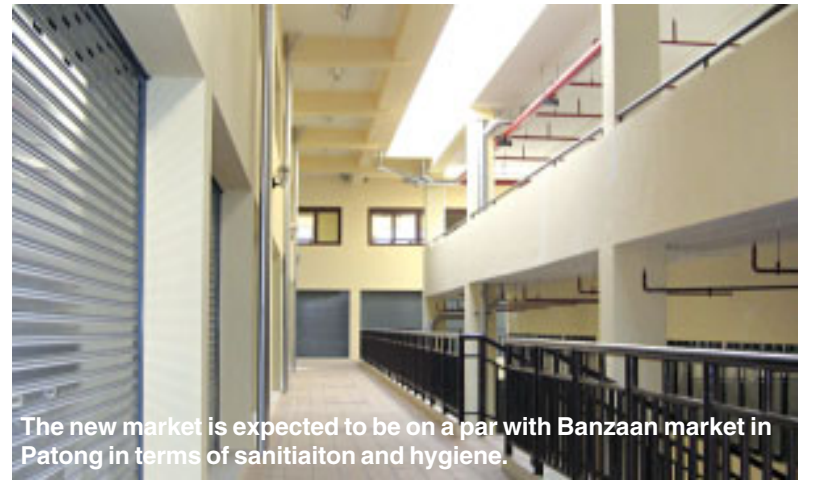
and another 15 million baht on the temporary market located on Wirat-Hongyok Road, near the back entrance to Suan Luang park. Most of the remainder will cover interest on loans to help finance the project.

Mr Watcharapong said the market had been designed with excellent ventilation, drainage, its own wastewater treatment plant

and easy access for garbage trucks to haul refuse away.

Most of the service facilities, including a large elevator, are located at the back of the market, which is encircled by a service road.

A wide ramp will allow motorists to park on the third floor and the rooftop, from which there is a nice view of the city and



The new market is expected to be on a par with Banzaan market in Patong in terms of sanitation and hygiene.



nearby hillsides.

"It should be able to compete with Banzaan Market in terms of hygiene, but ultimately it will be up to the market vendors themselves as to how clean it will actually be after it opens," Mr Watcharapong said.

The two main market floors will be divided into 16 sections, according to product type.

There will be a total of over 400 separate stalls overall.

Although still blocked from public view by corrugated zinc panels, the freshly-painted new market, with its grand entranceway, stands in sharp contrast to the squalid market that operated there for some fifty years after its completion, which was just after World War II.



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Heroines remembered Over 200,000 visitors expected to attend Phuket Food Festival



March 7 - 15

THALANG: From today until Sunday, March 15, a number of events are planned in Thalang district for this year's annual celebration of Phuket's historical heroines, Thao Thep Krasattri and Thao Sri Soonthorn, who are said to have been responsible for defeating the Burmese army when they invaded Thalang in 1785.

Events will take place around significant locations in the area, including Heroine's Monument on Thepkasattri Road, Thalang National Museum, the Thalang memorial ground (Baan Rieng) and various temples.

March 7. Festivities begin with a group ordination of Buddhist priests into the brotherhood at Latthivanaram Temple from 7am to 1pm. For more information Tel: 076-282950 or 081-8384860.

March 7 to 10. The following historical sites will be open for sightseeing tours from 9am onwards: Thalang National Museum; Pranang Sang Temple; The residence of Thao Thep; Prathong Temple and Heroine's Monument. For more information Tel: 086-9423234.

March 8. Activities on this day include a mountain bike race along historical routes and traditional sporting competitions, such as *Takraw*, tug of war, sack races and Thai boxing held at Baan Rieng. Thai boxing bouts will begin at 8.30pm.

March 12. Ceremonies will be held to worship Thalang's ancestral warriors at Muang Komarapat Temple (Baan Rieng) from 8am to 4.30pm.

March 13. From 7.30am to 8.30am there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Heroines' Monument.

March 13 to 15. Light and sound displays highlighting the two heroines' achievements will be shown at 7pm each day at Baan Rieng, where a plethora of local dishes and OTOP products will be on sale.

SAPHAN HIN: The Phuket Food Vendors Club has revealed that Phuket governor Preecha Ruangjan will preside over the grand opening of the 12th annual "Delicious Food Festival", which will take place from March 19-28 at the Saphan Hin Stadium.

The event will be sponsored by the Phuket City Municipality, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO), Tourist Authority of Thailand Region 4 and the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office.

The organizers are hoping that the festival will help promote tourism in Phuket, stimulate sales in the island's local food and beverage outlets and support the ongoing government sponsored "Clean food, good taste" campaign.



Traditional Thai desserts will be just some of the delights available.

The event also offers a networking opportunity for club members as well as the chance to raise funds for future club events and various charitable causes, such as the fight against global warming – no food at the

event will be served in foam boxes.

The 10-day festival is expected to attract over 200,000 people, who will be entertained by a variety of special attractions, including a "Som tum Phuket" food contest, food demonstrations, displays of local seafood and traditional desserts.

Activities promoting health education, as well as musical and cultural performances from Phuket students and entertainment venues from around the island will also feature during the festival.

For more information on the Delicious Food Festival contact the Phuket Food Vendors Club at T: 081-9799329; T: 081-691 2021; T: 081-3261526.

Experience a cultural crossover at Japanese Fest

QUEEN SIRIKIT PARK: The fourth Japanese Festival will take place from 3 pm to 9 pm at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket City on March 7.

The event – held under the banner "Japanese love Thai" – will feature a range of entertainment and cultural activities, including traditional Japanese and Thai dance, *Wadaiko* (Japanese drums), *Para-Para* and *Bon* dance, a jazz concert and magic show, amongst others.

An array of traditional Japanese culinary delicacies will also be served up at the festival, including *Sushi*, *Sashimi*, *Takoyaki*, *Yakisoba*, *Onigiri* and *Soba* – all washed down with lashings of *Sake* and Japanese beer.

Other festival highlights include a lucky draw offering a re-



Wadaiko is one of the Japanese traditions that will be highlighted at the festival.

turn flight to Japan on Japan Airlines, a Kimono photo-shoot and a Japanese movie presentation.

For more information please contact the Phuket Japanese Association T: 080-5284145, 089-1175185 E: contact@phuketja.org

Free PR seminar

SURIN: Organizers of the Phuket PR Network seminars have announced that the second meeting will take place at 4 pm on March 17.

The event, held at the Chedi Hotel in Surin, will feature a presentation by Mr Adrian Copley, the International Association of Business Communicators regional representative for Australia and New Zealand, on 'Change Communications and Solutions' – with the focus on Phuket.

Admission to the seminar is free, plus there will be a networking dinner at The Chedi's Beachfront Restaurant from 6-9 pm, priced at 600 baht.

To confirm attendance or for more info contact Natasha Eldred or Ashleigh Brayshaw at phuketprnetwork@gmail.com.

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PAD leaders prepare to surrender

BANGKOK: Twenty-one of the People's Alliance for Democracy's (PAD) leaders will report to the police on March 20 to acknowledge criminal charges filed against them relating to the October 7 blockade of Parliament, PAD spokesman Suriyasai Katasila said on March 2.

The PAD leaders will surrender to the police because they are confident they will be cleared of all charges, he said.

Mr Suriyasai said the PAD will request that the police investigators involved in the violent dispersal of the crowds be removed from the case.

During the surrender, the PAD leaders will also remind the police about the apparent lack of progress in the investigation into attacks made at the PAD rally site in Government House, he said.

The attacks included several firings of M-79 grenade launchers.

Of the 21 PAD leaders some currently hold office and should be given the chance to clear their names instead of be-

ing targeted hastily and forced to quit their jobs, he said.

The lead investigator said that he had no objections to time being granted for the preparation of defence before the PAD leaders report to police.

Police were prepared to take statements from the 21 leaders in a single session. Should the questioning proceed smoothly, the police would not be against the suspects' temporary release, he added.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said his government was not involved in any police proceedings against the PAD leaders, nor had PAD leaders sought his help in having the current investigation team replaced.

He said all cases related to last year's political turmoil would proceed at their own pace based on evidence, denying allegations that the government had arbitrated to bring about selective prosecution.

Police had told him that the investigation on the seizure of two Bangkok airports in December was about 80% complete, he added.



Municipal workers in Uttaradit's Muang District fill water jars to help residents suffering from drought conditions.

Panda pregnant?

CHIANG MAI: Hopes are running high that the giant pandas at Chiang Mai Zoo, Chuang Chuang and Linhui, may soon have a baby or two. "There's a possibility that Linhui might have ovulated twice. She may give birth to twins," Zoological Park Organization director-general Sophon Damnuai said on March 2. Two artificial inseminations have just been conducted for the panda couple, he added.

"Every step in the process went smoothly because we have extensively monitored the pandas' behaviors for a long period of time," Mr Sophon said.

FDA warns of antibiotic overuse

BANGKOK: The inappropriate use of antibiotic drugs among Thais has grown in recent years, leading to a loss of effectiveness as bacteria adapts and becomes resistant to them, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned on March 2.

Patients will suffer from severe side effects in the long term from this unwise use of antibiotic drugs, FDA secretary-general Dr Pipat Yingseri has warned.

Many people self-prescribe antibiotic drugs to treat infectious respiratory diseases, bleeding wounds, and severe diarrhea, in-

stead of letting the body heal itself. In more than 80% of cases, such diseases could be treated without medication.

The development of new drugs, the expansion of the government's health care insurance and unwise drug prescription are major reasons why people abuse antibiotic drugs. The result has been a 50% increase in antibiotic drug resistance.

Dr Pipat said expanding state health care insurance compounded the problem, as patients could now access affordable medicine more easily than ten years ago.

In Thailand there are three health care schemes providing free medical services: the Social Security Scheme for workers, Civil Service Healthcare for civil servants and their families; and the National Universal Health Care Coverage Program for all Thai citizens.

To cut down on this unnecessary use of antibiotic drugs among patients, the FDA plans to extend a "smart use" pilot project that managed to reduce antibiotic use by 47% at Saraburi Hospital. The project will be extended to other provinces as well," he said.

Smog blankets north

CHIANG RAI: The number of patients seeking hospital treatment for respiratory ailments and eye irritation has soared in neighboring Chiang Rai and Lampang provinces, where high smog density has been reported over the past few weeks.

Local environment offices are campaigning against the incineration of garbage while promoting greater public participation to monitor and prevent forest and man-made fires.

The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry is coordinating with local authorities in seven northern provinces to determine measures to control man-made fires, especially those started by farmers and sugarcane

growers preparing plantations for new cultivation.

In a joint meeting, Lampang Governor Amornphan Nimm-anant said media reports should be controlled because careless and exaggerated articles might cause local people to panic. He asked for a Cabinet decision to encourage parents not to build unnecessary fires or bonfires for their children.

In Chiang Rai, water is being sprayed in municipal and urban areas to lessen the smog density. Governor Traisit Sinsomboonthong said road visibility was now reduced to 1,000 meters in daytime, and greater smog density could result in more road accidents in the provinces.

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Millionaire murdered

CHUMPHON: Police believe a dispute over inheritance may have been the motive for the killing of a wealthy 80-year-old landowner whose body was dumped in a black bin liner opposite Yaek Pathomphon Police Station in Muang District.

The body of Lamiat Yalansajja was found by the side of the road at 7.50am on February 27.

She had been reported missing the previous evening by her daughter, Chanthana Yalansajja, 54, and grandson-in-law Suchin Bupban, 45.

After hearing that a body matching the description of Mrs Lamiat had been found, Mrs Chanthana and Mr Suchin went to Yaek Pathomphon station and were taken by police to Chumphon Khetudomsak Hospital where they identified the body as that of Mrs Lamiat.

The victim had been bound and gagged before being killed with blows to the head with a blunt instrument.

Mrs Chanthana, who lived with her mother in a house in Tambon Tha Taphao, said that at 11am on February 26 she had left her mother at home while she went to some palm plantations they owned.

When she got back home at 1pm, Mrs Lamiat was nowhere to be found. When at 8pm her mother had still not come home, Mrs Chanthana and Mr Suchin

went to report Mrs Lamiat missing at Muang Chumphon Police Station, Mrs Chanthana said.

A neighbor told police that she had seen Mrs Lamiat leave the house with two slovenly dressed middle-aged women. The neighbor said that when she asked Mrs Lamiat where she was going, one of the women accompanying her snapped "the market" and they hurried away.

Police Investigating Inspector Wichit Khamkhachakan said that the victim was one of the richest people in the province and owned extensive tracts of land worth tens of millions of baht as well as a considerable number of houses in the city.

He said that police believe a dispute over inheritance is likely to have been the motive for the killing.

"Mrs Lamiat had four children, three daughters and a son, and from our detailed investigations we found that she had not yet divided up her land among her relatives, who had long-running disputes over the issue. As for other possible motives, we don't think robbery could have been a factor as the victim didn't take anything with her when she left the house except her Buddha image and two diamond earrings [which were found on her body]."

"We will continue investigating to find the reason for the killing and bring the perpetrators to justice," Lt Col Wichit said.



Displaced Burmese children wait for their classes at a school in Ranong's Muang District. The problems faced by Burmese refugees in South Thailand have been highlighted by the alleged human rights violations committed by the Thai military against Rohingya refugees arriving in Ranong.

Armed traders seize Nakhon fresh market

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: Market traders aided by gangs of youths armed with catapults, guns and knives took control of Nakhon Sri Thammarat's fresh market on February 28, after driving out police and municipality officials who were trying to close the market for renovation.

More than 20 people were injured in the fighting, including the director of the municipality public health division, who sustained a broken leg after being caught and badly beaten by a gang of youths.

At around 1pm, municipality officers led by Nakhon Sri Thammarat Mayor Somneuk Ketchat arrived at the fresh market to assist traders to move to a temporary market set up nearby so that the current market can be renovated. Many of the traders, who had been informed of the move months before, were unhappy with the action and began to shout abuse at the officers.

Gangs of youths, presumed to be relatives and friends of the traders, began to arrive at the scene and shots were fired at firemen who were there to assist in the move. Municipality officers were forced to beat a disorderly retreat from the market to avoid injury.

Trucks and heavy machinery belonging to the municipality which had been readied to help move traders and demolish the old market were set upon by the youths, with 10 vehicles badly damaged. Youths also attacked a tent set up on the site by the municipality as an operations centre, forcing the female staff to flee for their lives.

Director of the municipality public health and environment division Yongyuth Laoiatcharoen led a team of officers to try and help the women, but was set upon by the youths and sustained serious injuries, including a badly broken left leg.

The youths catapulted mis-

siles at journalists covering the action and shouted abuse, accusing them of being biased toward the municipality and not interested in the traders' side of the story.

Police were unable to contain the violence and the market was completely occupied by the youths and traders. Traders also blocked the road leading to the market and set up a stage where they made speeches attacking the municipality.

The traders have appealed for the old building to be left in place for another three years, but the municipality set March 1 as the deadline to leave. The traders seized three municipality vehicles which they threatened to burn if work on demolishing the old market continues. The officials then agreed to back off for the moment.

The municipality's response to the traders' demands had not been released at the time of writing.

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Bikers tour for charity

The Thai Red Cross Society of Koh Samui received a boost from bikers on February 22 when the Samui Pirates MC hosted the third annual Charity Bike Run with the help of Ohm Cycles.

The event was attended by more than 250 bikers from all over South East Asia.

The bike clubs that turned out for the day included Samui Riders MC, Independents MC, Sunriders MC, Nowhere Riders MC, Ohm Cycle Riders MC, Bangkok Highway Riders MC, Tombstone Riders MC, Mai Pen Rai MC, Bandidos MC, Rich for Peace MC Malaysia and HOG Malaysia chapter MC.

The various clubs formed one large and loud group of bikers, who rode around the island escorted by Koh Samui Police, starting and ending their island tour at the port town of Na Thon, where a big party was held in the evening.

The evening's entertainment included live music from Thai and Western bands. Further fundraising took place with an auction and tug of war matches between participating clubs.

A troop of elderly Thai women impressed the audience with traditional Thai dancing and they were showered with kisses from several of the bikers, much



More than 139,000 baht was raised for the Red Cross by regional motorcycle clubs.

to the bemusement of onlookers.

The organizers of the event wish to thank all corporate and private sponsors involved in mak-

ing the day a success, which raised more than 139,000 baht for the Red Cross. Plans are already afoot for next year's event.

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

Fugitive surrenders

KOH SAMUI: A Samui taxi driver who went into hiding after killing his girlfriend and the man he suspected of being his girlfriend's lover has turned himself over to police.

Somsak Rueandet, 26, went into hiding after the killings in November. Police had been unable to track him down until Somsak turned himself in.

Somsak said that he killed the pair in a fit of jealous rage when he suspected that his girlfriend Natlada Chuenchom, was having an affair with one of her colleagues, Manoon Madsatoo.

Somsak told officers that when he went to Ban Thong Sai Resort to speak to his girlfriend about his suspicions, he saw her leaving work with Mr Manoon. He told officers that anger overwhelmed him and he shot the pair. Natlada, 31, died instantly, while Mr Manoon, also 31, later died in hospital.

Somsak said he fled the island after the killings but has been filled with remorse ever since.

Na Thon gets new roads in makeover

NA THON: The port town of Na Thon is in the final stages of its long-awaited makeover.

The new government has contracted a firm to complete the overhaul of the town – also used as the main municipality area of the island – to include new pavements, drainage, a promenade and a bridge near the seafront and ferry port.

The project began in January and was initially scheduled to be completed by early February. However, there have been delays, including the postponed arrival of materials needed to complete the project.

The smooth roads are the first of their kind on Koh Samui. The poor state of Samui's roads is often the subject of criticism.

Statistically, the island has one of the highest rates of road accidents in the Kingdom.

Many accidents are attributed to the poor quality of the roads and severely botched repair jobs carried out on existing road surfaces.

It is unclear when road works will commence in other parts of the island.

Foreigner appointed by mayor

SAMUI: In a first for the region, the newly elected mayor of Koh Samui has appointed a foreigner to act as a liaison officer between the foreign community and the Thai government officials as the island makes the transition from being a district of Surat Thani to becoming a municipality.

Australian national Noel Kelly, who has lived on the island for more than three years, has taken up the position in the unprecedented move, which has been welcomed by the island's expat community.

The move is seen as an important step in bridging relations between locals and expats in the community and it is hoped that the joint effort will help solve some of the island's key issues.

Mr Kelly is already familiar with many of those issues from his time spent as a team leader of the volunteer tourist police unit serving the island.

Mr Kelly's duties in the police unit included working closely with local police and government officials to handle tourist and expat related issues.

In his new role, Mr Kelly will be opening an avenue for dealing with complaints, suggestions and questions aimed at the government.

"It is important we have Mr Kelly on board our team to advise us and to act as a spokesperson for the local expat community," commented the mayor's key advisor Muensilp Poolsawat.

He added that the government's top priorities were to eliminate corruption and to encourage all foreigners to report such acts.

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Krazy cocktails, Kingfisher Beer and over in the corner there are male and female khazies. Now wait just a minute, I'm no Sherlock Holmes, but I'm starting to suspect that there's a leitmotif running through the recently opened Kargo Brasserie.

Kargo is located in Tinlay Place, a collection of bars and restaurants just outside the Laguna Complex in Cherng Talay. With such illustrious neighbors as Harold Schwarz's Tatonka Restaurant, the Supper Club and Toto's, Kargo has recently opened its doors to stiff competition but doesn't appear to suffer from an inferiority complex, thanks to its bold designs and experienced staff.

When I say 'bold designs', I'm putting it mildly. The place is a veritable Aladdin's cave of lighting and sounds; a *faux* palm tree in the middle, which almost scrapes the ceiling, upstairs tables, ground floor *al fresco* dining and a groovy starry ceiling – rather more professionally executed than our kitchen ceiling from which hard-plastic luminous stars drop with monotonous regularity onto my head. Ever stepped on one of those suckers in the dark?

You'd think that with a setup like this, Don McLean's *Vincent* (Starry, Starry Night) would be on a permanent loop, but no, U2, Bowie, the Stones, Oasis *et al* provide the soundtrack. It's a given in the restaurant industry that if the choice of musical accompaniment is done well, the atmosphere battle is already half won. Maybe some five-star Food & Beverage managers should sidle over and take a leaf out of



Kargo is a veritable Aladdin's cave of lighting and sounds; a *faux* palm tree in the middle almost scrapes the ceiling

Kargo owner 'Big man's' book as crooners and out-of-date ambiance seems to rule the roost in most overpriced hotel restaurants here.

Big man – aka Mark – is a Brit who has been there and done it all in eastern Asia. An ex-professional footballer and bar owner in Hong Kong, he's been resident in Phuket for something like seven years and played a hand in the inception and running of the lively Pepper's bar located a few doors down.

So far, so spankingly good but importantly, how's the food? We order a hamburger for the little man that arrives on Singaporean time and is served with interesting potato wedges and a salad that is soon passed on to mum. This is followed by a *yam talay* (seafood salad) and an

exotic steak topped with chick peas and hummus, mezzuna, eggplant and mash.

An industrious silence ensues as we chomp through our moderately priced dishes – at least for this part of Phuket – broken only by a switch in the mood, as a decidedly Oriental version of *I put a Spell on You*, complete with tablas and hand cymbals, snakes and spirals through the night air. As a result, suddenly the Arabic décor all but leaps out and is instantly more noticeable; Kargo is a place of many facets.

With intricately frescoed doors, swishing curtains and vividly colored cushions in the upstairs private room, Kargo is a relatively sensual dining experience. The venue is a draw for hotel guests in the area, as well as locals who like a sense of Ali

Baba with their evening meal.

Only open a few weeks, the place has a few wrinkles to iron out but the service – many thanks, Miaew – is excellent, as is the presentation. It's a place that delivers a vivid dining experience and it's my humble opinion that Kargo will soon be in the top echelons of venues to meet and entertain friends. It's not a top gour-

met establishment as yet, but it is an all-round quality joint to while away an evening in attractive surroundings, with good service and pretty groovy music. Kool stuff indeed.

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Sharing the delights of dance

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

You can tell by the way he carries himself, even from a distance, that Peter Farrell is a dancer and one who loves what he does. He's a professional Latin, ballet and tap-dance performer and he's my teacher at the new Danzsteps Dance Studio in Phuket Town.

In the few weeks that I've been learning Latin dance with Peter, he has infected me with his passion, and taught me a lot about myself and the world of dance. I can feel the difference in the way I stand and carry myself. Peter took time out from his busy teaching schedule to talk about his place in the world of dance and as one of the driving forces behind the Danzsteps concept, and what it means to him and those he teaches.

Peter is the last of nine siblings and was raised in Australia by parents who were both involved in the arts. His mother was a ballroom dancer and his father an artist. Peter got itchy feet for fancy footwork early in life. When he was five years old, his mother took him to watch his sister's dance class. He was instantly hooked and immediately signed up for the next class. By

age 17, Peter's dancing skills had reached the level of a professional and he auditioned to join France's third-largest dance company, Folies Bergère, when the company was on a recruitment expedition in Australia.

"They were looking for new talent in Australia, so I auditioned with my friend and 200 other dancers. Out of those 200, my friend and I were the only two chosen to join the company. We screamed like girls when we were told, 'You are going'. When I told my mum that I'd got the job, she asked where I was going to be working, assuming that I'd be based in Australia. I had to explain that I was going to Paris in France – if she'd let me. Because I was only 17, my passport had to have a signature from a parent allowing me to go. My mum said, 'Well, if I don't let you go, you'll never forgive me.'"

For the next seven years, Peter danced his way around the world, performing in several major cities with the company, before branching out on his own to experiment more freely in different areas of performance art and fashion.

Since then, Peter has never been able to settle in one place for very long. After his stint with Folies Bergère, he became in-



involved in Broadway productions in Australia, but he was smitten by the travel bug and yearned to dance in far-off lands.

Learning the languages of the countries he has worked in has never been at the top of Peter's agenda. "Dance is a universal language, and wherever you go, you can always communicate on that level," he says.

For now, Peter is happy to hang out in Phuket for a while and sees a lot of potential for the growth of performance arts in the province.

The Phuket art scene is growing and there are more opportunities for people to establish careers in performance art. The only thing I'd say about the



Thai dance students that I teach is that their expectations of themselves are often lower than their actual abilities.

Peter's short-term goal in Phuket is to help Danzsteps become established as an international dance center and encourage more youngsters to join courses at the studio and put on performances around the island. His more ambitious long-term plans include changing the face of the current entertainment scene and to establish a professional dance company.

"Studying dance brings a sense of achievement to the individual as it is a path of disciplined personal development. Dancers also motivate and inspire each

other as they become integrated with the dance community and learn to work in partnerships," says Peter.

"Even if one doesn't become an amazing Latin dancer, for example, learning dance improves self confidence, improves posture and helps keep the mind and body healthy," he says.

Peter explained that it's not always easy to encourage younger students to lose their inhibitions and dance expressively.

"As young people enter puberty, they often begin to feel very self conscious about their bodies and moving about in them, but if they can get over that, then dancing helps them feel comfortable in their own skin," he adds.

"Dancers do what they do because of the thrill that it gives them. Not all my students will make a career out of dance but that's not the point. The point is to enjoy it and experience being at one with the music, whether it's Latin Jazz, hip hop or ballet."

Peter teaches dance at Danzsteps Dance Studio, 2/14 New Dibuk Road. For more information visit www.phuketdanzsteps.com. Tel: 076-213659. Email: info@phuketdanzsteps.com



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EXPAT GALLERY

Allan and Claire Mossop

Allan and Claire Mossop first came to Phuket in 1999 to do some charity work. They were both taking a break from dynamic careers in South Africa and thought a visit with Claire's brother, Martin Carpenter, on Phuket would be a great way to start their holiday. Ten years later, they are not only still here but have made important contributions to the development of villa support systems on the island.

Claire was born in Devon, England, and worked with her father in the motor trade, and then managed a telemarketing company when one day she saw a beautiful poster of South Africa in the window of a travel agency.

"I saw that poster and within ten days had my ticket and headed off for a new life without a job or knowing what I was getting myself into," Claire laughs. "But I've always believed you can do anything if you put your mind to it so I wasn't too worried."

She secured her first job in the accounts department at Bateman Davy, project managers for an oil refinery at Muscle Bay, and then worked as remuneration manager at the Karos Hotel at In The Wilderness where she met her future partner, Allan. By 1994, she had been promoted to Assistant Financial Controller.

Allan shares Claire's sense of fun and adventure. A native of South Africa, he comes from five generations of tanners, but his family is better known for their involvement in the development of vineyards and bringing South African wine to the attention of the world.

Allan worked for Southern Sun Hotels for ten years where he learned to deal with challenging and volatile human and industrial relations.

"Working in the food & beverage industry is a fantastic creative outlet. I enjoyed the many opportunities working in such a dramatic place as South Africa. For example, I once served 2000 people a lunch of local cold water crayfish. They were participants in the Paris to Cape Town motor race."

Always interested in travel and exploration, Allan spent his early life cycling around the Cape Peninsula, and in 1993 cycled 2,500 kilometers around North-east Thailand.

In mid-1990, Allan and Claire were working on opposite sides of Kruger National Park. They married in May 1995 and spent the next few years around some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. But by 1999, they were ready for a break.

"We hadn't planned to stay on Phuket but we had a lot of offers. Tom McNamara asked us to work for his emerging Phuket Lager company and later Colin Makay asked us to help develop Phuket Island Property Services (PIPS) which is now one of our companies," Claire adds.

Today, Allan and Claire provide Phuket's largest villa rental and management service through PhuketVillaRentals.Com. Working with 24 international agents and 30 local agents, they provide bespoke services for about 150 properties.

"We offer all services that a villa owner might require, from estate common area management to providing services for individual homes. We provide financial statements and can process credit cards," says Allan.

They also operate IKAYA, with their own line of furnishings for the island's best tropical homes. Claire picks them out and keeps them on hand at their showroom in Cherngtalay.

"The best things in my life are my wonderful staff and the fact that my parents have moved to Phuket," smiles Claire. "On the weekends, we take our eight dogs and head to the beach. Life could not be better."

— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

The individuals profiled in the *Gazette's* 'Expat Gallery' series have been chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and, as foreigners, for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often at a time (mid-80s to mid-90s) when the rules of business were, ahh, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.



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THE GOOD-OLD 80s: A special Valentine's celebration was held for prominent Phuket couple Mr & Mrs Narong Hongyok on February 14. Mrs Yoawaluk Hongyok (left) joined her husband for the celebration, titled "80 years of Good Phuket People", in the Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel. Popular Thai singers Suthep "Wong" Khamhaeng and Sawalee Phakaphan provided entertainment for the occasion. Mr Narong is Chairman of the Board of Anuphas & Sons Co.



SOS SUCCESS: Owner of the Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa Phuket Mr Tirapongse Pangsiwongse (blue shirt) hosted a dinner recently for members of the SOS Foundation of Thailand committee. The event followed the opening of a new children's home in Phuket, established under the royal patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. Also pictured are SOS Foundation Chairperson Khun Ying Rose Boribalburiphand (front, 2nd from right) and her team, before dinner at the resort's Panwa House restaurant.



DOUBLE CELEBRATION: Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Patong Beach hosted a party last month to celebrate the recent openings of Courtyard boutique resorts in Kamala and Patong. The evening also gave guests the opportunity to meet the newly-appointed General Manager for the JW Marriott Phuket, Robert Lohrmann (3rd from right). Also pictured are (from left to right): John Toomey, Area Director of Sales and Marketing for South East Asia, Hong Kong and Macau; Lutz Mueller, GM of the Courtyard Kamala; Theera Kanjana, GM of the Courtyard Surin; Nicholas Tse, GM of Courtyard by Marriott Bangkok; GM of the host venue Sigrid Stelling; Courtyard by Marriott General Manager Richard Wallace; and Director of Marketing Thailand Anthony Armas.



CONGRADULATIONS: Class of 2005 graduates from the Marketing Program in the faculty of Business Management at Rajapat University celebrated completion of their bachelor degrees with a party at Fortuna Chinese restaurant Pavilion at the Metropole Hotel on February 2.



SLAMMING PHUKET: Popular Thai rock band Bodyslam, led by vocalist Athiware "Toon" Khongmalai, entertained crowds with a live concert at Phuket Brewery on February 18. The new mega-venue presents live entertainment on a weekly basis.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Representatives of the Spanish press and media were entertained with sunset massages on the beach by Angsana Spa at the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket on February 21 during a familiarization trip organized by the TAT. Presenting the resort's brand of hospitality and services were Director of Sales Chamaiporn Mulcome (right) and Executive Assistant Manager Prinya Onlahoong (5th from the right).



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From Puccini to Portishead

By Atchaa Khamlo

When it comes to live music, few bands in Phuket could lay claim to a repertoire quite as diverse as The Chedi Hotel's resident band Sayonara Bella. You certainly won't catch them regurgitating tired old classics like Hotel California and Desperado night after night, unlike many of Phuket's live musicians. Depending on the occasion, jazz, R&B, electro-fusion or even classical music might pop up on the group's playlist on any given night. As the trio's Jamie O'Rourke explains, "Who else can say that their set list includes Louis Armstrong, Nirvana, George Michael, U2, Leonard Cohen, Massive Attack, Portishead, Arcade Fire, Groove Armada and Dolly Parton?"

Having performed together for the last few years on the island, Sayonara Bella cemented their current line up of Jamie (guitar/vocals), Chris (violin/DJ/keyboard) and Lulu (vocals/guitar) this past low season.

As well as performing its regular weekly gig at The Chedi, the band – under the umbrella of their company Wave Entertainment – also provides entertain-



With its multi-talented band members and a wide-ranging repertoire, Jamie, along with fellow members Chris and Lulu, feels that Sayonara Bella can provide something for everyone.

ment services for the hospitality industry around Phuket. "We can play classical music for wedding ceremonies, Jazz for dinners or pop and rock at parties," Jamie said. "The main goal for the company is to become the number one entertainment service provider for the hospitality industry in Phuket," he added.

Two members of the band

are also professional DJs. Jamie assumes the more mainstream duties while Chris specializes in a unique blend of live violin mixed with chill-out or house music.

With its multi-talented band members and a wide-ranging repertoire, Jamie feels that Sayonara Bella can provide something for everyone. "There are few situations that we can't handle. Last

week we did a wedding at Trisara where the people wanted us to perform for the ceremony and the dinner," Jamie said.

As well as its regular commitments at The Chedi and the various special projects around the island, the group is kept busy composing and recording new material for its upcoming original projects. With all this going on, the

future looks bright indeed for Sayonara Bella.

Sayonara Bella perform every Saturday night from 7pm to 10pm on the beach at The Chedi Hotel. They will also be entertaining the crowds at the forthcoming 'Salsa' fund-raising event, hosted by the Soi Dog Foundation at The Chedi Hotel on March 27.



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| Pruerk-Ampai | 75 | 5,950,000 | 100,000 | 2,875,000 | 2,975,000 |
| Pruerk-Amporn | 136.4 | 8,850,000 | 100,000 | 4,325,000 | 4,425,000 |

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Waiting for the Punchline

Punchline Comedy Club makes a welcome return to the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong on March 10. Connoisseurs of comedy Pete Harris and John Moorhead have once again scoured the globe for comic talent and come up with three seasoned cut-ups who could scarcely be more different. Expect a former football hooligan, a Vietnamese-Australian violin virtuoso and the first magician to get thrown out of the Magic Circle in 85 years. The *Gazette's* Dan Waites spoke to them in advance of Tuesday's showdown...

Eddy Brimson

Eddy used to be a football hooligan. That's soccer hooligan, just to be clear; Eddy is an Englishman. (Do American football hooligans exist? And if so, do they wear pads?)

But despite his past, Eddy's entertainment resumé is as long as your arm. He is, first and foremost, a comedian – more of which later. He has written seven books on football, including *Teargas and Ticket Touts*, an England fan's diary of France '98; *Capital Punishment*, about football supporters in London; and a novel, titled simply "*Hooligan*".

He has also called himself radio host, television presenter, actor (playing a villain in UK soap opera *Eastenders*), musician (he

was bass player in an indie band called The Morgans), hypno-therapist, anti-foxhunting campaign press officer and board game inventor. Yes, you heard that right – Eddy co-invented a board game, the rather starchily titled "Initial Subject", in 1990. It was *What Toy* "Game of the Year" in 1991.

But Eddy comes to Phuket next week as a stand-up. How did he get into comedy? "By accident really, I had got bored of writing about football and a friend gave me a flyer promoting a comedy course as a joke. I put it in my pocket when no one was looking and here I am," he says.

He describes himself as a "storyteller with an intense dislike for children and political correctness". Fortunately neither

can be found at Punchline Comedy Club. Where do his talents come from? "My dad is a great storyteller, I owe a lot to him but I'd never tell him that as he'd want 10%," he says.

If he wasn't a comedian, Eddy says he'd be writing more books – or in prison. "Actually if I went to prison I'd have the time to write more books, so maybe I could combine the two," he says.

Asked if there's anything he wouldn't make jokes about, qualified hypnotherapist Eddy says that mental health is off limits. "However, dwarfs, the old and the blind are all fair game."

Football is Eddy's passion, however. Terrace chants are often laced with a certain rugged wit. The funniest, in Eddy's opinion, begins, "My old man said be a Luton fan, I said...". "All football fans will know how this chant ends. It's not for publication," he says. The *Gazette* agrees.

Aside from the terraces, what's the funniest thing about football today? "Football lost its sense of humor the moment it stopped being a sport and labeled itself as part of the entertainment industry. That said, Sol Campbell



Eddy Brimson: "I am a storyteller with an intense dislike for children and political correctness."

constantly getting upset is highly amusing," he says.

And finally – what's the funniest unintentionally funny thing Eddy's ever seen? "I didn't see it but my wife once rang me to say she had a flat tire on the car, and when I asked her how bad it was she said, 'It's only really flat at the bottom.' I was on the floor laughing." Here's hoping that come Tuesday night, Phuket is too.

Hung Le

"I'm making a movie about my life as a refugee kid, who jumped on a boat and made it all the way to Australia, and the funny things that happened on the way. 'YumDog Millionaire'," says Hung Le.

Hung was born in Vietnam, but now calls Melbourne home. When North Vietnamese tanks rolled into Saigon on April 30, 1975, he was nine years old. He escaped with his family on a boat and came to Australia as a refugee.

But while some might have been traumatized by such an experience, Hung has made a career out of making people

laugh about it. "As an Asian with all my fingers intact, I was supposed to be a classical violinist, but that bored the crap out of me, so I decided to go on stage and tell Vietnam war stories... and lo and behold, people laughed – go figure."

Hung is now well known in Australian film and television and has written two books, *The Yellow Peril From Sin City* and a children's book, *Barry-Noodles & DaKillerBs*. He is also an accomplished violinist, as mentioned, and in his early career won the Melbourne International Street Performers Competition as a member of 'Como String Quartet', a troupe that brought together the strange bedfellows of comedy and classical music.

Where does his sense of humor come from? "To survive at school in Australia, I had to play the village idiot... and pretend to be dumb at maths... and I'm funny looking," he says. He is tall for a man of his stock, 6 feet, and claims to be "the tallest Vietnamese comedian in the world". No Guinness Book of Records to hand, the *Gazette*

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Hung Le: "I try to give a voice to people who are silenced and to give people who are drunk with power a good kick up the ass."

takes his word for it.

He cites his biggest comedic influences as "the honesty of Richard Prior, Raw and Delirious by Eddie Murphy, and everything that comes out of the mouth of George Bush."

It seems ol' Dubya looms large in Hung's comic consciousness. Asked what the funniest unintentionally funny thing he's ever seen is, he replies, "George Bush speaking English. Hilarious, the man looks like he's in pain when he tries to think. Can't wait for his speaking tour."

For Hung, comedy should set out to do more than just make people laugh. "I like comedy with a message. I like to make people think. I try to give a voice to people who are silenced and to give people who are drunk with power a good kick

up the ass," he says.

Hung has returned to Vietnam a few times since he left but has only ever spent four hours in Thailand, in transit. He still managed to have fun. "Went for a boat ride in Bangkok with a whole bunch of Qantas air hosties. Fantasy come true."

"Funny thing about the Thai language is that there are words that sound like Vietnamese words, so I'm walking around Bangkok getting whiplash, thinking people are speaking to me, but they're not at all."

Let's hope his neck holds out for his Punchline show. What can we expect? "You'll get the tallest Vietnamese comedian in the world with the best Australian accent you've ever heard and stories that'll blow your mind, and I guarantee you'll laugh so much you'll get lockjaw."

John Lenahan

The Magic Circle is a magician's society founded in 1905 in London. Its motto is "*indocilis privata loqui*", which roughly translates as "not apt to disclose secrets".

In 1994, John Lenahan appeared on a BBC television show called *How Do They Do That?* and explained how a card trick called the "Three-card Monte" works. He became the first person to be expelled from The Magic Circle in 85 years.

John, however, is unwilling to put his expulsion down to something as prosaic as breaking the society's cardinal rule. "The true reason I was expelled from the Magic Circle was because I found out that they have frozen alien bodies in the back room. Now that you know that I'm going to have to kill you," he says.

Still, his ignominious exit from the UK's foremost magic club didn't do much damage to his career. John is a highly successful illusionist with a number of successful TV outings under his belt. He was also once voted Time Out magazine's "Street Magician of the Year". Expect tricks, then, but expect a lot more gags. "I'm a magician but don't expect to be very fooled – I'm really a comedian," John says.

Originally hailing from Philadelphia, John came to Britain many years ago and never quite made it back. Why? "I met a girl and married a mortgage," he says.

Rather than following in his father's footsteps and becoming a gynecologist, John got into comedy because, he says, "It's the only thing I learned at university".

Like our other two comics – a literate lot, this time – John has written a book, *Shadow-magic*. A fantasy novel aimed at "young adults from 12 to 112", one reviewer said, "It's like *Lord of the Rings* except shorter, funnier and completely different."



John Lenahan: "I truly believe that life is hard enough without holding up a mirror to it. It's all silliness from me."

He's now working on the sequel.

He's not the kind of comic to get political. "I truly believe that life is hard enough without holding up a mirror to it. It's all silliness from me," he says. His biggest comic influences, aside

from his dad, "who could never pass a microphone without telling a joke or singing a song", are Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

This all sounds highly improbable, but believe me, the Terraugia Transition *does* exist. Built in Woburn, Massachusetts, not far from Boston, it combines flight

with a unique road vehicle. Every pilot faces uncertain weather, rising costs and ground transportation hassles at each end of the flight. The Terraugia Transition combines the unique convenience of being able to fold its wings with the ability to drive on any road surface in a modern personal airplane platform.

Stowing the wings for road use and deploying them for flight at the airport is activated from inside the cockpit. This unique functionality addresses head-on the issues faced by today's private pilots. Terraugia founder Carl Dietrich was interviewed on

Fox News in mid-January, but his sidekick Richard Gersh added, "It is taking the regulators a while to work out what we are doing, and exactly what we've got."

Dietrich refuses to call his 'vehicle' a flying car, preferring to use the term 'roadable aircraft'. Gersh, though, is not quite as pedantic. "At the FAA, none of the regulations ever contemplated a flying car," he said.

The Transition is front-wheel drive when on the road and has a conventional entry and exit door, while the folding wings are operated electro-mechanically. If the weather is too severe to fly, then simply drive to your destination. On the road, the vehicle – what do you call it? – will reach 105 km/h, while when airborne it can cruise at 100 knots, or 185 km/h. It requires around 1,700 feet of runway and has a range of 400 nautical miles. The engine is a 100 hp Rotax 912S, similar to those found in many circuit-racing karts. Modern avionics are built into the aircraft, while on the road, normal automotive safety features are incorporated.

Terraugia was founded in 2006 by award-winning MIT-trained aeronautical engineers – who also happen to be passionate private pilots. Carl Dietrich is one



and he and his wife Anna control the company. To date, Terraugia remains privately funded by a dedicated group of accredited individual investors. The founders' mission is to provide innovative solutions to the challenges facing personal aviation.

The result: the Transition Roadable Aircraft, capable of carrying two and a set of golf clubs. Taking advantage of new FAA regulations in the Light Sport Aircraft category, Terraugia developed the Transition to provide pilots with the convenience of a dual-purpose vehicle. In flight the Transition consumes five U.S. gallons per hour, while on the road

it will return around 30 miles per gallon.

The Transition addresses head-on the issues private and sports pilots face: cost, weather sensitivity, high overall door-to-door travel time and a lack of mobility at destination. In July of 2008 Terraugia returned to EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with a completed Proof of Concept Transition vehicle. The first flight, which was completed at the end of 2008, represents a major milestone for Terraugia and general aviation.

Construction, testing and certification of the Production Prototype will follow completion of the full testing program. First customer delivery of the Transition is expected to occur in 2010, and the company is currently taking deposits from would-be customers. Final price, fully equipped, is expected to be in the region of \$200,000. Dietrich says that more than 50 Transitions have been pre-ordered, with \$10,000 individual airframe reservation deposits.

For further information, visit the company's website at www.terraugia.com. Photographs courtesy of Terraugia.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

March 10. Punchline Comedy – Live International Stand-Up Comedy

Punchline Comedy is part of the same comedy circuit that produced comedy greats such as Eddie Izzard, Mike Myers, Lee Evans, Steve Coogan, Jack Dee and Bill Bailey, to name but six. Punchline, in association with the London Comedy Store and the Phuket Gazette, brings the best talent of the UK comedy circuit to Thailand as part of their Asia Tour. On March 10 we are proud to present the comic talents of Britain's Eddy Brimson, America's John Lenahan, and Australia/Vietnam's Hung Le at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong from 8pm to 11pm. For further information contact Khun Boom. T: 083-6464671 E: info@phuketcomedy.com W: www.phuketcomedy.com.

March 5-8. Singha Thailand Open 2009

The Thailand Open makes an emphatic return to the Asian golfing calendar next month. The Singha Corporation has signed as title sponsor while the Laguna Phuket Golf Club plays host to the cream of the Asian Tour. The Singha Thailand Open will tee off at 7:30am from March 5 to 8 at Laguna Phuket Golf Club and boasts prize money of US\$500,000. For further information contact Khun Manachai T: 02-5134996 E: manachai@tropicofcancer.info W: www.singhathailandopen.com

March 8. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Is your computer driving you NUTS? Looking for a decent Internet connection? Need to get a new computer, or fix the one you have now? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard at his weekly Computer Clinic: help, news, tips, explanations and more, all in plain English, and absolutely free. Computer novices most welcome. Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your lucky rabbit's foot. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.



Children's Charity Concert with Nantida Kaewbuasai

Thai singing sensation Nantida Kaewbuasai headlines a charity concert on March 7 hosted by the Lion's Club of the Phuket Pearl to raise money for children in need at the Phuket Sunshine Village. The village was set up for orphaned, homeless and underprivileged children at risk after the 2004 tsunami. Joining Ms Nantida are the BIS Youth Jazz band and Karen's Dance Academy. Tickets are 1,000 baht per person or 10,000 baht for a table of 10 people. Come and join the fun! 7pm - 11:30pm at Phuket Merlin Hotel. For further information contact Vilaiwan Dienel T: 081-3971567. E: info@phuketLP.com

March 13-19. Vimom Keawmark Exhibition at Art Rendez-vous

Vimom Keawmark is a talented 36-year-old Thai artist. Through his work, the Nakornpatom-based artist portrays the human desire for passion that he believes is important for everybody, but sometimes concealed within. Don't miss the Vimom Keawmark Exhibition at Art Rendez-vous Gallery, which starts at 7pm at 69 Yaowarat Road, Phuket Town. For further information contact Patrick Bois. T: 076-219095. E: art.rdv@gmail.com W: www.art-rendez-vous-gallery.com.

March 14. Annual Mulligan Reunion Golf, Blue Canyon

The Annual Mulligan Reunion golf competition is open to all, up to a maximum of 72 players. The competition will take place over 18 holes, Stableford scoring, on the Lakes course. Prizes and buffet dinner held at the Canyon Terrace restaurant after the day's play. Sponsorship available. Company banners at 3,000 baht per tee, green or fairway. From 10am to 9pm at Blue Canyon Lakes Course. For further information contact Mr Vic Curran.

T: 087-2636885. E: viccurran@aol.com or leebrook-@access.inet.com.

March 15. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com

March 22. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com

March 27. Soi Dog Salsa

'Salsa' private beach party begins at 6pm and finishes at 11pm at The Chedi, Surin Beach, Phuket. Dress to impress in party/salsa attire. Tickets are 2,500 baht each and include a fantastic buffet dinner, plus free-flow margaritas, beer, wine and soft drinks. Music will be provided by Wave Entertainment Phuket with the Sayonara Bella band and DJme. Salsa dancers will be on hand to entertain and Gary

Holden will be Master of Ceremonies for the event. To help raise more funds there will be a silent auction and raffle with some great prizes up for grabs. See you there. For further information contact Cristy. T: 085-4734636. E: cristy@soidog-foundation.org W: www.soidog-foundation.org.

March 29. FREE Mac and PC Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

April 2-5. Phuket Oilfield Classic Golf Tournament 2009

A golfing event for oil and gas executives and supporting com-

panies – held for the first time in Phuket – to raise funds for Phuket Sunshine Village. Play takes place from 9am to 2pm at Club Andaman Beach Resort. For further information contact Mark Cameron. T: 081-7882843. E: mark@phuketoilfieldclassic.com. W: www.phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

April 13-15. Songkran Festival. Songkran (Thai New Year) is also known as the Water Festival. It is held during the driest months of the year in Thailand. Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring traditionally only a little – but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

May 1. National Labor Day Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day Coronation Day commemorates the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 8. Visakha Bucha Day Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, all of these events occurred in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.



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Look before you leap



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Expats are often in the fortunate position of being able to save a substantial portion of their income. Unfortunately, sound advice on what to do with these savings and how to invest them is sadly lacking.

This does not mean there is a shortage of would-be experts that offer advice – it is the quality of the advice that is usually suspect.

Strangely enough, it is in the area of regular savings programs that expats face the most danger. Investors with lump sum investments are actually in a superior situation.

Why?

Simple economics.

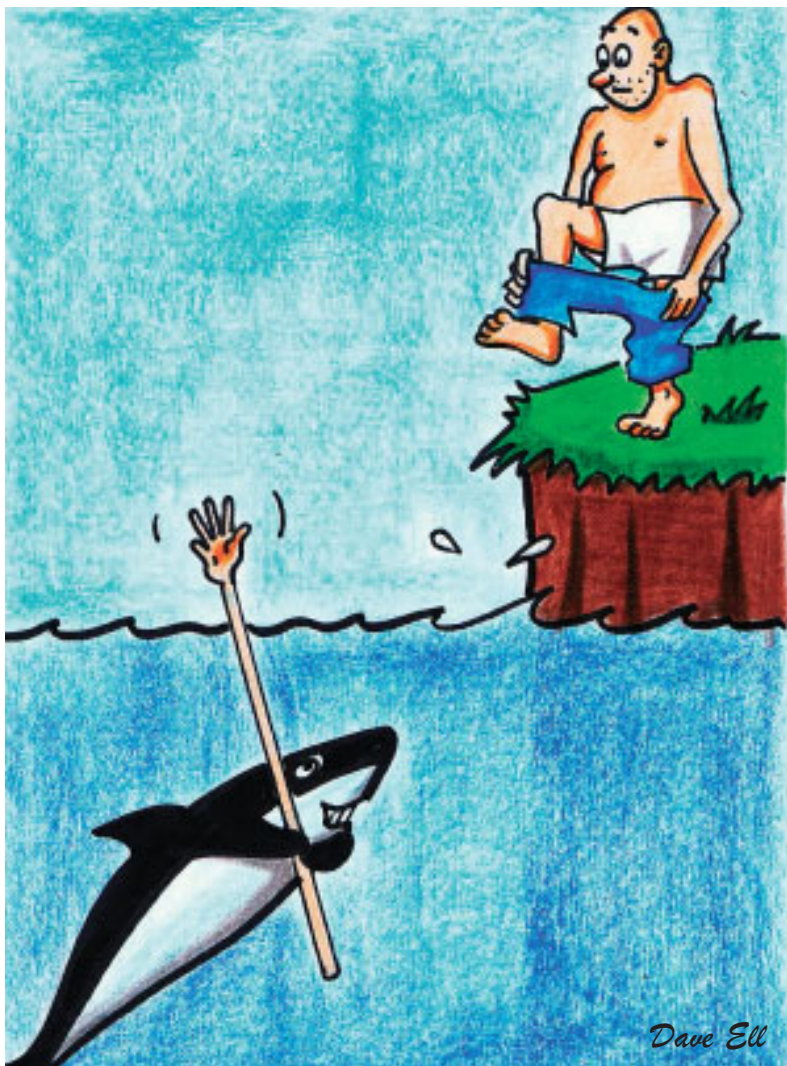
The investor who wishes to invest regularly, be it monthly or annually, immediately encounters a problem. Take the following example: an investor wishes to invest US\$1,000 a month for the foreseeable future.

Should the investor simply add this money to a bank account there will be very little growth, apart from capital invested, especially with current interest rates or the lack of them.

The investor wants to see a much better return than this, and why not?

This is often when an investor makes the first mistake; he or she contacts a “professional” adviser.

The sad reality is that the



When contacting a “professional” adviser, the sad reality is that the investor is moving into an area where the “dice” are loaded against him or her. Be careful where you decide to invest.

investor is moving into an area where the “dice” are loaded against them.

Firstly, the investor will be asked if a savings plan or a personal pension scheme is the most favored option.

Let us assume that the investor chooses a savings plan. The adviser will then usually bring out a glossy brochure from a major international insurance company offering not only the investment choices of that insurance company, but also choices from a variety of the world’s leading financial institutions.

This is designed to appear very attractive; choices of

investment may exceed two hundred, with the investor able to change part of his portfolio from, say, a Chinese equity fund to a US dollar bond fund with no additional cost.

The expression “there is no such thing as a free lunch” is never more appropriate than when dealing with offshore savings and pension plans.

The costs are horrific. The insurance company will normally charge a 7% bid/offer spread, which simply means an initial 7% charge, and will often refer to a “rounding adjustment”.

I asked one regional sales manager from a leading

insurance company what is meant by that term. The response: “eight percent”.

In addition, insurers will normally add an administration fee for their services. Somewhere in the small print, without fail, there will be a brief mention of an extra cost to access other fund managers’ products that are included in the package.

The real “up front” cost has probably now reached somewhere in the region of 10%. Therefore, instead of adding \$1,000 per month to savings, it is only around \$900 after costs.

This is not taking into consideration another charge – normally 1.5% per annum – as an administration charge, so now the client is, in reality, investing \$885 out of every \$1,000.

This is just the beginning; insurance companies will normally add a clause to the effect that all contributions for the first 1.5 to three years are “capital units”.

Should an investor cash in after, say, three years on a 10-year contract, they will, in reality, find that they receive only 15% to 20% of their contributions, the rest will have disappeared in charges.

In the real world, advisers are paid the full commission for regular savings/pension plans “up front”. The minimum period is usually 10-25 years. What is the difference? Commission paid on a 20-year investment is normally twice that of a 10-year investment.

Why do people invest for 10 or 20 years?

Normally, the reason given for a 10-year investment is to satisfy the tax authorities in your “home” country should you return there.

On the other hand, 20-year investments are simply made by the investor to satisfy an internal need to save money for a long period of time.

Sadly, the whole scenario is very much against the interests of investors, because in addition to all the points already made, the reality is that with the “adviser” having been paid “up front”, there

is little motive for them to continue to be of assistance.

Investors who save their money on a regular basis would be much better advised to search on the internet for large investment houses that offer saving schemes. The money can be divided into more than one company and a number of funds.

The advantages are numerous; no fixed contract and if it is necessary to stop contributing permanently or temporarily there are no costs – although watch out for insurance companies offering “premium holidays”; they still charge all their other fees.

Insurance companies do offer good deals in larger lump sum investments and term assurance. In lump sum investments, everything is transparent and there are no 7-8% front end costs – in fact, 100% is invested.

Term assurance covers life for a fixed cost over a predetermined number of years. It is similar to insuring a house or car – stop payments and the cover stops. The advantage lies with the client, the insurance company has agreed to cover life for a certain number of years – they are the ones at risk.

However, I have also seen the policy of investing a large lump sum used to the great detriment of the investor. Shortly after investment, the “adviser” recommends that this be used to fund a 10-year plan. The objective? To fund the purchase of a Mercedes-Benz for the adviser.

For expats, what is the difference between an offshore savings plan and a pension plan?

A different brochure.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years experience in this field. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com

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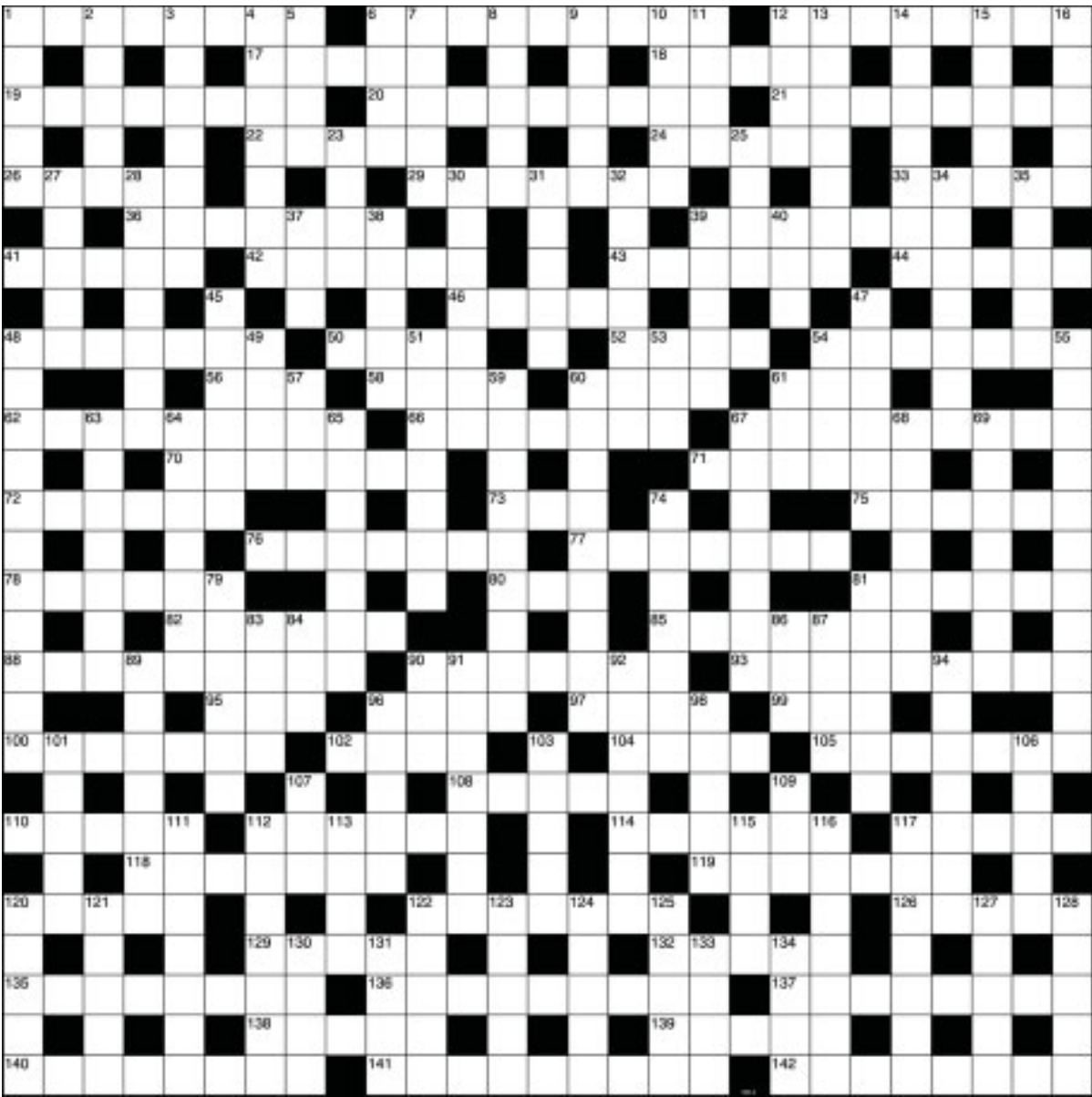
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



Can you find the ten differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

- Across
1. Marriage failures

6. Chubbiness

12. Electing

17. Eye colour

18. Craze

19. Detroit state

20. Tobacco abstainer

21. Always in fashion

22. Of topical interest

24. Defamation

26. Chasm

29. Gloomiest

33. Child's toilet

36. Privately taught

39. Of the skull

41. Unfasten (skirt)

42. Lady's title

43. Be included in

44. Give up

46. Catwalk beauty

48. Cafes

50. Reverse effects of

52. Wild goat

54. Stands down

56. Elderly

58. Beach material

60. Oxlike antelopes

61. Olympic Games body (1,1,1)

62. Pear-shaped guitars

66. Sailor's balance (3,4)

67. Stone terraces

70. Replay

71. Crave

72. Moved at easy pace

73. Golfing average

75. Injure

76. Process data

77. Hated

78. US currency unit

80. Born as

81. Students

82. Made home in tree

85. Seaman

88. Settled comfortably

90. Social graces

93. Without hearing

95. ...kwon do

96. Strong taste

97. Convincing defeat

99. Mildly sweet (champagne)

100. Less punctual

102. Cram (for exam)

104. Unfold,... out

105. Exact (meaning)

108. Pawns

110. Auction hammer

112. Laze about

114. Rough trails

117. Coffin stands

118. Steel-belted tyres

119. Ease

120. Dishevelled

122. Straddling

126. Nimble

129. Approaches

132. Molten rock

135. Reflected

136. Oddball

137. Modern (2-2-4)

138. Broadside

139. Recycle

140. Living being

141. Last-minute news

142. Cuts into three

6. Sheep enclosures

7. Actor,... Bridges

8. Penny-pincher

9. Not anybody (2-3)

10. Extract (metal)

11. Indian garment

12. Commend

13. Summoning (taxi)

14. Excessively reward

15. Immobile

16. Too sentimental

23. Noxious plant

25. Ballpoint

27. Hindu woman's forehead mark

28. Stiffly formal

30. Tentacled animal, sea...

31. Sorts

32. Brother or sister

34. Film star, Laurence...

35. Hawk's claw

37. Beam of light

38. Mends with wool

39. Pointers

40. As well as

45. Chilled

47. Nipped with beak

48. Bombing attack

49. Lean (pickings)

51. Leave house hurriedly (4,3)

53. Commuter vehicle

54. Move (cradle)

55. Thrilling

57. ... test (1,1,1)

59. Moistening

60. Transmission selector (4,5)

61. Charged particle

63. Bites

64. Type of marjoram

65. Staunched

67. Bacon strips

68. Deletion

69. Envision

74. Prepares for race

79. Hired

81. Drawing instrument

83. Disfigure

84. Arrange,... up

86. It is (2'1)

87. Christmas carol, The First...

89. Scroungers

90. Former Chinese leader,... Zedong

91. Patriotic songs

92. Perched

94. Judging

96. Identical babies

98. US oil state

101. Conscious

103. Polish hard

106. Fourth month

107. Constrictor snake

109. Alias (1,1,1)

111. Surrender (weapons) (3,4)

112. Female lion

113. Arm bone

115. Wooden shoe

116. Paint-removing tool

117. Signal fires

120. Nonsense,... jumbo

121. Neck end of mutton

122. English racecourse

123. Bind (3,2)

124. Bury

125. Muslim rulers

127. Sir... Newton

128. Smooths

130. Dutch cheese

131. Engine turns

133. One-spot cards

134. Is obliged to
- Down

1. South American dance

2. Fortunate

3. Stumbles (5,2)

4. Musical,... of the Opera

5. Mentally sound

Solution on next page

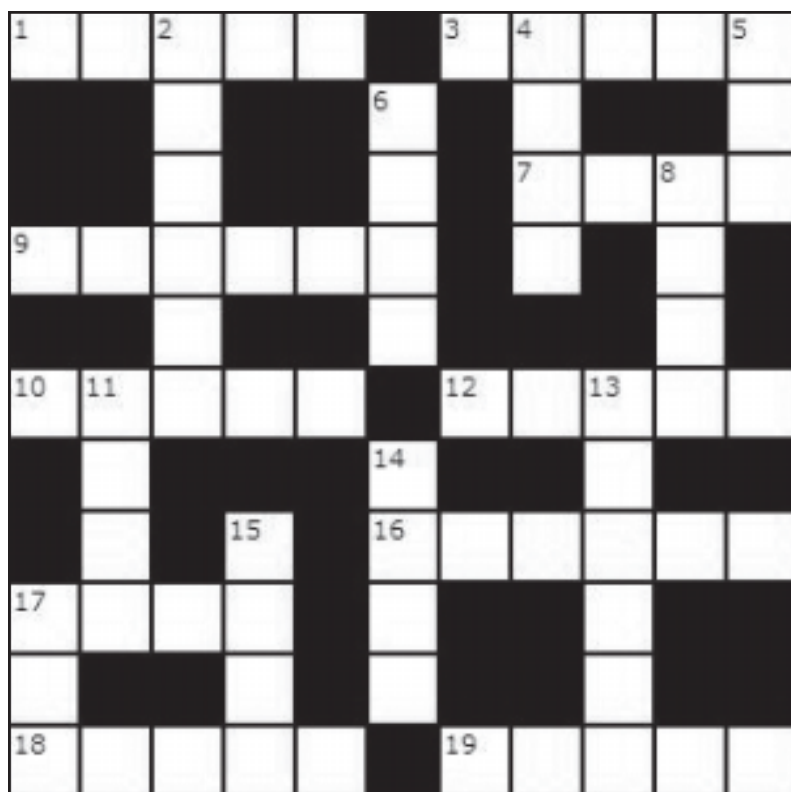
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Bird
3. Simple
7. Listen
9. A, E, I, O, U
10. VHS
12. Garden ornament
16. The... Dodger
17. Rouse
18. Twelve
19. Destroy

Down

2. Watched
4. Pain
5. Vehicle
6. Price
8. ...and Eve
11. Concept
13. Workspace
14. Rodents
15. ...and now
17. A bundle

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is the name of the water busses in Venice?
2. What was Ram Jam's only hit single?
3. To which family of birds does the budgie belong?
4. Who first translated the Bible into English?
5. Which castle in England is thought to have been the site of Camelot?
6. How many 'Rocky' films were made?
7. How many months was Noah's ark at sea?
8. What is the capital of Haiti?
9. Which US State is nicknamed the Blue-grass State?
10. In which sport do you have 10 pieces of wood separated by a chain?
11. The George Washington Bridge spans which river?
12. In which month was JFK assassinated?
13. By what name is Formosa now known?
14. In Greek mythology which group had snakes instead of hair?
15. What is Tiger Woods' real first name?
16. In which country is Casablanca?
17. In which series of films does the character John McClane appear?
18. Who wrote *Lord of the Flies*?
19. Which city does Table Mountain overlook?
20. Who composed *The Rite of Spring*?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Vaporetti; 2. Black Betty; 3. Parrot; 4. John Wycliffe; 5. Tintagel; 6. Six; 7. Seven; 8. Port-au-Prince; 9. Kentucky; 10. Cricket; 11. Hudson; 12. November; 13. Taiwan; 14. The Gorgons; 15. Eldrick; 16. Morocco; 17. Die Hard; 18. William Golding; 19. Cape Town; 20. Igor Stravinsky.

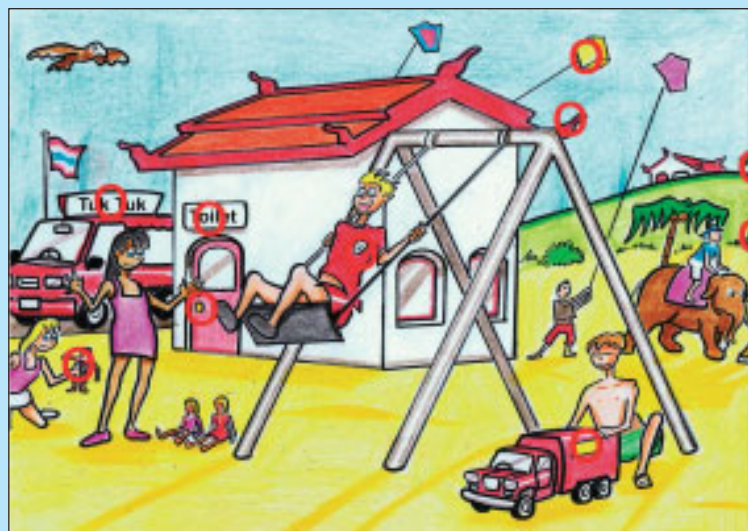
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle





Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Janet Brown was one of the countless thousands who arrived to teach English in Bangkok. She is also one of several dozen who have written books about their experience.

Her book *Tone Deaf in Bangkok* (Things Asia Press, San Francisco, 2008, 155pp) was published in California and is directed at an American audience unfamiliar with Thailand.

The subjects she covers – the Songkran Festival, street vendors, buses, durians, the Skytrain, Chatuchak Market – have been done to death by other writers but the question is: how good a writer is Janet Brown?

The answer is very good indeed. She had a keen eye for observation combined with a fluid and funny style. Unlike more

clumsy writers, she does not start with her arrival at Don Muang airport but plunges immediately into the heart of her book; how a middle-aged American woman copes with Bangkok.

"Nothing is more humbling that being forty-five years old and suddenly discovering that you are unable to read, except being forty-five years old and struggling to learn a new alphabet taught by small children who correct you each time you open your mouth."

She is a Seattle bookseller who left behind two grown sons to start a new life in Bangkok.

She taught English from 1995 to 2001, living hand to mouth, especially after the Crash of 1997.

"I had worked so hard to become a resident of Thailand, the kind of foreigner who learned to accept, if not love, every aspect of my new surroundings, and who blended in as well as my oversized nose would allow. I'd learned to walk at a snail's pace, to use toothpicks behind a shielding hand after every meal, to look at diseased dogs without visible

disgust, and to do my damndest to behave like a well-mannered, reserved lady when in public. Most important of all, I had a slot in my neighborhood. I was a teacher and a person who worked the same demanding, ridiculous schedule that almost every Thai person does, from the crack of dawn until late at night, six days a week."

She does let down her hair at times, like during Songkran where she runs with some gay male Thai friends from Khao San Road to Soi Katoey. She also falls in love with her Thai teacher who is half her age and has a girlfriend. But still she trips happily about the city on a voyage of perennial discovery.

"The covered market that I walked through every day on my way to work was one of my favorite places until an odd smell emerged that refused to go away," she writes.

"Actually, it was more of an olfactory assault. I had become accustomed to the different stinks and fragrances that reached my

nostrils all at the same time and had learned to enjoy the process of sorting them into their various categories: refuse, canal water, jasmine, heated garlic, freshly squeezed oranges, and bus exhaust fumes. This, however, was not an odor that I'd ever encountered before; it was rotting and putrid, and it permeated the air for blocks in the covered market."

Durian, of course. And she learns to enjoy it. She enjoys shopping too, a little too much for this reader who really doesn't want to know where she bought her shoes or underwear. Still, she's good at capturing the scene:

"A gigantic food market with buckets of fermented fish sauce, whole pigs' heads, live fish whipping about in pails, frogs with legs bound together whooping hopelessly for freedom, and a huge hand-cranked machine that appeared to be extracting coconut milk, was my favorite place to wander, a bag of iced coffee firmly in my grip, among the crowd of early morning shoppers."

She can be mawkish at



times, her heart on her sleeve as she doles out gifts to the beggars of Phnom Penh. And I really didn't want to hear anymore about her cats. But that's just me.

She is unashamedly in love with Bangkok and who can blame her?

The book also comes with 36 fine photographs of the city by Nana Chen that had my heart swell with homesickness.



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.

Why are killers called 'gentlemen'?

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.

using 'monster,' 'murderer' or 'thief' to refer to a person not yet convicted of a crime, but it pains me to hear victims use such a kind word when so many others are available – 'man,' 'person,' 'individual.'

Karen Fielder,
Brewer, Maine

Barbara replies: You're not alone. I too wince when 'gentleman' refers to a man who has done, or is alleged to have done, something as far from gentlemanly as committing a major felony.

'Gentleman' once was a synonym for 'nobleman.'

By the time the American colonies separated from England and chose to do without noblemen, the word also could be just a courteous or complimentary

synonym for 'man.' Of course, people sometimes use courtesy and compliments ironically. (For instance, 'What a prince!' usually means 'That was really cheap of him!')

But the bereft mother you quote can't have intended 'gentleman' in either of these ways. She may have taken her cue from the police, who do sometimes refer to criminal suspects as 'gentlemen.' I don't know whether officers who do that are being ironic or carefully respectful of people who, after all, are only suspected of crimes. I am glad, though, that they're not reflexively hurling epithets.

Q: Thank you for your recent discussion of 'I' and 'me.' Please go one further and address the

use of 'I' when coupled with another subject or object. I am overwhelmed (and I work in a high school) with constructions such as 'If you have questions, contact Joan or I.' This from an English teacher! Recently in a school newsletter: 'Donations can be made to Sam or I.'

I can't figure how to approach the topic with others in a non-affected manner. Please, a simple explanation that I can copy and anonymously place on our teachers' lounge bulletin board!

Mark Paveglio
Bay City, Michigan

Barbara replies: I don't know how you'll manage to remain anonymous now, but I'll gladly provide the explanation. As far as I know, no one is ever

tempted to say, "If you have questions, contact I" or "Donations can be made to I."

We all know perfectly well that in both of these sentences the right word is "me." Our instincts about "me" and other pronouns are usually good when we're talking about only one person. Bringing a second person into it doesn't change the grammar. So if you'd say "contact me" when talking about yourself alone, then say "contact Joan or me." If you'd say "Donations can be made to me," then make it "to Sam or me."

As for how to approach the topic, Mark, I suggest you do your best to avoid it. The only reason I get away with correcting people's grammar is that they ask me to. Unless they do, I don't.

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The Phuket Gazette

- Since 1994 -

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New police districts will improve law enforcement

The recent announcement by Phuket Provincial Police that two new police districts will be established for Karon and Wichit is very welcome news.

The lack of law enforcement resources in Phuket is an island-wide problem, but nowhere is it worse than the south end of the island, where Chalong Police have been responsible for a huge jurisdiction that includes not only tambon Chalong proper, but also all of Rawai, much of Wichit and all of Kata-Karon, extending all the way to the border with Kathu.

As noted by this newspaper many times before, Phuket's law enforcement problems stem largely from the island's huge population of migrant workers from other parts of Thailand, along with expat residents and illegal migrant workers from neighboring countries – especially Burma.

While the island's registered population is just over 300,000, the actual number of people on the island during peak seasons for tourism is thought to approach one million.

Unfortunately, the highly centralized bureaucracy in Bangkok allots police manpower and other resources for the most part according to the registered population.

While these help, they simply cannot compensate for a chronic lack of patrol police at a time when the economy is in a worrying state and ever more people are coming to the island, many searching desperately for work.

This past month has seen no fewer than five cold-blooded murders on the island, including two of foreigners and another carried out on temple grounds on a Buddhist holiday. There has also been a spate of arson attacks that remain unsolved.

It was also recently announced that Phuket is among the top five Thai provinces in terms of the incidence of road accident injuries and deaths, another disturbing trend that reflects a lack of effective traffic law enforcement.

There have been few specific details about when the new police stations will be built and opened, but the sooner they are the better. Let's not forget how the plan to relocate Police Region 8 headquarters from Surat Thani to Mai Khao fizzled out after a reshuffle at the top of the police hierarchy.

This is also a good opportunity to recognize the generous donations of land worth millions of baht to site the new stations: the Anupas & Sons group of Phummisak Hongyok for the Wichit Station, together with Huaytek Aekwanit and Maitree Nareukatpichai for the land in Karon.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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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.

Defending volunteers

In response to Issues and Answers on February 28 [Power of the Tourist Police], before accusing the Volunteer Tourist Police of wrong doing, please look closer and make a clear identification. Tourist Police and Immigration Assistants wear very similar uniforms.

I'm not at all sure what the mandate of the Immigration Assistants is but I'm sure it's not traffic control. When traffic is heavy along the Beach Road, the Immigration Assistants and Tourist Police will assist at the drop off point at the end of Bangla Road to ensure that traffic continues to flow, and on occasion, have stopped traffic for pedestrians. It is usually the Thai Police who will stop traffic – not us.

Volunteer Tourist Police are just normal people from many different countries who care enough to make themselves available 24/7 to assist tourists when they have problems. The tourist police will respond to every phone call or when approached along Bangla Road.

'Powers?' This is not what the Tourist Police is about. When you find yourself in trouble and can't speak the local language please don't hesitate to call us.

We always welcome volunteers, so if you'd like to see what we do please join us. Either way, know this: we'll be there for you when you need us!

Vincent Stone
Patong

Animal exploitation

What an enjoyable night we had with our friends here on holiday in Phuket recently, looking at

the 'goods' available along Bangla Road.

There was a nice atmosphere and the hawkers selling their goods were not 'pushy' or aggressive in any way.

However, one thing that spoiled the evening for us, was to see some lizard-type creature being draped around people's shoulders for a 'photo opportunity' and the chance for the handler to make a quick baht!

The poor creature looked completely traumatized and one can only imagine how it felt having being plucked from a peaceful forest and paraded around in disco la-la land. May I beg tourists to think twice before they pose and purchase these photographs, which could then bring an end to this sad trade.

Concerned
Kamala resident

Littering Phuket

Although there is a lot of work done to try and keep Phuket clean, I feel that local politicians could do more to help prevent so much litter being dispersed around the island.

The little bins that are positioned at the end of most driveways – although great – contribute to the problem. They offer somewhere for residents to place their rubbish, but ultimately they are too small and too easily accessible for soi dogs.

One black bag full of rubbish and the bins no longer have space for anything else and residents are forced to pile any more rubbish on top. By this time, it is impossible to replace the lid and the bags are then at the mercy of the dogs, who rip them open in search of leftovers.

In England, houses are given larger and more secure bins to deposit their rubbish into.

If the same practice were adopted in Thailand, maybe it would reduce the amount of litter that is currently polluting our beautiful landscape.

Inge van Schilt
Bang Tao

Football crazy

Thais are mad about football but what I can't quite work out is why the development of football as a *participation* sport remains so stunted.

The strength of football in the UK, for example, lies in its grass-roots development at a local level. The fierce rivalry that emerged between local teams and proudly partisan communities gave rise to the competitive and compelling match-ups you can see today in the UK's Barclay's Premier League – particularly in the local derbies.

So, given Thais' obvious love of the game, why hasn't this ever been translated into the formation of local teams and sets of supporters. Are Phuketians any less proud of their roots and local community than, say Liverpoolians?

Is there no sense of partisan rivalry between Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai? Or between Phuket and Koh Samui?

Most of the teams currently playing in the Thai league are either owned or sponsored by large Thai companies, hence the lack of local pride or enthusiasm in the process or the outcome of the games, unless of course there's money riding on it.

George Hanswick
Kathu

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.

Policing by the book



FIRST PERSON

Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonmark was born in Phichit Province in northern Thailand. At the age of five he suffered the tragic loss of his father, who died in a plane crash while on duty. The sudden death of his father had an enormous impact on him, the oldest of four children, instilling within him a determination to follow in his father's footsteps and serve his country. After successfully completing his training at the Police Academy, he enrolled at the Officer Training Academy to further his education, graduating as a lieutenant.

Compiled by Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

Following the completion of my studies, I was stationed along the Burmese border in one of two spells spent serving in Tak Province in the northwest of Thailand. Shortly after my posting, I was relocated and sent to join the Third Army, which has its headquarters in Phitsanulok and is responsible for the northern and northwestern parts of the Kingdom. Before assuming my role in Phuket I also spent time as a highway patrol officer in Amnud-Jalearn and then in Phetburi working on drugs cases before finally being relocated to Phuket.

As part of my role in Phuket I feel it is my responsibility to take care of all those under my command and the public-at-large. I want everybody to understand what I do, what I am trying to do and to share the same concerns that I have.

I can't make the whole of Thailand safe, but I can and will do whatever I can to make Phuket a safe place to be. Phuket generates a lot of money for Thai-

land and I want to ensure that it continues to do so. Phuket needs to be safe; not only for the people that visit, but for those who live here as well.

I strongly believe in the principles of Pho Khun Ramkhamhaeng, the King of Sukhothai from 1277 to 1298, who nurtured his citizens like a father would his children. He believed that all members of society have a duty to one another and to their country and summed it up well in saying, "If a criminal passes by anyone's house, the owner of that house has a responsibility to catch them." Basically, I believe he was saying that everybody has a duty to look after each other. This does not mean I condone vigilante groups, but if the police are doing their job and we are all working in the right direction, criminals will find it difficult to succeed.

I have developed a project entitled "Who is a Good Person Today" that will begin in Kathu, starting with Kathu Police officers. The initiative will gradually incorporate a wider section of the

local community, including taxi drivers, tourist assistants, municipal office personnel and finally the people who are resident in the area. The hope is that the project will eventually cover Phuket as a whole.

Part of the initiative is focused on making sure people are aware of what to do if they're involved in or witness an incident. Should this be the case, it is imperative that people contact us so we can respond. To promote this, we shall be deploying a number of signs that will highlight our contact details for the benefit of the public.

Another plan is to color code areas to help people identify where they are. Understandably people panic if they are involved in any sort of incident, but the hope is that with color coded areas, it will help people relate to the police where they are and help us pinpoint where the incident has taken place.

Using Patong Beach as an example, the plan is to divide the area into different zones using the

beach sunshades. This way people can identify where they are on the beach at all times and help police catch the perpetrators. I really want people to think that by helping us they are an extension of the police force, doing their bit to help reduce crime in Phuket.

Recently we have upgraded our CCTV network with the installation of 16 new and improved cameras to help solve and deter criminal activity, and we are urging our officers to make sure they are doing their duty, particularly where drug crimes are concerned. In the first two months of 2009 we have made 58 drug-related arrests.

At present, there is a lot of concern among tourists that Phuket – and Thailand in general – isn't a safe place to travel to. I would never come out and declare that Phuket is crime free; that's simply not the case, but the crimes that have been committed have affected people who reside here [Referring to the recent murders of Canadian

Francis Degioanni and Englishman Ian Stuart]. That doesn't make it acceptable and I'm not trying to justify it, but crime is a factor in every country. What's more, I believe that if any of the recent events had happened to Thai people, it wouldn't be a big deal.

The level of crime in Phuket is no worse than anywhere else in Thailand, but it falls under a greater spotlight.

As a policeman I can't really submit many details to the general public, which often leads people to think that police are trying to cover up a story or that the police force is rife with corruption.

I am an honest man trying to do my duty and trying to improve as many things as possible, in the hope that the project will be successful here in Phuket.

I really want to support the good people who live on the island and, in turn, want them to be look outs for us. Together, we can work towards eliminating crime in Phuket.

Issues & ANSWERS

Do you have a burning issue you would like addressed by someone who can give you an official answer?

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

Write to:

The Phuket Gazette
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang
Phuket 83000. Fax 076-
213971, or submit your issue
at www.phuketgazette.net

Why do fund transfers from the US take so long?

On January 9, 2009, I deposited a check from the US into my Siam Commercial Bank account. I was told it would take a ridiculous 45 - 60 days before this money would be available in my Thai account.

The money was actually withdrawn from my US bank on 20/1/2009. So, if my US bank and I do not have the money, then surely the SCB does.

Why will it take another 35 - 49 days to put it in my account? In many countries this is considered an illegal non-interest bearing "float".

Don Aleman
Pattaya

Business Manager of Siam Commercial Bank Phuket Branch Ms Benjaluk Cha-lermkruan replies:

The bank requires between 45-60 days for processing because they have to send the check back to get the money from the bank in the US.

Once the money arrives at the main SCB branch in Bangkok, it then takes another two to three days to process, while it is forwarded to the Phuket branch.

Why Gasohol only at Shell?

I have discovered that I can no longer get gasoline for my motorcycle at Shell service stations. They now only offer gasohol. Why? It is a little inconvenient, though not a real problem as other companies do still sell gasoline – so far. Do some of them also plan to sell just gasohol in the near future?

Most cars sold in Thailand since 1995 (therefore, by implication, most cars on Thai roads but not all) are gasohol compatible. However, the same is not true of motorcycles. It is only very recently that Honda introduced a few gasohol-compatible models of motorcycle to the market. As far as I am aware, other manufacturers have yet to do so.

Gasohol plays havoc with the rubber and aluminum parts of a motorcycle's fuel system, as I discovered when my tank was filled with gasohol by mistake. Shell's noble policy seems somewhat misguided.

Michael Way
Phuket Town

Miss Supamad Adtapron, Shell Head Office, replies:

We have stopped selling gasoline in accordance with government laws. As a result, we have had to change to simply supplying gasohol. We tried our best to phase it out as gradually as possible so people's needs wouldn't be overly disrupted. Soon, if they wish to comply with Thai law, no gas stations will sell gasoline, only gasohol.

Horoscopes

Isla Star

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A lukewarm reception in a new working situation can be viewed as a passing cloud. As others begin to realize that your presence poses no threat to their job security, the air will clear. Lovesick Pisceans who still need one more sign that their interest is not reciprocated should receive it soon. Those celebrating a birthday this week will become caught up in a quest for spiritual satisfaction during the coming year.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Property matters are not well-starred until the middle of March. Arians intent on relocation are advised to wait another week before following up leads as a wild goose chase is forecast to leave you irritated this weekend. Those who have decided to give romance a rest for the time being may have to rethink those plans. A meeting with Taurus around the middle of the month is certain to set your pulse racing.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Developments at work take your mind off problems of a romantic nature. Those Taureans who would like to branch out will be offered opportunities to develop more skills. Where love is concerned, the best approach is to remain realistic – if you continue to hope for more than is forthcoming, disappointment is guaranteed. Investments are well-starred during the second half of March, but preliminary research this week reveals an interesting possibility.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Thursday is the most auspicious day for discussions relating to finance, but Geminis may have to settle for less than they were hoping for. A trip this weekend adds sparkle to a romantic relationship, but jealousy is indicated to cause ripples later in the week. A Leo business acquaintance lets you into a secret early next week, but

something doesn't quite add up. The number seven can bring some modest luck on Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Taking one step forward and two steps back could cause Cancerians to start to lose interest in a potentially lucrative business project. However, the stars indicate that more direct progress will be made towards the end of the week. Thursday is the most auspicious day to hold discussions with prospective partners. Romance continues to keep your feet off the ground. Wearing the color silver can promote clear-cut thinking.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos are forecast to devote energy to looking good this week. This could be the result of a romantic relationship in the pipeline or a general desire to reinvent yourself. Asking a Sagittarian friend to accompany you on a shopping trip this weekend will ensure a stylish result. The chances of success at a job interview are strong on Wednesday. Wearing the color royal blue can promote optimism.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Those Virgoans who approach the weekend in a bored mood should accept a casual invitation from friends to go out. You are likely to have a ball and a romantic introduction could enhance the fun. Where work is concerned, the astral atmosphere is set to lighten during the second half of March and pressure will be lessened with the arrival of a new, helpful colleague. A monetary windfall is forecast late next week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Business affairs are forecast to proceed in a roundabout way, but success is just around the corner. Librans who are beginning to think that they are doing too much work on others' behalf should make this clear. Tuesday is the best day for a relevant discussion. Travel is indicated during the second half of March – consult an earth sign friend for tips this weekend. The number five can be lucky next Thursday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): March slips into a more relaxed mode for those born under the sign of Scorpio. You realize that stopping to smell the roses is more enjoyable than racing around in circles, trying to please everybody. A problem relating to financial matters is forecast to be solved early next week and you could find yourself better off than expected. Where romance is concerned, attraction of the opposites is highlighted.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Another fire sign has some business ideas that are worth listening to this weekend. Sagittarians who are worried that collaboration with this person could cause sparks to fly should air their fears before final agreements are made. A lost item is forecast to reappear this week and you may have to apologize to someone for wrongly suspecting them. Wearing the color lemon yellow can help to streamline your energy.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A water sign acquaintance tries to pull on your heartstrings this weekend, but their story should be transparent enough to see through. Capricorns are advised to curb their generosity until the end of March. Early next week, you discover an easy way to maintain a more economical lifestyle. Your chances of finding love increase when Cupid encourages an introduction to Aries. Wear the color dark chocolate to enhance your charisma.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Recent romantic disappointment is forgotten when you meet a water sign this weekend. Aquarians who are not yet ready for a serious relationship will appreciate that this person's need for independence matches their own. Work is rewarding for the remainder of the month and a potentially fruitful scheme begins to take shape this week. Thursday is the best day to make amends with a tricky family member you fell out with recently.

A Passage to India

Like many Westerners, I have a love-hate relationship with India. It was reinforced by a recent visit, and it's best explained by two quotations from the great 19th century Hindu reformer-monk Swami Vivekananda, who declared:

"If there is any land on this earth that can lay claim to be the blessed *Punya Bhumi* [Holy Land], ...the land to which every soul that is wending its way Godward must come to attain its last home; the land where humanity has attained its highest towards gentleness, towards generosity, towards purity, towards calmness; above all, the land of introspection and of spirituality – it is India."

Later, in a less effusive mood, he admitted, "India is the dirtiest and unhealthiest hole in the world." It's this dichotomy that gives India her fascination: a lofty spiritual tradition on the one hand, appalling filth and poverty on the other. Sublimity and squalor intermingle.

The mixture breeds strange contradictions. Take the issue of cleanliness. Hinduism has an elaborate system of ritual purity. No orthodox Hindu will eat food from somebody else's plate.

Eschewing fork and spoon, he eats only with his right hand: the left hand is ritually unclean because it is used to wipe the bottom after defecation.

This creates a problem. If the left hand is unclean, and you're eating with your right hand, which hand do you hold the glass in when you want to take a drink?

One school of thought says that you must grasp the glass with your right hand even though it's covered with food. Another school of thought lets you use your left hand even though it's ritually unclean.

But there's a rationale for this concession. You may use your left hand only because your lips never actually touch the glass. Hindus hold the glass a few inches above the mouth and pour the water in.

So if they're holding the glass in their left hand, their lips are not defiled by touching it.

It's nitpicky stuff like this that made Swami Vivekananda

thunder: "Grown-up men by the hundreds have been discussing for years whether we should drink a glass of water with the right hand or the left, whether the hands should be washed three times or four, whether we should gargle

five times or six!

... Our religion is in the kitchen. Our God is the cooking pot."

Contrast such fussiness with the vast and cosmic outlook of Indian philosophy, which holds that everything is a manifestation of

one universal Spirit, and you get a contradiction worth marveling at.

And there's another contradiction. Indians may have a fixation on ritual purity when it comes to eating, but they have no such scruples about littering.

They throw litter everywhere. Visitors are usually aghast at how dirty India is, and the main culprit is litter. Litter bins are rare. Where the litter is swept up, it usually festers in open garbage dumps.

Even indoors, the litter bin seems to be an alien import. One guesthouse I stayed in was immaculate, but there were no bins in the rooms.

When I wanted to throw away some fruit peelings, I went outside in quest of a bin. I searched in vain till I came to a stairwell, where five or six of them were neatly stacked up. Why weren't they in the rooms? Go figure.

But the foreigner is wise not to make sweeping generalizations. Once, outside a temple, I bought a popsicle from an ice-cream vendor.

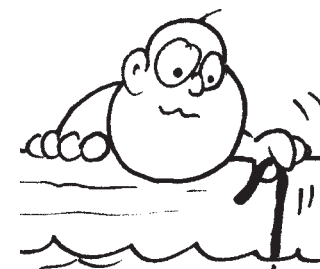
After eating it, I looked around in vain for a bin to drop the stick in, but there was none to be seen. So I dropped the stick on the ground.

Instant chaos. A great hue and cry went up from all the vendors. Shouting protests, they pointed to a plastic bucket hidden away in a corner. Chastened, I deposited the stick in the appointed container. The throng of onlookers burst into applause.

Somebody, somewhere, probably from the temple, had been teaching the vendors not to litter. Now they just have to teach more people, provide more bins, and put them in places where people can see them.

Taking the long view, though, the Indians are philosophers. I can already hear their answer to my fulminations against littering: "What's the problem? Litter is also a manifestation of the universal Spirit."

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's looking for a litter bin.



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Novice yachtsman learns the ropes

By Tony Pope

It is something of a cliché to say that there is “a right way and a wrong way” to do anything. However, when it comes to sailing, take it from me that the cliché has never been more apt.

I had decided to follow in a friend's foot steps and learn how to sail around Phuket's picturesque coastline. The Andaman Sea is indeed a spectacular place to learn, but it does require a knowledge of how to sail in all conditions, since nature can catch out even the most experienced sailor.

With this in mind, I joined up with the guys at Sail in Asia (SIA) and became a student for a few days – both in the classroom and out on the waves.

I had previously learned to sail, after a fashion, on Lake Windermere in the UK many moons ago, successfully managing to navigate my way around the vast lake. On that occasion, I received my instruction from a book I had been given about learning how to sail – clearly not the recommended way to acquire the requisite skills. Some years later, I joined a trip heading to Langkawi aboard a flotilla. Mercifully, the winds were light, testing the endurance of my boat's single-cylinder Yanmar engine more than my prowess as a yachtsman.

Stopping off at the various islands along the route and marveling at the starlit night skies reminded me that sailing held more pleasures than just that of mastering the craft. The waters passing beneath us were so clear, so deep and filled with all manner of fish. I spotted a few sharks, but dared not venture into the water to snorkel – others did and returned with breathless tales of tropical wonders.

Knowing what potential experiences await sailors, I headed to Ao Yon eager to learn.

When I arrived the classes were already in progress. The lessons were conducted on a one-on-one basis, which, by and large, is the best way to learn. To begin, you are taught sailing theory – on which you are tested

SIA instructor David Bayliss (yellow shirt) gives pointers on the water following sailing theory lessons on land.



– before venturing out on the water to put it into practice. Once at sea you repeat skills over and over until mastering the art of wind usage and control.

What's more, it's a pleasure and never a chore.

The type of boats used by SIA for teaching novices are specifically selected because they are considered to be the most forgiving when sailed incorrectly – a blessing for first timers. Our lesson took us up past the Royal Thai Navy's patrol vessel moored at the jetty near the Phuket aquarium and conservation area, then out into the main waterway past Tanan Island and back into the bay again.

This was repeated until everyone was satisfied that the lessons had been learned, never to be forgotten, all under the ever

watchful eyes of the instructors. Never mind the books; this, I deduced, was the right way to learn how to sail.

SIA promotes understanding through emphasizing “hands on” learning in combination with ample sea time. Mike Downard, SIA's chief instructor, said, “Our recreational courses are both practical and theoretical. This way, the students learn to sail far more effectively. SIA's two-day course is designed to dovetail with the international crew course, allowing those students wishing to progress further up the ladder the option of an additional two-day course that will qualify them for their international crew certificate.”

By the end of the course students are able to rig a boat, take it out of the bay and sail it in

every direction, put a “reef” in a sail (shorten it), sail using only the head sail and – most importantly – know how to stop the boat. The “learn to sail” course is fully supported online and can be accessed at the company's website. The idea is that clients can access the information they need before, during and after the course.

Teaching people to sail has

been Mike's passion for 25 years, and his course really does offer novices a lot of action, fun and instills a desire to learn more.

The most rewarding part of the course – at least for me – was the opportunity to make new, like-minded friends from all over the world.

For more information about learning to sail with Sail in Asia log on at www.sailinasia.com.

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Racing season begins at Ao Chalong Yacht Club

The new racing season, which gets underway at Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) on March 15, holds particular significance for members of Phuket's biggest yacht club. ACYC recently made the move from its home of nine years in Chalong Bay to bigger, and better, premises in the same area.

With the lease on the existing premises set to expire and ACYC unable to agree on a satisfactory extension, the club was forced to look at relocating – lock, stock and barrel – to a new home. Fortunately, they did not have to look too far and were able to procure one rai of beachfront property, just 500 meters north of the existing site.

Commodore Mick Kealy has been at the club since the very beginning – some 13 years ago –

and for him, the move was inevitable. "The membership is growing and the yacht club facility is now too small to accommodate all these new members. I think the new premises will definitely help to attract more members. There will be a greater selection of food and drinks, and the quality of service should be higher," he said.

For Mick this is definitely a step in the right direction for the ACYC. "We're going from being a small developing club, to a club that is trying to become internationally recognized. There's a lot of energy around the place again, and it's good to see that, after years of stagnation, we are actually moving forward," he revealed.

This growth will be reflected in a bigger fleet competing in the ACYC races that gen-

erally take place on alternate Sundays until November. Among the new additions to the fleet are two new 'Fireflies', the popular catamaran, designed by Phuket's own Mark Pescott.

Last year Ben Copley's *Katsu* took honors in the Racing class and John Fen's *Four Winds* in the Cruising class – both will be looking to repeat their feats. The Multihull class promises to be fiercely competitive with 2008's winner Chris Jongerius, on *The Frog*, looking to defend the title he won by the narrowest of margins last year from fellow King's Cup competitors Roger Kingdon, on *Motor Inzi*, and Bob Brindley, on *X-Catriot*. Anyone wishing to race can come along and sail on a racing boat for 400 baht in any of the fortnightly races. Just turn up at ACYC at 10am on race day. The road to



Members admire the action from the ACYC's spanking new premises in Chalong.

the club is located about 50 meters from Mike's Bikes going south along Chao Fa Road East towards Chalong Circle. Look for an unmade road almost opposite Flintstone Bakery and for a sign for 'Ao Chalong Villas'.

With the sudden passing away of club member Andrew Newman last year, ACYC lost all access to its original website,

www.acycphuket.com, which has not subsequently been updated. Any correspondence sent through this site is likely to have been lost. There is now a new website up and running, www.acycphuket.com, containing details on membership, the latest race results and updates on the development of the new premises.

-James Goyder

Martina Navratilova trains in Phuket

Martina Navratilova, arguably the greatest female tennis player of all time, recently traveled to Phuket, where she spent time training at the Royal Phuket Marina Health Club.

Navratilova, now 52 years old and retired from tournament tennis, won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, 31 Grand Slam women's doubles titles – an all-time record – and 10 Grand Slam

mixed doubles titles in a career that spanned 31 years and saw her accumulate an astonishing 344 titles. She recently finished as runner up on the UK reality TV show 'I'm a celebrity... Get me out of here!'

Navratilova currently resides in Aspen, Colorado and Nokomis, Florida, but spends most of her time traveling the world speaking at different events, working as a commentator at major tennis tournaments and

occasionally playing in exhibition matches. However, after a lifetime devoted to playing the game, she recently took a break from playing tennis. "I had not hit a ball in four months before I came here. I love the courts here and the scenery in Phuket and I have also been really impressed by the professionalism of all the staff at RPM," she said.

Fresh from a trip to the Australian Open, where she was so impressed by the level of com-



Tennis legend Martina Navratilova spent time training at RPM Health club with the help of Marisa and Ken.

petition – she described it as 'phenomenal' – the former world number one was determined to get back into the swing of things and spend some time on court herself.

Following her recent break from the game, Navratilova is scheduled to turn out for the Boston Lobsters in the World Team Tennis League, which also features superstars Anna Kournikova, John McEnroe and the Williams sisters. Hayden Rhodes, the

RPM Club manager said, "It was a real honor to have Martina here and I know she enjoyed being able to relax in a private environment here at RPM."

"Khun Marisa, our Health Club Member Manager, looked after her while she was with us and Khun Ken, our Health Club tennis coach, helped court side with Martina and also gave lessons to Martina's companion," he added.

-James Goyder



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Inaugural Oilfield Classic set to tee off in Phuket

Over 100 international visitors and golfers will jet in to Phuket from April 2-5 to contest the inaugural Phuket Oilfield Classic Golf Tournament. The event will be hosted by two Phuket courses – Loch Palm and Red Mountain – and is being supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Primarily, the Phuket Oilfield Classic is for people involved in the oil and gas industry, although it is also open to local residents wishing to promote their companies to an international clientele.

The event's organizer, Mark Cameron, who works in the oil and gas sector, lives on the island and is a member at Loch Palm and Red Mountain golf club. Looking to give something back to the local community, Mark informed the *Gazette* that much of the money raised during the course of the tournament will be donated to the Phuket Sunshine Village.

Charitable funds will be raised partly by means of on-course competitions in which players will pay to hit tee shots at a bullseye marked one of the greens or try for the longest drive



The Jon-Morrow-designed Red Mountain golf course is arguably the most challenging in Phuket.

with an opposite-handed club – right-handed players using left-handed clubs and vice-versa.

Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets – the top prize is a two-night stay at the Club Andaman Beach Resort with rounds of golf at Loch Palm and Red Mountain, plus a flight voucher for two – will also go to charity.

The fundraising efforts will culminate in a charity gala auction dinner, where a selection of

coveted collectibles will go under the hammer. Auction items will include an F1 driver's helmet, autographed by reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton, a Fender guitar signed by each member of the Rolling Stones, and a framed boxing glove, signed by none other than the Greatest himself, Muhammad Ali.

For more information on the Phuket Oilfield Classic you can visit their website at www.phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

Thai sharpshooters on target

By James Goyder



The Phuket IPSC shooting championship attracted 122 participants from five different countries who competed in five different categories.

The sixth annual Phuket IPSC shooting championship took place at the Phuket Shooting Range in Chalong on February 21-22. The event attracted 122 participants from five different countries who competed in five different categories over the course of the two days. The majority of the shooters were Thai although there were also representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, Austria and Sweden. Shooting might have some slightly unsavory connotations but according to organizer Jetsada Phae-Araya, "For most of the people here it is just a hobby. There are a few soldiers and policemen but mostly they are civilians. There are businessmen, doctors and even a Thai Airways pilot shooting today." The competition was organized by the Thai Practical Shooting Association in conjunction with the Phuket Shooting Range.

The winners, all from Thailand, were:

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Development update

Patong

IndoChine revives Villa Santi

IndoChine Restaurant and Entertainment Group recently acquired the majority stake in the Villa Santi development of luxury residences, restaurants and boutique hotel overlooking Kalim Bay near Patong.

With the shift in control of the high-end mixed-use project comes a name change for the development from Villa Santi to IndoChine Resort & Villas.

IndoChine's investment in Phuket is the group's first in Thailand and follows more than a year of planning and working with Bart Duykers, the original developer of Villa Santi, to maintain and upgrade the established villas, organize finance, restart work on the unfinished properties and install new contractors and a new management team.

Villa Santi received public attention in 2006 when local debate focused on property developments in Phuket, which put a temporary halt to work on the highly-visible hillside site near Patong. Construction has since resumed and has undergone further development in various stages ever since.

The luxury lifestyle complex is expected to be complete by the end of 2009, with the first restaurants opening in the second quarter of this year. Some of the properties are already complete and occupied by their owners or rented out as holiday homes.

The IndoChine Group of Singapore has a successful track record in Asia as a hospitality and entertainment lifestyle brand with 26 restaurant, entertainment and lifestyle venues in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Jakarta and Hamburg.

The IndoChine brand is re-



The view over Patong Bay from the hillside villas is a major selling point.

nowned for its Indo-China cuisine and is an established promoter of diverse lifestyle events, such as outdoor concerts, contemporary art exhibitions, wine tastings, yachting, golf and party-style festivals.

Sue Ma, Executive Director of the IndoChine Resort and Villas, and a member of the Ma family that owns the IndoChine Group, said her company's investment in Thailand had strong growth possibilities, and that it is the first of many more resorts to come.

"We decided this was an ideal opportunity to bring the strong IndoChine brand to Thailand. The view over the bay is spectacular and the wide variety of accommodation types is in keeping with our company philosophy.

"We intend to create an environment for property owners, hotel guests and restaurant and bar entertainment patrons that offers a sophisticated experience at a single site," she said.

"I am confident that the variety of architectural styles and

ambiance of the mixed-use resort will be a major factor in the development's success.

Bart Duykers remains a minority shareholder and director of the new company. However, he is also developing an 11-villa project called Djinnah Santi.

"I am very pleased to have IndoChine Group as a partner in the development. They are a strong brand throughout Asia and bring an exciting entrepreneurial approach that will add another dimension to the Phuket property scene," he said.

IndoChine Group has also appointed American Tom Vicario as general manager to oversee final development of the site. Mr Vicario is a seasoned food and beverage and property manager with experience in the Caribbean, the United States, the United Kingdom and Thailand.

"I see great potential for IndoChine Resort & Villas to become a centerpiece for entertainment on Phuket as well offering a vast range of accommodation and spa facilities for residents and hotel guests alike.

"Even as a property owner or rental guest you need not leave this property to relax, eat and drink or be entertained," Mr Vicario said.

There will be a phased

opening of various aspects of the site, including a uniquely designed four-storey building right beside Prebamee Road that will comprise a roof-top bar on the fourth floor, an IndoChine restaurant on the third floor, a bar and entertainment area on the second floor and a western food-style bakery, delicatessen and restaurant on the ground floor.

Overseeing all construction on the site is German project director Wolfram Sonntag.

"This is a challenging project because of the large site and the various types of accommodation on it, but we have made excellent progress in recent months. We are finishing off existing buildings and enclosing the major buildings, such as the restaurant, condos and hotel," he said.

When complete, there will be 88 properties in total. These are divided into 20 two- and three-bedroom Ocean Spa Villas; 19 Ocean Suites; six five-bedroomed Residences; 11 Gaya Studios; eight Sky Pavilions and 24 Ocean Studios.

All 20 of the 240-350-square meter Spa Villas are already occupied. Each has an infinity edge swimming pool and a 100-square meter outdoor sundeck.

The high-ceiling apartment suites come in two-, three- and four-bedroom configurations covering between 178 and 435

square meters.

The five-bedroom residences offer two master bedrooms and two guest rooms, plus separate dining and kitchen areas, terrace, living room and laundry room. Outside, each of the properties boasts a pool deck, a 36-meter-long infinity edge pool and a private garage.

The Gaya studios are luxury one-bedroom apartments with a study, living room, kitchenette and pantry. Outside, they each have a timber deck with a Jacuzzi and cover 89 square meters of living space.

The single-bedroom Sky pavilions will command views of

Santi Bay from high on the hill. They will also have a living room and large bar, an outdoor timber deck with Jacuzzi plunge pool and a large bathroom with sunken bath and separate shower. The Sky Pavilions are still under active construction. Their opening will mark completion of the project.

A full complement of resort facilities is available to residents, including a restaurant, bar,

bakery, delicatessen and entertainment complex. A luxury spa with five treatment rooms in private gardens, fitness center, a 25-meter long swimming pool and pool bar, squash and tennis courts, covered car park and day care for children completes a long list of facilities available to residents.



A new four-storey addition to the complex conceived by the IndoChine group will include a roof-top bar, an IndoChine restaurant, an entertainment area, a Western food-style bakery, delicatessen and restaurant.



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Patong, Phuket's most famous resort and the island's nightlife hub, is just a 10-minute drive away.

The villa surrounds the private swimming pool and has been constructed using quality building methods and materials to create a chic contemporary design.

A Thai theme is evident in the interior décor, giving the villa a luxurious feel with an undertone of the mystical Orient.

The lush tropical landscaped garden has been created within a secure perimeter that boasts 24-hour security for total peace of mind.

All rooms overlook the 24-square meter swimming pool, so no matter where you are in the villa, the shimmering oasis is al-



Complete privacy is guaranteed with a pool *inside* the villa.

ways in view. Residents can dine out on the wooden deck that borders the pool, soaking up the warm rays and enjoying Phuket's tropical lifestyle.

The contemporary design concept is highlighted in the luxurious open-plan living space that incorporates the lounge and dining room, decorated with immaculate white floor tiles and white painted walls.

Simply open the high patio doors to reveal the cool confines of the pool, only footsteps away.

The living and dining areas are lavishly furnished, consisting of a comfortable chaise longue, and a sumptuous wooden dining table that can seat six.

A host of other wooden fixtures and fittings, sculptures and artistic paintings finish the room with an artistic flourish.



All the rooms in the villa surround the 24-square-meter swimming pool.

The adjoining Western kitchen is fully-fitted with wooden units and cabinets that perfectly utilize the storage space.

There are two bedrooms, both ensuite and furnished with double beds, wooden built-in wardrobes and side tables.

The bedrooms also have large windows that open out onto the pool.

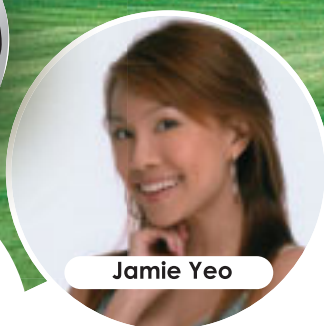
One of the most interesting features of this property is the third bathroom, where you will find a luxurious Jacuzzi.

This beautiful property would make an excellent investment for an individual, couple or small family and is priced to sell on Freehold or Leasehold terms at 10.5 million baht with Chanote title.

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Hello, Dolly!

Here's a handy little 'dolly' for a cooking gas bottle you can build in just a couple hours, and will give you years of service.

We often use a cooking gas bottle with a burner on top, surrounded by a ring to support a frying pan.

Using it on the floor was a nuisance as we kept it beneath the sink counter, so it had to be dragged out every time.

I decided that some wheels would solve the problem. The dollies available here have their wheels directly beneath the bottom rim of the gas bottle and aren't very stable.

Therefore, I decided to build one with a larger base. This dolly measures 9" x 10", and when the bottle is on it is quite stable, yet can be moved easily. If you use a larger bottle, you can increase the size.

This is a simple design, requiring only five pieces of wood, four wheels and four L-shaped screw hooks.

The two base pieces are 1.5" x 10" and the three cross-pieces are 9" x 3".

I purchased the wheels and L-screws at Big C, and the wood at a wood recycling shop.

Cut the wooden pieces to the desired sizes, then 'dry assemble' them, placing the cross-pieces on top of the base-pieces, lining up the edges squarely, and then trace their positions onto the base-pieces with a pencil.

This will help you place



You can build a 'dolly' in just a couple of hours, and it will give you years of service. The gas bottle stays fixed on the dolly and is quite stable, yet it can be easily moved about.



from wood, I apply white glue to the areas to be joined, then run in the screws, or if using nails, drive them in the rest of the way.

Items built this way are quite strong, as a glued joint is actually stronger than the wood around it.

Using a small paintbrush, or cotton swabs, apply a thin layer of glue to where the base-pieces will be covered by the cross-pieces.

Leave a little dry space on all the sides so your pencil marks remain visible, and because the glue will spread out and may overflow slightly when the pieces are joined.

Position each cross-piece within the pencil marks, and drive the nails in.

Now flip it over.

Place one wheel in position at one corner, outline the screw-holes with your pencil, then repeat at the other three corners. Drill your screw holes.

The wheels came with little bevel-head screws, which looked flimsy, so I used #12 x 1/2 pan head screws. Screw the wheels onto the base.

Now set the dolly on its wheels, and we'll install the L-screws.

Notice in photo 1 that the L-screws are installed into the base-pieces between the cross-pieces.

Set your gas bottle on the dolly, center it carefully, and hold the L-screws against it, one at a time, marking the base-pieces where they touch.

Trace the outline of the bottom rim onto the cross-pieces, then set the bottle aside.

Drill holes slightly smaller than the thickness of the L-screws' threaded section about 1cm outside of each mark, install them and then replace the bottle in position.

Turn the L-screws (you may need pliers) into the slots on the bottle's bottom rim, (photo 3) thus 'locking' the bottle in position.

To remove the bottle when empty, just turn them back out.

You may have to rotate the bottle to align the slots with the screws.

With some brands of gas bottle, only three screws may fit into the slots, but that's still sufficient. A quick coat of varnish, or even spray can lacquer, will help seal the wood against moisture.

That's it! Have a beer!

See you next time!



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them properly during final assembly.

When nailing close to an edge, there is always the chance of splitting the wood, depending on the size of the nail. Two ways to avoid this are to drill holes for the nails, or to blunt the nails' tips slightly with the hammer before using.

Sharp nails force wood fibers apart as they go through,

hence the splitting. Blunt nails cut the fibers, and thus don't split the piece quite as readily.

In this case, I drilled nail holes in the top cross-pieces.

Drill holes that are slightly smaller than the thickness of the nail's shafts.

Tap the nails in until the points just barely stick out the bottom.

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Koh Samui's luxury market emerges

The island of Samui is rapidly becoming one of the region's most popular options for property investment. In my next two columns, I am going to look at Thailand's other 'significant resort island'.

The past decade has brought major changes to Samui, where Thai and international investors have funded accelerated development, building high-end residential products and upscale resorts that have transformed the face of the island.

Difficult global conditions worldwide have resulted in a challenging sales environment in Samui. As a result, it is probable that some short-term effects will be evident in terms of slower development progress, reductions in the number of new product launches as well as a weakening in property transactions and pricing.

However, it needs to be acknowledged that current and upcoming supply at the top-end of the Samui property market is limited and few prime parcels remain for future development – factors that will continue to bolster demand in coming years among potential real estate purchasers.

For most developers and purchasers, there is always a keen interest in identifying new and emerging areas of development. Based on interviews with local developers and industry resources, these look to be centered into three key areas.

First on the list is Taling Ngam. While developments on Samui have traditionally been clustered along the northern and eastern shores, the lack of remaining prime sites has resulted in a shift to the west of the island. Until recently, the Taling Ngam area was a somewhat overlooked part of the island, but ironically it is the site of the first

luxury resort on the island, the Baan Taling Ngam Resort. Formerly Le Royal Meridien Baan Taling Ngam, the 70-room resort with its 14 luxury villas was successfully sold years ago. Projects in this area now include Magic Beach, the small Headlands villa development, as well as the upcoming Vana Belle Samui Resort and Spa, to be managed by Starwood Luxury Collection.

The second area of interest is in south Samui, the southwestern corner of which has been slow to develop due to its distance from tourist areas and the airport. However, this area has gathered momentum in recent years with several high-end projects, some underway and others rumored to be in the pipeline.

The availability of good-sized parcels, striking elevation and the unspoiled nature of this area has attracted several high-end projects. As a result, the Phang Ka Bay area and neighboring Thong Krut are expected to become highly exclusive enclaves. One of the first luxury villa products in this area was the striking Naissance Villas. Future projects include the Conrad Koh Samui and the Park Hyatt Koh Samui, among other luxury developments rumored to be coming.

The third area is not on Samui itself, but on nearby Koh Phangan. As Samui develops apace and land prices rise further, attention is focusing on Koh Phangan, which remains a relative bargain by comparison.

At present, development activity on the island is limited and small-scale, but sources indicate that prime sites are in demand and that developers are actively seeking out potential locations. The island is an interesting contrast to Samui. Lightly populated and less developed, it has an eco-friendly mindset that may act to check the scale and quality of developments



Koh Samui's paradise landscape is rapidly changing with the addition of a mass luxury property market.

in years to come. Current developments are clustered around areas such as Thong Nai Pan and are at the lower end of the pricing spectrum. However, we still expect to see some major changes to the island's property market.

A critical mass of supply in the luxury segment on Samui is a relatively recent phenomenon, following a small number of branded and high-end boutique developments released in recent years. The upper end of the market comprises a relatively small percentage overall in Samui, currently dominated by low- to mid-range residential products. Looking ahead, it is evident that the luxury villa pipeline is very limited over the forthcoming 12 to 24 months. This is due in part to glo-

bal financial pressures as well as local factors, namely a limited supply of prime development sites.

A major issue that will impact on the development of the Samui luxury pipeline is tight credit conditions. This is impacting on both buyers and developers and resulting in a slowdown in transactions and development progress.

Local sources have indicated that certain developers are under cash pressure, and in some cases buyers have backed away from planned purchases. This may result in particular developments being shelved or the land sold to other investors.

Furthermore, buyers are aware of the increased risk of buying off-plan and may lean to-

wards finished products, further squeezing developer cash flow.

When combined with a reduced number of purchasers, the net result of these factors is likely to be a backlog of existing inventory. As such, new launches will be limited until existing products are absorbed by the market. These issues are compounded by the scarcity of suitable land for development on Samui. The rarity of prime beach front and sea view property, as well as robust pricing levels, could also be a contributing factor to the slowdown in upcoming supply, as barriers to entry become high as a result.

The outcome has been a shift to new areas of Samui, such as Taling Ngam and Phang Ka. On a more positive note, inflationary pressures on construction costs are easing. Energy costs have decreased and the price of construction materials has returned to more stable pricing levels. This will provide a boost to projects currently under development, providing some welcome relief to cash-squeezed developers.

My next column will focus on demand and emerging trends in this key competitor to the Phuket property market.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Managing Director of Phuket-based hotel & residential property consulting firm C9 Hotelworks. Bill has more than 20 years' experience in the region and has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.
www.c9hotelworks.com



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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BEAUTIFUL THAI HOUSE

Direct from owner, no agency fee. Teak wood floors, walls, stairs, etc. Upstairs living area, bedroom, shower/WC. Downstairs kitchen, WC, bar area. 2/3 bedroom. New building plot 10 x 7m. Great investment, peaceful location, Kathu, 5 mins to Patong. Farang Leasehold of 30 years + 30 years. Priced to sell, 4.9 million baht. Tel: 086-268 8701. Email: f430spiderf1@hotmail.com

80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

Located at Natai Beach. 15 minutes drive from Sarasin Bridge. Price 1.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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HOUSE IN ANUPHAS FOR SALE



60sq.wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 3.7 million baht. For more details, please call 081-691 2526.

HOUSE IN KAMALA

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, next to beach. Price 3.9 million baht or rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288908.

ON THE BEACH

2 bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765 117 Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaipayruek Village at Land & House, Chalongs. Good location and entrance from By-Pass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

PATONG 2 STOREY HOUSE

Soi Sainamyen, near Montes restaurant. 2 bedrooms, office, shop, and living room. Price only 5.9 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

2 RAWAI POOL VILLA



sale/lease. Land, company, pool villa with 7 bedrooms. 350 meter from beach, finance available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

BEST BARGAIN IN PHUKET



Luxury 5 bed villa with 10x5m pool and 5 separate bungalows. All in 1 rai of tropical gardens. Thai company available. Not only a home but a business in Rawai. Only 14.9 million baht. Tel: 086-279 0837, 081-080 2930. Email: brico thailand@hotmail.com

LOCH PALM POOL VILLA



600sqm land, 230sqm living space, garden, 4 bedrooms, golf course view, on main road. Ready in 3 months. Partly custom made, fully furnished. Price all in, only 14 million baht. Email: all services29@gmail.com

BEST INVESTMENT IN PATTAYA!

A new condotel project is now available for pre-sales booking reservations. Located in the heart of Pattaya, walking distance to all giant hypermarkets and vibrant nightlife district. Price starting from only 1.4 million baht. Hurry, reserved now before fully sold out. Tel: 038-716222, 089-200 3222. Email: enquiries@eastpointpattaya.com

FREEHOLD PATONG

New condo, private road, security, pools, fitness. Good prices. Tel: 083-391 8720.

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 087-88306112.

NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Chermg-Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-956-2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

NAKA ISLAND



3 bedroom, 2 bathroom with en suite facilities, fine beach location. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Khun Sopit for further information. Tel: 081-344 4473.

CHANOTE, 29 RAI

at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-944 2065, 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

CHEAP LAND, AO LUEK

3 rai, nice quiet area. 200m from golf course. Price only 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-272 8684.

RAWAI LAND

Absolute beach front. 700sqm, 90 years lease. Price 6.5 million baht. Tel: 084-848 6139, 086-279 9807.

HASIP PEE ROAD

Popular bar/restaurant, 40 covers, owner's 2-bedroom apartment + 3 ensuite bedrooms, and roof terrace - 483sq/m in total. Views over Patong Bay and jungle. Chanote title. 13.5 million baht. No agents. Tel: 084-842 1434. Email: colin.turpin@btinternet.com

FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



27sqm or 54sqm. 2 studio apartments, 200 meters from the pier. Price 480,000 baht. Tel: 086-640 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

One bedroom, ground floor with poolside balcony. Located in the heart of Patong. Includes car-parking space. Price: 5.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

NEAR LAYAN HILLS ESTATE

Half rai to 2 rais. 4 million baht per rai for quick sale! Chanote title, road and utilities. Ready to build house. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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URGENT SALE 3.15 MTB



120sqw. at Chaing Mai. Fully furnished. For more picture and details on request. Tel: 083-104 9301. Email: ferdinanddepk@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE

112sqm, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies. Big living room and kitchen. Car parking and small garden. 3 mins to golf course, 7 mins to Patong. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jostein.pedersen@eunet.no

RANONG BANG BEN

2 bedroom house, 1 rai on beach. Price 1.5 million baht. Also 19 rai agricultural land, Chanote. Ideal for a small resort. Price 1.5 million baht. Contact Chris. Tel: 083-131 0626.

NICE 2-STOREY HOUSE

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-891 5296. Email: hkthome sale18@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.jikkycar.com

BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai direct beach front land, 80m to the beach. Public road and water at the back. White sand, no rocks, beautiful view, with road side house on it. Priced to sell. Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com

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Property Gazette

SEAVIEW VILLA, QUICK SALE



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200 SQM PENTHOUSE

Full seaview in Patong. Two-floor penthouse with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and 2 Jacuzzis. 200 square meters. Construction will be completed in April. 15 million baht. Call, fax or mail for further details. Tel: 084-667 9778, 085-055 0259. Fax: 076-512411. Email: frankcyberr@hotmail.com

VERY SPECIAL VILLA

Must see. 5 star Marriott Hotel style. 3 bedrooms. Finest location Patong, breathtaking views from all levels. Excellent track record for rental return. Previous price 28 million baht. Quick sale to best offer. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

2 PLOTS OF LAND

50 rai, Natai Beach. Beautiful beach front property. 146 rai at Koh Yao Yai. Beautiful beach front property. Sale by owner, freehold. Email: kt@bccnmi.com

KATA LAND

One rai with access to main road. 500 meters from Kata Beach. Comes with title deed. 20 million baht. Tel: 081-271 9340. Email: brandyblackcherry@gmail.com

TOWN HOUSE

140sqm, 2 floors. Very good location, 5 mins Big C and Central. Ready in October 2009. Resale 600,000 baht. Tel: 080-071 9098.

KARON SEAVIEW



Located on the west coast of Phuket island. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Perfect location for business (hotel & resort). Price 300 million baht. No Agents!! Tel: 087-270-9093.

KATHU LAND

1,900sqm, lake view. Price 5 million baht. Tel: 086-270 6454. Email: uraiinma@hotmail.com

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: pookie.lovely@gmail.com

CONDO FREEHOLD, KATHU

47sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Golf club, lake view. Private owner with financial problems. Price 1.49 million baht, 60,000 baht deposit. Finance available. Tel: 087-6069756. Email: maksim3000@yahoo.de or see website at www.samui-view.com Sanctuary room 106.

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1.3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

LAND IN PHANG NGA

for sale. 9.8 rai working fruit farm. 300+ trees, 5 fish ponds, 2 farm houses suitable for fishing park, 5 kms from Phang Nga, 45 mins to Phuket airport. Chanote title. Deed 5,800,000 baht Tel: 086-274 0056 English or 085-151 0823 Thai.

KHAO LAK VILLA

Newly built villa in pristine location 20 km north of Khao Lak. 2 Bedroom, 2 bathroom. Big community swimming pool shared by 9 houses. 600 meters to a true paradise beach. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

SALE OR RENT STUDIO

New freehold in Patong, 46sqm. Fully furnished, pool. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

HILL HOUSE AT KATA

for sale. Sea view, 600sqm for total area. Two-story house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, parking, pool. Nice location, 5 minutes to Kata Beach. Can adapt for 2 apartments for rent. Please take a look and ask for price on. Tel: 087-689 9679.

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



at Phuket Asia Land, Surin Beach. Sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month with 100,000 baht deposit. Tel: 089-474 0461. Email: info@methaya.com

CHALONG TOWN HOME

This immaculate 3 Bedroom home on a new estate is priced to sell. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

4 RAI SEAVIEW PLOT AO POR

Gently sloping hillside plot behind Ao Por Beach Road, East coast. Tel: 076-528014, 087-270 5959. Email: gdublanco@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.aoporphuket.com

PRIME LAND, CHANOTE

4,844sqm. Good location in valley surrounded by rubber trees. Few mins to new international school, 10 mins Thalang fresh market. Total price 5.9 million baht, can sell in smaller pieces. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

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DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



Panoramic sea views - 5 bedrooms, 466sqm living space, 36sqm pool with Jacuzzi, 4 minutes from Kata Beach. Ready to move into. Only 24 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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Sea view villa, 3 bedrooms, swimming pool, parking area, semi-furnished. Rooms are spacious and the villa can accommodate 2 - 3 families. Exceptional price: 10 million baht. No agents, no brokers. Tel: 076-270863. Email: paolofilipelli@yahoo.com

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300m from the beach. New 200sqm, 2-storey house and guesthouse on 460sqm land with wonderful view. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, big living room and terraces. Easy to convert into two apartments. Furnished. Quick sale, reduced to only 5.5 million baht. Call David on 083-1814418.

2 BEDROOM VILLA

for sale. Fully furnished. Patong, seaview. Tel: 086-270 6454. Email: uraiinma@hotmail.com

VILLA URGENT SALE

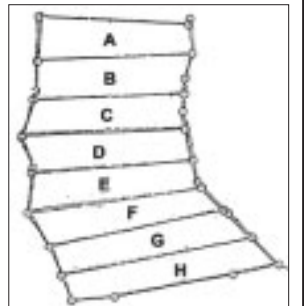
4 beds, 6 baths, private pool (4x12) with jacuzzi, security system, solar hot water, sala and landscape garden on a 1,606sqm land. More than 400sqm of living area. Special price at 18 million baht. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

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same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalong. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

SAI YUAN / RAWAI

280sqm of Chanote land for sale at 2 million baht. Alternatively can pay in 3 installments of 700,000 baht each. Call or mail for details. Tel: 081-537 7137. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

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with stunning seaview in Patong Bay. 2.5 and 1.5 rai adjacent to Baan Yin Dee Boutique Hotel. Tel: 081-893 2970.

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Brand new garden villa, 3 bedrooms. On easy vendor finance. Tel: 089-652 1473.

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha. Tel: 089-290 0484.

NAI HARN PLOTS

in best location, Soi Maya. Close to beach. 200m to Baan Bua. 19sqm-1/2 rai. Water drainage level 4, underground electric. Price 1.5-6 million baht. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

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2 bedroom condo. 160sqm, 4th floor, best view on project. Price: 7.6 million baht. Contact Sujit. Tel: 089-119 1155.

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Property Gazette

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. Priced from 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai beach land, 80m long beach, public road & water at the back. White sand, no rocks, beautiful view. Includes shop house on land. Beautiful! Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: info@phuketlifestyle.com

LAKE FRONT LAND ON GOLF CLUB

Located directly on the lake. 1 rai in Loch Palm Golf Club. Build your own home, great location & view in gated community. Very beautiful! Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: info@phuketlifestyle.com

NAI HARN CONDO, 1.65M

Modern, beautiful surroundings, swimming pool, fully furnished. Tel: 086-596 9601. Email: fordasia777@gmail.com

BANGTONG HILLSIDE KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, 73 sq wah. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 089-908 4873.

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for sale or 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: 081-677 9837, 089-646 4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-2770978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

LUXURY NAI HARN POOL VILLA



for sale or rent on 800sqm of land. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living/dining room. Open western kitchen. Fully furnished including washing machine. ADSL, nice garden, 9m pool, electric gate, carpark. Monthly and long term rates. Tel: 089-972 5378.

CHALONG OPPORTUNITY

Brand new garden villa, 3 bedrooms. On easy vendor finance. Tel: 089-652 1473.

SMALL PLOT OF LAND

548 sq meter for quick sale at 1.6 million baht. 300 meters from the new Tesco in Chalong. Call or mail for more info. Tel: 076-343019, 089-586 3197. Email: info@casajip.com

2 RAI PLOT W/ INCREDIBLE VIEW

near Mission Hills golf course. Tel: 076-528014, 087-270 5959. Email: gdublanco@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.ayusamant.com

HALF-RAI

on private estate with adjacent lake and park. In residential area close to Chalong circle. All infrastructure in place. 5.5 mill baht. Land & villa package available. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuketlandandvilla@gmail.com

CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 4 bedrooms, air-condition, big garden. Must see. Price 4.5 million ono. Tel: 081-747 5293.

NICE 1/2 RAI LAND IN RAWAI

Flat and quiet location behind the Phuket Shell Museum in Rawai. Pond view, large concrete road, electricity, Chanote title. Ready to build on. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-589 0085, 081-091 1097. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

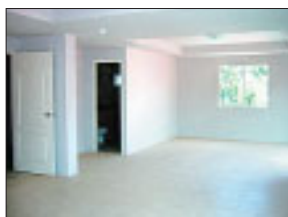
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in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

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Asking price:

52 million baht.

Tel: 087-270 9093, 081-868 7676.

SEA VIEW APARTMENT

Simply the best value sea view in Phuket. 2 bed, 2 bath, 140 sqm apartment neighboring the new Ao Po Grand Marina. A very up and coming area and a great investment at 8.5m baht. Tel: 086-943 1601. Email: combe007@yahoo.com

HERITAGE SUITES

2 bedroom condo. 160sqm, 4th floor, best view on project. Price: 7.6 million baht. Contact Sujit. Tel: 089-119 1155.

HOUSES IN RAWAI, NAI HARN

Thai-style house, 640sqm, price: 1.1 million baht. House, price: 18 million baht. Contact Nico. Tel: 085-7955383. See website at: www.warmwaterland.com

WHITE HOUSE, GREAT LOCATION

Please contact for viewing. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-273-466. Email: pen@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com

LUXURY HOUSES



and apartment, Patong. 1 or 2 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Huge lounge, European kitchen, pool, gardens, secure parking, large balconies with 180 degrees seaview. Air-condition, UBC TV, internet. Stunning hillside location. See website at www.luxuryhousesphuket.com

NEW HOME IN CHALONG

New 2-3 bed home in Chalong, near circle. Quiet and close to all amenities. Top quality building with garden. 4.95 mill baht or long-term rent. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuketsuperhome@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

Renovated, freehold, 2 rooms, terrace, nice view, pool, 200 meters to beach. Furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 02-392 9327, 086-976 0809.

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

Patong pool villa, brand new, 2 bedrooms. Close to center. Only 12 million baht. Tel: 087-2720303.

FREEHOLD, PATONG 28SQM

studio, fully renovated and furnished, brand new. Price 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664.

NEW HOME AND LAND



for sale in Rawai. 197sqm, 2 storeys, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Many extras. 39/45 Soi Mali. Quick sale price 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-270 6310.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Stage 1, Suriyaporn Place, Chalong. Price 2.2 million baht. Contact Vince. Tel: 081-082 7143.

BEACH FRONT LAND, CHANOTE

40 rai, flat. North of Khao Lak. Urgent sale price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-729 8365.

LUXURY POOL VILLA, RAWAI

for sale or rent. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, air-condition, nearly new, 24 hour security. Quiet location, close to the beach and restaurants. Tel: 085-783 1890.

CHALONG OPPORTUNITY

Brand new garden villa, 3 bedrooms. On easy vendor finance. Tel: 089-652 1473.

LAND IN NAI HARN

on Soi Naya, 452sqm. 1km to beach. Great location. Price 3.9 million baht. Tel: 085-793 2667.

BRAND NEW VILLA, CHANOTE



600sqm, 4 bedrooms, pool, close to amenities. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 084-445 2831. Email: contact@phuketfinder.com www.phuketfinder.com

EXCELLENT 3 BR HOUSE

This Swiss designed home with luxury fittings includes 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, a utility room, 4 aircon units, quality furniture, and a lovely garden setting with remote controlled security gate. The home is located in a gated community with club house, swimming pool, etc. Call the owners to buy at 7.9 million baht. Tel: 081-895 7727. Email: info@axiominvestments.com

BANGTONG HILLSIDE KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, 73 sq wah. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 089-908 4873.

BALINESE POOL VILLA

2-3 bedroom with built-in furniture, A/C, living room, kitchen, garden. Price 10.6 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-968 3671. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

CHEAP LAND SALE

7 Rai Maikhao Beach. Chanote, public street, 1.9 million baht. Tel: 080-719 3785.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

3 BED POOL VILLA - NEAR BIS



65,000 baht per month long-term. High quality, fully furnished on compound of six. WiFi, cable TV, security, maintenance and gym. Tel: 084-783 9054. Email: oggyowen@yahoo.com

NEW 2 BEDROOM RAWAI CONDO

Beautiful teak furniture, aircon, WiFi, phone, cable TV, pool, jacuzzi, views. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-039 3784. Email: tominphuket@yahoo.com

LARGE STUDIO APARTMENT

in Kata. Fully furnished, air-condition, pool, restaurant and bar. Elevator access. View overlooking Kata, walking distance to beach, restaurants and nightlife. Tel: 085-7831890.

KATA BEACH APARTMENT

for rent. Fully furnished, full kitchen, internet. Tel: 086-595 8512. Please sent to email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

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. Long term: 37,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

PRIVATE POOL VILLA, KAMALA

En suite, bathroom, True, wireless internet, gated security. Long term let. Price 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 9663.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG

2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room. Fullyfurnished, air-con, car park, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High speed internet and UBC satellite TV included. 25,000 baht/month - minimum 6 months. Tel: 081-9682855. Tel: 081-968 2855. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

RAWAI CONDO

for rent. Fully furnished, ADSL, pool. Price 16,500 baht per month. Please contact more details. Tel: 081-606 7410.

UNIQUE LUXURY RESIDENCE

in Rawai. 4 bedrooms, 2 storeys, expansive terraces, huge pool. Classy top-end furniture. Beautifully landscaped. Close to beach and restaurants. Long or short term rental. Tel: 085-783 1890.

NEW 2 BEDROOM RAWAI CONDO

Beautiful teak furniture, aircon, WiFi, phone, cable TV, pool, jacuzzi, views. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-039 3784. Email: tominphuket@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW VILLAS



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining room, kitchen, wireless internet, cable TV. Fully furnished or unfurnished. Gym, pool, 24 hour security. Minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Price 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-968 9550.

VILLAS FOR RENT

in Bang Jo near Laguna. 2 and 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, pool. Long or short term. Price 50,000 or 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-897 6984, 089-6995136 (Thai).

PATONG SEAVIEW APARTMENT

1 bedroom apartment in Baan Suan Kamnan. Furnished, large private balcony and great sea views. Green, quiet and secure area. Rent 20,000 baht a month - LONG-TERM only. Tel: 086-786 6350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

KATA MOUNTAIN VIEW HOUSE

Fullyfurnished, 1 bedroom home with bathroom, kitchen, aircon, terrace and ADSL. 9,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 081-606 2827.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

in Kathu. Available from April 1st for long term rental. 112sqm, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies. Big living room and kitchen. Car parking and small garden. Price 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jostein.pedersen@eunet.no

BEACH FRONT BANG TAO

Rare. Duplex apt with direct beach access. Two bedrooms, two baths, two balconies. Seaview. Furnished, covered car space. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-338758, 085-473 7130. Fax :02-865 3966. Or sent to email: cmcgee@netvigator.com

CHALONG CIRCLE

Town home, 2 bedrooms. Telephone, cable TV, air-condition. Please contact more details. Tel: 089-652 1473.

RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

SUPER LUXURY POOL

New villa for rent. ADSL, Jacuzzi, bar/games room. Near Laguna. Price 35,000 per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

LUXURY VILLA POOL

for lease. ADSL, cable TV, Jacuzzi room, poolside bar. Near Laguna. Tel: 089-5944067

LUXURY APARTMENT, KAMALA

120sqm, 2 bedrooms, living room, fully furnished marble-fitted kitchen. 4 air-conditions, cable TV and many options. Terrace, Jacuzzi, 2 pools, landscaped garden. Short or long term rent. 39,500-49,500 baht per month. Tel: 087-888 4769, 082-166 1680 (Thai).

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, THALANG



Close to Laguna. Fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, hot water, washing machine, ADSL. 10 mins to Bang Tao Beach and Layan Beach. Mountain view. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-874 2960. Email: wawa.phuket@gmail.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOME

Golf course view, long-term only (min. 12 months). 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-305595. 089-873 6151. Fax: 076-362324. Email: stuartr@laguna phuket.com

LARGE HOUSE AT THE BEACH

new tenants for privately set house in Ao Palai, big garden, 16,000 baht/month+transfer fee. Tel: 084-845 5868. Email: franjapan@web.de www.house.tattermus.com

PROPERTY OWNERS

Tel: 076-288654, 081-396 3941. Email: maydayphuket@gmail.com If you have a property or room for rent, please see our website at the link www.maydayphuket.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Near Dowrungs School. Long lease. Please contact more details. Tel: 081-691 2526.

PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to the beach, clean, modern, aircon, TV, fridge, double bed, pool, parking. Tel: 081-082 5707. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuket-accommodation.info>

50% OFF FROM THE LEASE

In the past the villa could lease US\$39000 monthly. The villa is located in Panwa Cape with 360 degree sea view. 100m high on hill not far from Sri Panwa. The house has several bedrooms with antique furniture, marble and teakwood floors. One of the best in Phuket. 2,500sqm with 2,800 sqm of garden. Part of car park and swimming pool is being renovated. Due to economy, we would like to lease the villa at very very low price. But must meet minimum of 5 years of following conditions. The lease excludes maids service, management fees, electric and water bills. The excluded expenses cost 70,000(BTH) monthly. The lease must be paid annually in advance. First year 8.4m, 2nd year 9.5m 3rd year 11m 4th year 13m and 5th year 15m. Or sale for US\$10 million. Anyone interested in the above, please call Pensri at 081-535 5910 or email to vanich@phuket.ksc.co.th We will email you photos and etc.

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Renting or buying a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Call 081 - 968 0309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

HOUSE IN KATHU

Furnished 2 bedroom home in a nice and Quiet area. For long term rent at 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 2227. Or sent to email: paulstrong23@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: 087-383 0936.

PATAK VILLA, SOI 8

House for rent or sale. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 aircon. 250sqm with garden near Chalongs pier. Price for sale 4.2 million baht or for rent 18,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 083-389 5080.

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western teak kitchen and bath, 130sqm, large seaview terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available. Serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

RAWAI HOUSE
for rent. Long or short term, fully furnished, pool. For further details, please see our website at www.ferienthailand.com

OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH

Apartment for rent, fully furnished. Long term. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8891717.

HOUSE IN RAWAI
for rent. Fully furnished, private pool, ADSL, 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom. Tel: 081-606 7410.

PHUKET TOWN HOTEL

20 years let. 270 rooms. Fully furnished rooftop restaurant, second-floor discotheque (with licence). Market area, good nightlife. Business still active. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

LUXURY KAMALA VILLAS



3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Full service includes daily cleaning and washing. 5mins to Kamala Beach. one year contract. Price 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-843 6837. Or email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

EXCEPTIONAL OFFER

Sea view villa, 3 bedrooms, swimming pool, parking area, semi-furnished. Rooms are spacious and the villa can accommodate 2/3 families. Price: 420,000 baht per year. Tel: 076-270863. Email: paolofilipelli@yahoo.com

3 & 4 B/R HOUSES

2 different houses available for rent. 1st house has 3 bedrooms in a private secure estate. 2nd house has 4 bedrooms with private pool. Contact for prices, more details and inspection. Tel: 089-589 0085, 081-091 1097. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

2 BED APARTMENT SEA VIEWS

Fully equipped with all western facilities including TV, DVD, satellite, washing machine, full kitchen, communal swimming pool & entertainment area. Tel: 083-550 5958. Send email to: simoncoppinger@yahoo.co.uk

2 BED APARTMENT SEA VIEWS

Fully equipped with all western facilities including TV, DVD, satellite, washing machine, full kitchen, communal swimming pool & entertainment area. Tel: 083-550 5958. Send email to: simoncoppinger@yahoo.co.uk

4 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

Unusual 4 bedroom house with stupendous sea views, halfway between Rawai and Laem Promthep. 100,000 baht per month for a 12 month lease. Tel: 081-788 6078. Fax 076-289280. Or sent to email: andrewcolinwhittaker@hotmail.com

13,000 BAHT PER MONTH

New house, fully furnished, 65sqm. Private area, 50 meters from Lotus (Chaofa), ADSL. 70/76 Phuket Villa 3, Soi 8/1. Tel: 081-537 6045.

CHALONG BEACH HOUSES

Furnished, 3 bedrooms. Internet, Cable TV, swimming pool. Price from 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

VACANT ROOMS OR HOUSES

360 degree, panoramic sea view in Cape Panwa. 1,800sqm villa with 2,200 sqm garden. The room is monthly US\$1,500 or the house monthly, US\$ 25,000. Golf Course view in Loch Palm. The new house is 850sqm with 1,500sqm garden. The room monthly is US\$500/month or house monthly, US\$5,500/month. Include satellite, water, electric bill and management fees. Please call for details. Tel: 082-418 2188. Email: travelman.more@gmail.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW VILLA

4 bedroom, 5 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS. Overlooking Loch Palm Golf course. Quiet, on top of private hill. Furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV. Long term: 65,000 baht a month. Contact K. Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

LARGE 2 BED CONDO (NEW)

Recently completed, light and spacious with rooftop pool. Comfortable living in the centrally located Soi San Sabai. Tel: 089-732 5769. Or sent to email: sparky1977@btinternet.com

NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for rent. Yoo Charoen Village, 3km from Laguna Phuket, 2 telephone lines, ADSL, 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, warm water, aircon. Price 14,000-18,000 per month. (Eng) Tel: 087-417 2757, (Thai) 087-417 2756.

RESTFUL HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 toilets and shower. TV, 2 carports. 8km from town. Price 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-471 4810.

Property Gazette

Property Wanted

LAND WANTED

I want to buy +/- half a rai. Should be in a good neighborhood located anywhere from Kathu to Nai Harn. Make me a low price offer. Email: nong.kudeepan@gmail.com

HOME FOR 5 MILLION BAHT

My wish: a house with pool, maybe unfinished, half rai, and quiet - all for less than 5 million baht. Should be located toward the south end of Phuket island. Offers with photos. Email: godolix@gmail.com

BUY CONDO CASH

Looking for apartment. 1 or 2 beds, sea view Patong-Kata. Payment from offshore account. Please send to email: jeanp22002@yahoo.com

FLAT OR HOUSE

from October 8 until March 2009. Could be in Phuket or Krabi, including Koh Lanta. The important things are seaside (or at least sea view) and a swimming pool. Two bedrooms, for a couple. No pets and no parties. Can be a quiet location. Email: office@neubrasilien.at

12 MONTH LEASE

6-12 month lease wanted on a secure house with garden and pool in Nai Harn, Rawai, Kata, or Kathu. Must be dog-friendly and have Internet connection. Can pay up to 40,000 baht per month. Pleaser send to email: robinldonovan@gmail.com

APARTMENT SWAP

I am looking to swap rental of my Sydney 2 bedroom apartment for a Patong apartment from December 15 to March 27, 2009 - or part thereof. My apartment has aircon, cable TV, and Internet. Five mins to city and beaches. Tel: +61-2-9904 2073, +61-430-218110. Email: mbohlsen@gmail.com

Property Services

PROPERTY CARE SERVICE

Cleaning, gardening and pool maintenance. We are experienced in the field and are willing to take care of your house for an affordable monthly fee. Price example: For a 3-bed villa with garden and pool, our charge is 5,000 baht per month. Please contact us to discuss our service. The company is Swedish managed. For contact in Swedish or English: 083-394 8337 (Mattias). For contact in Thai, Swedish or English: 080-141-4577 (Viyada). Email: mattias@phuket-dirtider.com

VILLA MANAGEMENT BY SELF-EMPLOYED PERSON

I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including housekeeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 087-100 6111.

Email:

luckypam@gmail.com

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Accommodation Available

PATONG LUXURY APT

Center Patong, 1 and 2 bedrooms. Tel: 076-341827 or email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 12,000-20,000 baht per month. Rooms from 800-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151 or 089-290 9567. Or send email: info@brommathaihouse.com For pics, see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

BEACH FRONT BANG TAO

Rare. Duplex apt with direct beach access. Two bedrooms, two baths, two balconies. Seaview. Furnished, covered car space. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-338758, 085-473 7130. Fax: 2865 3966. Or send email: cmcgee@netvigator.com

NEW HOME IN CHALONG

New 2-3 bed home in Chalong, near circle. Quiet and close to all amenities. Top quality building with garden. 4.95 mill baht or long-term rent. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuketsuperhome@gmail.com

SURIN / BANG TAO APT

Two bedroom apartment at Club Lersuang. Fantastic facilities for short / long term rent. Tel: 076-271870, 087-079 0650. Email: martinandlizele@yahoo.com

APARTMENT IN PATONG

House also available in Benjamas Housing Complex. Tel: 076-344922, 081-719 7092. Email: info@bluewaterphuket.com For more details please see <http://www.bluewaterphuket.com>

STUDIO ROOMS, PATONG

Rent daily, monthly. Newly furnished, studio has pool. Good price. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

KATA BEACH

Southern Fried Rice. "A diamond in the crown of Phuket" (Tripadvisor). 8 beautiful rooms, 3-minute walk to beach, free Internet Wi-Fi. Tel: 081-8948 446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.southernfriedrice.com>

LAKE VIEW APARTMENT



rooms and bungalows for rent in Kathu (nice view). Standard rooms and Studio rooms with fully furnished, air-con, CCTV, motorbike parking and car parking. Bungalows: 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons, bathroom with bathtub and shower, hot and cold water. Overlooking the lake. ** Quiet, clean, natural surroundings ** 28/69 Moo 2, Vichitsongkram Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83120 Thailand. Call: 076-202585 or 089-1968449. Fax: 076-202911. Email: lakeviewapartment_phuket@hotmail.com

GUEST ROOMS AVAILABLE

Nang Noi's - double room, affordable accommodation. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-732 5769. Email: ketsuda@btinternet.com

NAI HARN BEACH BUNGALOWS

for rent. 1 studio room fully furnished, fridge, cable TV. Air-condition, hot water. Balcony, garden, maid. Price 300 baht per day. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: silanachai@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY FLAT LONG-TERM

Nice big apartment and bungalows for long-term rent. Tel: 076-333242, 089-651 7818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://capt-horst.com>

APARTMENTS POOL & VIEW

1 or 2 bedroom apartment, sea view penthouse, swimming pool, car park. Quiet and safe. Hillside location, cable TV, free WiFi, fully serviced. Best rates. Long- or short-term. Please contact us for details. Tel: 076-296621, 081-691 6147. Fax 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

Accommodation Wanted

LONG TERM RENTAL NEEDED

for 1-3 years. 4-5 bedrooms, 3-4 bathrooms. Also need air-condition, ADSL, parking. No pool required. Kathu or Chalong area. Can pay maximum 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-624 7060.

HOUSE RENTAL

Sensible 30s couple need a long term rental. Must be in Kata-Karon or Kamala/Kathu. We have 2 well behaved dogs, so need a garden, preferably with a wall around it. Our budget is 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-030 8870. Email: no144uk@yahoo.co.uk

LONG TERM CONDO / VILLA

I require a modern, fully furnished 2-3 bedroom condo or villa. Must have sea view, and a pool would be a major plus. Needed for 6-12 months from May 2009. Please contact me by email with pictures and expected rent. Email: vishalsood@msn.com

HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

Wanted: a house for a long term lease, from 1-2 years. Must be located in Patong. All budgets considered. ADSL a bonus. Please send details and pictures. Tel: 087-383 6023 Email: michealshutzu@gmail.com

APT / HOUSE, LONG TERM

Wanted: 2-3 bedroom apartment or house in Kata, Karon, or Chalong area. Yearly rental only. Price limit: 15,000 baht per month. ADSL is a must. Please make offer WITH price, good description and pictures (if available). Email: contact@strangefruit.musi.com

1 WEEK VILLA RENTAL

Our family of five will be visiting Mar 21-28 and are looking for a villa with a pool near a beach. Please provide price, photos and references. Tel: +81-80-3315 3921. Email: ksa3ch@yahoo.com

Building Products & Services

QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES

Renovations, construction, carpentry, real wood, parquet, painting. Contact K. Pueng for additional details. Tel: 087-270 9093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-689 9679 (English/Thai). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

Household Items

HOUSE CLEARANCE

Samsung TV, DVD, Sony computer amp/speakers, toaster, kettle, quality king-size mattress. All nearly new. Make an offer! Tel: 087-054 0355. Or send email: des_dunstan@hotmail.com

CHEAP FURNITURE

6 piece u-shaped lounge set, price 5,000 baht. Old-style timber sideboard, price 1,500 baht. 24 inch TV, price 2,500 baht. Contact John. Tel: 083-967 2213.

NEW CARPETS/RUGS

just arrived. We have over 100 new models in twisted viscose, sisal, hemp and cotton available. Many sizes and colours. Please drop into our showroom near Heroine's Monument. Tel: 081-958 5949. Email: tookta@seahorse-interiors.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.seahorse-interiors.co>

CURTAINS / DESK

- Good quality curtains, various sizes. Offers.

- Desk w/ lockable drawer, filing drawer. As new. 2,500 baht. Tel: 087-922 3242. Email: patongman123@hotmail.com

ESPRESSO MACHINE W/ GRINDER

Krups fully automatic espresso machine for the freshest coffee ever. Easy and clean - used only one year. Has just received maintenance service. New price: 36,000 baht. Asking price: 18,000 baht. Call for pics. Tel: 086-274 4238. Email: mjderks-spam@yahoo.com

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Construction, renovation, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, sand wash and gutter. Contact K. Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Or send email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

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Phudbarani Rd. Wat Suwankirirong

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Damrong (076-342275)**

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Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Island Job Mart

the Villas overlooking Layan

Exclusive villa development with panoramic views of the entire Bang Tao Bay. THE VILLAS Overlooking Layan, is situated on the hill side behind Layan Beach.

PROPERTY SERVICE / MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Looking after customer service, administrative work and assist in marketing coordination matters

Highly motivated, outgoing personality with good command of the English language, directly reporting to the Managing Director

- Good command of English language
- Strong administrative background
- Able to interact with foreign villa owners
- Able to interact with property agencies / coordinate marketing issues
- Accounting background an advantage
- Thai national, female

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Send your resume with recent photo to e-mail:
arunwan@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com
www.thevillasoverlookinglayan.com

ISLAND CURTAINS & JUST SOFAS

Manufactures of custom made curtains/blinds & sofas require a **VERSATILE SECRETARY**. The Position has been filled. Thanks to all, who have applied.

Require **JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT**

- ▶ Command of English and computer skills
- ▶ Recent graduate encouraged to apply
- ▶ Attractive salary to right person

Apply with resumé to islandcurtains@yahoo.com

CIVIL ENGINEER NEEDED

Must have good English communication skills and a Bachelor's degree. 3-5 years experience in related field. Tel: 087-716 2700. Email: thairusmedia@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST

Night time work. Looking for English speaking male. Tel: 087-627 9312.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Avantika Boutique Hotel, a small boutique beach front luxury hotel with 31 rooms, at the South-end of Patong Beach, is looking for suitable candidates (Thai national only) for the following positions: Reservations - Reception - Housekeeping - Engineers. Please send a recent photo, resume, expected salary to: Human Resource Department. Avantika Boutique Hotel 4/1 Thaveewong Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-292801-7 ext. 602, 603, Fax: 076-292809. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.avantika-phuket.com>

TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking full time native English speakers to teach English, arts, health, mathematics, young guide and hoteling to 11-18 year old students. To begin in May. Salary begins at 30,000 baht. 4 weeks paid holiday, government health plan. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate, or equivalent. Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview. Tel: 084-666 3557. Please email CV with covering letter to ep@satreephuket.ac.th or toptip4736@yahoo.com

PR / SALES & MARKETING ASS'T

We are looking for an assistant with:

- Excellent/ fluent English
 - Good communication/ social skills
 - Computer/ internet/ email knowledge/ experience
 - Own car
 - Experience in PR/ sales and marketing, especially with high-end luxury products
 - Service mind/ customer focused approach
- Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th

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Qualifications:-

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Interested candidates are invited to send a resume, stating present and expected salaries as well as a recent photograph to the address to ssuthasiri@radisson.com

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Based at Anantara Phuket, this role will oversee the day to day HR and training function of the property and, in addition, will lead the other Thailand based Anantas in HR policy and procedures, and best practice. This role will suit a confident progressive HR professional who has experience working in Phuket.

To find out more about Anantara Phuket please visit our website www.anantara.com

Submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good luck with your application!

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Krabi Hospital - Krabi
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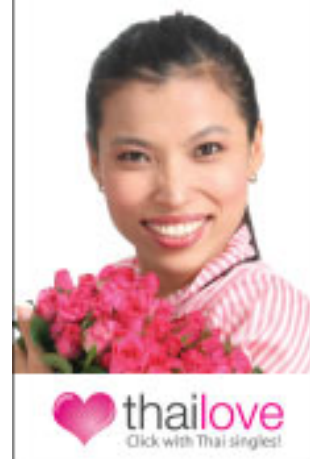
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