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## Burmese fishermen to face murder charges

**SATUN:** The three Burmese fishermen being held in Satun in connection with the brutal March 24 killing of British sailor Malcolm Robertson are to face murder charges.

Mr Robertson's body was found floating in the sea by a Thai fishing vessel at around 3pm on March 30.

The discovery put to rest the family of the victim's fears that the three would escape murder charges due to the absence of a body. The men already face charges of theft, kidnap and assault.

John Clee, Linda Robertson's brother, told *The Sun* newspaper of the family's "relief" after the body was found following a week-long search.

"This sorts a lot of things out. We know charges of murder can now be laid against those responsible," he said.

If convicted, the two older suspects, Mr Aow, 18, and Mr Ek, 19, could be sentenced to death. The youngest, Mr Ko, is 17 years old and will face a lesser sentence as a minor.

Mr Ek reportedly confessed to both Thai police and a British photographer that he killed Robertson with a hammer after a struggle, then lowered the Englishman's body into the sea.

The trio claimed they only boarded the Robertsons' sailboat because they were trapped and starving on the remote Koh Dong island, some 75 kilometers from the mainland.

The body was found about seven nautical miles north of Satun's Adang Island.

The body was returned to shore at Kiatcharoenchai fishing pier in tambon Kampaeng, La-Ngu at around 11pm that evening.

Mr Robertson's wife Linda was able to identify the decom-



The three suspects under questioning at La-Ngu Police Station in Satun Province on March 25.

posing body as that of her husband by a green watch that was still around his wrist.

Forensic experts from the Songkhla-based Police Forensics Region 41 office took DNA samples from Mr Robertson's daughter and son to help confirm the body's identity, which will allow a death certificate to be issued and his remains repatriated to the UK.

The DNA results are also expected to serve as evidence in the state's case against the three Burmese men. The condition of the victim's head was consistent with him having sustained blows to the head with a hammer, and

not neck slashing, Capt Suppaluk of the La-Ngu Police said.

Malcolm and Linda Robertson left the UK 10 years ago to sail around the world, but "loved Thailand so much" they remained here for three years.

On March 28, she and the couple's four children, all in their 30s, held a service on the yacht *Mr Bean* to remember Malcolm.

"The family are with me, and that is a huge difference," she said, adding that the service brought out laughter, as well as tears.

"I wasn't quite as horrified to be on the boat as I thought I'd be," she said.

## Teenager's crime spree ends in cop shooting

**PHUKET CITY:** A 14-year-old boy is in police custody after a one-day crime spree that included breaking and entering, burglary, a bungled carjacking of a British tourist – and twice shooting an officer on duty.

Phuket City Police received a report at 11pm on March 30 that a patrol officer had been shot at the busy Bang Neaw Intersection in downtown Phuket City.

When police arrived at the scene, wounded officer Sen Sgt Maj Teerasak Tongnun had already been rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment, with two .22 caliber bullet wounds to his left hand.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong ordered one team of investigators to question the fallen officer, while others fanned out to try and find the shooter.

Less than an hour later, police led by Lt Col Pravit Suthiruengaroon arrested a 14-year-old boy from Udon Thani at a rice porridge shop at Surin Circle, less than a kilometer from where the shooting took place.

The youth was found in possession of a .22 Walther pistol with 20 rounds, along with one .38 caliber bullet, one 11mm bullet and 6,164 baht in cash.

According to the police press release, the boy was working as a builder and had that afternoon been working inside the home of a teacher at Srisuchart Grand Ville in Rassada.

The youth, who arrived in Phuket from Udon Thani two months ago, left the home after finishing his work and was waiting outside for his uncle to pick him up when he noticed the teacher leave.

*Continued on page 2*



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## Police Blotter

### Phuket Provincial Police crime statistics February 2009

**Murder:** There were 5 reports of murder (+25.0% year-on-year) with arrests made in 2 cases (40% arrest rate).

**Attempted Murder:** There were 5 reports of attempted murder (+25% year-on-year) with arrests made in 1 case (20% arrest rate).

**Manslaughter:** There was 1 report of manslaughter (no reports in February 2008) with no arrests made (0% arrest rate).

**Assault:** There were 8 cases of assault (-47% year-on-year) with arrests made in 6 cases (75% arrest rate).

**Robbery:** There was 1 report of robbery (-85% year-on-year) with no arrests made (0% arrest rate).

**Theft:** There were 40 reports of theft (-37% year-on-year) with arrests made in 29 cases (73% arrest rate).

**Fraud:** There were 13 reports of fraud (+18% year-on-year) with arrests made in 1 case (8% arrest rate).

**Embezzlement:** There were 18 reports of embezzlement (-38% year-on-year) with arrests made in 2 cases (11% arrest rate).

**Firearms:** There were 20 firearms cases (+54% year-on-year) and 19 people arrested for firearms offenses.

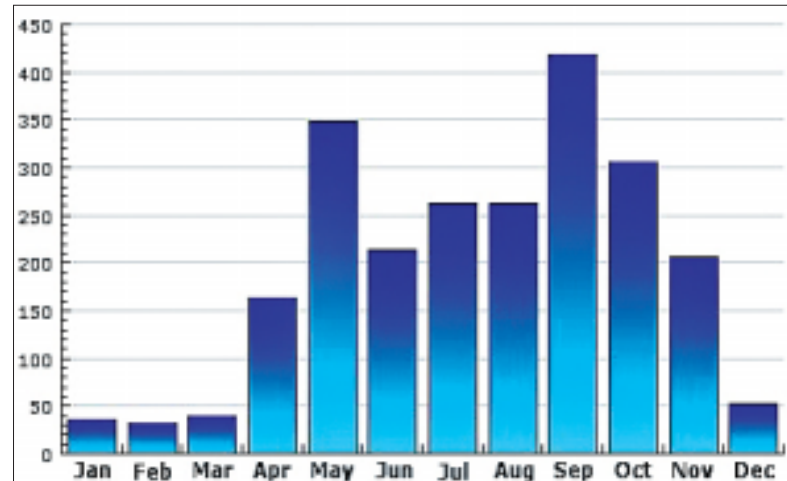
**Gambling:** There were 65 gambling cases (+20% year-on-year) and 249 people arrested for gambling offenses.

**Drugs:** There were 145 drugs cases (+51% year-on-year) and 163 people arrested for drugs offenses.

**Prostitution:** There were 87 prostitution cases (+98% year-on-year) and 87 people arrested for prostitution offenses.

# Heavy rains not unusual: MET

By Kamol Pirat and Stephen Fein



Monthly average rainfall in Phuket. Graph courtesy of Rainwater Solutions.

PHUKET CITY: Recent heavy rainfall in Phuket indicates that the annual transition from the dry season to the rainy season is well underway – much to the relief of water supply officials.

Although many feel the monsoon rains have arrived early this year, an officer with the the Southern Meteorological Center (MET) in Mai Khao said the arrival of the monsoon at this time of year is not statistically that unusual.

Reliable rainfall statistics for Phuket date back to 1961, when monitoring began at both the Phuket City and Airport monitoring stations.

“Winds from the Andaman Sea are now bringing moist air and plenty of rain to this island. We can expect plenty of rainfall until around October, when the transition back to the dry season usually begins,” he said.

December, January and February are statistically the driest months in Phuket City. They also coincide with the high season for tourism, when demand for water is highest. In February and early March, several parts of the island were already experiencing drought conditions and having to rely on water brought in by trucks.

Rainfall levels in Phuket City in January, February and March

were recorded as 4mm, 3mm and 219.6mm respectively. These indicate a rather dry January and February followed by a very wet March

Based on data collected over a 30-year period, average rainfall at the Phuket City station for the three months was 22mm in January, 30mm in February and 59mm in March.

Rainfall at Phuket International Airport this year was 13mm in January, 3mm in February and a whopping 380.1mm in March.

Average rainfall amounts at the airport over a 30-year period are 36mm in January, 33mm in February and 74mm in March, according to MET statistics.

Over the 30-year period from 1971-2000, annual rainfall in Phuket City was 2271mm compared with 2497mm at the airport.

Steen Jansen, a Dane who records rainfall data at his hillside home in Patong, said 184mm of rain had fallen there during March, well above the monthly average of 56mm since he started monitoring rainfall in 1998.

The last serious drought in Phuket came in 2004, when there were only trace amounts of rain over the first three months, and wells in some coastal areas were contaminated with saltwater from the tsunami.

## Cop shot

Continued from page 1

He seized the opportunity to break back into the home and stole the .22 Walther and a one-bahtweight gold necklace, which he then went off to sell for about 13,000 baht.

Cash in hand, he headed downtown to do some shopping and bought himself a new mobile phone and some clothes.

As he passed the Bang Neaw Shrine he noticed a British tourist and his Thai girlfriend about to get into a Bangkok-registered Honda Civic.

At gunpoint, he ordered the couple to move away, hoping to flee in the car to Bangkok.

His getaway plan was thwarted when he realized that the British man, who had already retreated a safe distance, still had the car key in his pocket. The boy, gun in hand, then fled down Kra Road.

At this point, patrol officers Sen Sgt Maj Teerasak and Sen Sgt Maj Supawat Kwankaew arrived on a motorbike and called the boy over for questioning.

The boy shot at the officers three times, hitting Maj Teerasak twice in the hand and causing the bike to crash.

The boy managed to escape and fled on a motorcycle taxi, but he was eventually apprehended at the rice porridge restaurant.

The youth, wearing shorts and T-shirt at the time of capture, faces a host of charges in Juvenile Court including attempted murder of an on-duty police officer, resisting arrest, theft, attempted car theft and weapons violations.

## Man run over by bus after salaeng smash

By Atchaa Khamlo

THEPKRASATTRI: A motorbike driver run over by a bus is the latest fatality in a road accident involving a *salaeng*, or motorcycle fitted with an illegal sidecar.

Maitree Kulpor, 28, was riding his motorbike at high speed on Thepkrasattri Road southbound in Ban Muangmai near the Susco gas station when he slammed into the rear of a *salaeng* at around 11am on March 28.

The force of the impact sent Mr Maitree, who was not wearing a helmet, flying through the air.

He landed 10 meters away in the oncoming lane and was run over by a double-deck tour bus. He was killed instantly.

The crash comes less than five months after an accident on the same road that left two bus passengers dead and 30 injured.

That accident was caused by a *salaeng* on the wrong side of the road that veered suddenly, causing the bus driver to lose control of the vehicle.

Using modified motorbikes is against Thai traffic law, though the laws are rarely enforced.

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# Police closing in on Ian Stuart murder suspect

KATHU: Police believe they have identified the killer of Englishman Ian Stuart, who was bludgeoned to death in his bedroom in an office building near the Tesco-Lotus intersection on February 23.

Tung Tong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao said he expected the suspect to be in police custody by the middle of April. The suspect is around 30 years old and lives in Chalong. He is a drug dealer who has been arrested many times, Pol Col Arayapan said.

The suspect is believed to rent an apartment in Phuket City for his wife, as well as owning a house in Thalang. He regularly changes residence in order to reduce the likelihood of being caught, Pol Col Arayapan added.

Pol Col Arayapan said police are considering the possibility that there were two people involved in the killing. A cigarette butt found near the entrance to the building suggested that someone else might have acted as lookout while the other person was inside.

Police are now sure the killing was the result of a botched robbery. They have ruled out a personal or business dispute as possible motives. A business motive has been ruled out because the property company for which Mr Stuart worked, St James Property Co Ltd, has an income of around 70,000 baht per month, not enough to justify a killing, Pol Col Arayapan said. Examination of Mr Stuart's body and the murder weapon yielded an important clue. Police believe he was killed with a thick wooden plank recovered at the scene.

The plank has at least one nail protruding from it. In addition to severe head trauma resulting from multiple blows from a blunt object, Mr Stuart had a nail wound in his hand. This indicates he was not killed in his sleep, but tried to defend himself from attack, Col Arayapan



The murder of Ian Stuart took place in his bedroom on the third floor of the St James Property Co Ltd offices, seen here to the left of the KTB building.

said. If the killer or killers had entered his bedroom with the intention of murdering him, they could probably have done so without waking him up and causing a struggle.

As for the laptop computer missing from the building, police believe Mr Stuart was murdered after he confronted a burglar or burglars in the process of robbing him.

# Flipper flounders on Saphan Hin beach



SAPHAN HIN: A group of early risers came across a dolphin that had run itself aground on Saphan Hin beach at around 5am on March 31.

In a bid to save the distressed mammal, a member of the group contacted the Phuket Marine Biology Center (PMBC) in Cape Panwa. Upon arrival, members of the PMBC tended

to the stranded dolphin, which measured 205cm and was estimated to be between five and 10 years old.

The PMBC suspects that the female dolphin may have got lost while hunting for food.

Once convinced that the dolphin was no longer in any danger, the PMBC released her later the same day at Koh Racha Yai.

# Sea turtle rescued... again



BANG TAO: March 31 was a busy day for the staff of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

On the same day that a dol-

phin was discovered stranded on a beach at Saphan Hin, the PMBC also came to the aid of a distressed sea turtle in Bang Tao.

Fisherman Takim Seangyao spotted the turtle struggling to swim in the waters off Bang Tao beach. Mr Takim helped the turtle onto the beach, whereupon colleagues at the local fishery called the PMBC. Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong of the PMBC told the *Gazette*, "This sea turtle is the same one we helped a year ago. It still has the identification number on its body."

Dr Kongkiat said that it appeared the turtle may have experienced difficulty in adapting to its environment and that perhaps the PMBC would have to take care of it.

# Paiboon 'not worried' about EC ruling

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising has said he is "not worried" about an Election Commission (EC) ruling that he was involved in vote buying in last year's PPAO election.

Mr Paiboon received a "yellow card" from the EC for electoral fraud in Thalang voting district 3 in the April 2008 poll.

The Appeals Court will now rule on whether to uphold the EC decision and order new elections. "I'm not worried, but I'm tired of working and getting slandered for it. People are playing politics against me," Mr Paiboon said. When asked if he thought political rival Anchalee

Vanich Tephabuttra was involved in the ruling, he said he didn't know. "I don't want to think [about that]. My job is only to present my innocence. I want the court to give me justice," he said.

Mr Paiboon said his work since he was elected would serve as proof of his innocence and claimed he had never used his position for personal gain.

"My management of public tenders has been done transparently. Everyone can examine how I've worked over the past year. A man's worth is demonstrated by the results of his work," he said.

"I believe in the laws of Karma. I believe that the Buddha looks after those with inno-

cent hearts. I believe that good will always defeat evil," he added.

Mr Paiboon expected the Appeals Court hearing to begin in three or four months time.

During the process, Mr Paiboon will be unable to work as PPAO president and one of his deputies will assume his responsibilities.

He said he is now working hard to prepare next year's 700 million baht PPAO budget before the court case begins.

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# An inside look at boat regulations

The sinking of the *Choke Somboon 19* dive boat on March 9 with the loss of seven lives has naturally raised the question of boat safety in Phuket. What are the regulations governing boat licensing here? What checks had the *Choke Somboon 19* been subjected to before it was allowed to sail and how rare are the weather conditions that are believed to have caused the sinking of the boat? The *Gazette's* Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn reports.

"This type of boat is very safe." Marine Transport Office Chief Olarn Hengcharoen.



All boats with an engine have to receive a license from the Marine Transport Office (MTO) to operate in Thai waters. To receive a license the boat needs to be inspected by the chief engineer at the MTO. A boat then needs to be re-inspected each year to continue operating, just like a car.

The MTO issues domestic and international boat licenses with the latter having higher safety standards. They require more life jackets, life rafts and life floats, as well as international navigation, radios in reserve and high-quality global positioning systems (GPS).

The license specifies whether the vessel will be used as a passenger boat, cargo ship or fishing boat. The safety standards differ depending on the specified usage.

A license specifies the maximum number of passengers that can be carried by the vessel. A passenger boat must be fitted with at least as many life jackets and life raft seats as the maximum number of passengers. Life jackets must be available in every room. The safety equipment must also be inspected on an annual basis.

If a vessel is over 24 meters long, the blueprint must be supplied to the MTO to aid the inspection. In general, a boat inspection will consider three aspects of the boat design. Firstly, the MTO will determine the sta-



The *Choke Somboon 19*, pictured before her launch, is similar to many liveaboard dive vessels used in the Andaman and the Gulf of Siam. MTO regulations state that the hull section painted red should always be below the water line to ensure the vessel's stability.

bility of the boat. In this context, stability means the ability of the vessel to right itself after wind or waves cause it to keel over. Attention will be paid to the weight and position of the passengers and equipment that will be carried, as this will affect the vessel's stability.

Secondly, the shape of the boat will be considered. The shape of the bow determines how fast the boat can travel, for example.

Thirdly, the height and length of the boat will be considered with respect to whether it is suitable to cope with the waves of the Andaman sea. The MTO can also issue licenses for the Gulf of Thailand, which has different weather patterns. A temporary license can be issued to allow an

Andaman-licensed boat to sail in the Gulf of Thailand, and vice versa.

Importantly, a license will specify how far from land a vessel can travel, based on the results of the stability checks.

According to Thai law, all boats must have passenger accident insurance. It is up to a boat's owner whether or not to take out insurance on the boat itself.

In either case, an insurance company will do its own inspection of a boat before agreeing to insure it.

## Choke Somboon 19

The *Choke Somboon 19* received its license from the MTO on October 9, 2008 and was not due for its next inspection until a year later.

The boat is 29.9 meters long, so the blueprint had to be submitted to the MTO as part of the inspection.

It was built in Phuket and based on a standard design that has been in use for many years. The first mold built to this design would have been tested for stability indoors using artificial

waves and wind.

Chief of the MTO Olarn Hengcharoen said there are 30 to 50 boats of this type active in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Siam. The *Choke Somboon 19* was licensed by the MTO to carry eight crew members and 30 passengers, as well as equipment.

Mr Olarn said that the estimated value of the boat is 10 million baht, not including equipment, and that the *Choke Somboon 19* was among the best luxury dive boats in Phuket.

The boat was licensed to sail in the Andaman area from Ranong down to Satun. It was required to stay within 15 miles of land at all times.

Mr Olarn described this type of boat as "very safe". He explained that normally a boat of this size would have many more passengers, but that this one had been modified to function as a liveaboard dive boat, with bedrooms built in and passenger space taken up by equipment.

"Fewer passengers means less danger," he said.

The boat itself was insured by AXA Insurance, while each passenger was insured for 200,000 baht in case of death or injury by New Hampshire Insurance.

## The weather

Some reports said that the *Choke Somboon 19* encountered a "severe squall" that evening. But in an interview following the accident, the boat's captain Chakri Leechuay claimed he spotted a "vortex" of wind three nautical miles away, which reached the vessel just 10 minutes later.

This account could indicate that the boat was hit by a water spout – an intense tornado-like wind structure known as a serious marine hazard. Anan Huangsaithong, chief of Phuket's Marine Police, also confirmed that survivors reported that the boat was hit by a waterspout.

But according to the chief of Phuket Meteorological Office (PMO), Suntad Panbaanpaew, water spouts are very rare in the Andaman sea area. He said, however, that the weather around Phuket is very changeable, with violent storms often developing quickly and with little warning.

The PMO has two weather stations in Phuket: one in Phuket City and one near Phuket International Airport. But Mr Suntad explained that their radar has a range of three kilometers, putting the *Choke Somboon 19* well out of range when it sank.

He was therefore reluctant to draw any conclusions as to the exact nature of the weather conditions that night. "We can't say that this was caused by a water spout. We'd have to inspect the boat after it's recovered," he said.

Mr Chakri, the boat's captain, said that he was aware of the possibility of bad weather during the trip but was confident that the boat was large enough and new enough to withstand an average storm.

He added that he had never experienced such freak weather conditions.

The MTO, Marine Police and Phuket City Police are in the process of investigating the cause of the accident.

One of the questions the police are looking into is whether Mr Chakri was negligent in taking the boat out, despite expecting bad weather. The boat was, after all, new and fully licensed from the MTO.

They may conclude that the boat was merely unlucky: hit by weather that could not have been predicted, and of an intensity that the boat could not have been expected to withstand.

They may conclude that mistakes were made. The investigation continues.

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# Sea gypsies seek attention

By Atchaa Khamlo

While Phuket continues its rapid development as a tourist destination and international hub, the island's sea gypsy communities are being left behind and now face the threat of cultural extinction as their languages and traditions fade into obscurity.

Born into poverty and raised in homes they may never be able to call their own, many modern-day sea gypsies are denied an education and grow up expecting little in the way of employment opportunities.

However, the plight of sea gypsy communities in the Andaman region is now being addressed by the Ministry of Culture and provincial government departments, giving the ancient tribes a chance of survival.

The term "sea gypsies" refers to people commonly called *Chao Ley* (sea people) by Thais, though the government typically refers to them as *Chaow Thai Mai* (New Thai Nationals) as part of ongoing efforts to integrate them into mainstream Thai society.

The sea gypsy communities in Phuket comprise mainly two tribes; the Moken (or Morgan) and Ourak-la-woey tribes.

Last week, the Minister of Culture Teera Slukpetch, visited five sea gypsy villages around Phuket: the Moken villages of Ban Lam Lah and Ban Hin Look Diew in Mai Khao; the sea gypsy village on Koh Sireh in tambon Rassada; and the two sea gypsy villages in Rawai.

At all five villages, land rights issues were among the problems raised, along with poverty and a loss of traditional culture and way of life. In some cases, youths in the communities no longer know how to fish or speak the language of their ancestors, Mr Teera was told.

Some sea gypsy communities occupy land owned by the state, but in other cases, most notably in Rawai, the land is claimed by private-sector land-



Members of a Sea Gypsy community in Rawai are hoping that government initiatives will allow them to develop the area they claim to have occupied for over a century.

holders who have title deeds and want the sea gypsies off their land.

Mr Teera is also the chairman of a national-level committee that has been set up with the aim of resolving land rights issues and other problems affecting sea gypsy communities in the Andaman region.

"This committee will resolve the problems of sea gypsy and Moken communities in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi and Ranong.

"The government will be flexible in finding ways to resolve land rights issues on a case-by-case basis and communities inhabiting state land will be allowed to remain there," he said.

In cases where other parties claimed the land and had title deeds to prove it, the committee would conduct a study to see if the title deeds were issued before or after the community was established, he added.

One such study is currently underway to determine who has legal entitlement to the land occupied by the sea gypsy community at Rawai Beach.

The sea gypsies currently occupy about 20 rai in Village 2 (Moo 2) of the municipality. There are about 210 families living in the village, comprising 1,200 people from the Moken and Ourak-la-woey tribes, but as the

the Rawai sea gypsy community was established more than a hundred years ago and that they claim that the land titles held by a handful of individuals were issued much more recently.

However, the title deed holders claim that the deeds were issued before the sea gypsy community was established.

The sea gypsies claim that their century-long existence at Rawai Beach is proven by a cemetery containing the graves of many of their ancestors and the existence of very tall coconut trees around the village that have been cultivated by the sea gypsies for generations.

Many of them do not have any form of documentation to validate their existence, such as birth certificates, ID cards and house registration certificates.

Without such documentation, the sea gypsies have not had access to formal education, so many of them can not read or write; leaving them ill-equipped to comprehend the details of land ownership titles and when they were issued.

Moo 2 Village Chief Sin Polrob said that some of the sea gypsies studied under scholarships from the Department of Non-Formal Education at Wat Sawang A-rom School but that most sea gypsy children do not attend school.

Other problems faced by members of the Rawai sea gypsy community include increasing overcrowding, as the population continues to grow due to a lack of birth control, and unsanitary conditions due to a lack of toilets. For many in the community, going to the toilet is simply walking down the beach to the sea, increasing the risk of disease spreading in the area.

Other community and social health issues among the residents include obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and alcoholism.

According to Dr Wiwat Sitomnoch of the Phuket Public Health Office, people in sea

gypsy communities are ten times more likely to develop diabetes than the average Thai person. He also said that about 70% of them suffer from obesity.

In the past, many of the sea gypsies made a living through fishing, which provided them with a steady income and nutritious food. However, as the island's tourist industry has grown and construction of developments has destroyed marine life habitats, the sea gypsies are no longer able to fish where they used to.

For many, the only option of employment is as low-grade employees in the tourist industry, earning minimum wage.

Dr Wiwat said that the majority of those working received salaries of about Bt5,000 a month and that those earning up to Bt10,000 constituted just 13%.

According to figures compiled by Rawai municipality, the average income per family, is just Bt25,000.

Mr Pichet expressed the need to act quickly in providing proper utilities and sanitation for the sea gypsy community while the dispute over land ownership is being settled in a court of law, as the legal process would be lengthy.

There is hope, however, for the sea gypsy communities in the Andaman region. The Culture Ministry plans to establish "culture centers" in each of the sea gypsy villages to help preserve their way of life and educate future generations.

Phuket is set to receive Bt10.2 million to set up five centers in 2010.

These centers will be promoted by the Tourism Authority of Thailand as a way of generating extra revenue for the communities.

"Many other countries use local culture, including that of indigenous tribes, to promote tourism. The government is committed to establishing sustainable tourism that will benefit all sides," he concluded.

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# Tea baron sips his last cuppa

CHIANG RAI: A wealthy tea merchant was gunned down outside his business in Muang District on March 29.

Kamchon Manitwirun, the 58-year-old managing director of Suwirun Cha Thai, was shot outside the company's shop in Tambon Wiang around 6:30pm. Rescuers took him to Chiang Rai Prachanukroh Hospital, where he later died of his injuries.

He was shot twice in the chest and once in the arm. Witnesses reported that as Mr Kamchon was waiting alone outside his shop, two men aged around 30 approached him.

One of the men drew a pistol and shot Mr Kamchon three times at close range.

The pair then fled on foot. Police sent out search parties and

set up roadblocks to check all vehicles leaving the town. At the time of writing, the killers were still at-large.

Mr Kamchon owned about 1,400 rai of tea plantations in the hills around Chiang Rai. His company produced speciality teas such as oolong and kanglong.

The company exports most of its products to Taiwan, though Mr Kamchon was working on promoting speciality teas in Thailand at time of his death.

The company has an annual turnover of around a billion baht.

A few days before his death, Mr Kamchon had been in Bangkok protesting against a proposed rise in the duty on tea.

Police believe a personal dispute is the most likely motive for the killing.

## Penis prank provokes revenge rape

UDON THANI: A man arrested on March 21 confessed that he raped his friend's wife in revenge for falling victim to a prank while drunk last year. The suspect said that he had been planning revenge for months after the victim's husband tied his penis to his big toe when he passed out during a drinking session.

Police arrested 30-year-old Mr Narongchit Sagam (not his real name) after he used the victim's phone to call his family.

The incident was reported to the police around 4:30am on March 19.

The 40-year-old victim said that she was attacked as she was riding to the market to sell vegetables. After the attack, Mr Narongchit hid in the forest for two days. Using the victim's mobile phone, he called to ask his family if the police had been look-

ing for him. Hearing that no police had visited the house, he returned home – only to be arrested shortly thereafter.

Pol Col Natthanon Prachum, Deputy Superintendent of the Police Region 4 Crime Investigation Center, said investigators monitored usage of the victim's stolen mobile phone following the attack. Finding records of calls between the phone and Mr Narongchit's home, police waited for him to return home without alerting relatives that they were on the hunt for him, Col Natthanon said.

After his arrest, Mr Narongchit, who is blind in one eye, admitted that he had laid a trap for the victim because he was very angry with her husband, police said. Having all grown up in the same village, Mr Narongchit, the victim and her husband had

all known each other since childhood.

In mid-2008, the victim's husband and some other friends went to his house for a drinking session, Mr Narongchit said. When Mr Narongchit passed out drunk, the victim's husband took off his pants and used string to tie his penis to his big toe. The victim's husband then shook him to wake him up. When he tried to stand up, he suffered a great deal of pain when the string yanked his organ, Mr Narongchit said. He also felt humiliated in front of all his friends, and anger had been boiling away inside him ever since the incident, he added.

"I don't feel sorry for what I've done," Mr Narongchit said, "but I feel happy to have released my anger. Now I believe it's my friend who will be angry with me," he concluded.

## Prison break in Phatthalung

PHATTHALUNG: Srinagarindra Police are hunting for a suspect who escaped from Ban Na Wong Open Prison on March 29. Amphol Kaowmanee was sent to the

prison by Tamot Police to be tested for drugs.

He managed to sneak out of the dormitory by scaling a 3.5 meter-high fence to make his es-

cape. Mr Amphol, who was charged with theft for stealing almost 50 mobile phones, already had previous convictions for theft and robbery in Haad Yai.

## Ex-teen beauty mired in crime

The first runner-up in the Miss Teen Thailand 2007 contest was arrested on the morning of March 28 for allegedly attempting to bribe state officials to the tune of Bt300,000 to let her alleged drug-dealing boyfriend walk free.

The 20-year-old university student, Panthong "Nik" Khe-mthong, was arrested along with her boyfriend Chatchai Nop-polkrang, 26. Mr Chatchai was named a major *ya bah* (methamphetamine) dealer in Bangkok's Don Mueang area with a previous criminal record.

The pair was arrested in a sting at 3:30am on March 28 when they reportedly delivered

the bribe to policemen.

This followed the arrest of Mr Chatchai, wanted for selling *yah ba* and Ecstasy pills since last May as well as for a night-time property intrusion and assault on February 9 at a Bangkok cinema.

A search of his Mini Cooper found two fake drivers' licences and a pistol.

Mr Chatchai allegedly confessed to police that he had no ID card and used the drivers' licences in the name of Kampol Jorjong. He said he had bought the gun from fellow drug dealers years ago. He allegedly offered to pay Bt300,000 to the officials in exchange for his freedom. The

officials played along, allowing him to get the money. An ensuing sting operation led to his arrest and that of his girlfriend Miss Panthong.

The two were taken to Don Mueang police station, where police initially charged them with attempting to bribe state officials. Mr Chatchai also faced charges of possessing and carrying a firearm in public and using forged documents.

Miss Panthong's name had previously been mentioned in crime news when a youngster shot her male friend dead on March 17 while her group was out clubbing in Chiang Mai.



Anti-alcohol advocates present a play about people who died in road accidents caused by drunk driving in front of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport in Bangkok. The protesters have been demanding ministry support to ban alcohol sales during the upcoming Songkran Festival. PHOTO: Prasert Thepsri



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# Stimulating news: consumers quick to cash and spend free Bt2,000 checks

BANGKOK: About 75% of the Bt2,000 "Help the Country" checks were spent immediately, with lower-income recipients tending to save less than higher income earners, according to an opinion poll released by the Thai Chamber of Commerce on March 29.

Of those earning less than Bt7,500 a month, 48% spent all or part of the money, while only 18% cashed the checks and kept the money.

The poll surveyed 1,407 re-

cipients from March 23 to 25.

Of those with salaries of Bt12,000 to Bt15,000, 38% spent all or part of their checks, while 28% said they would spend the money during the Songkran holiday.

The pollsters estimated that Bt1,546.77 on average had been spent from each check. In a similar sampling of 2,000 eligible recipients, 80% cashed the checks immediately while 11% bought goods with the checks and received change in cash from co-

operating stores. About 8% used up all the money at stores which offered a higher value than Bt2,000.

Overall, 32% of eligible recipients in this sample spent the entire Bt2,000 check, 56% spent part of the money and saved the rest, while just 10% conserved the whole amount.

A small number held onto the checks as keepsakes in the belief that such a government grant was impossible in the future.

## Doctors warn of heatstroke risk

BANGKOK: People have been cautioned over possible heatstroke during the coming hot season, especially those in high risk categories, such as those suffering from obesity and heavy drinkers.

Public Health Ministry spokesman Dr Suphan Sri-thamma said on March 29 that other groups likely to be at heatstroke risk are the elderly, pregnant women, young children, insomniacs and those with high blood pressure. Drinking at least

two litres of water each day can minimise the risk, he said.

Heatstroke kills around 400 people in the US each year, the doctor said, although there are no statistics available regarding heatstroke fatalities in Thailand.

Two people who collapsed from heatstroke here in the past five years were saved after undergoing hospital treatment. Heatstroke symptoms include high body temperature of more than 40 degrees Celsius, uncon-

sciousness, spasms, a great thirst for water, lower blood pressure and high pulse rate.

First aid methods for victims include lowering body temperature with the application of cold towels, having them lie down with their feet raised and having them drink water before sending them to hospital.

The ministry is also advising on a series of other diseases associated with hot weather, especially diarrhoea and food poisoning.

## Hostage drama ends happily for villagers

TRANG: Villagers in Palian District on March 29 agreed to release 65 forestry officials held hostage for two days after angry villagers surrounded their office to protest against officials who cut down their rubber trees.

On March 27, a group of more than 300 villagers laid siege to Pa Nam Tok Ton Tok Forest Protection Office, refusing to let

any of the officers leave the compound.

Villagers submitted a list of four demands to Khom Chai-phakdee, head of the Thuak Khao Banthat Conservation area. The villagers demanded that forestry officers apologize for speaking rudely to them; destroy photographs that could be used as evidence in encroachment cases

against them; put on hold cases against villagers, and for officers to stop threatening villagers and removing their crops. After his officers had been held for two days, Mr Khom agreed to all the demands.

The agreement with the villagers was officially recorded and the forestry officers were then allowed to return home.

## Young son survives shooting unscathed

SONGKHLA: A latex dealer was shot dead in his truck in Haad Yai District on March 29, but his 11-year-old son who was sitting in the passenger seat survived uninjured.

The shooting occurred as 35-year-old Burin Suwannachatri

was slowing down at a junction on the Asia Highway in Tambon Khuan Lang. Witnesses reported seeing two men on a motorcycle pull alongside Mr Burin's truck.

The pillion passenger then fired multiple shots at Mr Burin with a pistol before the pair sped

away. Mr Burin was hit seven times in the head and body.

Despite the intensity of the attack, Mr Burin's son Phasakon Suwannachatri, 11, was not hit in the shooting. Police say they believe a business dispute was the motive for the killing.



Chutima Chantelle Durongdej was crowned Miss Thailand Universe 2009 in the annual pageant held on March 28 at the Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok hotel. She will now go on to represent Thailand in the Miss Universe pageant in the Bahamas on August 23.

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## Meditation sessions moved to Saturdays



PHUKET CITY: The Middle Way free meditation instruction sessions will now be held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. The new schedule came into effect on March 28. The sessions were previously held on Sundays.

There will now be two sessions; one for beginners and one for advanced practitioners.

### Beginner's session:

- 1.30pm: Stretching exercise
- 1.45pm: Introduction to meditation technique
- 2.00pm: Meditation practice (30 min)
- 2.30pm: Q&A, End

### Advanced session:

- 3.00pm: Meditation (1 hr)
- 4.00pm: Q&A, sharing experience
- 4.15pm: Afternoon chanting (optional)
- 4.45pm: Session end

Both sessions are open to all free of charge, though donations are welcome to cover the cost of the teaching monks who must fly down from Bangkok. The sessions will take place at the Phuket Meditation Center.

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

The Middle Way is also offering a weekend retreat at the Khaolak Seaview Resort in Khao Lak, Phang Nga from May 22 to 24.

The 3,500-baht registration fee includes two nights' hotel accommodation (twin sharing basis) and two meals a day. Attendees will be required to take the eight precepts.

For more information contact Zai at T: 083-9688717 or visit the website: [www.meditationthai.org](http://www.meditationthai.org)

## PPAO to host Halal festival at Saphan Hin

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) will stage a "Phuket Andaman Halal" festival at Saphan Hin from April 30 to May 3 this year.

The festival, with a budget of 10 million baht, will celebrate all things Islamic, with halal food, Islamic products and Islam-related activities.

PPAO Vice-President Soratam Jinda announced details of the festival at the PPAO meeting room on February 17.

The festival will feature a stage, an area for promoting products and an Islamic culture exhibition.

The PPAO is aiming to ensure that the majority of people displaying wares are from Phuket, in order to stimulate the local economy and give opportunities to locals.

Care will be taken to ensure that the activities do not include those that contravene Islamic principles, for example fashion shows.

## Thalang Police fundraiser

PHUKET CITY: The Thalang Police administration board is arranging a fundraising concert by the Thanwa Rasrithanu Band and a comedy show from the Sangthong Nakornsri Band on Saturday, April 25.

The show will run from 6pm to 9.30pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Pearl Hotel in Phuket City. Tickets are 1,000 baht.

The concert is being held to raise money for the police administration board to purchase office equipment, support staff welfare and develop the police station.

For more information contact Thalang Police Superintendent Pol Col Thammanoon Faiju on Tel: 076-313919.

## Rubik's Cube challenge coming to Patong

PATONG: Fingers will be busy in Patong on the afternoon of April 5, when Jungceylon hosts

Phuket's first-ever Rubik's Cube Speed Challenge as part of its International Toy Festival.

Anyone capable of solving a 3x3 Rubik's Cube in under three minutes is invited to register at the Toys "R" Us booth in the Port Zone at Jungceylon from

March 30 to April 4. Great prizes will be available to those who have mastered

the little plastic cube, which has caused so much frustration to so many over the years.

Competition is expected to be light, as Patong is not known as a center for intellectual achievement and many local

residents sleep well past the 1pm starting time.



## Phuket Red Cross announces blood drive for April '09

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket chapter of the Red Cross Society and the blood bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital will hold blood-donation sessions around the island during April at the locations and times below.

The Red Cross is hoping for blood donations before the Songkran holiday that begins mid-month and usually results in increased need for blood due to the number of accidents that occur over the holiday period.

- April 8: Banyan Tree Phuket, Laguna, from 10am to 3pm.
- April 10: Duangjitt Resort, 18 Prachanukroh Road, Patong, from 10am to 3pm.
- April 23: Central Festival Phuket, Wichit, from 10am to 4pm.
- April 24: Bangkok Hospital, Phuket City, from 10am to 4pm.
- April 27: Makro, Wichit Songkram Road, Wichit, 10am to 4pm.
- April 29: Phuket International Airport, from 10am to 4pm.

The blood bank also accepts donations daily at its office in Vachira Phuket Hospital on Yaowarat Road, Phuket City, open Monday to Friday (8:30am to 8pm) and Saturday and Sunday (8:30am to 3pm).

As the above itinerary is subject to change, people intending to make a blood donation at any of the mobile collection clinics are advised to contact the blood bank two days in advance of scheduling a visit.

For more information call the blood bank at Tel: 076-361234 (ext 1285) or the Phuket Red Cross office at Tel: 076-211766.



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## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

**W**e all have our favorite stories of newly arrived foreigners coming to Thailand and attempting to start a business, family or a new life and falling into the many pitfalls that await them.

I have been running a business and legal consulting company for the past seven years and could fill a book with the misadventures of foreigners looking to buy a home or invest in new businesses.

Unfortunately, the majority of people don't seek professional advice before they embark on their new venture – only doing so after they have found themselves in a huge mess that they need to be extricated from.

Fifteen or twenty years ago, it was difficult to find advice about investing in Thailand. The rules and regulations were, if anything, more confusing then they are today.

There were far fewer people to help answer questions or to explain the intricacies of Thai law, and the government offices had not yet heard of customer service. This was even more pronounced in undeveloped areas such as Krabi, where finding someone who spoke English was a major achievement.

In those days, you learned by trial and error, and as the foreign community grew, people shared their experiences in areas such as immigration, the Labor Department, or the business development office.

Times have changed though. As the country has developed, and the former back-water towns such as Krabi are now home to McDonalds and Starbucks, the resources available to foreigners have grown as well.

# Times have changed but many things will always be the same



## New Ao Nang Mosque needs more funding

**T**he new Ao Nang mosque is still under construction but has been experiencing delays due to a lack of funds.

The new mosque, built on the same site as its predecessor, is quite an impressive structure compared with the former *masjid*.

It is estimated that another 20 million baht is needed to finish the building.

The main structure has been completed, with the balance of the funds earmarked to go towards windows, doors, tiling and interior fixtures.

The mosque is currently running a fundraising campaign and has even posted a large sign displaying bank account details for the benefit of those who wish to make donations.

The internet boasts several websites such as ThaiVisa.com, a popular forum for foreigners to share experiences. In Krabi, there are now a number of law firms offering their services, real estate agents and local websites like [www.yourkrabi.com](http://www.yourkrabi.com) and [www.aonang.de](http://www.aonang.de).

So why do foreigners come to the area and make the same mistakes over and over again when they attempt to purchase a house or open a new business?

Why would they not seek counsel before entering into a contract?

Why is it that many people value the advice of their local

Thai bartender, or the waitress at their hotel, or that of the ubiquitous bargirl over the advice of an attorney, registered consultant or certified public accountant?

Is it that the former have nicer smiles and tell them whatever they want to hear?

One frustrating experience that repeats itself over and over is the way many foreigners treat local real estate agents. While not all agents are legitimate, the registered real estate companies with established track records offer a valuable service for those looking to invest in a home or property.

Agents will spend hours, if not days, showing properties to potential clients – only to have the client go behind their back and attempt to purchase the property directly from the owner and cut out the agent's commission.

Or, the foreigner will take

the advice of a local they have met and known for less than a day, thinking that a nice smile is a precursor to honesty.

Even worse, many sign contracts written in Thai, without having them translated into their native language. They take the word of their new Thai friend, that "Everything's okay". Yet when the deal doesn't go as planned, or the deposit for the property vanishes, what recourse does the foreigner have?

Complain to their bartender? Yes, if they can find him.

Would anyone in their home country attempt to purchase a property or start a commercial venture without an attorney present? Of course not. So why wouldn't they seek professional advice in a country where they can not speak the language, read a contract, or have any understanding of the local rules and

regulations?

I am convinced there is a large storage area at Suvarnabhumi Airport next to the stored luggage for arriving passengers to deposit their brains.

## Infrastructure Improvements

The local infrastructure continues to improve with the underground electric cable to Phi Phi Island being laid and service slated to start at the end of the year.

The electricity on Koh Sriboya should be operational at the end of May, while the underwater cable to Railey peninsula, is still in the works.

Two marina projects are being built in the Krabi area. The first is by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and is being built in conjunction with Krabi Provincial authorities.

The other is being built by Krabi Municipality. Both are of a similar size and have the capacity to accommodate just under 50 yachts.

The municipal marina will be built on the Krabi River, near Thara park, while the provincial marina will be located near the existing pier at Klong Chilat that services Phi Phi Island. Both projects are expected to be completed by 2012.

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# Getting Tantric in Patong

**On the menu**  
WITH  
**Dan Waites**  
**Tantra**

It is dusk on the Patong Beach Road, and Miss J and I are in luck. A parking space, and just across the street a South Asian man in a red turban stands by an old-fashioned British lamppost. On the sign above him, Tower Bridge is in silhouette against a huge Islamic dome, the colour of blood. "Tantra", the sign says. "Indian Restaurant & London Pub". It's a sight for an erstwhile Londoner's sore eyes, Tower Bridge. I am intrigued.

I imagine an old East End boozier: air heavy with smoke and the smell of spilt beer, walls stained nicotine yellow, dog-eared seats, dartboard and a drunk on the piano leading a raucous singalong. Perhaps a landlord named "Ronnie". In the Indian restaurant next door, diners no doubt strain to make themselves heard over the cursed Cockney din. Bloody English.

We go inside. We are in a modern bar-cum-restaurant with neither a Cockney lush nor a dartboard in sight. More lamp-posts and some Great British icons line one wall (Big Ben, the Queen, David Beckham and the like). A large flatscreen television shows men in top hats and tails prancing around on horses. This must be the London pub, then.

The other half of the room has an Indo-Islamic flavor. Hanging lanterns illuminate a raised platform covered with rugs and seating mats. Carved wooden panels hang from the walls. Tables are low, with diners sitting cross-legged or stretched out, Roman style, depending on how much respect they have for their digestive tracts. We are met by a smiling Indian chap dressed two

parts smart, one part casual. Ronnie Aaffzal is the 35-year-old co-owner of Tantra. Born in Calcutta, he has been in the food business for 17 years, running restaurants in Hong Kong, Melbourne, Dubai, Japan, and Bangkok.

When this self-confessed foodie first came to Phuket, he loved the range of cuisine available. But the Indian food left him unimpressed. "The visitors who come here spend a lot of money. But I felt they weren't getting high quality Indian food. That's why I thought I'd let them try the real authentic Indian cuisine" he says. He opened Tantra a year and a half ago.

All the restaurant's spices are imported from India, as were the restaurant's two chefs. The style is predominantly Northern Indian/Mughlai, with some South Indian and Indo-Chinese fusion dishes thrown in for good measure. Yet there is a British influence here that goes beyond ersatz London street furniture and the Queen's royal countenance on the wall.

Chicken tikka masala is on the menu. Peshwari nan, a sweet flatbread stuffed with fruit and nuts, is there too. A British-Pakistani friend of mine once went to Peshawar; nobody there had heard of Peshwari nan. It was, in fact, invented in Britain. No doubt by a homesick Peshwari chef, somewhere in the West Midlands.

Ronnie is amused by the number of customers who come to Tantra and order phal, another British invention that could only ever have originated in a nation of curry-loving binge-drinkers. Phal is a curry so incandescently hot it could be used as a chemical weapon.

Yet it is popular with drunken British males anxious to assert their alpha-male credentials. "We Indians cannot think of having such spicy food, it's unbelievable," Ronnie says, adding



**Tantra: a modern bar-cum-restaurant with neither a Cockney lush, nor a dartboard in sight.**

that his chefs are reluctant to prepare the dish for fear of it being inedible. I ask where the name "Tantra" comes from. Ronnie tells me the word means "the rhythm of the soul". But we're just a stone's throw from Bangla Road, Patong's sleaze-central. Isn't tantra the means by which Sting can "go for days"? I ask if there's a sexual connotation. There isn't, Ronnie says.

Undaunted, I ask him about the "London pub" theme. "It's not a very traditional-looking London pub," he concedes. He's right, but we are here to judge his Indian food, not his British pub. It is time to eat. The meal opens with a popadam course (another British adaptation; popadams are generally served as an accompaniment in India, rather than as a course of their own).

Too often, Indian restaurants serve piles of dinner plate-sized popadams and expect you to eat them off a saucer. At Tantra, they come in sensible dimensions; a dash of paprika gives them zing. Mango chutney is thick and retains lots of fruit texture; you could forgo the marm-

lade and spread it on toast. Mint sauce is well rounded. Tamarind sauce, which I initially mistake for ketchup, is not often served in the UK; here it's a pleasant surprise. Whole shallots in vinegar, on the other hand, prove difficult to balance on popadams. I think I would have preferred them chopped.

As an entrée, Miss J has mix chaat: a melange of crunchy popadam fragments, soft potato, sour home-made yoghurt and sweet tamarind sauce. Light and refreshing, it comes recommended. I have the lamb tikka. I think I could eat these sweet, juicy and slightly charred mouthfuls of meat all day. Ronnie suggests I dip a piece in the mint sauce. Doing so reminds me that classic combinations are classic for a reason.

Onto mains, which are served with thin and crispy garlic and peshwari nan, and light, aromatic pulao rice. The lamb rogan josh is slow-cooked, giving the sauce a gutsy, meaty flavor. Rich and satisfying. The chicken tikka masala particularly impresses: the meat is wonderfully tender. Nei-

ther dish would trouble a spice-sensitive palette too much – though perhaps I eat too much somtam to be a reliable judge of that.

Miss J has palak paneer: home-made Indian cheese in a rich spinach sauce. I try a spoonful. She snatches the dish from my hand before I can scoop another. It's hers, apparently. It's also one of those vegetarian dishes a carnivore can enjoy without noticing the lack of meat.

Finally, Ronnie insists I try the Tantra malai kabab. Chicken breast marinated overnight in yoghurt, milk and cheese, Ronnie tells me it will melt in my mouth. On cue, the creamy, succulent meat does its master's bidding. I am impressed.

A meal for two at Tantra costs a very reasonable 1,500 baht, including drinks (I have been to bad Indian restaurants in Patong charging similar prices; this is certainly not one of them).

If you wander into Tantra looking for a little piece of London in Patong, you may be disappointed. But if you sit down for a meal, you will still leave satisfied.



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# Pump up the volume

By Dan Ogunshakin

**S**tereo Lab opened its doors in the fashionable resort of Surin in December 2008. Part beach bar, part chill-out lounge, part chic night club, Stereo Lab incorporates a number of different venues all within the confines of a single club.

Combining chic design, an extensive cocktail list, a host of different themed nights and some of the coolest sounds to be heard anywhere on the island, Stereo Lab promises to be one of the more popular Phuket venues for many years to come.

The venture is the brainchild of Frenchman Thomas Alexandre. Thomas began his working life in the catering industry, working for five years at catering school before moving across the English channel to London. He spent the next six years working in restaurants around the English capital before branching out into managing clubs, cocktail bars and gentlemen's clubs in London, the Caribbean, New York and Los Angeles.

Tiring of the rat-race, Thomas moved to Thailand five months ago in search of a more relaxed lifestyle and believed that Phuket was the perfect place for him and the perfect place to open a business.

The *Gazette* caught up with Thomas at Stereo Lab to get the lowdown on his popular new night spot, as well as hearing his thoughts on business ownership

in Thailand and his plans for the future.

Having visited Thailand a number of times before opting to settle here, what was it that prompted him to open Stereo Lab in Phuket?

"I was going to run a club in Bangkok with a friend, but then I met my business partner and we decided to open up a place in Phuket, something I could never have done on my own. I put a proposal to him regarding how I envisioned the place and he was fine with everything.

"I didn't want to put a fortune into the business right away because I'd never lived in Thailand. I wanted to have lived here for at least six months or a year before investing a lot of money," he said.

Stereo Lab is making a name for itself in terms of the music it plays, its parties and different midweek themed nights. However, was this Thomas' vision when he set out to create his bar?

"Honestly, my vision was a bit different in the beginning. I wanted to get a DJ from 5pm everyday, but I've realized that it's hard to get people here at five. I wanted it to be an after-work place – which is why we do the 'buy one get one free' for sunset – to create a party atmosphere from five, but this isn't Ibiza.

"Now I'm focusing on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. On Sundays, I really want to have a party from 5 pm, but the original plan was to do that everyday. It's



Stereo Lab is the brainchild of Frenchman Thomas Alexandre. Tiring of the rat race, Thomas moved to Thailand five months ago in search of a more relaxed lifestyle.

a bit tougher than expected," he said.

Having run a number of bars around the world, how different has Thomas found Thailand and how has he adapted to Thai culture?

"I'm getting used to it. The biggest difference is with the staff. I usually keep my staff for a long time. The biggest difference, I guess, is that Thai people keep things to themselves. If I've ever had a problem with any of my staff, I've spoken to them about it and if they feel that something is wrong they'll talk to you about it," Thomas said. "That's what I'm trying to do with the staff here. I've had three mem-

bers of staff leave since I opened without saying a word, when they could have easily said, 'Thomas, I want to finish at the end of the week; I'm sick of this place, of you.' Or, 'I'm working too much'. Its the thing I find the toughest. I'm used to treating the staff as a family," he added.

Stereo Lab seems to have cemented its reputation as a cool party place, but what plans does Thomas have for its future?

"I want to really focus on the music. I want to get a big name DJ every month, and every last Saturday of the month, I'm going to host a big themed night. I want to fly a DJ over from Europe, which obviously I can't

do every weekend," he said.

"Maybe twice a year, I want to bring in some big name house or hip-hop DJs. I've got quite a lot of contacts in England and in France, but it costs a lot of money. But that's not what it's about. Even if I lose money, it helps make the name of Stereo Lab and that's what will build its reputation.

In the future I want to open more bars across Asia and expand my portfolio. I've been thinking about Bali in particular. I also want to open a restaurant next to the bar here, serving modern European food, but my main focus is Stereo Lab," he concluded.

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## EXPAT GALLERY

## Maurizio Laureri

When Maurizio Laureri first came to Phuket in 1992 to visit his friend Tom McNamara, he didn't know it was a visit that would change his life.

"Tom had been one of my best friends in New York and I would visit him as he opened restaurants around the world. When I came to Phuket, he suggested we open an upscale Italian restaurant next to his Baan Rim Pa, on the water overlooking the Andaman Sea. I was ready for a new adventure but didn't know the challenges we would face in the early years."

Those challenges included having to grow his own basil, Italian parsley, sage and rosemary so he could produce the authentic Italian tastes that have made the cuisine at Da Maurizio's so famous – not only in Phuket, but also with the legions of repeat tourists to Phuket from all over the world.

Maurizio was no stranger to the kitchen when he arrived here. His mother, Clara, taught him much of what he knows from the family recipes developed over generations in his native Rome.

"My mother was an inspired cook who made three wonderful meals a day for her husband and six children. She taught me the tastes from the different regions

of Italy. As a young man I would drive 180 kilometers to Tuscany to have lunch at a local trattoria. I was obsessed with food."

But the young Maurizio did not start his career in the kitchen. The enterprising young Italian decided he wanted to travel the world and work as a bartender. In a family tradition, he went to London in 1969 to improve his English and work in some of that city's top bars. He soon moved to New York City where he stayed for eighteen years working in retail in trendy SoHo at his own store, the Merchant of Venice, and where he met Tom McNamara.

"For many years I worked importing Italian fashion to the USA and exporting American fashion to Italy. I was featured in Women's Wear Daily for my Italian imported jeans that sold across the US as cigarette jeans, so hot you could smoke them. When I saw some tiny knit bikinis that were the rage in Brasil, I sent a sample to my mother, who recruited a bunch of her old lady friends in the mountains who knitted hundreds of them for me. I sold them quickly in New York."

Maurizio can talk for hours about his adventures living in Lower Manhattan in his early days. Much of what he says he

would not want put into print.

I asked him why his English still has such a strong Italian accent after so many years in America. "My accent has always been an asset for my business and my personal life," he smiles.

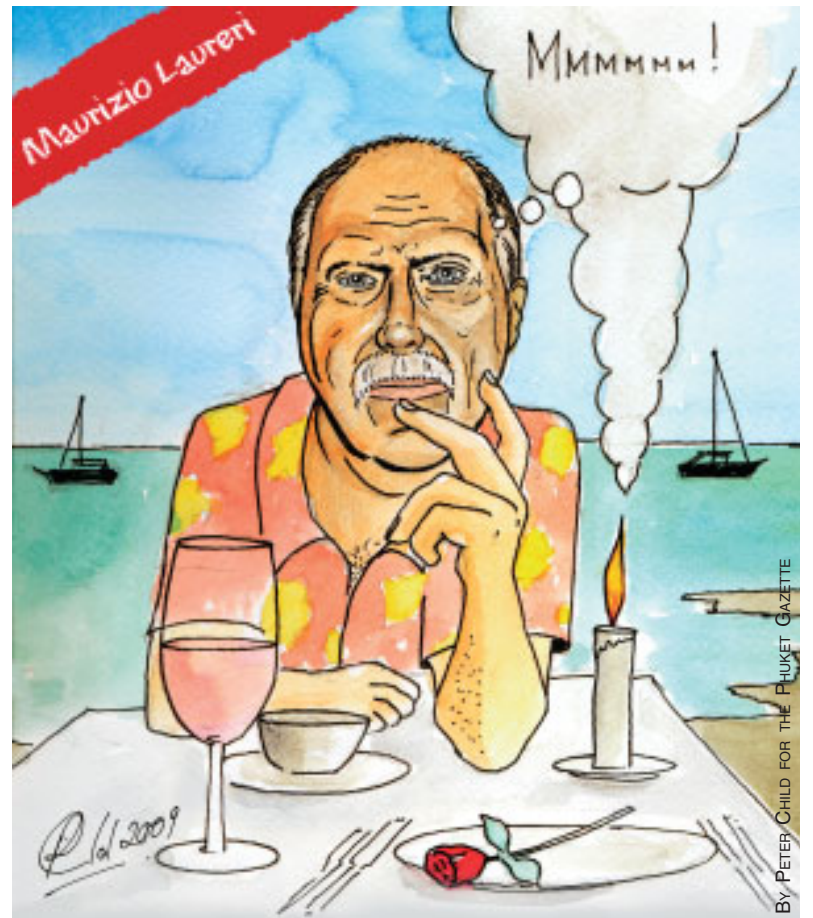
Besides bar tending in some of New York's most fashionable lounges, Maurizio found time to appear in a number of spaghetti westerns, movies filmed in Sardinia that looked like Wild West America. He still has his saddle in his living room from his days in front of the camera.

When he opened Da Maurizio's in 1994, he had just twenty seats. Today, due to popular demand he has 100. He is always on the search for exotic rare food imports from Italy, a sourcing method in sharp contrast to the difficulties he had obtaining foods when he opened.

"Our original restaurant had traditional Italian interiors, but it was all washed away in the tsunami of 2004. Nothing was left after the water receded. Instead of recreating what we had, we decided to go further upscale and build with a chic, contemporary style that reflects our very elegant menu," he says.

"I am very enthusiastic about my new chef, Jared Hucks, who has helped me produce a fine menu of classic Italian cuisine. We have a great synergy of vision for what we present to our customers."

– Bruce Stanley



## 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, ah, 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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**WE ARE SAILING:** Phuket Yacht Club held a regatta at Ao Yon on March 29. The overall winners for each class are pictured from left to right. Philip Johansson (Optimist Class), Lesley Hand (Class 3), Andrew Debruin (Class 2) and Katy Gooch (Class 1).



**IN RUDE HEALTH:** RPM Health Club held its first anniversary party on March 28. Pictured from left to right are: Duangdrea Manaboot, Membership Relations Officer; Michael Lee Weinstein and Siriporn Rim, RPM Health Club members; and Napassamol Panchalad, Membership Accountant.



**GLAMOUR GIRLS:** From left to right, ESPN STAR Sport's Collete Wong, Jamie Yeo, Georgina Chang, Drinie Aguilar and Debbie Lin pose for a picture at the British International School following a football clinic held as part of a weekend of fundraising activities that raised 400,000 baht for the Southern Thailand Special Olympics team.



**UNIVERSAL BEAUTY:** Surat Thani province hosted this year's Thailand Miss Universe contestants during their time spent in the South from March 19 to March 25. During their stay, Thailand's finest visited Ratchaprapha Dam and the Khao Sok National Park, before heading to Koh Samui and Koh Phangan. There, the girls took part in local street fairs and a number of other activities, including elephant trekking and sightseeing.



**NEW SPICE:** The new management and staff of Spice Island at Boat Lagoon celebrated the restaurant's relaunch last weekend. The restaurant serves a range of Indian and Thai cuisine to eat in or take away.



**SMILE LIKE YOU MEAN IT:** Jungceylon shopping center kicked off its second birthday celebrations on March 28, labeling the two-week fiesta a 'Smiling Anniversary'. In recognition of the landmark, the Patong retail giant is hosting a series of events that started with a 'smiling concert', headlined by Dome Pakorn Lum, the lead singer from the band NOLOGO.



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# No Bunny, no honey

**P**layboy turned up the heat in Patong at Jungceylon last Sunday with a parade of Filipino playmates posing in the the latest Playboy swimwear designs.

The captivated audience was also treated to elaborate dance routines by dancers from Patong's Playhouse on a specially constructed catwalk at the shopping venue.



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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

- \* These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
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- \* The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

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# Patong's Russian Seduction

**A** fashion show showcasing the latest offerings of Phuket-based designers Sashiko and Eaha Romanchenko was held at Seduction Discotheque on March 27. The event, which was organized by Seduction's General Manager Elina Saristo and her two sisters, saw friends of the designers take to the catwalk to model the pair's latest beach, day and evening wear collections, much to the delight of the gathered throng. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Katherine's Dance studio and featured a ballet troupe and hip-hop artist Dennis Trangla.

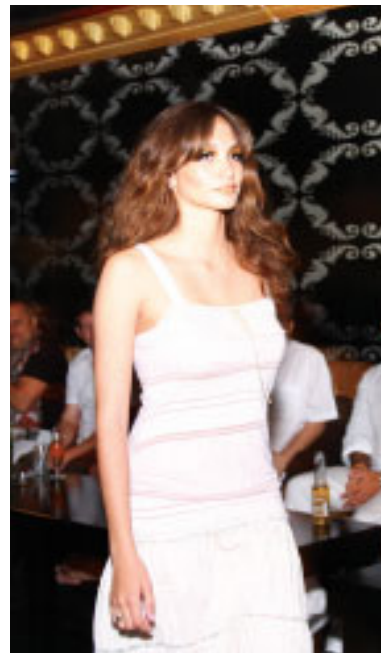
Seduction Discotheque's General Manager Elina Saristo (right) and family.



Dan Miles



Dan Miles



Dan Miles



Dan Miles

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# Soi Dog Salsa



Phuket's dog lovers and salsa fans descended on The Chedi Hotel in Surin on March 27 for an evening of sizzling salsa and magical margaritas in aid of the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF).

To get the party-goers in the mood, Gary Holden was on master of ceremony duty, while the crowd was entertained with music from Sayonara Bella and DJme – courtesy of Wave Entertainment Phuket – and sexy

salsa dancers who led the way on the dance floor.

In an interview with the *Gazette*, the sole media sponsor for the event, SDF president John Dalley said that the event was held to fund the appointment of an additional three vets, bringing the total number of staff at the shelter to 12.

The need for extra staff comes following the expansion of SDF projects into neighboring Khao Lak, Koh Lanta and Koh

Phi Phi.

A vast majority of funds – about 75% – come from overseas. Therefore, the current financial crisis has had an impact on the work that the SDF does.

Currencies such as the euro, sterling and the Australian dollar have fallen sharply in value against the Thai baht – some by as much as 30% – in the past few months. In addition, as people see the value of their investments fall or even lose their jobs, charitable

donations tend to suffer.

At present SDF continues to run at full strength, but with the number of tourist arrivals lower this high season, local people have also struggled. SDF fears that many people involved in business in Phuket may leave the island in the coming months, which could see a rapid increase in the number of abandoned pets – in the same manner as in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami.

The funds raised go directly

towards helping the foundation's sterilization programs, as well as helping its treatment program at its shelter in Mai Khao.

SDF currently spends 500,000 baht per month on its programs, despite all management being carried out by volunteers at their own expense.

Over the next four years, SDF plans to raise 12 million baht to buy the land on which the shelter now sits, and secure the long-term future for the animals there.

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# Exceptional class



The new E-Class is the first automobile in the world with headlamps that adapt to the traffic situation and respond automatically to avoid dazzling other drivers.

## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

With the launch of the new E-Class, Mercedes-Benz says it is continuing a success story in the luxury car segment. Since the Model 170 V was introduced as the direct forerunner of the E-Class in 1947, the Stuttgart automaker has produced more than 10 million sedans in this category. In 2002 alone,

some 1.3 million drivers chose the E-Class, whose market share of up to 40% makes it the top seller in its segment in Germany and many other countries in Western Europe.

The new E-Class is another major advance by Mercedes-Benz, as the car marks the series production debut of an array of innovative technical features that cannot be found in any other car in its class: drowsiness detection system, automatic emergency braking when an accident is imminent, adaptive highbeam assist; an active hood with its reversible actuation mechanism, air suspension with electronically controlled damping and the trend-setting BlueTEC exhaust after-treatment system.

A 'protected' E-Guard model can also be specified from the manufacturers. This is mainly distinguishable from the standard auto through a network of intelligently conceived protective steel panels integrated beneath the otherwise identical body and seemingly invisible. This protective shield also includes all-round polycarbonate glazing.

The new model range comprises ten engines, two drive concepts and three suspension variants. Further scope for individual configuration exists in the choice of two design and equipment lines as well as 12 wheel and tire combinations in a variety of sizes.

Mercedes-Benz has improved the comfort of the E-Class even further with the new car.

Intelligent body-shell technology with up to 30% greater rigidity, new seats and a newly developed suspension with shock absorbers automatically adjusting to the relevant driving conditions are all improvements. In addition, the optional air suspension now works together with an electronic damping system.

The safety and comfort of the E-Class are matched by its environmental compatibility and economy. The four- and six-cylinder engines are direct-injection units and consume up to 23% less fuel than before. The range of engines available consists of four-, six- and eight-cylinder units with outputs from 136 bhp (100 kW) to 525 bhp (386 kW).

The four-cylinder engines are newly developed direct-injection units, which develop a higher output and torque than the comparable V6-engines of the preceding series, despite a smaller displacement.

The strategy is to replace large, naturally aspirated engines with turbocharged units, which excel with the advantage of less weight, reduced internal friction and more economical operating characteristics.

All the engines meet the EU5 emission standard, and in the case of the E350 BlueTEC, the emissions are already below the EU6 limits planned for 2014.

The work done in the wind tunnel has also been particularly

successful. With a drag coefficient of just 0.25, the new E-Class is the world's most aerodynamically efficient luxury sedan.

The new E-Class is the first automobile in the world with headlamps that adapt to the traffic situation and respond automatically to avoid dazzling other drivers. The optional 'adaptive main beam assist' uses a camera on the windshield to recognize oncoming traffic and vehicles moving ahead, and controls the headlamps so that their beams do not reach the other vehicle.

This achieves the best possible road illumination in any given situation, while the range of the dipped headlamp beams can be extended from 65 to 300-meters. If the road ahead is clear, the system performs a gentle transition to high beam.

Mercedes-Benz offers this new system as a 'light and sight package' that includes bi-xenon headlamps, the intelligent light system and LED daytime driving lights.

The new E-Class was launched in early March but deliveries are expected to begin this summer. No prices have been announced but the entry-level model, the E220 CDI, is expected to start at around 41,000 euros.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at [jhc@netvigador.com](mailto:jhc@netvigador.com)

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

**April 2 - 5. Phuket Oilfield Classic Golf Tournament 2009**

A golfing event for oil and gas executives and supporting companies – 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 consult the Phuket Gazette and PGTV or contact Mark Cameron. T: 081-7882843. E: mark@phuketoilfieldclassic.com. W: www.phuketoilfieldclassic.com

**April 4. Special BBQ Buffet Dinner, Wine Connection Chalong**

Held on the first Saturday of each month. Giant BBQ buffet, including cheese and cold cuts buffet. Only 650 baht + per person. From 6:30pm to 10pm at Wine Connection, Chalong. For further information contact Pascal T: 076-482411 E: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

**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 10. Wine Tasting @ Wine Connection Laguna**

Wine tasting and tapas buffet for 300 baht per person. Free for club members. From 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Plaza del Mar, Laguna. For further information contact Pascal T: 076-482411 E: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

**April 11. Happy Easter FREE Cool Jazz on a Hot Night**

Enjoy a Happy Easter at RPM Royal Phuket Marina, where we present, free of charge, "Cool Jazz on a Hot Night" by the Jeff Donald International Jazz Band. This event will be held for one night only. We are looking forward to having you join us! From 7pm to 12am at the Town Square, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Esra Unlu. T: 081-2703326 E: esrau@royalphuketmarina.com. W: www.royalphuketmarina.com

**April 13 - 15. Songkran Festival**

Songkran (Thai New Year), also

known as the Water Festival. Held during the driest months 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.

**Apr 30 - May 1. Symposium: Swimming Pool Management & Design**

First ever independent information event conducted for swimming pool owners and all professionals involved in pool design, construction, supply and maintenance in Thailand. Fourteen European and local experts will speak on:

- Why damage to pools occurs, and how to prevent it.
- For owners: how to cut down running costs.
- For designers: how to help owners save costs and add more value to the pool set-up.
- How to provide the "luxury of privacy". This is what owners want! Pool suppliers and engineering companies will promote ways to utilize state-of-the-art technologies. Forty newcomer pool companies are seeking dealers in Thailand! From 9am to 9pm at Miracle Grand Convention Center, Bangkok. For further information contact Khun Amornrat. T: 082-5627494. E: poolasia@waterdoctor.co.th. W: www.poolasia.com.

May 1. National Labor Day - Public Holiday

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

**May 1. National Labor Day - Public Holiday**

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

**May 1 - 2. Inaugural Layan International Golf Challenge**

You are cordially invited to participate in the inaugural Layan International Golf Challenge, played over two days at Laguna Phuket Golf Club (LPGC). Twenty-four teams of four will compete in both fourball and four-some formats. Teams will play under national flags. There will be a closing function and a prize giving ceremony on Saturday May 2 with plenty of food and drink. Cost per person is 3,500 baht. LPGC will offer 50% green fees to non members and all funds raised will go toward the education scholarship scheme of the Phuket International Women's

Club. From 7am to 4pm at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. For further information contact John Dux. T: 076-316711. E: layangolfchallenge@gmail.com. W: www.phuketiwc.com

**May 5. Coronation Day - Public Holiday**

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

**May 8. Visakha Bucha Day - Public Holiday**

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, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

**May 11. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day - Public Holiday**

The annual Royal Ploughing Ceremony usually takes place in May every year at Sanam Luang, near the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The ceremony has been performed since ancient times and is designed to give an auspicious beginning to the new planting season, amid hopes and wishes for an abundant harvest.

**March 30 - May 25. Third Annual Boathouse Writing Competition**

The Boathouse Short Fiction competition consists of two parts: part one is open to all adults and part two is open to young student writers aged 15 to 18. Both parts require original stories not previously published, containing three key words: Boathouse, Oasis and Regatta. Stories can be on any subject but must have a Thai theme or subject matter relating to Thailand. The stories should be between 1,500 words and 2,000 words for the adults and 800 to 1,200 words for the students. For further information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076-330015. E: pr@boathousephuket.com. W: www.boathousephuket.com

**May 19. Punchline Comedy Club - Live Stand-Up Comedy**

Punchline Comedy is part of the same British comedy circuit that

**Boathouse evening with TV/film producer Ed Vaughan**

As guest speaker in the first of a new season of popular literary evenings, Ed Vaughan will talk about the art and science of writing, marketing and selling a feature film screenplay in today's market. His presentation includes: differences between screenwriting and the writing of novels and short stories; the importance of structure and character development; reasons for the success of

specific motion pictures; how to get scripts read by the right people and so on. He will, of course, answer questions. April 23, from 7pm to 9pm at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

For further information contact Lisa Sol T: 076-330015  
E: pr@boathousephuket.com  
W: www.boathousephuket.com

produced stars such as Eddie Izzard, Mike "Austin Powers" Myers, and Steve "Alan Partridge" Coogan. This May, the Punchline team brings you the personification of the classic comedy feedline, "An Englishman, an Irishman, and a Scotsman": Greg Burns, Lloyd Langford, and Geoff Boyz. For full show details and ticket outlets, please go to our website. From 8pm to 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong Beach. For further information contact Khun Boom. T: 083-6464671. E: info@phuketcomedy.com. Visit: www.phuketcomedy.com

**May 29 - Jun 29. The Second "Absolutely Aesthetics" Art Exhibition**

The second "Absolutely Aesthetics" will feature mixed techniques on board and vinyl tiles by talented young Thai artist, Kritsana Chaikitwattana. This series presents the contrasting beauty be-

tween classic and failed sculpture and poses the question "What is the true value behind them?" Kritsana has participated in several exhibitions in Thailand, as well as in Korea (2003), Spain (2005), and Taiwan (2006). His exhibition at D Gallery runs from May 29 through to June 30. Hours: Tue-Sat: 11am to 7pm; Sundays: noon to 6pm. At D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina, Phuket. For further information contact D Gallery. T: 076-360867. E: info@dgallery.co.th. W: www.dgallery.co.th

**June 20. Phuket Academy of Dance**

The Phuket Academy of Dance proudly presents the 2009 "Song and Dance Extravaganza". This is a show not to be missed! From 5pm to 8pm at Movenpick Hotel, Karon. For further information contact Linda Cumming. T: 081-8937749. E: lecumming@gmail.com. W: www.phuketdance.com

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# Governments target tax havens

**M**y wife, while in our stationery SUV, suffered the misfortune of being rammed by a large truck – rear ended at a considerable speed. With slight injury to the occupants of the SUV, the damage to the truck could scarcely be noticed, but major damage was done to our vehicle.

I had been thinking of changing SUVs anyway, and imagined that it would be a relatively simple matter to purchase a 4x4 from either of the two leading brands in Thailand: Toyota or Honda.

Details such as color, model and so on could easily be incorporated. After all, there is a recession out there

and there was bound to be a surfeit of desirable stock. As it happened, Toyota was open to me joining a waiting list of one month or more, Honda at about two months!

It must be a nightmare for all concerned; demand is much more robust than predicted. This is not just a Phuket phenomenon, as dealers here were trying to source from alternative provincial dealers. The supply for the more popular vehicles – not just 4x4 SUVs – is limited.

One dealer, exasperated by having a cash buyer and not being able to supply, quietly told me how frustrated his sales team was. Japan has just recorded a drop in exports of over 49% in February 2009, compared with last year.

Planning for shipments of numerous goods for multinationals is extremely difficult to predict. Toyota and Honda need to supply more vehicles to the market, but both companies have been badly jolted by current market conditions. At least by keeping the market under-supplied, margins

can be maintained. However, statistics for vehicle sales in Thailand, year on year, reveal substantial falls.

There is an old tale about a merchant who heard there was a recession, so he cut back on his advertising budget. Sales dropped so he cut back still further. Sales continued to fall even faster. Eventually he stopped all advertising and the business went bankrupt – a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Two streets away, another merchant heard about the recession and increased advertising as sales dropped slightly with the weak economy. He actually started to increase his business and prospered, despite the recession. The financial volatility that the world has seen from so many angles was as a result of a very necessary de-leveraging (paying debt).

An interesting and very valid point that a number of analysts have made is simply that we keep the patient on the drugs that they are used to. In other words, we are creating more debt in the hope of curing the original problem, which was itself caused by too much debt. Some point to the fact that governments – such as those of the US and UK – are having to take the debt on to their government balance sheet from the private sector.

These are 'toxic financial instruments' of which nobody knows the fair value, because they can contain everything from credit card debt to aircraft leases to mortgages (without recourse). There is a value to virtually all of these assets but it will be much more difficult to sell them at fair market value in a distressed market.

Government intervention, by 'warehousing' these assets, means that prospective buyers

can closely examine these assets and their performance to be able to make competitive offers. Governments, unfortunately, do not have a great track record in managing anything in an efficient manner, so there will, as usual, be problems. However, everybody – except short sellers – is hoping that the governments concerned will emerge, bloodied perhaps, but hopefully having forced through changes to their regulatory systems. Politicians in trouble need scapegoats, and the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, has one: tax havens. He even took this with him to Washington, where President Obama enthusiastically embraced the idea. Obama is on record as commenting on the amount of US money he suspects lurks in the Cayman Islands.

Gordon Brown, however, is on much weaker ground with his attacks on the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The reality is that none of these islands wants to be involved in UK tax evasion.

The Isle of Man and other territories play host to many large insurance companies, which, in turn, set up – for the benefit of both customers and the industry as a whole – an organization called the Association of International Life Offices (AILO). One of the functions of AILO is to negotiate with the British tax authorities (HMRC).

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are stretched to the limit to supply sufficient staff to manage the financial sector.

The result is that a number of other countries, Ireland and Luxembourg in particular, take

some of the overspill.

These countries are full EU members and would not take kindly to Brown's interference. However, the latter has to face an election by August 2010 and is currently trailing badly in the opinion polls. Sadly, when he addressed a Scottish Labour Party meeting, he received the loudest applause when he stated his intention to look into tax havens and over-compensated financial market participants.

In reality, many financial institutions have offshore offices, but dealing and other matters are often handled within the UK.

For example, a trade I placed with a large Mutual Fund Group in Jersey was subsequently traded in London at their offices, and all the 'back office' functions

were carried out in Dublin, Ireland. Anyone living in the UK who had undisclosed assets in any of the UK tax havens must surely by now have decided that Panama – or a number of other countries, for that matter – is, perhaps, a better destination. Nevertheless, it was nice of Gordon to warn them.

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](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th) Website: [www.global-portfolios.com](http://www.global-portfolios.com)



Politicians in trouble need scapegoats and the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, has one: tax havens.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

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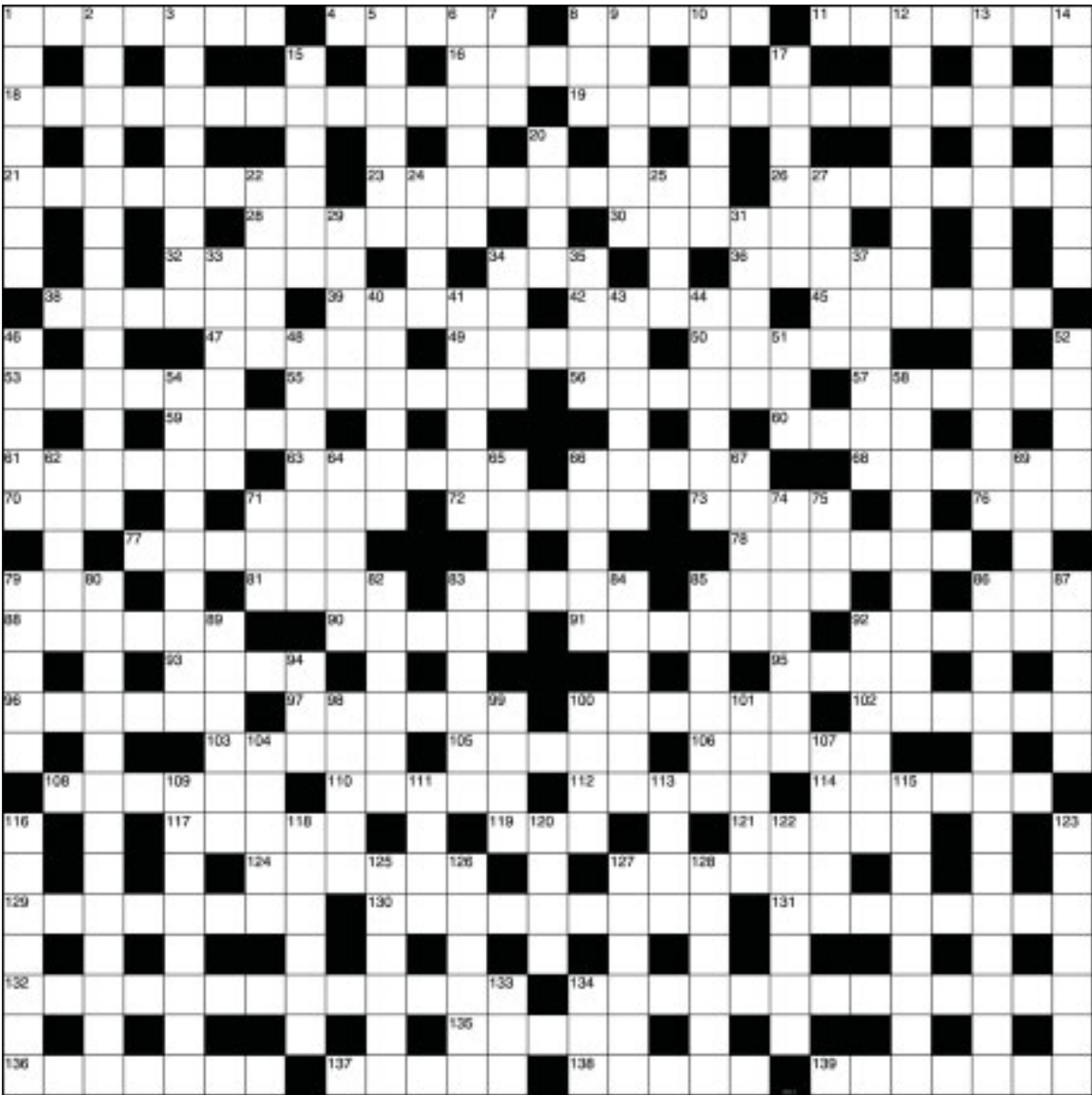




# Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are lots of words that are colors. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.  
Solution on the next page.

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



# The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Puzzles – [www.lovatts.com.au](http://www.lovatts.com.au)

- Across**  
1. Escape imprisonment  
4. Local expression  
8. Colour-cube pioneer  
11. Weepy  
16. Repeat movie  
18. Daughters' daughters  
19. Record of court proceedings  
21. Casino card game  
23. Breakfast pastry  
26. Long race  
28. Weasel-like furry animal  
30. Looked sneeringly  
32. Head parasite  
34. Livid  
36. Excessive  
38. Rodeo ropes  
39. Rumba-like dance  
42. Noblemen  
45. Uncelebrated (hero)  
47. Jeans fabric  
49. Moroccan capital  
50. Jumped up  
53. Deadly  
55. Dined at restaurant (3,3)  
56. Meal  
57. Showered  
59. Spiteful  
60. Manhandle  
61. Roams (over)  
63. Gently pushed  
66. University composition  
68. Young eagle  
70. Repair set, tool...  
71. Litter receptacles  
72. Cavalry sword  
73. Marsupial pouches
76. Positive reply  
77. Arranged into levels  
78. Despicable person  
79. Legume  
81. In existing condition (2,2)  
83. Harvests  
85. Pop artist,... Warhol  
86. Liqueur,... Maria  
88. ...de corps  
90. Valleys  
91. Humanitarian, Mother...  
92. Irritates (skin)  
93. For... & every  
95. Clamp  
96. Pedant  
97. Irregular  
100. Deal with  
102. Resolved,... out (problems)  
103. Instances  
105. Glossy black bird  
106. Curt  
108. Defended  
110. Precipitous  
112. Grey-faced  
114. Alleged assassin, Lee Harvey...  
117. Lease (property) again  
119. Perched  
121. Chosen path  
124. Painting stands  
127. Outcome  
129. Bath bubbles  
130. Folding seat (4,5)  
131. Solidly-built  
132. Protestants  
134. Warm autumns (6,7)  
135. Subject matter  
136. Arid state  
137. Non-verse  
138. Prudes
- Down**  
1. Branch of maths  
2. Police raid  
3. Weirdos  
5. Take away  
6. NW US state  
7. Chaps  
8. Groove  
9. Imaginary  
10. Instinctive  
12. Satisfies  
13. Fearsomely  
14. Garment's inner coverings  
15. Long narrow views  
17. Keen insight  
20. Continent  
22. Regale  
24. Paper quantity  
25. Soon, in the... future  
27. Total,... to (3,2)  
29. Send (payment)  
31. Tricks  
33. Heaps (of)  
34. Castle ditch  
35. Expensive  
37. False  
40. Rectifies  
41. Ogres  
43. Relaxed (2,4)  
44. Peruvian pack animals  
46. Smug grin  
48. Child minders  
51. Bank cash dispenser  
52. Rewords (text)  
54. Conveniences  
58. Statuette material  
62. City, Buenos...
64. Opened  
65. Stupefies  
66. Burst  
67. Tells good story  
69. Uncanny  
71. Lingerie item  
74. Corpse  
75. Pig's pen  
79. Quick glances  
80. Fittingly  
82. Best protected  
83. Respect  
84. Family cars  
85. Make fizzy  
86. Ingratitude  
87. Reserve, set...  
89. Gossip  
92. Coldest  
94. Continuous murmur  
98. Birds' homes  
99. Light sleeps  
100. Animal flesh  
101. Category (of art)  
104. Lazed  
107. Compass point  
109. Able to be rubbed out  
111. Model,... Macpherson  
113. Home stereo (2-2)  
115. Hailed  
116. Lacking taste  
118. More effortless  
120. Curved entrance  
122. Fuel energy rating  
123. Intrudes (5,2)  
125. Nervier  
126. Perfumes  
127. Money-making scheme  
128. Cooking in oil  
133. That lady  
134. Scamp

Solution on next page

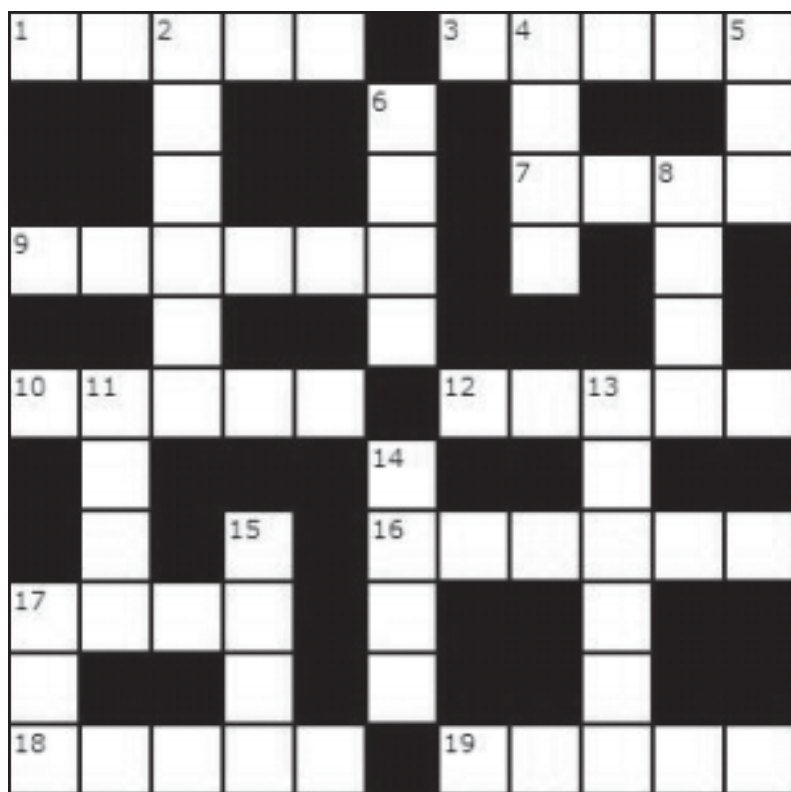
**su | do | ku**  
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Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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





## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Worn on feet
3. Simple
7. Made of bricks
9. Separate
10. Round object
12. Pastime
16. Color
17. Cook
18. For the home
19. Country

### Down

2. Food
4. Grass
5. American Football
6. Worry
8. Arm or leg
11. Seven year....
13. Dance
14. Fable
15. Hairstyle
17. Fish

Solution below

## Get your brain in gear with the

# MONSTER QUIZ

1. In which city is the Maracana, reputedly the world's largest football stadium?
2. Who was the first Black man to win an Oscar?
3. What type of animal was Robin Hood in the cartoon film of the same name?
4. What is Europe's biggest island?
5. If a doctor says you have ecchymosis what have you got?
6. Which place in the Atlantic is supposed to be the site of many shipwrecks?
7. What accompaniment to food is named after the port of Mahon on the island of Minorca?
8. If an American was to cook your food by 'broiling' how would it be cooked?
9. Which Elvis Presley film was set in Mexico?
10. Which rock group had 4 members, all of whom are dead, one of whom was assassinated?
11. What Olympic sport is derived from the Greek word for naked?
12. Which actor is also a Prefab Sprout album?
13. Who was the first person to sell one million records?
14. Which "B" is known as the patron saint of pipe smokers?
15. How old is Juliet when she dies in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*?
16. Vaduz is the capital of where?
17. Which military dictator died Aug 16 in Jeddah at the age of 78?
18. In which sport might the Duckworth-Lewis method be used?
19. What is the red food colouring made from small Mexican beetles?
20. The *SS Thistlegorm*, sunk by German bombers in 1941 is a popular wreck dive in which sea?

Answers below



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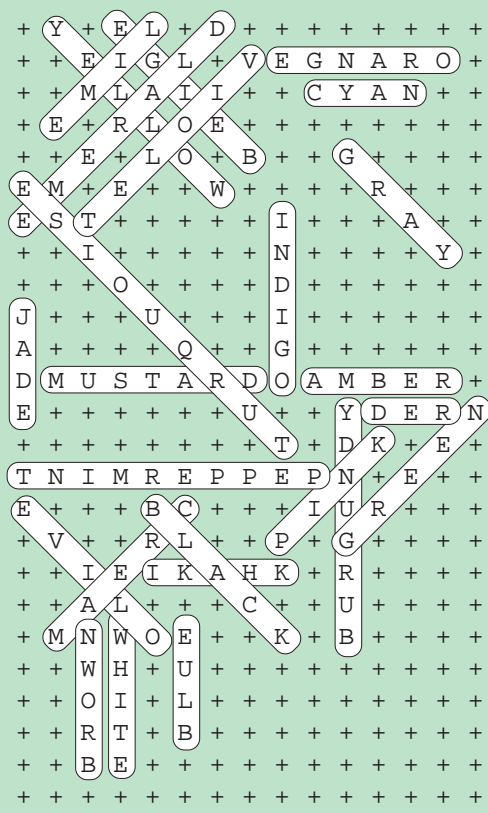
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# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

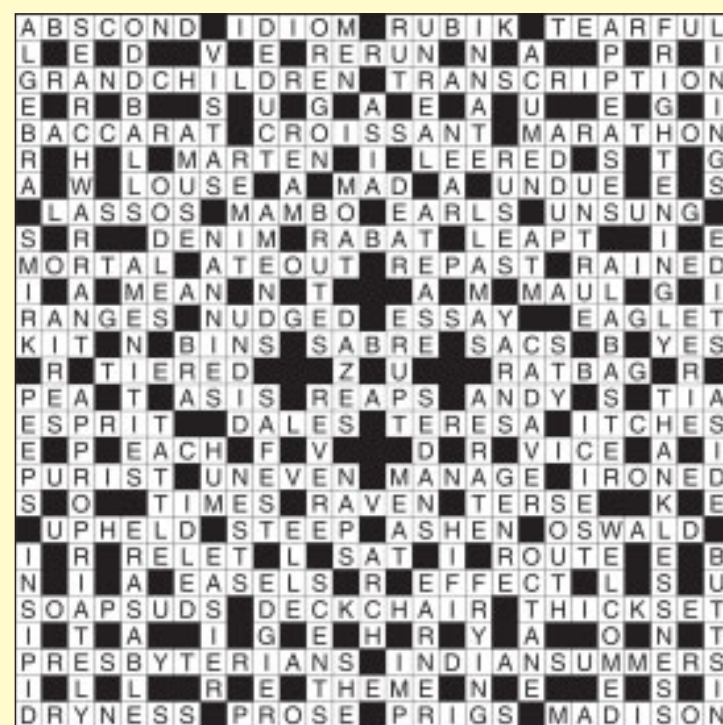


### Hidden Words SOLUTION



### Monster Quiz Answers

1. Rio de Janeiro; 2. Sidney Poiter;
3. Fox; 4. Great Britain; 5. A Bruise;
6. Bermuda Triangle; 7. Mayonnaise;
8. Grilled; 9. *Fun In Acapulco*;
10. Mount Rushmore;
11. Gymnastics; 12. Steve McQueen;
13. Enrico Caruso; 14. St Bruno;
15. 13 years of age (nearly 14); 16. Liechtenstein;
17. Idi Amin Dada; 18. Cricket;
19. Cochineal; 20. Red Sea.



### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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





## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Barbara Walters needs no introduction. Her face has been on television since I was a schoolboy and that was a half century ago. Her thirteen-year stint on the Today Show has been followed by numerous news specials, big name interviews on 20/20 and her current role as doyenne of the woman's daytime talk program, The View.

She has now written her memoirs, *Audition* (Alfred A. Knoff, New York, 2008, 609pp). It's only her second book, after a best-selling self-help tome back in 1970 called *How to Talk to Anyone about Practically Anything*.

The title *Audition* refers to her longstanding feeling of insecurity and fear for her job. Of her

# A mile wide and an inch deep

first days on the air on the Today Show in 1961, she writes, "I loved doing my little segment on the air. But it never occurred to me that I would ever have a regular on-air role myself. Glamor, not humor, and certainly nothing intellectual, was the requirement if a woman wanted to be in front of the camera. All I wanted was to do whatever I was asked, so I wouldn't be replaced by some other female writer. I just wanted to keep my job".

"For the next twenty years, thirty years, maybe even forty, I would feel the same way. No matter how high my profile became, how many awards I received, or how much money I made, my fear was that it could all be taken away from me. I have always felt I was auditioning, either for a new job or to make sure that I could hold onto the one I had." The early pages are the most fascinating. Her father, Lou Walters, was the owner of the famous Latin Quarter nightclub in New York and she had a ringside table to meet all

the great celebrities of postwar New York: the movie stars, singers, politicians and sports heroes. Her days as a television pioneer are also told with great wit and insight, reaching her pinnacle as co-host with Hugh Downs on the Today Show. You wouldn't think it, to look at the venerable media icon now, but she once worked as a Playboy Bunny waitress for a TV report, learning how to do the "bunny dip", serving drinks while leaning backward to avoid a wardrobe malfunction. "Hugh Downs said it was the first time he knew I had legs," she reports.

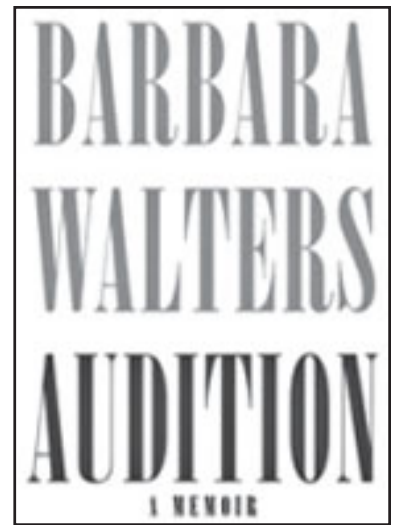
There are all sorts of great nuggets in this book. Her long-time friend and sometime date Henry Kissinger once told her, "The nice thing about being a celebrity is that, if you bore people, they think it's their fault".

Barbara Walters was so focused on her work that she went through three husbands by neglect. The surprise is that the one great love of her life was Edward W. Brooks, the first African American senator. "Ed

Brooks was simply the most attractive, sexiest, funniest, charming, and impossible man," she writes. "I was excited, fascinated, intrigued, and infatuated". Ed Brooks was also married, so for the sake of his career and hers, they eventually broke it off.

Richard Nixon, Anwar Sadat, Golda Meir, Fidel Castro, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, both Bushes, the Shah of Iran, Moshe Dayan, Yasir Arafat, Margaret Thatcher, Hugo Chavez, Mu' ammar Qaddafi, Jiang Zemin, the Dalai Lama, Elizabeth Taylor, Jimmy Stewart, Clint Eastwood, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Audrey Hepburn, Will Smith – Barbara Walters became famous for her "gets": landing in-depth interviews with the great and famous.

But with rare exceptions – Nixon, Kissinger, Castro – she did not become close to her subjects. In chapter after chapter, she sets the scene, lays out the historical context, and summarizes the interview. But there is precious little depth. She reminds me of the line about CNN's news coverage: a



mile wide and an inch deep.

There is also a lot of annoying handwringing about her feckless father, withdrawn mother and retarded sister, which pops up every so often to slow the narrative. Still, the overall tone is one of wry, self-deprecating humor, which offsets the repetitive feminist boasting about overcoming all those hoary male bastions. The funny stories are worth every bit of tub thumping.



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.

## Heart-rendering to myself & I?

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.



**Q:** During the past several weeks, we have heard radio commercials announcing the new production of *Madame Butterfly* at the Detroit Opera House.

These commercials assure us that we will enjoy this 'heart-rendering' story, beautifully sung by talented singers. My dictionary defines 'rendering' as 'a performance of a piece of music or drama.' As for 'render,' among the other uses is 'melt down (fat): the fat was being cut up and rendered for lard.' I think the word of choice in the commercial would be 'heart-rending.'

Do I need a new dictionary, or does the Michigan Opera Theatre and its staff need one?

Bunny Carlson  
Clinton Township,  
Michigan

**Barbara replies:** Right you are: The term the opera company needs is 'heart-rending.' 'Render' has several meanings, including 'provide,' 'cause to be' and 'rep-

resent artistically,' as well as the groady one you mention, having to do with fat.

But none of them is particularly appropriate to do to a heart. To 'rend' is to wrench or tear. 'Heart-rending' is 'heart-wrenching' – a perfect description of the sad but musically gorgeous story of *Madame Butterfly*.

**Q:** How do you view the increasingly common use of the reflexive 'myself' in place of a more appropriate (and grammatically correct) pronoun form?

In addition to seeing examples of misuse in other media, I've received emails asking if I could forward a message to 'Tom and myself' or informing me that 'Sheila and myself have registered for the new class.' What's going on with this?

Judy Zeichner  
Moraga, California

**Barbara replies:** For some reason, lots of people have been asking me about this lately, and also about misuses of 'I.' What's going on is widespread confusion about when to use 'I' and 'me.' People who are unsure which is

right sometimes try to fudge it by using 'myself.'

Linguists may tell you a different story, which has to do with our neat and consistent 'intuitive grammar.' But if our first intuitions were always correct, we'd say, for example, 'beed' instead of 'am,' 'was' and 'were'; the English we used would be 'speaked' and 'writed' instead of 'spoken' and 'written'; and we'd have 'tooths' and 'foots' instead of 'teeth' and 'feet.'

Of course, the correct versions of those are all irregular forms. We were trained out of them as children, and we learned the lesson so well that the versions that follow the basic, regular rules sound ridiculous.

The incorrect use of 'I,' 'me' and 'myself' sounds almost as bad

to some of us, and the rule for distinguishing among the three isn't complicated. The only thing that's tricky is that we can't just memorize one form – we have to continue making choices on the fly.

'I' is the subject of sentences (for instance, 'I am doing my best to explain'). 'Me' is for objects ('You asked me'), including objects of prepositions ('You talking to me?' and 'between you and me'). But when the subject is 'I' and the speaker is also the object, then the word 'me' switches to 'myself' ('Am I just talking to myself?'). How hard is that?



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**The Phuket Gazette**

- Since 1994 -

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## Football's new home

March 27 was a landmark day for football fans in Phuket. At 3pm, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop presided over the opening ceremony of the all new Thailand Division Two Regional Football League, as well as the first ever match for the newly formed Phuket Football Club.

The new league is the brainchild of the Football Association of Thailand and is part of a bigger plan to develop the game nationwide, with a view to helping the national side qualify for future World Cup competitions.

The ill-conceived mid-afternoon kick off time – scheduled to suit NBT's live coverage – had a predictably negative impact on spectator turnout, but those who did attend provided a vociferous demonstration of the new league's potential.

European and South American football is so successful because of the tribal nature of fans, with supporters fiercely proud and protective of their teams. It is this innate passion that makes the game so successful there. With the new league being provincially based, it too has the potential to generate similar partisan loyalties, a feature that will ultimately be key to its success.

Phuket has expressed a desire to market itself as Thailand's new home of football, following the successful staging of the Suzuki and King's Cups in 2008, which saw Peter Reid's side play a number of matches on the island.

Phuket now has the opportunity to make this a reality. With so many people on the island, both local and expatriate, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that a successful Phuket FC could play in front of capacity crowds of 16,000.

The powers that be need to ensure, however, that they schedule matches at a sensible hour of the day, preferably weekends, and not at the whimsical time of 3pm on a Friday afternoon. What's more, Phuket FC officials must make a concerted effort to promote the team's home matches, bringing them to the attention of the public, including the expat community and tourists.

A full house of screaming supporters for each home fixture would give Phuket FC a distinct advantage over the seven other teams competing in the regional league, and the combined passion of Thai and foreign supporters could produce an atmosphere the equal of any in South East Asia.

Consistently large crowds would also go a long way to convincing the Football Association of Thailand that Phuket is ready to compete with Bangkok as a location of choice for the Thailand national team.

The ball is firmly in the court of the authorities and the *Gazette* hopes that they make the most of the opportunity.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

In association with **The Nation** Multimedia Group PCL

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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.

### Kata streets blocked

Tuk-tuks have recently marked off and now permanently park in the northernmost business section of Kata.

This has effectively turned the two lane street from Karon Beach to Kata into a single lane. The street is no longer wide enough for even two small cars to pass.

Why has this been allowed?

I know the drivers need to make a living, so as a suggestion, why not use a call-up process from a stand, like other crowded areas such as airports and some locations in Bangkok.

Tourists could pay a small Bt10 or Bt15 fee for the service, thus adding needed jobs to Phuket while at the same time enhancing Kata's appearance and making the road safer for everyone.

Street Wise  
Phuket

### Rip-off taxis

The transport system in Patong has just got a lot worse. Last month, my family was here on holiday and motorbike taxis along the beach road and main areas of Patong were demanding 100 baht fare to go anywhere in Patong including very short distances.

Any attempt to barter the taxi drivers was met with blunt refusal.

This is just a blatant rip off and another example of taxis taking advantage of tourists as much as possible.

Arthur Fletcher  
Patong

### April Fooled

The *Gazette* received a flood of letters after publishing online the story, "More noise promised for beaches", on April 1. Many readers were shocked at Mr Boonterd's idea of Tsunami towers being used to broadcast advertisements at 121 decibels (the same dB level as that of a jet engine). Mr Boonterd is not a real person and the story was of course an April Fools' Day joke. Below are a handful of the letters we received. Full names have been withheld to protect the gullible.

What a joke! Just what you need, more irritation to tourists who come here for peace and quiet. A nice day on the beach is now turned into an event to promote businesses that won't get any business anyway.

Robert  
Phuket

Constantly having to refuse pushy beach vendors is bad enough without this new assault on tourists looking for a peaceful beach experience. Go ahead with this and it will put a nail in the coffin of Phuket tourism, without a doubt.

Ken  
Phuket

Do the people who have these ideas have any idea about tourism?

I am involved in the tourist industry and we have to follow rules regarding noise levels. The decibel rating from these towers would probably be well above these levels.

Are they trying to get rid of tourists in Phuket, or is it all about money [for the government]?

We all want more tourists here, not fewer.

John  
Phuket

### Can't fool us

Well done, you nearly got me. I am just having breakfast in Hong Kong and checking our mail.

Being the owner of a villa that looks over the beach at Kata Noi, we nearly decided to sell it after reading your very believable April Fools' story.

The only trouble is you may have set a hare running!

John & Lorraine Richardson  
London / Hong Kong

Nice one. Gave me a good laugh. Keep up the good work there guys. A good April Fools' Day story is always appreciated.

Glen Myle  
Managing Director  
Two Black Sheep

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



# Losing my traditions



## FIRST PERSON

Boonchuey "Nun" Varee is a leader of the Moken sea gypsy community at Baan Hin Look Diew in tambon Mai Khao, a coastal community on Phuket's west coast that was partially destroyed by the 2004 tsunami disaster. After meeting with Minister of Culture Teera Slukpetch during his fact-finding mission to five sea gypsy communities in Phuket on March 27, Mr Boonchuey spoke to the *Gazette* about the problems facing his community.

Our village, which numbers about 50 dwellings, is currently home to 201 people, all of them Mokens. My grandfather told me that our people used to live on the coast of Phang Nga, but migrated down here during World War Two to escape a cholera epidemic.

In the past, Baan Hin Look Diew was an isolated seaside village in a mangrove forest, with virgin woodland behind it. We had no contact with outsiders.

As my parent's generation started to grow up, the village began to change. Contact with outsiders became more commonplace. My parents were the first to have a chance to study at primary school level at the Ban Tah Chat Chai School. As a result, my parents learned to speak Thai and were able to communicate and interact with Thai people. They were also granted Thai citizenship and issued Thai national ID cards.

I am a member of the sixth generation of Moken to inhabit this village, which continues to change. Many people are giving up our traditional way of life as

fishermen and getting jobs that pay cash. Some 20 to 30 people in our village have jobs with the Phuket Provincial Highway Office, while others work in the private sector.

About half of the people in this village still insist on earning their living through fishing, but the ratio continues to decline due to the high cost of fuel and fishing equipment.

About five homes were destroyed in the December 2004 tsunami. We lost a lot of boats and fishing equipment as well. Fortunately, we all survived those huge waves. Private charitable foundations like World Vision and Baan Thai foundations helped us rebuild our homes and obtain new fishing equipment.

As for people of my generation, about 70% can speak both Moken and Thai. I speak Moken to my mother, but Thai to my son who just began primary school and cannot speak Moken. Nor has he learned the Moken methods of catching fish that were passed down for generations. He doesn't know how to read tidal conditions, predict wind patterns and other skills vital to working

at sea. He can only identify a few species of fish.

I am afraid some of our cultural traditions, such as *nawn haad* (literally, "sleeping on the beach"), will be impacted by the appearance of so many new hotels in Mai Khao. I fear we will be prohibited from keeping this ancient tradition upon beachfront areas after new resorts are built there. I know of two or three new hotel projects slated for Mai Khao Beach.

*Nawn haad* is an important tradition for the Moken people that commences with the full moon of the third lunar month each year. Mokens from my village and others from Phang Nga initiated this ceremony long ago as a way of paying respect to our ancestors. We build temporary shelters made from bamboo, cover them with coconut leaves and stay in them for three nights, during which time we have singing, dancing and cultural ceremonies. I fear the hotel owners will view this long-standing tradition as a noisy disturbance for their guests.

Former Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan visited the spot

on the beach where we hold this annual event and suggested we plant a row of trees to protect the area, reserving it for our Moken traditions before it is monopolized by new resorts.

Another thing I worry about is our Moken cemetery, located off Thepkasattri Road in Mai Khao. The cemetery was used by the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification center to store bodies after the disaster.

This cemetery dates back to the time our village was set up. It used to cover 60 rai, but now there is only 30 rai left because some capitalist presented SorKor-1 with some documents and claimed possession of the land. Also, we only have an agreement from a former Thalung district chief that we are allowed to use the land where our cemetery is located but I have never seen any official document confirming this.

We Moken people fear that we will lose our burial ground in the future, especially if the Royal Thai Police goes ahead with a reported plan to move Police Region 8 headquarters to the area and build many new facilities.

We do not have any government documents confirming our rights to occupy the land where Baan Hin Look Diew is located. The Royal Forest Department allows us to live here under the condition that we preserve the mangrove forest that surrounds the village. They said that they would assess the state of the mangroves in five years time and let us continue to live here if they have not been damaged.

The five year period is almost up, and the mangroves are still in good condition. We hope the government will go ahead and officially recognize the land that we and our ancestors have lived on for six generations.

When the Moken are officially given ownership of the land we will be eligible to approach the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization with regard to providing us with a water supply and electricity, which will develop our community and improve our lives. We also look forward to the construction of a cultural center to help preserve our traditions and let tourists learn about our way of life.

## Is my neighbor's pet peacock legal?

A neighbor of mine has recently built a metal cage for his pet – an adult peacock. This large bird squawks every morning and evening and has now started squawking at 4am, just 10 meters from my bedroom, waking me with a start. The bird seems very unhappy in its cramped cage and I would like to know if it is legal to own an animal like this and whether there are any laws to protect my right to a good night's sleep.

Pierre Mulligan,  
Chalong

**Ms Unchisa Pinthong, Chief Administrative Assistant at Phuket City Hall, replies:**

Everyone who owns a peacock must be able to present of-

ficial paper work. With regards to your night's sleep, the first thing you should do is go to the complaints section on the third floor of Phuket City Hall office in Phuket City and fill out a letter of complaint. An officer will ask you for more information about the problem and then after two or three days will go to talk to the peacock's owner. If you still have a problem, please contact Phuket City Hall and an officer will come back a second time.

For more information please contact: Pshuket City Hall, 52/1 Narison Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket. 83000 T: 076-212196, 076-213551, F: 076-213374. E: office@phuketcity.go.th W: www.phuketcity.go.th

## 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](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## Can someone help me with a snake infestation?

Due to all the construction in Kathu there has been an alarming rise in the number of snakes (particularly cobras) in the residential areas.

Are there any suggestions on the best way to get them removed and who stores anti-venom serum?

Greg Brennan,  
Kathu

**Mr Samart Likhitwattananukul, Head of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Section, Kathu Municipality replies:**

The best thing you can do is call the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Section at Kathu

Municipality or come in and speak to a member of our staff.

Once aware of the problem, they will go and collect the snakes.

They have all the tools and the training required to capture them, so we recommend that you leave it to them and don't try to tackle the problem yourself.

In the event of being bitten, call for an ambulance or head to a hospital. Every hospital in Phuket stocks anti-venom.

For more information contact Kathu Municipality, 12 Moo 2, Wichitsongkram Road, tambon, Kathu, Amphur Kathu, Phuket, 83120 Tel: 076-323892, 076-323558, Fax: 076-322129.



## Horoscopes

Isla Star

## An unforgettable year lies ahead for birthday Arians

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The sun shines on your efforts to succeed in business and an air sign's mistake could prove to be your gain during the first part of April. Where romance is concerned, star-crossed lovers will be given another chance to make a relationship work. Cupid is on your side until the middle of this month. If your birthday is due this week, the year ahead will be one to remember for positive reasons.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Good things come in threes this week for Taureans – one will certainly involve monetary gain, but the other two will probably have a positive effect on your emotional well-being. Those who thought they weren't ready for hot romance will have reason to think twice when Scorpio expresses an interest. Travel is well-starred during April and a spontaneous trip is forecast to open your eyes to new possibilities. Wearing purple improves your focus.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Geminis who are starting to wilt in the heat will benefit from a calm weekend at home. Your energy during April is forecast to be affected by emotional ups and downs, but making meditation a regular part of your daily routine can smooth the path. Someone born under the sign of Taurus has some words of wisdom that will open your eyes to unusual possibilities. The number four can be lucky on Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): An earth sign friend fires up your imagination this weekend and many of those born under the sign of Cancer won't want to delay starting a new project. The stars suggest that mid-April is an auspicious time for signing agreements; committing to big responsibilities before then could be a costly mistake. This Sunday, make a wish upon the first star that you see in the sky and a personal dream could come true.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Leos are advised to play a slow and steady game until the middle of April. Another fire sign is predicted to try and persuade you to join them in a venture that is unlikely to succeed, but careful consideration should help you avoid this pitfall. If romance has been thin on the ground recently, meeting a lonely Libran this weekend should cheer you up. The number seven can bring good fortune late next week.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): A water sign friend is forecast to enable you to take a trip that otherwise would be out of your financial picture. Virgoans who have been swamped by work lately should take advantage of this opportunity, even if it means delegating some responsibilities. Those who are seeking new accommodation could soon be considering a move that was previously unattractive. Your best day for romance is Wednesday when your magnetism should be irresistible.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Your self-confidence peaks during April and challenges that seemed far beyond your reach earlier in the year now become tangible. Where work is concerned, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain by asking for promotion. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to schedule interviews for. Although money matters are well-starred at present, resist lending cash to friends unless you're prepared to cancel the possibility of repayment.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Even if you're not riding on the crest of a wave this month, life is set to slowly look up for those born under the sign of Scorpio. An event this week encourages you to develop a more positive perspective and at least one problem will disappear. Overdue communication from abroad should arrive by the middle

of April – if this relates to a financial matter, there will still be unanswered questions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians who are tiring of waiting in the shadows for someone to notice their presence are advised to make a move this week. Even if the reaction is less than you had hoped for, it would be better to know where you stand. At work, the atmosphere becomes heated midweek when false accusations start to fly around. Taking sides is not recommended. The number eight can bring some good fortune next Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): As work pressures ease, the stars suggest that Capricorns will be taking a vacation during April. The details will probably be out of your hands as a partner or close friend is forecast to be the one making arrangements. Although this could compromise your preference for being in control, it is also an ideal opportunity to develop more trust. Those who are single are likely to encounter a tempting Taurean this weekend.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Your airy attitude towards issues that are serious for others could cause disagreements during the first half of April. If this is relevant to a romantic relationship, Aquarians are strongly advised to listen to their partner's point of view. Sunday is the best day for a heart to heart discussion. A business arrangement is likely to become complicated when a third party wants to get involved. Your lucky number this week is four.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Those born under the sign of Pisces are advised to lighten up during April. Your serious outlook on life is starting to grate on others' nerves. Accepting an invitation to have some fun in the sun this weekend will do wonders for your mood. Romance could start to grow in an unlikely situation, but Cupid is ready to give this liaison support. Wear a piece of sea green stone to encourage relaxation.

## A Dog Named Frank



In the excitement over the election of Barack Obama as president of the United States and the current economic meltdown, one vital issue has been pushed to the back burner: the choice of 'First Dog'.

In his victory speech, Obama confirmed a promise he had made to his two daughters Malia and Sasha, that he would buy them a new puppy to take to the White House. History will record that this was his first major decision as president-elect.

In a subsequent press conference, he qualified his decision by saying that the lucky puppy would most likely come from an animal-rescue shelter, so would probably be a "mutt" (a mongrel, or mixed-breed dog).

At the time of writing, the Obamas have yet to make their final choice.

As a dog person, I have some suggestions that may help them. I offer these suggestions free of charge, and disclaim any ambitions for a cabinet-level position, although I must confess that the title 'Secretary of Dogs' has a grand and lofty ring that I find appealing.

With regard to choosing a mutt, I have good news for the First Family. In my youth, my family owned several dogs, and the experience led to a remarkable conclusion.

Thoroughbred dogs tend to be stupid or highly-strung. If you want a smart dog, an affectionate dog, a dog who will be a faithful companion in happy romps through wooded glens (or on the White House lawn), you want a mutt.

For children, you want a medium-sized dog. A big one, like a German Shepherd, Great Dane, or St Bernard, will be too hard for them to handle.

A small one, like a chihuahua, toy poodle, or shih tzu, is likely to be nervous, highly-strung, and 'yappy'.

For children, you want a medium-sized dog. The best dogs my family ever had were two medium-sized mutts – both half beagle and half cocker spaniel. I highly recommend this particular combination to the Obamas.

Now we come to the question of what to name the First Dog, also known as the 'Prime Pup' or the 'Chief Canine'.

The Obamas have to be careful about this, because any name they choose will be closely scrutinized for political implications by pundits throughout the world. I suggest the name

"Change". This seems an odd name for a dog, but there are solid reasons behind it.

"Change" is a gender-neutral name, suitable for either a male or a female dog. Obama's whole campaign was based on the idea of change.

Change got the Obamas into the White House, and Change will follow them there. People want change (the good kind, not the bad kind), and when Sasha and Malia call, "Here, Change, come here!", Change will come.

If Obama's programs are slow to bear fruit, stropky journalists are bound to ask him, "Where's that change you promised us?" He'll say, "Change is right here!", and his lovely dog will jump into his arms.

Whoops, a news flash has just interrupted my work on this masterpiece: The Obamas are now leaning toward a Portuguese water dog, and the First Lady is grumbling that her daughters favor names like Frank and Moose.

Well. What happened to the idea of a mutt? As an American, I find the choice of a Portuguese water dog as our 'Pre-eminent Pooch' vaguely unpatriotic, although not as subversive as a Russian wolfhound.

But I have to say that if going to that fancy private school has taught Sasha and Malia to favor names like Frank and Moose, the Obamas need to rethink their daughters' education.

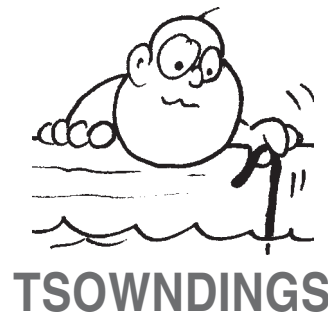
A Portuguese water dog (I thought that was a kind of jellyfish) requires a change of name from Change. Now we need a Portuguese name associated with water.

Vasco da Gama was a famous Portuguese seafaring explorer around the time of Columbus and Magellan. Fuse his last name into Dagama, and we get the splendid name Dagama Obama.

That's just right for a Portuguese water dog. It would also be a great name for a rock band. Whenever he came bounding into the room, visiting heads of state would cry out, "You da dog, Dag!"

You sure wouldn't want to call him Frank. Frank Obama sounds like the name of a member of the Mafia.

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



By S. TSOW

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# With fronds like these...

## LETTER FROM KOH LANTA By Duane Lennie

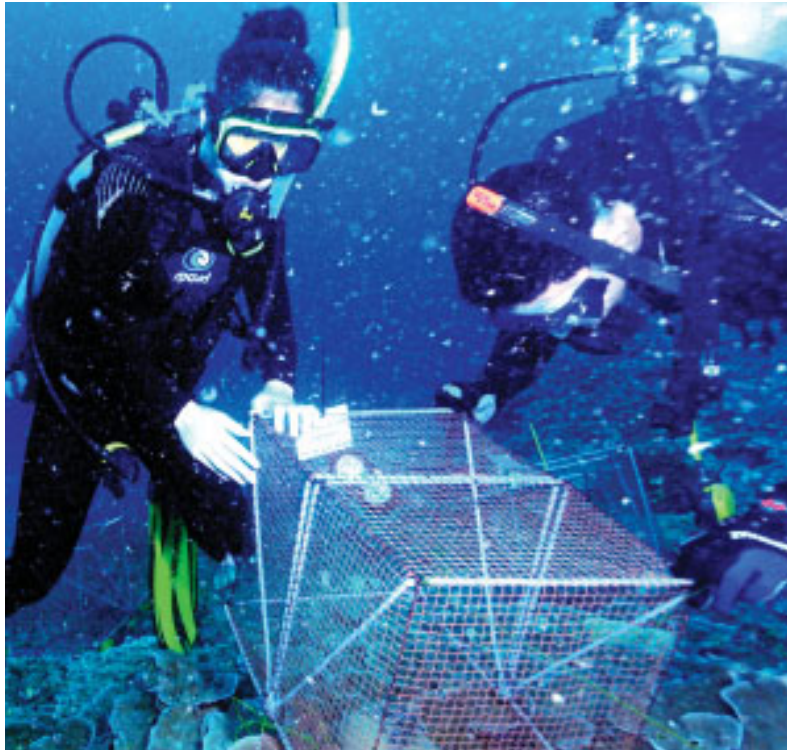
**T**he Tiyaphorn family, who are behind the Pimalai Resort and Spa – Koh Lanta's only official 5-star resort – gathered staff, friends and guests for the sixth annual Clownfish Release Day on March 21 at Koh Ha – one of the island's main dive locations.

Under the direction of Dr Thorn Thamrongnawasawadi, Thailand's leading marine scientist, and his Kasetsart University marine biology students, the Pimalai dive boat headed out in the morning with an eager crew of volunteers and the 200 little 'Nemos' they planned to release to highlight the need for marine conservation in the area.

Clown-fish, the bright and beautiful creatures that were made popular in the 2003 movie *Finding Nemo*, coexist with anemones. Clownfish feed on undigested matter, which harms the sea anemone, and also provide nutrients to them. In exchange, clownfish get food and a protective home from the anemone.

This symbiotic relationship means that any program to replenish clownfish stocks in their natural habitat is, for the most part, a very challenging prospect. According to Anurat Tiyaphorn, the project's leader, that's the message they're trying to spread.

"People could certainly look at the success rate of our program and ask 'why are you doing this?'," said Anurat. "What we're trying to do is show how difficult it is to restock these fish in their natural environment after they've been taken away and sold as pets for 10 baht each," he



The project has experimented with cages, placing them over the anemones as a way to protect the clownfish until they adapt to their new environment.

added. The program has slowly evolved since its first year, when they released 1,000 infant clownfish, only to have them tragically devoured by larger fish in the area. In the second year, they used more mature clown-fish in the hope they would be more resilient, but again watched larger predators lunching on their poor 'Nemos'.

They realized the task ahead of them was not as simple as merely releasing the clownfish into the wild, and the project became more scientific when Kasetsart University marine biologist student Kullawit Limchularat began his thesis on creating new methods for reintroducing clownfish into this region.

In the third and fourth year, the project experimented with cages, placing them over the anemones as a way to protect the clownfish until they adapted to

their new environment. They started seeing moderate results, and after some more modifications to the netting on the cages, the group reported a survival rate of around 15% last year, with some of the transplanted clownfish reproducing.

"We've learned a great deal from this process and about the unique relationship between clownfish and anemones", says Kullawit. "For instance, even if we are successful in introducing a clownfish to a potential anemone, they often don't like each other and the relationship isn't successful."

Hand placing four clownfish in each of the fifty nets on the sides of an underwater mountain is no easy task, but Pimalai Resort and Spa and the Tiyaphorn family are again leading by example in Koh Lanta, trying to make this island paradise a more eco-aware destination.

## Swedish controversy won't go away

Lanta Letters has written several times in the past about the apparent exploitation of 12-year-old Thai boy Kay Sayluu by a Swedish publishing company, partially funded by Swedish state grants. The relationship between Kay and LL Forlaget Publishing began shortly after the 2004 tsunami when Kay's family house and two longtail boats were smashed by the wave.

Swedish author Johanna Starkenberg-Frojd and photographer Anna Rehnberg arrived on the island looking for a real life survivor's story and believed Kay, and to a lesser extent his family, to be perfect subjects. A subsequent Swedish-language book entitled *Kay from Koh Lanta* was published and currently sells online for 96 Swedish krona (387 baht).

The family never signed an official release form granting permission to publish Kay's story, but trusted that the benefits would eventually flow back to them. The publisher promised Kay a trip to Sweden, which never materialized, but the family assumed a small amount of the books' proceeds would be forthcoming to help jumpstart Kay's education.

Locals helping the family continue to send messages to the company to resolve the issue but have received no response, while the Swedish Embassy in Thailand declines to comment on the story. Local residents will not let the issue rest because they say it is only right that the publishers honor their promise, proving they are not deliberately manipulating tsunami victims for financial gain.

## Laanta Lanta Festival hailed a success

Mark your calendar for next year's Laanta Lanta Festival in March and enjoy one of Thailand's most diverse cultural extravaganzas. For three days, the streets, and parks of Lanta Old Town are filled with a truly amazing mix of cultures for one of the biggest parties in Southern Thailand.



Duane Lennie is an eight-year resident of Koh Lanta who operates Ko Lanta's oldest travel website, [www.kolanta.net](http://www.kolanta.net). He is also general manager of the Indigo Real Estate Krabi office, located on Ko Lanta. Contact him at [duane@kolanta.net](mailto:duane@kolanta.net), [www.indigokrabi.com](http://www.indigokrabi.com)



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# Phuket FC defeated in opening fixture of new Thailand regional league



The Phuket team will be competing in Division 2 of the national league this season.

A team representing Phuket played host to Satun at the Surakul Stadium on March 27 in its first ever fixture in the Thailand Regional League. The Phuket team was formed following the success of the Thailand national side's matches in Phuket and will be competing in Division 2 of the league this season.

The game kicked off at 3pm in the afternoon, which might go

some way towards explaining the disappointing turn-out from the home supporters. The small but vociferous group of fans who had made the trip from Satun were in fine form and were rewarded when their side took an early lead with a well struck shot from the edge of the box.

Phuket looked like a team playing their first ever competitive game and were lucky not to go two goals down as they con-

sistently gifted possession to the opposition.

However, despite their inauspicious start, Phuket rallied, and with play-maker Japan pulling the strings, they started to dominate the game. They snatched a deserved equalizer when the Satun keeper spilled a straightforward cross at the feet of a grateful Japan, who lobbed the ball into the empty net.

Phuket went in at half-time



The second half was one-way traffic with the Phuket defence being repeatedly overrun by Satun's free-flowing brand of attacking football.

brimming with confidence and must have been dreaming of a debut victory. However, it was not to be, as the more experienced Satun side dominated the second half from start to finish. An early goal for the visitors made it 2-1. Phuket then missed a very presentable chance to equalize, but after that it was one-way traffic with the Phuket defence being repeatedly overrun by Satun's free-flowing brand of attacking football.

Phuket pushed forward in hope of an equalizer but were repeatedly exposed by Satun on the counter attack and conceded two more goals before the final whistle.

Despite the disappointing result, Phuket will take heart from some intermittent spells of good quality football and in particular the performance of Japan, who promises to be one of the league's outstanding performers.

-James Goyder

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## Karon mini-marathon



Runners at the Karon mini-marathon in the early hours of March 29. The 10.5-kilometer course started and finished in Karon park and went all the way around the resorts of Kata and Karon.



# Laguna Beach Tennis Classic attracts players around the region



People had traveled from as far afield as Haad Yai to compete in the tournament and the standard of tennis on display was impressive.



Tournament organizer Lorenzo Marcuzzi believes that tennis in Phuket is very much on the rise.

Players from all over the South of Thailand gathered in Phuket recently for the Laguna Beach Tennis Classic. The two-day event took place over the weekend of March 29-30. There were 90 players in total, made up of 45 doubles pairings, competing in three different categories.

There was a hotel workers competition, open only to players working in the hotel industry; an over 80s competition and an over 100s competition.

Disappointingly – or perhaps reassuringly – the last two categories were not for individual players of this age but rather for pairings whose combined age did

not exceed the designated total.

The participants were predominantly Thai, although there was a smattering of foreign competitors, including tournament organizer Lorenzo Marcuzzi.

Mr Marcuzzi believes that tennis in Phuket is very much on the rise. “It is the second most popular sport in the world and is growing in Phuket with a lot of players here now,” he said.

“The problem in Phuket is that there are not enough courts, so it is difficult to organize and run events. This is the only indoor court on the whole island,” he added. The tournament started off with a round-robin competition with each of the three cat-

egories divided into two groups. The pairings in each group played one another, with the first team to win eight games being declared the winner.

The top two pairings from each group then faced off in a final, which was contested over two sets with a tie-breaker if the score was still even after the second set.

People had traveled from as far afield as Haad Yai to compete in the tournament and the standard of tennis on display was impressive. Despite intermittent rainfall, the tournament was concluded, on schedule, by the end of the weekend.

-James Goyder

## The winners

### Hotel staff men's category

**Winner:** Dumri Thowong and Panumart Thaptong.

**Runner up:** Jirapong Amornmardsadit and Suwit Kuruwong.

### Men's over 80s category

**Winner:** Worawuth Wuthtikornpan and Tongchai Jongkawinit.

**Runner up:** Somsak Samart and Danai Wuthtikornpan.

### Men's over 100s category

**Winner:** Worawuth Wuthtikornpan and Thammasak Thanpradit.

**Runner up:** Nikorn Intramunee and Ma-mop Singsuth.

## BIS swim success at 2009 Singapore Championships

Three students from The British International School (BIS) traveled to Singapore to take part in the Singapore National Age Group Championships from March 13 to 16. Siblings Bianca (year nine) and Marcus Goetz (year six) competed for national ranking positions and Andy Heinz – also in year six – participated as a BIS ‘Flying Fish’ guest swimmer from Thailand.

After completing a grueling “Phelps-esque” schedule, Andy Heinz returned to Phuket with two golds, a silver and a bronze, as well as six personal bests (PBs) from his eight events. His first place finishes came in the 200m and 400m freestyle, and he added a silver and a bronze in the 200m and 100m butterfly respectively, recording PBs in each event. His other two PBs came in the 50m and 100m freestyle.

Bianca Goetz also headed back to Phuket with silverware, scooping two silver medals and a

bronze. Her two second-place finishes came in the 400m and 800m freestyle – both in personal best times. Bianca will now represent Singapore at the South East Asian Age Group Championships in Kuala Lumpur – with one eye on the Asian Age Group Championships in Tokyo this Au-

gust – by virtue of her performances in the 13-14 age category.

Marcus Goetz, competing in the 10 years-old age group, came home empty-handed, but will have been pleased to have registered PBs in three of his six races and recorded fifth place finishes in the 100m and 200m freestyle.



Siblings Bianca and Marcus Goetz competed for national ranking position, while Andy Heinz participated as a BIS ‘Flying Fish’ guest swimmer from Thailand.

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## Decor

## Vietnamese pots

# Going to pot

**H**ave you ever noticed that there seem to be pots all over the place and yet, whenever you are on the hunt for a particular one for your home or garden, you can never quite find what you are looking for? Within the overall context of decoration, pots are often something of an afterthought, rarely commanding much attention in the design planning process. Yet, as is so often the case when it comes to interior design, the difference is in the details and in this respect, the careful selection and location of pots can make a telling contribution to a room's overall aesthetic. Moreover, the right pot can make all the difference when seeking to highlight the beauty of a particular plant or shrub.

This week we look at Vietnamese pots. Why Vietnamese? Mark Hailey, from Indochina Ceramics explains that his clients prefer Vietnamese pots as they are quite different in design to those from Chiang Mai or Burma, for example, and are particularly suited to the modern tropical and Balinese designs of many of the new villa and apartment projects sprouting up all over the island.

Around six years ago, Mark and his wife visited Vietnam on the recommendation of a friend and were so impressed with the quality and professionalism of the craftsmanship in the factories that they decided to set up a business, selling Vietnamese products here in Thailand. *To see more of what Indochina Ceramics has to offer, you can visit their display at the gate of Laguna or contact Mark Hailey at T: 081-895 3215.*



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## Going Green

By Dr Salvatore Consentino

# Renewable energy: a gift of nature

**T**he purpose of this new regular column is to provide current and independent information about technology that uses renewable energy or that is targeted at energy conservation. We will leave aside systems that require large capital investment, as well as controversial technologies that have yet to be proved effective or free from harmful effects on the environment. We will explore the physical phenomena that provide energy or contribute to energy saving. We will also look at the practical application of this technology for small- and medium-scale projects, and we will examine funding schemes that allow us to take advantage of renewable energy and energy conservation technology. Finally, we will offer comparisons in terms of efficiency between the various energy producing and saving technologies.

Signed on December 11 1997 by more than 160 countries, the Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty about the environment and global warming. The treaty came into effect on February 16 2005, following ratification by Russia.

Thailand is among those countries listed as 'Non-annex countries'. This effectively means that Thailand is not bound by the treaty's carbon dioxide reduction targets but is part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), established under the Kyoto Protocol.

Through the CDM, industri-

alized countries with an obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can instead invest in projects that reduce emissions in developing countries.

This paves the way for a number of privileges for those who use renewable energy in Thailand, such as:

- The production and sale of energy (Power Purchasing Agreement)
- The right to receive 'carbon credits'
- The right to access capital from the Thai Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund.

In other words, any citizen has the right to produce energy and sell it on to the relevant agency (such as the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) or the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA)).

For each kilowatt hour of clean energy we produce by renewable means (sun, wind, waves), we prevent approximately 53g of carbon dioxide from being expelled into the atmosphere.

The producer can thus acquire the right to be paid in the form of 'carbon credits'.



The Thai Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund became operational in 1993.

The fund was established to stimulate financial sector involvement in energy efficiency projects and to simplify project evaluation and financing procedures.

The fund provides capital at no cost to Thai banks, which in turn provide low cost loans to fund renewable energy projects. The fund itself comes from a tax levied on each liter of petrol sold in Thailand.

Currently, there is more than

14 billion baht waiting to be allocated to proponents of renewable energy initiatives.

Although the Thai government finds the financing model very attractive, we should point to some negative aspects of the model, including a lack of information available to the beneficiaries (the people) as well as to the operators in the banks.

It is hoped that over the coming weeks and months this column will help shed more light on these issues, making the use of clean energy a more straightforward and transparent process.



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# One flew over the cuckoo's nest

*A robin redbreast in a cage  
Puts all heaven in a rage*

William Blake

One of the benefits of a garden is that it attracts wildlife and especially butterflies and birds. I was expecting a few butterflies since I had planted sweetly scented shrubs such as buddleia (widely known as the butterfly bush) and fiddlewood [*citharexylum spinosum*], which I had been wrongly told in a nursery was a buddleia.

Birds were more of an unknown quantity; we would have to wait and see if they took a fancy to the place. But come they have. By January, three different varieties of bird had decided to call it home.

Four feet beyond the kitchen door is a bright green, densely foliated tree whose small leaves, like so many in Thailand, are used to flavor dishes. There is a pair of yellow-vented bulbuls [*pycnonotus goiavier*] – and I mean a pair, for they are inseparable – who have fashioned a nest from dried grass stems, and laid two mottled brown eggs.

It is odd that birds choose to rear their young so close to human habitation, though robins do so notoriously in England; indeed, I worry about them deserting the nest, since whenever I go near, the sitting bird flies off uttering plaintive cries of 'tchik tchik'. So far, they are braving it out.

Less fortunate is its relative, the red-whiskered bulbul [*pycnonotus jocosus*] which, confined in small wicker cages, is a common sight outside Phuket homes. It is a distinctive bird, with a white breast, a black crest and a splash of red on head and tail. However, it is not primarily sought after for its looks, but because it is the prince of eastern songsters. That its name in Turkish means 'night-

ingale' suggests that it may have been confused in Arabic literature with the nightingale, a bird so revered in eighteenth century England that it is the subject of literally hundreds of poems. But it is the Asian bulbul's liquid and varied trilling that is so appealing to Thai ears, so appealing that regular singing competitions are held up and down the island.

Every Saturday in Nabon, for example, a path next to a shop selling cages becomes a mecca for bulbul owners; here up to 30 caged birds motor-biked in by their proud owners are suspended in rows from an overhead frame (see photograph).

Bulbul competitions are a serious business: some owners conceal the birds inside their colorful covers until the last moment, others gently hose down the cages to

cool them after the dusty road trip. Judges listen to each bird, and gradually eliminate them from contention until one is declared the winner.

Unsurprisingly, top warblers change hands for thousands of baht.

Another bird with a quite different set of skills has also arrived in the last few weeks – a dark-necked tailor-bird [*orthotomus atrogularis*]. It is an insignificant bird which 'skulks', a reference to its habit of peeking out from behind favorite hiding places.

It is nesting in a broad-leaved shrub I know only by its Latin name of *Anthurium Digitatum*. The leaves of *Anthurium* radiate out like spokes from a central stemlet: this structure has enabled this tiny bird to shape the leaves into a cup by stitching their edges together with fibers from a kapok tree. It has then lined this narrow cup with

Bulbul singing competition



Yellow-vented bulbul



Spotted dove chicks



soft bedding material. I had seen the substantial constructions of weaver birds in Africa: indeed the baya weaver is fairly widespread in Thailand. But this nest is woven with a delicacy I would not have thought possible. A real work of art.

Doves are less fastidious nest-builders. Last week, a pair were perched on the overhead cables outside the garden. 'Cuckoo birds' said my Thai partner. And indeed I understand why. Their two note 'woo-croo' is not unlike the vocal signature of a bird familiar to most of us from Europe. As an ancient English poem exhorts the

reader: "Summer is a comin' in / Ludely sing 'cuc-koo'". To compound the confusion, there is in fact a barred cuc-koo dove that breeds up in Chaing Mai.

Happily, the spotted dove is common throughout Thailand. This is true despite it being prized, here as everywhere, as a tasty dish.

I stopped watering to watch the doves on the wires. After a while, one of them flew into my pseudoacacia tree. Within its crown, squatting on a rough raft of sticks laid across a flat piece of trunk, were two chicks, pink mouths agape, waiting to be fed.

I note today that the fledglings have already joined their parents on the overhead cables. Safe for the moment.

*Dr Patrick Campbell taught English Literature at a London University, and as Visiting Professor at the Universities of British Columbia and Colorado. He led the first MA in Performing Arts in the UK. Author of five academic books and numerous published articles, he recently completed a novel. He lives in Saiyuan, Phuket.*

## Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

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# Leaking sink: what a drain!

The drain in my kitchen sink began leaking recently. Repairing it highlighted something that bears mentioning. When doing home repairs here, one often must attempt to correct work which had been done improperly the first time. Expect to find mismatched parts, improperly installed items, use of incorrect materials, and so on. Here, I found a drain pipe constructed of water main pieces.

The gasket, where the drain attached to the bottom of the sink, had rotted with age and crumbled down around the drain unit. This type of gasket is of 'folded' construction, like those around refrigerator doors. Photo 1 shows the rotted gasket, and also noticeable is the fact that the drain pipe is not 'plumb' (straight up and down), nor squarely matched to the drain body. The old, discolored white piece was just inserted into the too-large, gray piece, off-center, with no sealant. I purchased a new drain unit, (photo 2) for 85 baht, and a fresh tube of silicone sealant for 95 baht. The threaded cap on the drain unit's left side is for a vent hose which runs up to

the rear of the sink.

First, remove the center screw of the drain's face-plate and lift it out. Then, go under the sink and remove the vent hose (if your unit has one). Next, unscrew the base of the drain unit from the drain pipe, and lift off and out. Use steel wool to thoroughly clean the drain hole's rim, both on the inside of the sink and on the bottom of the sink as well. Coat both sides with silicone, running a thick bead and then smoothing it down with a cotton swab.

Clean the top of the trap's tube with a rag. If you're replacing the vent hose as well, remove the small bolt holding the vent fitting to the rear of the sink, and pull the fitting and hose down and out. Spread some silicone around the washer on the face of the new vent tube, and install with the new bolt provided. Since this drain

has no 'trap' tube, I just removed the threaded lower portion of the drain unit, coated both sides of that washer with silicone, and re-assembled it.

Now, this drain was unlike the proper sink drain which I installed in my bathroom last year, which has the long tube running

from the sink to the trap. This kitchen drain's bottom 'elbow' and the gray piece atop it, (both water main fittings, not actual drain pieces), were much closer to the sink, and PVC-glued (crookedly) in place, so, instead of re-engineering the whole drain pipe assembly, I chose to go with the pieces already installed.

First, I removed the face plate from the new drain unit, and after the drain was positioned with its bottom seated in the top of the gray PVC piece, I positioned the gasket, liberally coated on both sides with silicone, between the top of the drain unit and the bottom of the sink's drain hole. Then, the new face plate was installed inside the sink.

Important! Do not over-tighten the center screw, as folded-type gaskets are delicate, and must retain their shape to provide a watertight seal. Tighten the screw just enough that you can see the drain unit compress the washer slightly against the sink, but not enough that it distorts.

Photo 3 shows the silicone beading out from between the washer and the sink bottom before being swabbed smooth. It's the silicone that really seals the joint, not over-compressing the washer. Next, the vent tube's hose was attached to the side of the drain, and the other end attached to the rear of the sink.



Photo 3



Photo 1



Photo 2

Finally, the uneven gap between the bottom of the white drain body and the larger, gray PVC piece was smoothed and allowed to dry for several hours. Sealant overkill, perhaps, but it doesn't leak a drop.

That's it! You've fixed your sink! Have a beer! See you next time!

## When the going gets tough...

Given the recent trials and tribulations of the Phuket economy, those working in the real estate business could be forgiven for ducking for cover and waiting for happier times to come along.

The fall in tourist numbers to the island has severely impacted on the number of prospective clients who are coming to the island in search of their little piece of paradise.

While some in the industry are retrenching and licking their wounds, others, such as Andaman Real Estate's Kay McDonnell have decided to go on the offensive in the hunt for clients.

As part of this bold approach, Kay has teamed up with developers and other like-minded agents to launch "Property Center @ Jungceylon".

As Kay told the *Gazette*, "We all know there has been a considerable fall in tourist numbers in recent months leading to a general lack of inquiry. Tourists are the lifeblood of the luxury property market here in Phuket, and therefore to make sales we have to connect with those tourists."

The Property Center @ Jungceylon is combining resources with selected developers, backed by trained real-es-



The Property Center @ Jungceylon is combining resources with selected developers, backed by real-estate personnel, who in turn are supported by a full-time dedicated team of leafletiers, distributing some 60,000 leaflets per month, in and around the shopping mall.

tate personnel, who in turn are supported by a full-time dedicated team of leafletiers, distributing some 60,000 leaflets per month, in and around the shopping mall.

This is being done to ensure that those looking for property in Phuket have the opportunity to see the very best the island has to offer.

Kay is bringing all her experience in finding prospects, and applying them to the current market situation. She

promises, "If they are there, we will find them!"

"Some developers we have talked to are batten down the hatches and waiting for better times. We are taking the bull by the horns.

"We feel that for us, this is the way forward; we must go the extra mile to provide the service to those seeking their piece of paradise in the sun, which is what it has always been about. If we have to work harder to find them, so be it," she added.

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will apply

**BIG**  
**Promotion**

Show unit available

**TEL: 076-234555**



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### VILLA + LAND



for sale. Quick sale near Heroines monument, 12.9 million baht + clear land 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-690 7057.

### 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 087-895 3099 Thai.

### CHALONG HOUSE

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

### 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.

### 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

### FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



27sqm or 54sqm. 2 studio apartments, 200 meters from the pier. Price 480,000 baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



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

### LAND IN BANG JO

4 rai, nice flat land. Very good location suitable for luxury condominium or business development. Price 4.5 million baht per rai. For more information, please call 082-413 8677.

### MISSION HILLS GOLF

3 bedroom pool villa close to new int'l school, airport and Nai Yang Beach. Luxury finish and located in quiet area. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-893 4636. Email: info@phuketbedandbreakfast.com

### ON THE BEACH

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

### POOLSIDE APARTMENT

One-bedroom and two-bedroom poolside apartments for sale. Modern open plan design, underground parking, natural and quiet location in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. This is a small project consisting of only 3 units and a swimming pool. Now under construction. Contact Andy. Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### NEW CONDO FOR SALE

At Royal Place Project, opposite Tesco Lotus. 42sqm at corner, swimming pool view, fully furnished, will be completed in April, 2009. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### SALE OR RENT VILLA



Below market price (THB). Normally the villa can lease 300,000 to 350,000 monthly. But sacrificed due to poor global economy. It is the most expensive and most beautiful villa next to Loch Palm Golf Club. We would like to lease minimum 3 years with following conditions. First year annual 2.0m excluding management, utilities, any extra costs garden, swimming pool inc. 2nd year 2.5m and last 3rd year 3.0m. Must pay in advance each year. No other deposit required. Or sale 45m. Tel: 086-885 6885. For details, please email me your interests at queenmarines@gmail.com

### QUICK SALE

Thai-style home. Only 5.1 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near to Laguna. Tel: 087-893 8590.

### LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue-Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### HOUSE IN LAND & HOUSES

for sale. Chaityapruet house, 3 bedrooms, aircon, furniture, 60 sq wah. Tel: 084-627 7001.

### 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

### LAND NEAR BANG TAO BEACH

1.5 rai, Chanote title, 100 meters to Bang tao Beach. Asking price 20 million baht. Tel: 081-737 1687. Email: raisamail@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://railand.ru/phuketproperty/propertydetail\_112.asp

### 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 email: allservices29@gmail.com

### HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

### 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

### NICE PLOT

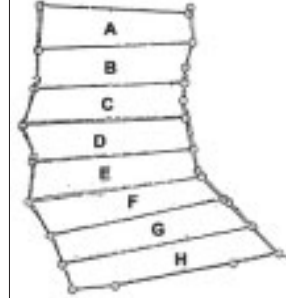
near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

### 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.

### VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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.

### BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW

90sq wah at Ao Por, overlooking Por bay and Jumeriah private island. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 086-204 7573.

### INEXPENSIVE LOTS

Chanote title lots, 700,000 to 1,200,000 baht. Near Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 086-942 1930.

### SURIN BEACH

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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### BEAUTIFUL LAND

for sale in Ao Nang. Close to beach with Chanote. 4.5 rai for 22 million baht (minimum purchase: 2 rai). Also available: 22 rai for 70 million baht (minimum purchase: 5 rai). Tel: 084-762 5293.

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# Property Gazette

## 2 APARTMENTS, YANUI BEACH



for sale. Near beautiful Yanui Beach, Rawai. Fully furnished, tropical setting, shared pool, maid service, on site management. Owner going home due to health problems. Price 1.8 & 3.1 million baht. Direct sale from owner. Tel: 087-386 8751.

## LOOKING FOR SEAVIEW LAND 1 RAI

We are looking for 1 rai in Patong with sea view. Max 14 million baht. Tel: 081-081 3810. Email: gm@clubbamboo.com

## LAND IN RAWAI

Between Chalong and Rawai. 2,788 sqm with Chanote title. For further details, mail or call for more details. Tel: 089-885 4517. Email: ruedi.kaufmann@gmx.ch

## 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.

## PEACEFUL SEAVIEW

1/2 rai, Chanote. Seaview, near waterfall, Mission golf, airport, pier of Ao Por. Road and electricity. 4.5 million baht. Very private and peaceful. Tel: 089-081 4913. Email: thureewan@gmail.com

## 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

## KARON VILLA, URGENT SALE

Forced sale: 3 bedroom pool /spa villa located at Karon Noi village, Karon Beach. Quiet location. Reduced price, from 13 million baht to 10.75 million baht. Available to selected buyer on 40% deposit with balance over 9 months. Or 9.6 million baht for walk-in, walk-out. Tel: 084-327 9642. Email: greggordon2006@yahoo.com.au

## HOUSE IN PATONG

Newly refurbished townhouse in the heart of Patong, located on a sought-after small and secure estate within walking distance of the Shopping Centre, beach, and Patong nightlife. Three bedrooms with large main bedroom, two bathrooms, Western and Thai kitchens, utility room/study, and spacious living and dining areas. Sale includes aircon, satellite TV, telephone, and access to communal swimming pool, sauna and gym. Great as a home or as a rental investment. Asking price: 6.4 million baht. Contact Phil. Tel: 087-267 9280. Email: philsk@ihug.co.nz

## 6 RAI, CHERNG TALAY, VIEWS

Prime hillside land, ideal for building on. Freehold. 5 million baht per rai. Call or mail for more details. Tel: 081-929 6976. Email: chemgtalay@gmail.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

## KHAO LAK HOUSE

Beautiful new private house: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 additional rooms, 4 aircons, 1 out house. Quiet area, only 4 mins to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 084-849 8699. Email: ursulaspd@gmx.net

## DOWN FROM 3.5 TO 2.4 MTB

Kata Beach house. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-840 5834. Email: harrykerylidis@yahoo.com.au

## NAIHARN CONDO

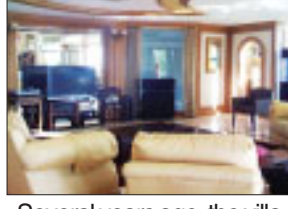
1.65 million baht, 40sqm, quiet 5-unit complex, built to European standards. Swimming pool, panoramic mountain view, 5 minutes from the beach, wireless internet. Tel: 086-596 9601.

## PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



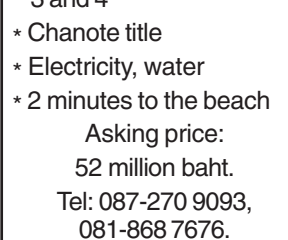
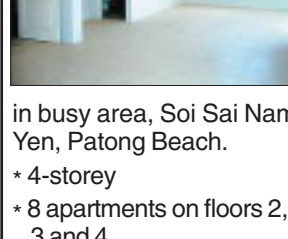
35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

## 50% OFF FOR SALE OR LONG LEASE



Several years ago, 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, where they sell a similar home for US\$12 million. The house has several bedrooms with antique furniture from Europe, marble and teakwood floors. One of the best in Phuket. 2,500sqm house with 1,800sqm 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 3m, 2nd year 17m 3rd year 20m 4th year 23m and 5th year 28m. Or sale for US\$12 million. Tel: 086-885 6885. Email: queenmarines@hotmail.com

## NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



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

- \* 4-storey
- \* 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
- \* Chanote title
- \* Electricity, water
- \* 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price:

52 million baht.

Tel: 087-270 9093,

081-868 7676.

## NEW HOME AND LAND

for sale in Rawai. 197sqm, 2 storeys, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Many extras. 39/35 Soi Mali. Quick sale price 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-270 6310.

## RAWAI TOWN HOME

100m from beach, 3 bedrooms, furnished, 230sqm. Communal pool. 2.8 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

## PHANG NHA LAND

21 rai of beachfront land, 10 minutes from Phuket bridge. Ideal for resort project. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-396 3784. Email: oligi10@hotmail.com

## 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

## TOWN HOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN

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

## HOUSE IN ANUPHUS GOLF VILLE

Private estate, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms with pool. Maid's room. Price 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-273 3975, 081-854 0061.

## 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 AT THE VALLEY KATHU

New fully furnished house for sale with custom made kitchen, separate wash-room, 2 bedrooms, living and nice outside covered area. Gorgeous garden in excellent location. 5 mins to Lotus and 10 mins to Central. Area approximately 38sqw, very good security. Contact Khun Fon at 086-952 1201. Email: marcus@legalthai.com

## 2 STOREY VILLA, LAYAN BEACH

Hardwood floors, 3 bathrooms. Wet bar, small plunge pool with waterfall. Private tropical garden. 6.7 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 086-267 0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

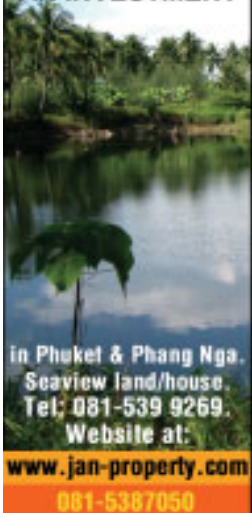
## HOUSE IN RAWAI

Best villas 1x600sqm and 1x220sqm. New in quality development near beach. Great investment, 1 million baht down 5 years finance, no interest, best deal ever. Must see, free pick up. Tel: 085-783 1890.

## SERVICE OFFICES

for sale with long lease. Total 400sqm, fully furnished, ready to move in. Best sea views in Patong, 500m from beach. Tel: 076-293061, 087-015 9206. Email: david@freedomleisuregroup.com

## LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT



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

The Gazette is always on top in Google!

## CAN'T SELL?

Prime land plots Nai Ham Beach. Exchange/part exchange condo, resort, villa. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

## Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



# Property Gazette

## LEELAVADEE POOL VILLA

MODERN THAI HOUSE WITH 25 SQM SWIMMING POOL, TERRACE, TROPICAL GARDEN, CARPORT, HOME SECURITY, 3 BEDROOMS, WESTERN AND THAI KITCHEN, LIVING AND DINING ROOMS AND 4 BATHROOMS WITHIN AIR-CONDITIONED SURROUNDINGS. THE HOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH CHANOTE TITLE DEEDS AND FREEHOLD TERMS. **PRICE 10.5 MTB**



**MANEE KRAM, KWANG RD.**  
TEL: 082-420 0249  
EMAIL: A.TU2.CORAZON@GMAIL.COM

## MUST SELL MOVING 12.5 MTB



5 mins to Kamala Beach, 4 bed, 5 bath plus 2 car garage. Studio apt above large pool. Western kitchen, furnished, UBC, WiFi. 370 m<sup>2</sup> home on 700 m<sup>2</sup> of land. Quality build inside-out. 12.5 million Thai baht. Tel: 084-850 0568.

## 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: allservices29@gmail.com

## COZY HOUSE SALE, CHANOTE



100sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, western kitchen, fully furnished with western facilities. 2 living rooms, one large with built in furniture and nice carp fish pond. 4 air-conditions, garden with teak, alarm, automatic gate, Land and Houses. Price 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-474 1404. Email: lyaraya@yahoo.com

## BUSINESS BUILDING, NICE LOCATION



Affordable 2 block, 5 storey. Office building for lease. Located in the heart of Phuket town in a charming neighborhood of office businesses, close to the bus station and high street traffic. Convenient access and parking. Flexible floor plan and lots of storage. Recently renovated and ready for any service-based business. Tel: 081-895 3043. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

## HOUSE IN BAANMON, PATONG

Lovely house on 38wah in excellent quiet location with patio. 2 bedrooms with a/c, separate large bathroom, modern open kitchen and spacious living area. 3.5 million baht. Contact owner: +66 (0)86-952 1201. Email: marcus@legalthai.com

## PATONG TOWER CONDOMINIUM

Opens up to the most stunning panoramic view of the bay, a view you can't find anywhere else.

- Mountain view deluxe (2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms) 147.75sqm.
- Seaview deluxe (3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms) 242.05sqm.
- Penthouse duplexes (4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms) 378.08sqm.

Contact us kt@bccnmi.com, littlereef\_01@hotmail.com Website: www.patongcondorent.com

## 15 MILLION BAHT



Patong, sea view, 60sqw 2-storey house. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 15 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093.

## ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

Feel luxury and comfort in the pearl of Andaman. Andaman Beach suite condominium, located in Patong Beach, is one of the most exquisite locations in Phuket. Sale condominium at the 17 floors (all of 17 floors). Size 667.96sqm. 2 seaview deluxe units (3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room). 6 mini suite deluxe units (1 bedroom). Contact us kt@bccnmi.com, littlereef\_01@hotmail.com Website: www.patongcondorent.com

## PHIKUN VILLAS

and single land plots for sale on Big Buddha road in Chalong. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk Please see our website at http://phikunvillas.blogspot.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 ono. Tel: 087-689-9679.

## LUXURY NAI YANG HOUSE

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 3 mins to airport, 5 mins to Nai Yang Beach, constant sea breeze. Very cheap, houses like this usually 19 million baht. Great opportunity, price only 7 million baht. Tel: 086-076 0141.

## COMPACT POOL VILLAS NAI HARN

2 bed with living, kitchen, garden, built-in fum, A/C. Price 7.15 MB. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0743. Email: natcha@twovillas.com

## LAND 50 RAI & 146 RAI

For sale. 50 rai, beautiful beach front property at Natai Beach. 146 rai, beautiful beach front property at Koh Yao Yai. Sale by owner, freehold. Contact us kt@bccnmi.com, littlereef\_01@hotmail.com Website: www.patongcondorent.com

## KATA BEACH

2 apartments, 140sqm, fully decorated, Jacuzzi. Normal price 9.5 million, now 4.4 million for this month only. Owner going home. Tel: 085-7831 890.

## 6000SQM OF LAND

for sale. Center of Switzerland, 10m to river "Aare". 85km from Zurich Airport, 42km to Bern, highway no.1. For more details. Please email me your interests at pressefoto@blueemail.ch

## PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

## 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

## NEW STUDIO CONDO

Opposite Tesco Lotus, 4th floor. Fully furnished, 35sqw. Price 1.95 million baht. Finish in April 2009. Tel: 081-979 3369. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

## DETACHED HOUSE

for sale in small private estate "Ploenchon 3" Paklok, house no. 15/5. An Erawana development. 7.5kms east of Heroine's Monument. Great value as many additional features, extras and part furnished. Tel: 081-892 7984 (Eng), 087-282 9260 (Thai) Email for detailed information and price. Email: jypenman@phuket.ksc.co.th

## NEW RAWAI MODERN POOL VILLA

Luxury 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath with landscape and private gate. Just completed construction. Modern kitchen and appliances. 1km from Rawai Beach. Beautiful mountain view. Located on a private road, and quiet. 476 sqm of land and over 300 sqm of living area. A 'must see', one of a kind. Asking 13.9 million baht, but all offers welcome (including possible financing). Tel: 081-979 9806. Email: alohang@gmail.com for more information.

## HOUSE IN RAWAI

Best villas 1x600sqm and 1x220sqm. New quality development near beach. Great investment, 1 million baht down 5 years finance, no interest, best deal ever. Must see, free pick up. Tel: 085-783 1890.

## 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.

## PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai. Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

## TOWN HOUSE, BOAT LAGOON

for sale. Opposite Boat Lagoon, 2 storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 24sq wah. Price: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 081-979 3369.

## BOAT LAGOON, REDUCED BY 2M

3 storey waterfront town house. 3 double en suite bedrooms, 4th shower room, 45 sqm lounge. Terraces, Western kitchen, balcony, parking, Jacuzzi and sala. To view photos, see our website at the address below and check ID 973148. Price: 9 million baht. Call 087-278 9908 or 087-278 9802. Fax: 076-273685. Email: ftwth@phuket.ksc.co.th www.homeexchange.com/show.php?id=97314

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To ensure clarity,  
please **email**.  
Do not Fax!



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### KATA HILL HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, living room, kitchen, cable TV, ADSL, car park, garden view. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-367 0991.

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

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

### 2 SHOPHOUSE IN BANG NIANG

Khao Lak. 5x5m. New shop in commercial location. Opportunity for long-term rent. Min 1 year. Tel: 087-897 3051.

### AMAZING POOL VILLA

Fullyfurnished, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 car parks, garden, internet and satellite TV. Located near Laguna, 12 mins to western beaches (Layan, Nai Tom and Nai Yang). Short term 60,000 baht per month. Long term: 45,000 baht per month. Call or mail for further details. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### VILLAS IN BANG JO

For rent near Laguna. 2 and 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, pool. Long- or short- term. Price 50,000 or 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-897 6984, 089-6995136 (Thai).

### KATHU GOLF VIEW VILLA

350sqm. 4 bedroom, 5 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS. Over looking Loch Palm golf course. Quiet, on top of private hill. Furnished, WiFi, True TV. Long term: 65,000 baht a month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### APARTMENT KATA BEACH

Fully furnished, full kitchen, cable TV, internet. Tel: 086-595 8512, 081-970 4638.

### SEAVIEW VILLAS



Furnished or unfurnished. Club house, gym, swimming pool, 24-hour security, CCTV. Cable TV, WiFi available. Price start 20,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 9550, 087-893 3635.

### 4 BDRMS, FURNISHED, POOL

3 bedrooms plus guest house. Furnished, garage, pool. Ao Po. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-690 0252. Please contact for more information. Email: gerryh22@hotmail.com

### 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT PATONG

Luxury apartment, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Pool, True visions, aircon, ADSL. Quiet location. 18,000 baht. Please contact more details. Tel: 086-279 0837.

### HOUSE IN THALANG

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Neramit Thalang. Full furnished, kitchen. 10,000 baht per month. Contact Art. Tel: 087-283 9181.

### 4 STOREY OFFICE FOR RENT

4 storey office for rent in Kathu. 20,000 baht/month. Please call Maria for more details 084-8450003. Tel: 076-381303, 084-845 0003. Fax 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.com

### LOVELY THAI HOUSE



for rent in Nai Ham. 2 bedrooms, living and dining room, open kitchen, furnished. TV, UBC, ADSL, washing machine, nice garden with large pool, carpark. 4 house compound on 1 Rai. Includes gardener and pool cleaning. For rent until 15 November 2009 for only 19,000 baht. Tel: 089-972 5378.

### THAI VILLA AND POOL

in Nai Ham. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Or please sent to email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

### RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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: 084-8436837. Email: suchada\_villas@hotmail.com

### 3 BED POOL VILLA - NEAR BIS



59,000 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

### PATONG CONDO FOR RENT

1 bedroom apt not studio. Brand new, great views, swimming pool, gym, 800m to beach. Long-term - 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: NNORTHWO@HOTMAIL.COM

### BOAT LAGOON VILLA

for rent with pool, 2-4 bedrooms, high standards, fully furnished, internet. Tel: 081-891 5546. Email: yamoo555@yahoo.com

### PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 bed nice condo on beach road. Tel: 084-847 3304. For further details, please see our website at www.selectphuket.com

### HOUSE IN KATHU

Furnished 2 bedroom, nice quiet area, long-term rent 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-940 2227. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

### 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

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

Near Dowrung School. Long lease. Contact more details. Tel: 081-691 2526.

### LAGUNA 30 YEARS RENTAL

1 bedroom bungalow, garden, fully furnished for long term lease (30 years). 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 0398, 087-893 4636. Email: info@phuketbedandbreakfast.com

### PATAK VILLA, SOI 8

House for rent or sale. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 aircon. 250sqm with garden near Chalong pier. Price for sale 4.2 million baht or for rent 18,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 083-389 5080.

### NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bed rooms 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.

### HOUSE NEAR BIS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Price 17,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 087-888 4770, 081-536 5657.

### OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH

Apartment for rent, fully furnished. Long - term: 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-889 1717.

### LUXURY PENTHOUSE

at Patong Beach. 3 double bedrooms and maid's room. Tel: 089-972 3861. See website at www.kiwibrian.com

### CHALONG BUNGALOW



3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, modern kitchen, ADSL, landscape garden, common pool, car port. Quiet, secure area. Price 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-537 1515, 089-922 2800. Email: meen443\_40@hotmail.com

**Rentals PHUKET**

List your rental for FREE on  
**WWW.RENTALS-PHUKET.COM**

### SERVICED APTS GREAT DEAL

Quality serviced apartments in Chalong. Book 6 months get first month half price. Book a year get first month free. From 8,500 baht/month. Tel: 086-282 6221. Or send email: info@chalongapartment.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.chalongapartment.com>

### FANTASTIC SEA VIEW

House at Ao Yon, Cape Panwa. Four rooms + 2 bathrooms. Fifty meters to the beach. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-729 1968. Email: jae@loxinfo.co.th

### 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.

### 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

### PENTHOUSE STUDIO

overlooking Patong Beach. Long or short term let. Tel: 089-972 3861. See top tool bar to the right at [www.kiwibrian.com](http://www.kiwibrian.com)

### HOUSE IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, ADSL, pool. Contact more details. Tel: 081-606 7410.

### GREAT POOL VILLA, RAWAI

Newly built, great decor, salt water pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, steam shower. Near beach, free transport, fully serviced, top security. Price 49,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-783 1890.

### CASTLE FOR RENT, RAWAI

600sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, new top-end luxury decor, flatscreen TV, very big pool, tropical gardens fully serviced, beautiful estate. Limousine, butler house. Rent 88,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-783 1890.

### CHALONG BEACH HOUSE

Furnished, 2 and 3 bedrooms. ADSL, cable TV, Pool. Price 11,000 per month. Tel: 089-470 6104. Website [www.houserentalsphuket.com](http://www.houserentalsphuket.com)

### CHALONG NEW HOME

2 bedroom home with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

### BEACH FRONT HOUSE



for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, living room, kitchen, fully furnished, phone, big garden. 2 minutes from Chalong circle. Tel: 081-747 1515. Or email: gotgot10@hotmail.com



INDIVIDUAL SERVICE FOR INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE

FABULOUS! 3 BED/3 BATH  
LUXURY PRIVATE POOL VILLAS  
FULLY SERVICED  
for VACATION RENTALS

CALL: 076 281 084  
\*for Special Offer Rates\*

[www.tamarindvillaphuket.com](http://www.tamarindvillaphuket.com)









**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



# Island Job Mart

## ACCOUNTANT / BOOKKEEPER FT

Must have experience, speak English, use quickbooks. Start ASAP. Tel: 085-787 6321. Email: tgutherie@gmail.com

## PROMOTION STAFF

St James Properties is expanding and needs new staff to work at Jungceylon and Kata office. English-speaking Thai national. Good salary plus commission. Contact Felix. Tel: 086-855 3044. Email: esa@stuames-properties.com

## THAI TEACHER INT'L NURSERY

Must speak fluent English. 1-4 pm, Mon-Fri. Tel: 081-979 3839. Email CV and salary expectations to lisaaston04@aol.com.

## 2 LADY MODELS REQUIRED

A new clothing line which is based in Phuket is seeking two Thai girls for a full day's modeling work. The models have to be able to speak English. Please email for an application form. Good daily rate and food provided for the photo shoot. Tel: 076-239724, 087-888 8082. Or send to email: jay@thevillage-coconutisland.com

## LAND SALES EXECUTIVE

Siam Real Estate urgently require a Thai experienced real estate sales person to take listings and sell land. Must have own car and be able to speak and write good English. Excellent prospects, low basic and high commission. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com

## WEB DEVELOPER WANTED

Growing company seeks experienced full-time English-speaking farang web developer for implementing new sites and features, and updating and maintaining existing sites. WordPress, CMS/CMF, and other general web design skills required. Graphical design and SEO skills desired. Salary negotiable. Tel: 087-885 8622. Email: info@teflphuket.com

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Following skills required: some English, basic computer, MS Office, internet, basic accounting, knowledge. Female, single, age 22-30. Reliable, healthy, hard working own vehicle. Tel: 076-273379. Email: info@octopusasia.com

**101 Cafe 101 in Jungceylon Patong**

**Position: Restaurant Hostess**

**Salary:** baht 12,000 to 15,000 baht per month

Greet guests, escort them to tables or encourage them to eat in our restaurant. Assign work tasks and coordinate activities of dining room personnel to ensure prompt and courteous service to patrons. Inspect dining room serving stations for neatness and cleanliness.

**Requirements:** 22 to 30 years old, attractive looking, should speak fluent english and courteous behavior. Minimum 3 years experience in the service industry such as hotel, restaurant or airline company.

Please send you resume with picture to [jean@cafe101.co.th](mailto:jean@cafe101.co.th) and visit our web at [www.cafe101.co.th](http://www.cafe101.co.th)

**International Federation of  
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**(American Red Cross)  
have the following vacancies:**

■ **Health Program Officer Migrants.**

For details please visit [www.thaingo.org](http://www.thaingo.org)

**Phuket Legal & Property Assistance Co Ltd**  
(in association with : CN International Law office, Bangkok)

**Quality. Accuracy. Speed**

We have more than 20 years in-depth experience in legal and property to serve the need of clients.

- Commercial Litigation/Arbitration
- Corporate/Commercial Affairs
- Property Transactions

Email: [info@phuketipa.com](mailto:info@phuketipa.com) / [www.phuketipa.com](http://www.phuketipa.com)

**wine connection**

We are now accepting applications and resumé for a new up coming restaurant.

**Executive Chef  
Restaurant Manager**

**Qualifications:**

- Thai / Foreigner are welcome
- Experienced 5 years plus
- Based in Phuket
- Good command of English
- Good management skills
- Salary is negotiable

Please send resumé to Wine Connection (Phuket)  
19/54-57 Moo.8 Chaofa Rd., T.Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket  
Tel: 076-282411-12 Fax: 076-282414.  
Email: [hnmgr@wineconnection.co.th](mailto:hnmgr@wineconnection.co.th)

**Great financial opportunity in Phuket  
for the right person!**

Seeking a "real" salesperson on a freelance basis for marketing company. High income guaranteed for Thai or Foreign national, with superior sales skills, self-confident, open minded and hard-working. High standard of English required.

Please forward your CV and a photo to:  
[enquiry@thai-infocenter.com](mailto:enquiry@thai-infocenter.com)  
for an interview.

**HEXACON REAL ESTATE**

**HEXACON PROPERTY  
STAFF WANTED**

We are looking for professional staff for our new real estate office, located at Chalong Circle, Chalong.

We are looking for English and Thai speaking staff with experience from the real estate business. We need good sales people, as well as an experienced accountant. We prefer people having a working permit.

Our strategy is to represent a selected group of the best projects on Phuket. This could be condominium and villa projects with the best locations.

Our strengths are that we work internationally, have a substantial knowledge about Phuket and that our staff speaks several languages such as Thai, Russian, English, German, Danish and Swedish.

Please send your application by email to: [klaus.bernhardt6@gmail.com](mailto:klaus.bernhardt6@gmail.com)

**We need the following staff:**

- 1 Accountant / Secretary
- 2-3 Sales people with good experience, Thai / Russian / English
- 1 Sales person for our booth in Jungceylon

**HEXACON PROPERTY Co., Ltd.**  
1 Moo Chaofa West Road, Chalong Sub-district, Muang Phuket District, Phuket Province  
Contact: Mr. Klaus Bernhardt +66 87 88 55 765  
[www.hexacon-realestate.dk](http://www.hexacon-realestate.dk)

**RJM CONSULTING GROUP Co., Ltd.**

Dalaaburi Development 65/21 Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200.

RJM is a leading M&E Design and Engineering company with offices throughout the region. We are looking an intelligent, dynamic and highly motivated Thai national to join our expanding operations in Phuket.

**M&E PROCUREMENT OFFICER**

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

- Responsible for managing the day-to-day procurement for our projects.
- Request quotation from supplies and negotiate for best offer.
- Execute all steps in procurement process and logistics procedures for items.
- Compare quotes, prepare bid analysis and propose for approval
- Issue PO, monitor delivery, check invoice and send to Finance for payment
- Coordinate and resolve with field offices on logistics issues.
- Organize the related report such as, PR tracking report, weekly report, finance relating reports, and consolidate field reports.
- Participate in professional training activities as needed and/or requested
- To work with our team to provide detailed pricing of projects.
- Ensure procurements are executed and completed efficiently to schedules.
- To work closely with clients to build and maintain relationships.

**REQUIRED:**

- Bachelor's degree in related field and/ or related training course
- Minimum 4 years work experience in procurement and logistics
- Minimum 3 years relevant work experience with NGOs
- Ability of planning, organizing, as well as problem solving
- Able to work under pressure, details oriented and administration tasks
- Strong computer skills such as MS office
- Good communication in both Thai and English
- Good communication of English written and oral
- Knowledge of import and export in Thailand an advantage.
- Self motivated and keen to learn.

**We will offer an excellent salary to the most qualified applicant!!!**

Interested candidates may submit their CV with covering letter thru the above address or email to: [cps@online.com.kh](mailto:cps@online.com.kh) or [construction@cpscambodia.com](mailto:construction@cpscambodia.com)

## SECRETARY WANTED

Travel agency looking for Thai female secretary to do book keeping, VAT paperwork, license renewal etc. English not necessary but helpful. Tel: 076-330967, 081-9706503. Fax: 076-330990. Email: [dive@siamdivers.com](mailto:dive@siamdivers.com)

## RECEPTIONIST & MARKETING

Staff wanted at Phuket Spa, Chalong. Urgent! Please contact for further details at tel: 076-282704, 085-567 8929. Fax: 076-282703. Or send email: [natali1800@hotmail.com](mailto:natali1800@hotmail.com)

## DREAM SALES OPPORTUNITY!\$

Earn US\$1,000 a week living in paradise! Holiday Ownership Company seeks new and experienced reps. Tel: 083-396 1918. Email: [info@stoneymonday.com](mailto:info@stoneymonday.com)

**Looking for a job?  
Looking for a better candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)**



# Island Job Mart

## BOAT YARD MANAGER

Yacht Haven Marina is presently planning a new haul out facility with travel lift able to handle 20 to 25 boats. We are looking for a yard manager with the following: marine engineering qualifications/or strong technical experience in this field, previous boat yard experience, strong communication skills & good command of written & spoken English. Computer literate, proven managerial skills with ability to create & implement systems and a sound all-round knowledge of boats & the industry. This is a full time position. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com www.yacht-haven-phuket.com

## ADVERTISING COMPANY

seeks Thai national female for office assistant position. Requirements: excellent knowledge of spoken and written English, advanced computer skills. Tel: 084-844 1469. Email: thai.rusmedia@gmail.com

## CIVIL ENGINEER NEEDED

Must have good English communication skills and a Bachelor's degree. 3-5 years experience in related field. Please contact for further details. Tel: 087-716 2700. Or send email: thairusmedia@gmail.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

## SKIPPER WANTED

I am searching for a captain to transfer a 50 foot motor yacht in the middle of May from Phuket to Manado (Indonesia). Tel: 089-472 7137. Email: info@proline-real-estate.com

## SEEKING STAFF

We are now seeking staff for Office Administration. Must have good office experience with excellent written and spoken English. Microsoft Office skills are also needed. Please send CV to Irish Times Pub at Jungceylon, Patong. Tel: 076-366085. Email: irishtimesphuket@gmail.com



The all-suite, 5-star boutique resort & spa, located on Surin Hill, overlooking Surin Beach and the Andaman Sea, is currently inviting energetic applicants for the following available positions:

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager  
Human Resources Coordinator

### FOOD & BEVERAGE

Restaurant Manager  
Food & Beverage Service Attendant

### FRONT OFFICE

Resort Host

### HOUSEKEEPING

Room Attendant

Attractive salary, fringe benefits and career opportunities are offered to the successful candidates.

Please send your resume with a recent photo or apply in person by March 31, 2009 to:

### Human Resources Department

125 Moo 3, Surin Beach, Srisoonthorn Road,  
Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand  
Tel: (076) 271 271 Fax: (076) 271 270  
Email: hr@ayarahilltops.com  
www.ayarahilltops.com

## URGENTLY NEEDED!

Nice villa at Surin beach. Looking for chef and assistant chef who has experience and good attitude to work as a team. Please submit your CV to laemsingh@135degrees.com

## ASSISTANT MANAGER

Requirements: experience of working in real estate or construction field, knowledge of written and spoken English. Tel: 084-190 9491. Email: office@tr-d.ru

## SALES EXECUTIVE

Salary + commission + bonus. Tel: 089-235 0969. Email: jobs@lfr-asia.com Please visit http://www.lfr-asia.com/jobs.html for more details.

## PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

required for small business in Karon. Must be able to input data to software program and produce annual P&L and balance sheet. Please contact for further details. Tel: 084-842 0340.

## AUTOMATION SALE

Salary range: 40,000 to 75,000 baht. Experience an asset. Must have technical knowledge, and be skilled and able to read electrical drawings. Thai national, own car. Please send CV to: info@elec-pro.com

## BAR MANAGER

Soi Gonzo, to take care of evening duties, expert etc. English speaking. Interested? Call Khun Simon. Tel: 085-796 5767, 081-580 6707.

## 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

## Project Coordinator

### Job Description

- Coordinating with donors and clients, both local & overseas

### Qualifications

- Male / Female
- 25 - 30 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in any field.
- At least 3 years experience
- Very good English skills
- Computer skills, knowledge of websites an advantage.

### Contact address

Life Home Project Foundation, PO box no. 105, Talad yai,  
Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-614060 or 089-729 3410.  
Email: joojee88@yahoo.com

## Employment Wanted

### AUSTRIAN CHEF/ COOK

is looking for a new job. Have lived in Thailand for 1 year. Tel: 080-650 2326.

### PROFESSIONAL SINGER

seeking work with a live band or a hotel. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-2887528. Or send to email: lynturner70@yahoo.com

### NANNY TO WORK ABROAD

Thai lady, 34 years old do house work. 10 years now in Australia. Prefer go Europe, Canada, USA or Phuket. Available from March. Email: cindy\_siam@hotmail.com

### CHILDRENSITTER 23

Nice girl, German + English speaking. Full or part time Patong. Tel: 083-639 9137.

### RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH

speaking lady seeks position in Phuket, age 27. Experience in marketing/advertising, tourism and hotel business. Tel: 080-601 7792. Email: 4milonga@gmail.com

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE EXPERT

18 yrs successful track record in International Trade, Import/Export, Strategic Global Sourcing and Supply Chain Management. MBA from top US Institute. Fluent Chinese and English, conversational Thai. Targeting employment with a strong company in Phuket. U.S. Citizen. Please contact for further details. Tel: 087-898 4516, 089-813 4456. Email: chilly.han@gmail.com

### PROGRAMMER LOOKING FOR JOB

Experienced Danish programmer located in Phuket is looking for work on short/ long term projects. Keywords: PHP, Zend Framework, Java (+JSP/servlets), mySQL, JavaScript, (D)HTML, AJAX, MVC, Linux server administration and objec orientation. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroe@gmail.com

### EXPERIENCED TEACHER

New kindergarten looking for Thai teachers. English necessary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-385795, 085-470 4800. Email: jgearyreilly@hotmail.com

### Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket 10 years ago. We are a professional printing technology and post-production company for customer, in Europe and Asia, that co-operate with a business partner company with headquarter in Europe.

We are expanding our production department and looking for active colleagues to work as a "Text-Editor". Interested candidate must be a fast learner, self-motivated, creative, keen to learn new thing & have IT skills and also a team player.

### Text & Content Editor

**Job Description:**

- Knowledge of German language
- Text and content checking/correcting
- Combination of text and figure in double page
- Work with text editor software: QuarkXpress, Indesign or illustrator
- Art or imagination of design
- Cooperate with retouch and other department

**Qualifications:**

- Male/Female, Thai or German Nationality
- Good German Language skill in writing + reading
- Any Vocational, Diploma or higher education related field of study
- Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- Experiences of text editor would be advantaged
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work in team or independently, and as a shift working

**Salary & Welfare:**

- Salary, Bonus, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.

Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

**VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)**  
42 Moo 3, Palai 2, Chaofa Rd, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130  
Tel. (00)66-76-380600  
Fax. (00)66-76-380605  
Email: as@vsdma.com

### ONLINE JOB APPLICATION

HOTEL - ACCING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B

www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

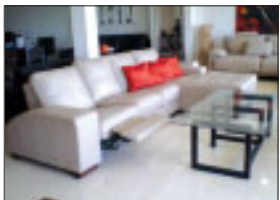
## Articles For Sale

### INDIAN ANTIQUE CABINET



Size: 3 meters long. Please call or mail for further details. Tel: 089-533 7114. Email: claudia.hasselbacher@yahoo.com

### LOW CAST LEATHER



sofa for sale. Sale at low price: 28,000 baht from 65,000 baht. Sofa by ultra lounge. Tel: 081-577 3009. Email: sofaultra lounge@hotmail.com

### KITCHEN BENCHES

MODERN KIT 8 Piece. Corner 3, Center Breakfast, 2 chairs, 3 drawers + 2 doors. Excellent condition. 16 months old. 45,000 baht o.n.o. Please contact me for photos and more details. Tel: 086-947 7233. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

### NEW JACUZZI FOR SALE

New Jacuzzi in good condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Ready for sale. Call K.Canonica 087-2702021. Email: mayday 1978@hotmail.com

### AQUARIUM 500 LITER

Very nice, very cheap! Tel: 081-080 8831 or for a photo send email to jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

### GYM EQUIPMENT

for sale. Good condition. Tel: 086-120 3660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

### MINI PUMP, READY TO USE

Mini pump for sale. Easy business. Ready to use. Guaranteed for one year. Comes with insurance and license. Tel: 076-293082. Email: michelleproust@yahoo.com.sg

### EXPAT LEAVING SALE

Full house of cane furniture, fridges, bed suite, BBQ, stove, wash/dryer, curtains, dining, tools. Much more. Contact 086-947 7233. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

### BRAND NEW HAIER EQUIPMENT

Air-condition, two 9000BTU, price 11,000 baht each and one 12000BTU, price 15,000 baht. 3 Haier minibars, price 3,500 baht each. 5 Sharp electric water heaters, 3500w, price 2,500 baht each. Electrolux espresso machine, price 7,000 baht. 6 wooden doors, price 2,000 baht each. Tel: 085-336 0231.

### ITALIAN KITCHEN SALE

Original Italian kitchen wood nuts. For photos contact K. Pat. Tel: 089-5309124.

### KITCHEN BENCHES

Modern kit. 6 pieces. Corner 3 + centre breakfast + 3 drawers and 2 doors. Excellent condition, 16 months old. 45,000 baht o.n.o. Contact for photos and details. Tel: 086-947 7233. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

### STUDY DESK / WALL UNIT

Centre piece study / desk wall unit. L: 2.43m, H: 2.30m, W: 6.20m. Solid wood, demountable. 45,000 baht ono. Contact for photo and details. Tel: 086-947 7233. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

### MOVING SALE

Honda Airblade, price 42,000 baht ono. 37 inch Sony Bravia, price 22,000 baht. Hot plate, fryer, mattress. Tel: 089-730 7390.

### WOODWORK MACHINES

All machinery to make kitchens. Tel: 084-847 3304. See website at www.selectphuket.net

### WASHING MACHINE

Electrolux EWF 579 cold fill. Paid 14,000 baht; will accept 6,000 baht. Tel: 089-867 1428. Email: david@liddell.com

### OUT OF BUSINESS SALE!

2ea 9,000 BTU A/Cs. Swim pool pump filter, 22 boxes of stone decor, black granite, cushions, glow sticks, ice bins, glass sinks, urinals. Security cameras, fire ext, Yamaha 18ch mixer, lighted signs, and more! Tel: 083-590 7871. Email: info@thaijobseeker.com

### ESPRESSO COFFEE FOR SALE

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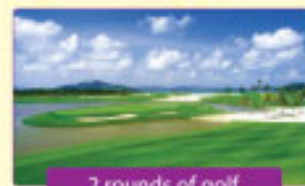
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