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Windows wizard and author of *Windows for Dummies* Woody Leonard features in this week's profile.

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Bike Week breaks records

PHUKET: Organizers of the 15th Annual Phuket Bike Week reported record-breaking attendance at this year's event, announcing approximately 24,000 bikers and enthusiasts making their way to the island to take part in a variety of activities that were held between April 10 and 12.

According to Phuket Bike Week's main organizer and Managing Director of *Ride Thailand Magazine*, Wittaya (Sumon) Singkalah, a total of 3,800 motorcycles registered for the event. However, organizers said that many other bikes participated that were unregistered.

"We have recorded a total of 24,000 people attending the event. About 15,000 of them were Thais," he said.

Events over the three days, under the theme "Global Warming, Riding for Peace", included custom bike exhibitions, charity donations, tree planting, safety demonstrations, a Miss Bike Week beauty contest at Jungceylon and a music festival at Loma Park on Patong Beach.

According to estimates by the organizers, the event generated tens of millions of baht for the country, with each participant spending, on average, about 10,000 baht on transport, accommodation and food.



Custom choppers lead a caravan of big bikes through the streets of Patong during Phuket Bike Week 2009. Photo by Christian Mouchet.

Some participants flew their bikes in from Europe and Saudi Arabia, while others rode their metal steeds from Kuala Lumpur and other parts of Malaysia.

Leader of the Big Bike Club in Ubon Ratchathani Province and one of Phuket Bike Week's organizers, Prachya "Tangmo" Sritanyarath, put the event's success down to three months of

planning and collaboration with provincial and municipal authorities, including Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, police chiefs and Mr Sumon's "unwavering commitment" to the cause.

"There are about 350 big bike clubs throughout Thailand comprising about 20,000 members. Bike weeks are held nationwide throughout the year, but

Phuket Bike Week is considered the best of them all because most of the week's events take place near the beach," said Mr Tangmo.

"The proximity to Patong Beach is Phuket Bike Week's best selling point. None of the other big bike events in the region can boast such a venue," he added. - Gazette reporters

Tourist market reacts to red-shirt riots

PHUKET: Initial assessments made by the Thai Hotels Association (THA) at the height of the red-shirt protests in Bangkok and Pattaya reported that 20% of Phuket hotel room bookings made prior to the Songkran holiday period had been canceled.

According to the THA, which counts over 100 of the island's 600 accommodation establishments among its membership, the cancellations were made after the Thai government declared a state of emergency in

the nation's capital on April 12.

Most of those cancellations were made by Japanese and Chinese tourists following the issuance of travel advisories by their respective governments.

TAT Phuket Office spokesperson, Settaphan Buddha-ni, explained that the Chinese and Japanese tourist markets are the most sensitive to incidents of political unrest in Thailand.

However, more Thais were now visiting Phuket and most Patong hotel operators were

happy with current occupancy rates averaging between 70% and 80%, he said.

Mr Settaphan also expressed confidence that the drop in tourist numbers would only be temporary.

"The number of Japanese tourists visiting Phuket is currently about 20,000 a month, but at the time of the People's Alliance for Democracy (yellow-shirt) protests in November last year, Japanese arrivals fell to zero," Mr Settaphan added.

Resorts questioned independently reported losing between 400 and 1,700 room nights through cancellations from the red-shirt protests.

The majority of those cancellations were made by tour groups from Hong Kong, South Korea and Russia.

A spokesperson for a resort in Karon said that bookings had dropped as a direct result of the political turmoil in the capital - losing about 2% of total occupancy in April and 0.6% in May.



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Police Blotter

Phuket Provincial Police crime statistics
March 2009

Murder: There were 7 reports of murder (+17% year-on-year) with arrests made in 6 cases (86% arrest rate).

Attempted Murder: There were 4 reports of attempted murder (-33% year-on-year) with arrests made in 1 case (25% arrest rate).

Manslaughter: There was 1 report of manslaughter (no reports in March 2008) with arrests made in 1 case (100% arrest rate).

Rape: There were 3 cases of rape (-25% year-on-year) with arrests made in 2 cases (67% arrest rate).

Assault: There were 18 cases of assault (+50% year-on-year) with arrests made in 9 cases (50% arrest rate).

Arson: There were no cases of arson (no reports in March 2008) with no arrests made.

Theft: There were 47 reports of theft (+7% year-on-year) with arrests made in 33 cases (70% arrest rate).

Fraud: There were 5 reports of fraud (+25% 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 3 cases (60% arrest rate).

Firearms: There were 28 firearms cases (+180% year-on-year) and 28 people arrested for firearms offenses.

Gambling: There were 67 gambling cases (-26% year-on-year) and 190 people arrested for gambling offenses.

Illegal Lottery: There were 38 gambling cases (+35% year-on-year) and 38 people arrested for illegal lottery offenses.

Drugs: There were 183 drugs cases (+79% year-on-year) and 197 people arrested for drugs offenses.

Prostitution: There were 160 prostitution cases (+18% year-on-year) and 160 people arrested for prostitution offenses.

Purchase of contraband detection technology in the pipeline

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop has approved the purchase of two state-of-the-art detection devices, one for explosives and the other for contraband. The devices will be used at Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

The Alpha 6 devices, which cost around 500,000 baht each, are said to use 'molecular resonance' technology to detect the presence of drugs and explosives. The manufacturer claims the Alpha 6 can detect substances from up to 200 meters away.

Phuket Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation officer Suthee Sirianun said that procurement procedures meant it would take around one month to acquire the devices.

ASLM Trading Co Ltd demonstrated the Alpha 6 to former Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan and Phuket Provincial Police Commander



The Alpha 6 is a hand-held detection device that is said to use 'molecular resonance technology' to locate drugs and explosives.

Apirak Hongtong at Phuket Provincial Police Station around two months ago. The demonstration apparently showed that the devices were able to locate hidden

drugs around 70% of the time.

"At Tah Chat Chai checkpoint, we will also be using sniffer dogs to search for drugs," Mr Suthee said.

Songkran road safety figures released

PHUKET: The first five days of this year's Songkran period saw 43 road accidents, with 44 injuries and two deaths, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation's Songkran road safety center.

Ekkachai Jantuang, 18, died in Vachira Phuket Hospital on April 11 after his motorcycle smashed into a pick-up truck in Thalang District the previous night. Mr Ekkachai was not wearing a helmet and was drunk at the time of the accident, according to the DDPM.

On April 13, 26-year-old Suparak Phoget was killed in a motorcycle crash at the entrance to Soi Suksan in tambon Wichit.

The figures showed there were 31 injuries in Muang Dis-

trict, six in Kathu District and seven in Thalang District.

A total of 34 of the accidents were caused by motorcycles, one by a large truck and the rest by other vehicles or pedestrians.

The center also released figures on checkpoint inspections at nine locations around the island.

Between April 10 and April 14 there were 52,415 inspections, with 4,636 people charged with offenses. Of those, 1,332 were charged with not wearing a safety helmet, 322 with riding an unsafe motorcycle, 723 with not wearing a seatbelt, 428 with drink driving and 1,831 with driving without a license. There were no charges for speeding.



A number of large banners with slogans denouncing fugitive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the actions of red-shirt protesters appeared in public places around the island last week.

The banners have been hung from advertising billboards and electricity poles at various locations, including Wiset Road in Rawai, Chao Fa East Road in Phuket City, and Saiyuan Road in Chalong.

It is not known who is responsible for the sudden appearance of the messages, which bear slogans in Thai such as "Thaksin sold the nation. We don't want him!" and "Phuket people don't want Thaksin." The banner pictured above reads "Rawai people don't want the red-shirts."

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The first Villa Market in Phuket opened on April 10, after nearly four years of preparation.

Villa Market opens its doors in Chalong

CHALONG: Villa Market finally opened its doors at the HomePro shopping complex in Chalong on Friday, April 10. Following almost four years of preparation – and efforts to secure the right location – the new store represents Bangkok-based Villa Supermarket's first foray on the island.

Chief operating officer Pisit Poosanakhom said the new Villa Market will stock close to 30,000 items, many of them imported. The focus is very much on fresh and healthy, with the "Healthy Living" section containing around 2,000 items alone.

"Regarding price, luxury and healthy items do not have to be expensive. That is not to say that we are the cheapest, but we believe that we are offering the best value for the customer. The price for some items may be a little bit more expensive, but the quality is there."

"For example, we sell organic vegetables flown in from Chiang Mai, so the price may be a little bit more expensive than for locally grown produce but the quality is the best. Similarly, our meats, whether it be chicken,

pork or beef, are all hormone-free," said Mr Pisit.

As for the competition, Mr Pisit sees a place in the market for Villa's offerings.

"We don't feel that we are competing with anybody, whether it be TOPS or Lotus or Carrefour. We believe that the market is big enough and there is enough room for everybody. For us, we want to fill in the space that has been left by the others, namely healthy living and variety," he said.

Variety is certainly on offer in abundance at the new Villa; the bakery section alone stocks more than 300 varieties of bread flown in fresh from all over the world.

"All of our imported produce is flown in to guarantee freshness. Nothing is frozen or even imported by sea. We do this to guarantee freshness for the customer," said Mr Pisit.

And don't worry about finishing work early to pick up your Dutch tomatoes or Scottish salmon, Villa will be open until 10pm every night.

The Phuket branch is the 15th for the Villa chain, which started in Bangkok back in 1974.

EU blacklisting irrelevant, says One-Two-Go chairman

PHUKET: The chairman of One-Two-Go says the recent addition of the carrier to a European Union blacklist will have no effect on the company, which has never flown to Europe.

One-Two-Go's addition to the updated blacklist was announced in a press release on April 8.

The airline's chairman Udom Tantiprasongchai told the *Gazette* on April 9 that the listing was irrelevant because, as a domestic Thai carrier, One-Two-Go has never flown to Europe.

Furthermore, One-Two-Go's parent company, Orient Thai, had already discontinued all passenger and cargo flights to the continent, he added.

Orient Thai is not included on the updated blacklist.

Speaking by phone from a train platform in Tokyo, Mr Udom said he didn't think the listing was related to safety issues, but rather due to the fact that the EU commonly blacklists carriers who don't own their own aircraft, even though operating leased air-



craft is common in Asia.

As for One-Two-Go's regular service to Phuket from Bangkok's Don Muang Airport, Mr Udom said load factors on the 14 flights weekly have been strong at 80% to 90%.

The Bangkok to Phuket route was resumed in December last year after the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) finally lifted a series of three suspension orders on the carrier following the crash of One-Two-Go flight OG269 at Phuket Airport in September 2007.

The suspension followed a public outcry after the crash that

claimed the lives of 90 of the 123 passengers aboard. The cause of the crash was later determined to be flight crew error caused by systemic failures, both at the airline and within the DCA.

One-Two-Go's resumption of service came just at the start of the tourist high season, which this year was marred by the takeover of both civilian airports in Bangkok by People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters.

One-Two-Go is also adding new flights to the northern province of Phitsanuloke, Mr Udom said.

-Stephen Fein

Phuket's new top cop takes the reins

PHUKET: As outgoing Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong prepares to leave for Surat Thani to take up his new position as Commander of Region 8 General Staff, Phuket's new top cop arrived on the island on April 12.

Maj Gen Pigad Thantipong, 57, was originally scheduled to begin his new assignment on April 1. However, his appointment was delayed by the recent political turmoil.

An official handover ceremony is scheduled to take place at Phuket Provincial Police Station on April 20.

Maj Gen Pigad, a 1977 graduate of the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy, began his career in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

His career to date has kept him in the southern provinces, with successive positions in Songkhla, Yala and Surat Thani.

Prior to his appointment in Phuket, Gen Pigad served as Deputy Commander of the Surat Thani Police.



NEW TOP COP: Phuket's new Provincial Police Commander Police Major General Pigad Thantipong.

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THE CHEDI

The floating menace?

By Daniel Ogunshakin

The discovery in July 2008 of almost 40 box jellyfish in a fish trap in Nambor Bay, followed by a further 18, found at the same location just three months later, heralded a new threat to Phuket's battered and bruised tourist industry. In January of this year, Phuket's beaches were again invaded by a smack of "snotties", while more box jellyfish were discovered as recently as March.

Although stings from box jellyfish are rare, there have been a few recorded incidents in the waters around Thailand. In 2007, while swimming off Koh Mak in Trad, four-year-old Lewis Jones – on a family holiday from Australia – was badly stung by a box jellyfish. His father Andrew Jones recalled the events of that traumatic day.

"We had been on Koh Mak for just a few hours and went down to the beach for a swim. I got out of the water and then heard my son let out a scream that still chills me to the bone. I realized that something was terribly wrong.

"He had been stung by a large multi-tentacled box jellyfish and within a matter of seconds he was unconscious. He had suffered cardiac and respiratory arrest, was starting to turn blue and was basically lying dead on the beach. It was by some miracle that he survived because looking at his wounds and lesions, he should be dead," Andrew said.

Lewis was lucky, Moa Bergman was not. Swimming in the Andaman Sea while on holiday in Koh Lanta, 10-year-old Moa was fatally stung by a box jellyfish. At the time, it was reported that she had suffered an allergic reaction to being stung and had died from anaphylactic shock. The chances of that were slim; there have only been two recorded deaths from anaphylactic shocks caused by a sting. One was the wife of a former Greek prime minister, the other was a dog. What killed Moa was a box jellyfish.

Last week, almost one year to the day after Moa's death, a seminar headed by Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin – one of the world's foremost jellyfish experts – was

The box jellyfish has the unfortunate distinction of being the most venomous creature on earth.



held in Phuket to educate Thai scientists, medical personnel and public about the threat of box and irukandji jellyfish, first aid treatment and precautionary measures

that can be taken to reduce the chances of further stings.

Most people in Phuket are now aware of box jellyfish, yet few actually know much about them except that they are potentially fatal. Few people know about their habitats, genetic makeup and how their venom works.

The box jellyfish has the unfortunate distinction of being the most venomous creature on earth. The best-known box jellyfish and incidentally the most deadly is the *Chironex fleckeri*, but is only one of 19 species that are found around the globe.

"They're called box jellyfish, because of their box shape. They've got four corners and each of the corners has a single tentacle or a cluster of tentacles that can grow up to three meters in length.

"They're very transparent and very hard to see because they're practically invisible. They're also very simple organisms. They have no brain, no heart. They're just a glob of jelly with 'stingy bits'," explained Dr Gershwin.

A jellyfish's stinging cells – nematocysts – are all located within the tentacles, with the exception of the irukandji jellyfish, which can also sting with its bell. The nematocysts have a 'harpoon' that is coiled within a capsule and has a hair trigger. Once in contact with another object they discharge with a force of 40,000 Gs – the fastest biological transfer on earth.

There are a number of myths with regard to jellyfish. A common misconception is how the toxin works.

"The toxin from the box jel-

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lyfish is a cardio-toxin, it affects the heart. The toxin floods the heart with calcium and it stops the heart in a contracted state – the heart is in effect locked. The box jellyfish is the only organism in the natural world that locks the heart. That's why Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is so important," she added.

Following a severe sting, death most commonly occurs within four minutes. Just 1.2 meters of tentacles are enough to kill a child in about three minutes, 3-5 meter tentacles can kill an adult in the same time. A fully developed multi-tentacled box jellyfish has enough venom to kill approximately 50 people.

Currently, three species of box jellyfish have been discovered in Thai waters, the multi-tentacled *Chiropsoide buitendeki* and *Tripedalia cystophora*, and the single-tentacled *Morbakka sp.* The stings that have been recorded, however, are not consistent with these jellyfish, leading scientists to wonder if there are other boxes lurking in Thai waters.

The box isn't the only potentially fatal jellyfish to be found in Thailand. The kingdom is home to irukandji, taken from the Aboriginal word meaning "to sting". Although often only as small as a finger nail, the irukandji is capable of causing immense pain despite its diminutive size. The specimens found in Thai waters are still awaiting classification.

Mangrove areas around Thailand are prime breeding grounds for box jellyfish, which are more likely to be encountered at beaches that are surrounded by mangroves. There are, however, a number of factors that could explain why numbers are increasing. It has been clear for some time that sea temperatures are rising, threatening coral reefs across the globe. Dr Gershwin, however, revealed that jellyfish are much more resistant to changing conditions.

"There has been a lot of research on jellyfish of many types – although not box and irukandji – that shows that jellyfish are responding well to increasing temperatures. In areas where there is over-fishing and increased urban development, jel-

lyfish numbers are also increasing and it's reasonable to suppose that box jellyfish and irukandjis will increase, too.

"When other species don't respond well to changing conditions, jellyfish are basically the last men standing," she said.

Over-fishing and development are two major issues that exist in Thailand and Phuket in particular. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that the rapid development of the island has led to an increase in the number of potentially fatal jellyfish.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. Australia has a far more severe jellyfish problem. Through correct management, however, coastal tourism has not only survived, it has thrived. Since implementing measures to reduce the risk of being stung in the Whitsunday region of Queensland, the number of hospitalizations has fallen from 38 per year to just three in the past four years.

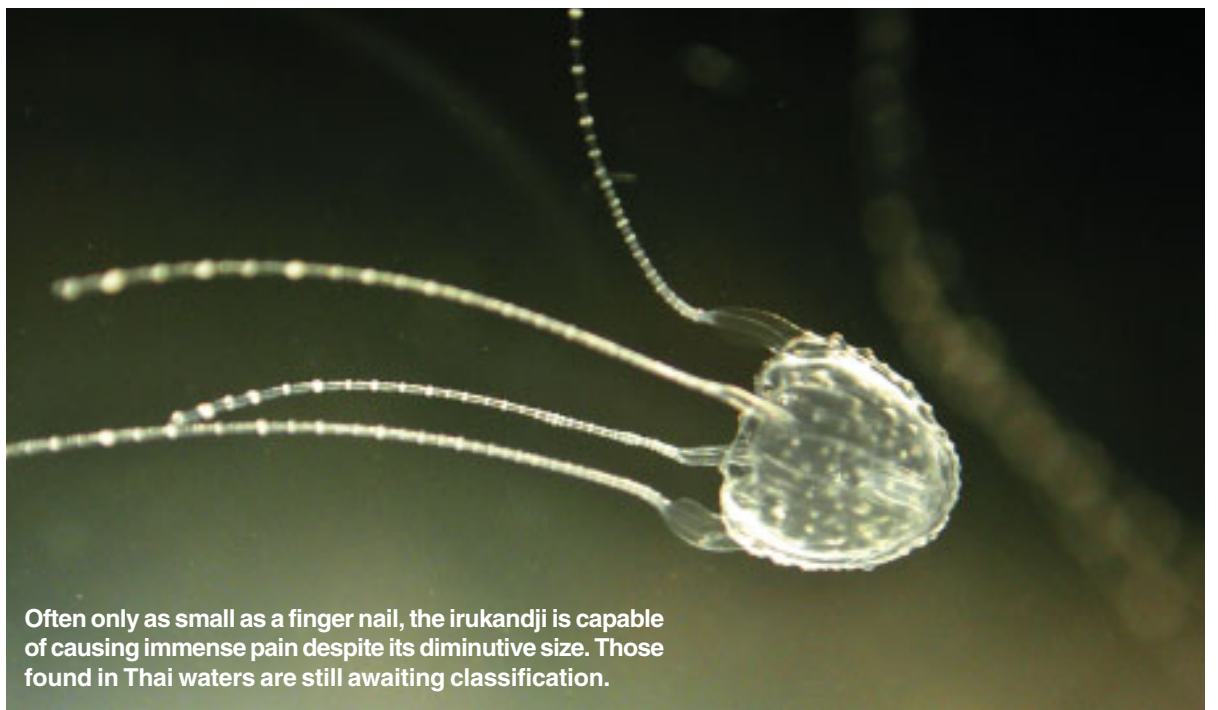
Australia has set the standard and Thailand needs to follow its lead.

"The most important thing is awareness that the jellyfish problem exists. It's also important to have accurate messages so that local people are informed and are all singing from the same song sheet. There's nothing more disturbing for a tourist than asking five separate people 'What's up with the jellyfish?' and getting five different answers. If you get the same answer, then you know that people are dealing with it," Dr Gershwin said.

In a bid to reduce the chance of stings, experts in Australia have had tremendous success with vinegar stations and stinger nets at the beach and encouraging the use of full-body stinger suits.

Vinegar is the key to the treatment of box jellyfish stings. Although unable to prevent initial stings from occurring, the acidic nature of vinegar neutralizes any remaining venom contained within the tentacles stopping additional toxins from entering the body.

Before nets were employed in northern Queensland, there was on average one box jellyfish-related death every four years between 1884 and 1981. After



Often only as small as a finger nail, the irukandji is capable of causing immense pain despite its diminutive size. Those found in Thai waters are still awaiting classification.

nets were introduced, the average has fell one death every 10 years. Compare this with the Northern Territories where nets aren't used and where the average has actually risen.

The nets and the service they require are expensive, costing A\$50,000 per year. However, given the amount of people that use the beaches in Phuket, their lifesaving potential cannot be underestimated. Kim Moss, the manager of Uninet in Cairns, Australia has been working with stinger nets for over 20 years.

"The nets are similar to the trawl nets that fishermen use and are very simple. They have a float at the top and a chain to hold them down at the bottom. The nets are set up to be highly portable and once the fittings are in place, the nets can be pulled in an out in about an hour. Nothing can ever be 100% successful, but there's never been a fatality using our nets," Kim said.

The full body "stinger suit" is another effective tool successfully employed in the Whitsundays. The suit drastically reduces the potential for stings simply by covering the skin. It was calculated that 75% of stings treated at a Cairns hospital in 2002 could have been prevented had the victims worn protective clothing.

With intelligent management, Phuket can follow the example set

by Australia and successfully attract tourists despite the presence of venomous jellyfish. There are many important lessons to be learned. If Phuket is serious about maintaining its reputation as one of the world's premier resort destinations, this issue needs to be tackled head on.

"It is of the utmost importance to make people aware of the situation because these creatures can kill in a matter of minutes. People need to know what to do should a sting occur," concluded Andrew Jones – someone who knows only too well what is at stake.



The scarring suffered by Lewis Jones after being stung by a box jellyfish – it was a miracle he survived.

FIRST AID STEPS FOR BOX JELLYFISH STINGS

- 1. Call the emergency services: It is very difficult to maintain CPR alone. Ensure that professional assistance is called for immediately.**
- 2. Treat the person: Monitor the ABC's (Airway, Breathing, Circulation) and give Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation if required.**
- 3. Treat the sting: Douse the affected area with vinegar and carefully remove tentacles. DO NOT under any circumstances use fresh water, hot water or sand.**
- 4. Seek medical attention.**

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Death of monks prompts temple smoking ban

BANGKOK: The Public Health Ministry will issue a total ban on smoking in temples nationwide, following the discovery that over 18,000 monks were suffering or had died from chronic diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, and pulmonary emphysema.

Dr Prakrit Vathesatogkit, who heads the Action On Smoking And Health Foundation, said the new ministerial issuance to ban smoking in temples as well as in schools and hospitals, will be announced by the Disease Control Department.

The proposed ban was not only to reduce the number of monks who smoke, "but also because we want the monks to be role models encouraging Bud-

dhist to give up smoking," said Dr Prakrit.

A 2003-2004 study conducted by the Priest Hospital found that cancer, tuberculosis, and pulmonary emphysema were the most common chronic diseases affecting some 18,000 monks with nicotine habits.

Another study conducted in 2004 by Mahidol University's Faculty of Public Health showed that 91% of monks nationwide supported a ban on monks smoking, while 80% agreed to prohibit devotees from giving cigarettes to monks.

"We have seen that over the past few years most monks suffered from smoking or exposure to second hand smoke," said the

Mekong River Monk Network Secretary General Abbot Maha Worawuth Panyawuttho.

Giving monks cigarettes is a bad reflection on Buddhist society, he added.

Many studies revealed that a number of social problems are caused by gambling, smoking and drinking alcohol. Such behaviour could also lead to drug addiction in children. The Northeastern region alone is home to over 35 million smokers.

In a bid to fight smoking in temples, the foundation has collaborated with the Mekong River Monk Network in a pilot program creating smoke-free zones in 180 temples in five provinces in the north of the country, he added.

Injection drive against influenza

BANGKOK: Flu affects 70,000-900,000 Thais a year, and 12,000-75,000 of them are hospitalized with complications such as lung disease and pneumonia, the Public Health Ministry said on April 4.

Noting that the elderly were 11 times more prone to lung disease from flu than others, Deputy Public Health Minister Manit Nopamornbodi said flu shots would reduce prevalence among the elderly by 50% and among those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease fourfold.

He told a vaccine-campaign launch in Buri Ram's Lahan Sai District that the ministry and the National Health Security Office had prepared 1.79 million doses of flu vaccine this year for those with any one of seven chronic ill-

nesses. Vaccinations will be given from July 1 to August 31.

The entitled are those suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, heart disease, stroke, liver failure, diabetes as well as cancer patients on chemotherapy, he said.

The vaccines would also be given to the health officials deemed at high exposure to flu virus. Another 400,000 doses of vaccine to prevent bird flu in fowl have also been prepared,

Mr Manit added.

Disease Control Department deputy chief Prapa Tangrikiatkul said that the flu strains common in Thailand have not yet been found to mutate, so the vaccine could prevent an estimated 70% to 90% of people catching the three strains.

The ministry vaccinated 520,000 at-risk people last year and the shots were so effective that only four deaths from flu complications were reported.



Red-shirted protesters hold up a banner supporting ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra during a demonstration in front of Privy Council President Prem Tinsulanonda's home on April 8.

Queer News

Feisty fish, painful problem

PHICHIT: Doctors in Phichit Hospital were presented with a medical conundrum on March 25, when an eight-year-old boy was brought in with a climbing perch stuck up his bottom.

The boy, whose name was given in media reports but is omitted here, was carried into the hospital by his 60-year-old grandmother.

The boy told doctors that on the way home from school he and some friends saw a great number of climbing perch splashing in the mud of a drying-out pond.

Seizing the rare opportunity, the boys stripped off and jumped in to catch the fish.

As the boy was grabbing perch, he felt something push into his bottom. Using his hands to feel what was causing the odd sensation, he felt the tail fins of a wriggling fish sticking out his anus.

Before he could do anything, however, the little fish lived up to its name and climbed all the way into his bottom.

The boy shouted for his friends to go and get help, and his grandmother rushed him to hospital.

At the hospital doctors X-rayed the boy, who was in considerable pain from the sharp spines and fins of the little fish that was still thrashing around inside him.

On the X-ray, doctors saw a fish between two and three centimetres long lodged in the entrance to his lower intestine.

Led by Deputy Hospital Director Dr Suchat Thepharak, a team of three doctors held a brainstorming session to decide how to proceed with the delicate removal operation, which was much complicated by the sharp spines of climbing perch.

With the perch facing forward, extracting it tail first would risk the spines or fins puncturing the boy's intestinal wall. The situation was further exacerbated by the fact that the hardy little fish continued unabated its wriggling struggle for existence.

A frantic search for research papers on similar cases proved fruitless: apparently this was the first case of a climbing perch climbing up someone's rec-

tum ever recorded in Thailand – and possibly the world.

Doctors first considered pumping anaesthetic gas up the boy's bottom to knock out the fish, making its retrieval easier.

After this plan was dismissed for safety reasons, Dr Bussakon Wangphayon suggested injecting the fish with anaesthetic by sticking a needle up the boy's rectum, then extracting the spiny intruder with forceps.

If this plan failed, open surgery would be the only remaining option, the doctors concluded.

Deciding to go ahead with the injection, the doctors managed to knock the fish out. Then, in a delicate two-hour procedure, they extracted the fish with forceps while continually pushing the spines inward to prevent them from lodging inside the boy.

At the end of the operation the boy was in a stable condition but required extended observation owing to the risk of infection.

Asked about the experience, the boy said he would never go fishing again.

Ministry of Public Health Spokesperson Dr Suphan Srithamma advised that when swimming in bodies of water that have small animals like fish and leeches capable of entering through an orifice – especially the anus – people should be sure to wear tight-fitting underwear.

If something unexpected should happen – such as a fish climbing up one's anus – try to keep as still as possible to prevent it from climbing further up the alimentary canal; then get to hospital as fast as possible.

If the animal has sharp spines there is a risk that it could rupture the intestinal wall and move into the abdominal cavity, which would be very dangerous, Dr Suphan said.

Climbing perch, also known as climbing gouramies, are able to climb out of water and travel short distances on land using their gill plates, fins and tail. Their ability to survive on atmospheric oxygen allows them to survive out of water – or even up an anus – for some time in search of a new aquatic home.

Source: Khao Sod

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COMING OF AGE: A group of ladyboys showed their identity cards as they waited for their turn during a military conscription draw in Nakhon Ratchasima on April 5. Transgender men are usually granted exemptions from the military service. Photo by Prasit Tangprasert

“Traffy” to the rescue for savvy commuters

BANGKOK: In a few months' time, commuters in Bangkok and upcountry will be able to report traffic conditions real-time via a new website: <http://traffy.nectec.or.th>

Wasan Pattara-atikom, senior researcher of National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (Nectec) said that a research team is developing the prototype of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) version II.

Named “Traffy version II”, the site will be aimed at creating a social network for Internet-enabled motorists to exchange information about road conditions.

The Traffy new version will allow commuters and people to more easily access, input, and archive traffic information in real-time via the Internet, iPhone, as well as smart phones that run on Windows Mobile, Java and Symbian environments.

The new Traffy, to be based in part on Google Maps, will allow commuters to access traffic conditions in real-time from the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)'s intelligent traffic signboards at 850 intersections as well as closed-circuit television images from the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EAT).

The system will provide route suggestions and “tool boxes” enabling commuters to receive predictions of traffic conditions “with a 90% accuracy rate”, according to Mr Wasan.

In Bangkok alone there are two million people who commute by cars and public transport, with another 8 million who get around by motorbike. With an estimated average of four million trips a day, even a one minute reduction per trip would significantly help save energy costs and limit pollution, he said.

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First payment as govt gets ready for “elderly society”

BANGKOK: While red-shirted demonstrators clogged the streets of the capital, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on National Elderly Day presided over a ceremony at Muang Thong Thani Stadium in Nonthaburi to transfer the Bt500 monthly government allowance to eligible elderly people.

Thailand is entering an “elderly society” state, with the population ratio of elderly citizens predicted to rise from 10% to 20% in the next 20 years. To ease the transition, the government will speed up the national pension system to let seniors earn income from their savings during their older years, he said.

PM Abhisit said the allowance, to benefit people over 60 years of age who were not employees or civil servants, should reach them by the end of this month.

Although Bt500 was insufficient to meet living costs, it was at least a start and a reflection of

society's gratitude towards its senior citizens. The government is also establishing criteria to extend the Elderly Fund's loan ceiling from Bt15,000 to Bt30,000 so that seniors with potential could borrow money to start businesses, he said.

Government agencies were promoting more activities involving the elderly and the Education Ministry was asked to draw up a curriculum, allowing students to visit senior citizens for 12 hours per week, he added.

Besides presenting the symbolic Bt500 allowance to five representatives, PM Abhisit conferred the outstanding senior citizen award 2009 on Thanphuying Phulsab Noppawong, awarded sponsorship and loan certificates to seniors' vocational projects, and trophies for elderly athletes.

Social Development and Human Security Minister Issara Somchai said the Senior Citizen

Act had been amended so Thai governments could continue providing the monthly allowance to all entitled elderly people.

Public Health Department chief Dr Narongsak Unkasuwapala said the current ratio of elderly Thais, now at 10%, is expected to rise to 16% in 10 years.

Thanks to better access to medical care and improved education promoting healthy lifestyles, the average longevity of Thais is currently 71 years; 75 for women and 68 years for men.

Dr Narongsak said discussions on elderly issues agreed senior citizens suffered three main problems: firstly, illnesses from physical deterioration and ageing, lowered income from limited physical capacity and lack of supporting children; and thirdly, psychological problems of loneliness and abandonment by their children.

Average student test scores on an upward curve: Obec

BANGKOK: Students' academic performance has not dropped across the board in recent years as has been reported in some media, said the Office of Basic Education Commission (Obec).

Average scores in some subjects have even improved, Obec secretary general Khunying Kasama Varawarn said on April 8.

According to national tests, Grade 3 students' average scores in Thai language have climbed from 48.26 in 2007 to 51.59 in 2008.

In the Ordinary National Educational Test (Onet), average scores in science for Grade 6 stu-

dents rose from 43.17 in 2006 to 49.57 and 51.68 in the subsequent two years.

For students studying English language, average scores have improved from 34.51 (2006) to 36.68 (2007) and again to 37.62 (2008), she revealed.

Grade 9 students' average scores in Onet have also increased in mathematics, up from 21.15 in 2006 to 34.56 in 2008.

Khunying Kasama reckons that students' academic performances did not show any clear improvement, as average Onet scores for Grade 12 students have fluctuated slightly in all subjects.

Obec was going to analyze the scores from Onet and national tests in a bid to identify factors affecting academic performances, she said.

“We will also check which of our improvement projects are effective and which ones are not, so that we can improve the quality of educational services further,” she said.

Lack of teaching materials, failure by some schools to provide quality instruction and a shortage of capable teachers were among the reasons why the average scores have not shown significant improvement, she said.

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Peace protagonist survives shooting



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND
By Max Rogers

KOH PHANGAN: A well-known expat resident of Koh Phangan was shot recently after acting on behalf of local villagers in their crusade to end some of the island's many late night parties.

Fleiderer Ralf, 39, also known as "Becki", was shot once in the hip when intruders broke into his house in the early hours of March 30.

Mr Ralf is a website designer and has been living in the Ban Tai area of the island for

more than a decade.

He is well known among members of the area's Thai community and among foreigners around the world, due to the popularity of his website dedicated to covering the island and its events.

Mr Ralf had been openly pursuing a push towards eradicating late-night parties in the area as the noise was said to be disturbing residents.

Mr Ralf told police that the attackers came to his home armed with a baseball bat and a large piece of wood.

Mr Ralf woke to find the two men on his balcony and surprised them when he approached them.

There was a struggle between the three, during which one of the intruders took out a gun and fired it several times, injuring Mr Ralf. The intruders then fled on a motorbike.

Police were called by neighbors after they heard the shots and went to Mr Ralf's home to find him injured from the attack.

The neighbors later told police that the attackers had returned to the scene some time after the first incident but fled again after realizing that other people had gone to Mr Ralf's aid.

Police are still searching for the attackers, who are said to be young Thai males in their early twenties, and around 160cm tall.

Hedonists head for Nikki Beach



KOH SAMUI: Worldwide luxury entertainment brand Nikki Beach celebrated the grand opening of its Koh Samui venue with a "White Party" on April 25 that drew a large cosmopolitan crowd of young adults, each of whom dressed in white.

Nikki Beach first appeared on Miami's South Beach in 1996 and has since become well established as an international entertainment brand known to celebrities and high-society visitors for its interactive events in art, music, fashion and film in eight exotic locations around the globe.

Located in Lipa Noi, on the West coast of the island, the beach club features extraordinary design features throughout that set it apart from other clubs, including prominent copper fire fountains and a copper roof dome over the main bar and VIP lounge area.

Beyond the dome area, the dining section encompasses a Tatani table, which is a common central feature at Nikki Beach venues. The venue also offers a café-style bakery, as well as a clothing boutique that offers designs from the Nikki Beach brand, the label which will be officially launched at this year's Cannes film festival.

The terrace area – with a unique arrangement of daybeds around a pool that is equipped with underwater speakers – will host international DJs and live bands.

Algerians arrested for string of tourist robberies

BANGKOK: Two Algerian nationals were arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok after disembarking from an aircraft that had flown in to Bangkok from Koh Samui.

The Algerians were suspected of involvement in a number of tourist robberies and were identified as Ben Maiza Hazen, 35, and Mohamm Zodeezee, 23.

The two men were arrested

soon after they landed at Bangkok's international airport on March 18.

The Tourist Police made an announcement of the pair's arrest after learning that the men had been traveling with false passports. They are suspected of being involved in about 30 robberies on Koh Samui as well as an unknown number of crimes at several other tourist destinations

around Thailand.

Koh Samui police had been tracking the two suspects and had spotted them on CCTV camera footage when they attempted to purchase goods at the Big C supermarket in Bophut.

The credit cards used by the suspects belonged to tourists who had filed reports with police of theft from the room at the resort where they had been staying.

From their investigations, police learned that the suspects had been checking in to resort rooms, posing as tourists. The suspects would then duplicate the keys in order to enter the rooms when they were later occupied by other guests.

According to police, the pair would then sell the items they had stolen and make purchases with cash and stolen credit cards.

Police at Suvarnabhumi Airport seized several items from the suspects, including, three laptop computers, a video camera, seven digital cameras, five mobile phones, three iPods, three mp3 players, seven watches and a lady's handbag.

The items were said to have a combined value of at least 500,000 baht. Many of the items were new and believed to have been bought by the suspects using the stolen credit cards.

Police believe the pair had been operating in this way in Phuket, Pattaya and Samui for about two years. Several of the pair's victims have been contacted so their belongings can be returned to them upon proper verification.

Police are still trying to determine how the pair managed to avoid detection after entering the country on false passports.

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Keeping tradition alive

From April 13 to 15 each year, many Thais return to their homes to celebrate the end of one year and to welcome the next. Here in Phuket, tourists congregate in their thousands to take part in one of the most enjoyable festivals in the Kingdom.

Songkran is traditionally a time to visit and pay respect to elders, namely family members, friends and neighbors. In days gone by, people would pour a little water onto the hands or the shoulders of the elders to pay respect. Today, Songkran has become a giant water fight where people roam the streets with water pistols, bottles, hoses and any container they can get their hands on, often preying on unsuspecting tourists.

Aside from the throwing of water, many Thais visit the local *wat* (Buddhist temples) during the festival to make merit (*tumboon*) through prayer, giving alms to the monks and cleansing images of Buddha. It is believed that this will bring good fortune and prosperity for the coming year.

In the build up to the festival, elderly Thais gathered in Sripuwanat Park in tambon Wichit to celebrate the National Day of the Elderly. Those who attended received gifts from a number of organizations around the island, before enjoying a free check up from Phuket International Hospital.

The event was then officially opened by Mr Kreetar Saetan, mayor of Wichit Municipality,

who, along with other attending dignitaries, presented each of the attendees with a flower garland before everyone sat back to enjoy performances by groups of local children and elderly Phuketians.

When the entertainment was brought to a close, the elders took part in a blessing ceremony in which water was poured onto their hands to show respect.

Elsewhere, Phuket City Municipality arranged the ordination of a group of young monks at Wichitsangkaram Temple (*Wat Kuan*) in honor of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The annual ceremony is held in summertime before Songkran in the hope of encouraging the youngsters to lead good lives.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop and his wife Mrs Thaisika receiving Songkran blessings at Provincial Hall on April 10.



In honor of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, a group of children were ordained as Buddhist monks (*nean*) at Wichitsangkaram Temple with the aim of encouraging youngsters to lead good lives.



Senior citizens receiving Songkran blessings.



A group of Phuket elders entertain at Sripuwanat Park in Wichit.

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The land of the long white wine

Having previously lived in Australia for almost two years – sampling many of their delicious red and white wines in the process – I was convinced that the undisputed King of New World wine was the “Land down under”. My opinion never wavered, even in the face of fierce criticism from others. Never wavered, that is, until I visited New Zealand.

Rare vintage

By Dan Ogunshakin

After spending a month in Aoteroa – a Maori name meaning “the land of the long white cloud” – I was hooked by the country, the rugby and the wines. To this day, the Sauvignon Blancs from the Marlborough region remain my favorite whites, while their reds are more than adequate.

While I would never claim to be a connoisseur – more of a lush, to be perfectly honest – I believe I know enough about wine to spot a good one when I quaff it.

So, when offered the opportunity to enjoy “An evening of extraordinary wines with Kai Schubert” from Schubert Winery, New Zealand, held at La Trattoria restaurant at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, I jumped at the chance.

The award-winning Schubert Winery was established in 1998 by Kai Schubert and his partner Marion Deimling. While looking for the ideal spot to establish their vineyard, the partners came across Martinborough in the

Wairarapa Valley. Impressed as they were by the wines they sampled there, they decided nevertheless to continue their search, which took them to parts of Australia, Europe and the US. Ultimately, however, the appeal of Martinborough proved decisive.

On arrival at La Trattoria, thirsty wine aficionados were greeted by Kai Schubert and offered *Crosstini a la Felix* with olive tapenade and a crisp 2008 *Pinot Noir Rosé*.

The saltiness of the tapenade was countered by the pale rosé, with its delicate hint of wild berries. A couple of glasses together with the delicious crosstini whetted the palette nicely in anticipation of the four-course meal to follow – each dish carefully selected by Chef Felix Bamert to complement the wine.

Before each course was served, those in attendance were treated to an explanation of each wine by Mr Schubert, with regard to how it was produced and things to look out for – cue furious note taking.

The meal commenced with a pea ravioli with a menthe vanilla butter accompanied by a 2007 *Schubert Sauvignon Blanc*. Pale and reasonably dry – although not as dry as some –

it had a fruity roundness with a grapefruit finish. The menthe vanilla butter that accompanied the al dente ravioli was an excellent bedfellow for the zesty white.

The first red wine of the evening was a 2007 *Cabernet Merlot*, which accompanied a date soup with chilli and almond brick. An avowed fan of Cabernet Sauvignon, I was nevertheless utterly enchanted by the fabulous, full-bodied *Schubert Cabernet Merlot*.

Deep ruby in color, with a spiced cherry bouquet and a long smooth finish, the soft gamy notes of the wine were a match made in heaven for the thick, brown, spicy soup that was sweet to the point that bordered on a delicious sickness.

While we took the time to cleanse the palette with water between courses, Mr Schubert took the opportunity to describe the final two wines that we would enjoy that evening.

The third course entailed white prawns with panchetta and ratatouille served with a 2005 *Schubert Tri-bianco*. Of all the wines tasted that evening, the *Tribianco* was by far the most unusual.

As the name suggests, the *Tribianco* is made from three different varieties of grape – Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Müller-Thurgau. The result is a wine the color of light honey with a taste to match. Along with the honey flavor, the *Tribianco* contained elements of mandarin, vanilla and a smoky finish from toasty oak that, like the *Pinot Noir Rosé*, complemented the salty element of the food, in this case the panchetta.

The final wine of the evening was a 2006 *Marion Pinot Noir* served with lamb cutlets on *jus de fig* and parsnip purée. The *Pinot Noir* was dry and acidic with a deep color, not

I have to admit to being a fan of Cabernet Sauvignon, but was completely enchanted by the fabulous, full bodied Schubert Cabernet Merlot.



The 2005 *Schubert Tribianco*: a wine the color of light honey with the taste to match.

unlike the *Cabernet Merlot*. This fruity red was silky smooth with notes of cherry and raspberry. It was undeniably drinkable, although, it must be said, not as good as the fabulous *Cabernet Merlot*.

The lamb was the culinary highlight of the repast, particularly for those starved of it here in Thailand. No true New Zealand wine dinner would have been complete without a taste of its most populous inhabitant.

I consider myself a true carnivore, and while others may have blanched at how rare the lamb was served, it was cooked perfectly for my vampiric tastes; seasoned well, deliciously complementing the *jus de fig*.

Sadly, the wine was now at an end, but there was still dessert to enjoy. The blinis, candied fruits and berries on sour ice cream brought the meal to a wonderful close.

Reflecting back, each dish was the perfect partner for each of the wines brought over by the Schubert Winery, while the stand-out performers on the night were undoubtedly the *Cabernet Merlot* and the lamb cutlets.

Hearty congrats to both Felix and Kai. My only gripe was that the food and wine ran out and that I had to go home. Still, time enough to pick up a bottle of wine on the way home – a lush until the very end.



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Once, twice, three times a baby

By James Goyder

While becoming a mother can undoubtedly be a joyous experience, there is no doubt that it can also be tough – particularly if you are a single mum. Spare a thought then for Melissa Matchapato who, abandoned by the father, gave birth to not one, not two, but three children.

That was almost three years ago and since then, friend Tony Pope has been helping support the triplets through his charity, Helpline (formerly Thaitanic).

“How Melissa copes is a mystery. She sells Isarn food from her motorbike, which I converted to hold the triplets, but she does not make a huge amount of money,” he told the *Gazette*.

While other aid agencies or individuals have each helped to support Melissa for brief periods of time, the main burden of responsibility continues to fall on Tony Pope and Helpline.

“We’ve had other people help out, in particular CoCo de Mer fund manager Barry Cager, who helped out for six months, as well as a couple from Sweden, the Ekheims. However people and agencies tend to help for only a few months at a time, after which it is back to Help-line,” he said.

Other avenues have been explored, including attempting to locate the triplets’ German father, who was adamant that Melissa should go ahead with the birth, citing his family’s strong religious beliefs as a major factor.

Unfortunately, these beliefs did not extend towards actually supporting the family himself and he abandoned Melissa and the triplets and fled, never to be seen again.

Tony has attempted to trace the man, hoping that if he came and saw the triplets, he would instantly fall in love with them, but to no avail.

Now Pimpika, Petcharat and Pattapong are two years and six months old. In a few months time, they should be starting preschool which, at a cost of Bt2,000 per child, per term, will cost Bt12,000 per year.

Financial help is desperately needed but Tony is eager to take a back seat in the process. “I



Melisa and her three children, who have never met their father, and reaching preschool age – something Melisa dreads as she struggles to make ends meet and find enough money to clothe them all in school uniforms.

don’t take donations. I prefer people to give money directly. If people want to give money they can contact me and I will introduce them to the triplets. Then they can decide what they want to give the money for and they will be able to see where that

money is going,” he explained.

Melissa herself is struggling to control the triplets. With no one else to take care of them she is forced to take them everywhere she goes.

“Now they are getting older, they are fighting all the time.

When I am working I have to keep them all on a leash in my motorbike because it is the only way I can control them. I need someone else to help me take care of them so I can get some rest,” she said.

Taking care of triplets is

clearly not a one-woman job and Melissa is in urgent need of help in looking after Pimpika, Petcharat and Pattapong.

People interested in helping Melissa with donations or simply lending a hand with the triplets can contact Tony Pope. Tel: 081-0333 195, 081-0849 093 (Thai). Email: helpline.phuket@gmail.com.

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EXPAT GALLERY

Woody Leonhard

Woody Leonhard is feeling a lot of pressure these days. He's writing another book for the popular 'Dummies' series to help the world understand the operating principles behind the latest version of Microsoft Windows 7. He says he can't remember how many books he's authored, but he guesses it's over 40.

"Writing computer books is high pressure as they have to be ready by the time the computer program is put on the market. Currently, I have just a few weeks to get the Windows 7 book completed to coincide with the launch next month," Woody explains.

His books are no small projects. His larger manuals are around 750 pages. To learn about Woody's career as a technical writer for the computer industry, one has to go on the Internet to discover more about this nice man who offers what he calls "computer therapy" most Sundays to Phuket's army of residents who have questions about anything to do with computers.

One learns that he is considered to be provocative in the computer industry as he has made a career of exposing many of the problems in programs developed by Microsoft. Many of the tips on the problems with these programs come from Microsoft's own staff, who send Woody the

inside information about bugs or other issues.

Woody did not plan to become a global guru for the computer industry. He planned to study theoretical physics in university. Like Albert Einstein. But he also wanted to make money and retire early, and he discovered that theoretical physics did not promise a lucrative career, so he turned to math.

He graduated from Whitman College in the United States with his Bachelor's Degree in Math, *Summa Cum Laude*, and was then granted a Master's in Computer Science from the University of Colorado. He was then ready to make his desired fortune and accepted a job planning the deployment of computer systems for Saudi Arabia's oil conglomerate, Aramco. During this five year stint, Woody visited Thailand for the first time, in 1983, and was delighted with much the country had to offer.

By 1985, Woody had made his money and he returned to Colorado where he bought a house on top of a mountain and settled into early retirement. While writing a book about his experience with Aramco, he used Word for Windows and discovered hundreds of bugs and wrote a 200 page book about how to get

around those problems. It was the beginning of his new career.

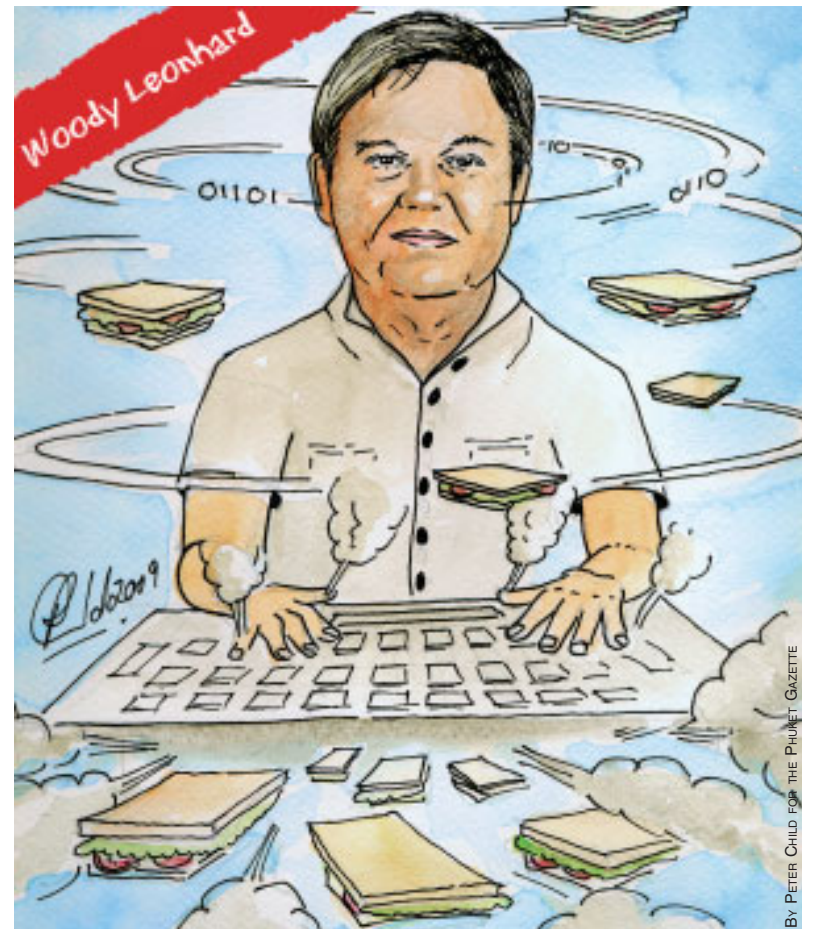
He spent the next sixteen years becoming one of the world's leading experts on how to navigate through successive computer programs. He has received eight Computer Press Awards from the Computer Press Association and two Neal Awards from the American Business Press for his contributions.

In 2000, Woody moved to Thailand. He chose Phuket, he says, because he could get a good cup of coffee here.

"I chose Phuket because I liked the then recently opened Starbucks on the beach road in Patong. It's where I met my wife, Khun Add, who was the manager," he says. "Back then, the coffee was great but the pastries were terrible. One day, Khun Add made me a cheesecake that was delicious and we thought we could open a bakery providing Starbucks with the pastries they now sell."

While Woody continued writing computer manuals, his wife expanded their bakery. By 2004, they figured Phuket needed a good sandwich shop and opened their first such restaurant in Aroonsom Plaza in Patong. They've since added two more locations on the island, Chalong and Cherrngtalay. It is in these stores that Woody offers his immensely popular Sunday morning "computer therapy" sessions for local residents, whom he regularly asks: "Is your computer driving you nuts?"

— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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

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WARM WELCOME: Managers of the *Phuket Gazette* welcomed new Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (yellow shirt) at Provincial Hall on April 3. Also pictured are the *Gazette*'s Managing Editor Nick Davies; General Manager Nilada Mastanawattanakul (2nd left) and Reporter Thanasorn Chookate.



Janpen Arno-Magee receives a trophy for the best score in the Women's Division of the inaugural Phuket Oilfield Classic charity golf tournament held at Loch Palm and Red Mountain golf courses from April 3 to 5. Presenting the award is the event's organizer, Mark Cameron. A total of 1.4 million baht was raised over the three-day event.



MOVING ON: The Royal Place Condominium combined a Grand Opening celebration for the launch of its second phase with a Thank You party for phase one customers on March 27. Pictured are VS Group president Vichian Supataragul (center); Phuket vice-governor Smith Palawatwichai (2nd from left); and Phang Nga Provincial Industrial Officer Thongchai Wichaidit (2nd from right).



BON APPETIT: The March *Diner Amical* of the *Chaine des Rotisseurs Baillie* Phuket was held at the newly re-opened Mae Naam Restaurant at Royal Phawadee Village, Patong Beach. The dinner was hosted by Mr Claude de Crissey and one-star Michelin chef Yvon Blandin. Pictured (from left to right) are Phuket *Baillie* members Hans J. Kahrs; Peter N. M. Smith; Poonpun "Nui" Jangrugsa; Howard Digby-Johns and Claude de Crissey.



TOY STORY THREE: These three little shoppers were some of the children who had some serious fun with the toys on offer at the International Toy Festival held at Jungceylon Shopping Center in Patong, from April 1 to April 8.



FEEL THE NOIZE: (From left to right) Colin Hill, Bonnie Andersen, Theo and Karen Beresford. They entertained patrons and rocked the Karma Lounge at Karon Plaza on Friday April 3. Photo by Dan Miles.



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Masterpieces of failed art

Following the establishment of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Palace Affairs – now called Silpakorn University – and its Faculty of Fine Art by Italian-born Professor Silpa Bhirasri, contemporary art in Thailand blossomed.

Professor Silpa is widely regarded as the father of modern art in Thailand, and his contribution to Thai culture is celebrated each year on the day of his birth, now known as Silpa Bhirasri Day.

The professor's influence invigorated the development of Thai art, with traditional styles fused with Western art to create works that are still valued today.

Many of the works put on show at that time were the work of young artists, whose exhibits were termed "failed" pieces. They would be used as part of an exhibition simply as a means of highlighting the craftsmanship of the so-called "masterpieces" on display; once the exhibition was over, these "disposable" works of art were simply tossed away.

Kritsana Chaikitwattana is an alumnus of Silpakorn University. Born in Haad Yai in 1977, he is now regarded as one of Thailand's most talented young artists.

In the second of D Gallery's Absolutely Aesthetics series,

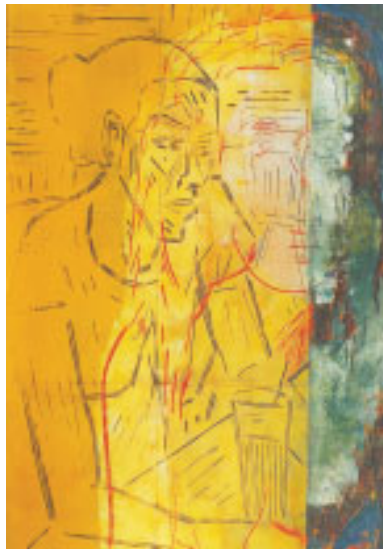
which features the work of emerging Thai artists, Kritsana presents the aesthetic contrasts between those "classic" and "failed" works and poses the question, "What is the true value behind them?"

Kritsana creates his pieces by carving on vinyl tile or plywood and then painting with oil. For the artist, the scratches and patches that appear on his richly colored and textured creations symbolize the passing of time.

His compassion for today's society and his homage to Thai women provided the inspiration for his earlier exhibition back in February entitled "Venuses of Bangkok", in which he focused on the enduring strength of Thai women and their changing roles in society. A number of his other paintings dramatize the contrast and disparity between the middle class and the poorer segments of Thai society.

Kritsana has had his work exhibited a number of times in Thailand, as well as putting on shows in Korea in 2003, Spain in 2005, and Taiwan in 2006.

The exhibition of Kritsana's work will be on show at D Gallery at the Royal Phuket Marina from May 29 to June 30, 2009. For more information visit the D Gallery website at www.dgallery.co.th.



Kritsana creates his pieces by carving on vinyl tile or plywood and then painting with oil. For the artist, the scratches and patches that appear on his richly colored and textured creations symbolize the passing of time.



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

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Exploring the jewel of Africa

By Gisa Ellis

Near the tip of South Africa and spreading from the foot of Table Mountain, nestles a city known as the Jewel of Africa: Cape Town. The city is surrounded by glorious landscapes, unique vegetation, beautiful mountains and stunning beaches. Cape Town is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The city is the most popular tourist destination in South Africa, attracting millions of visitors every year. As the saying goes, 'Once people have seen Table Mountain, they always come back'.

Portuguese explorer Bartholomeu Diaz first encountered the Cape Region back in 1487 during his search for a trade route to the Far East. In the 1600s, Dutch pioneer Jan van Riebeeck started the first European settlement, establishing a refreshment station for ships on route to the Dutch East Indies. These Dutch origins are still evident in the local Afrikaans language, widely spoken alongside English, the official language.

Cape Town has a distinctly

cosmopolitan feel, its culture influenced not only by the Africans and Dutch but also by the British, French and Malaysians, among others. This makes Cape Town a diverse and colorful place, particularly in the city's art, architecture and cuisine.

Cape Town and its surrounding areas host a rich assortment of museums, art galleries, craft markets, theaters and places of cultural interest. Many well-known performers either reside in the city or visit frequently to attend events such as the popular International Jazz Festival, which attracts an audience of over 30,000 annually.

The city's architecture blends a variety of influences, the most famous being the beautiful Cape Dutch Architectural style, which is unique to the area. The city also boasts a large number of beautifully preserved historical buildings, including the Castle of Good Hope and the Houses of Parliament, both of which are open to the public.

Food and wine lovers visiting Cape Town – and particularly the Cape Winelands of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek –



Cape Town has a distinctly cosmopolitan feel, its culture influenced not only by the Africans and Dutch but also by the British, French and Malaysians, among others.

will be truly spoiled for choice. South African wines are widely ranked as among the best in the world and there is a marvelous variety of fine restaurants and vineyards in which to indulge your

passion. The food quality is usually very good and one can find almost anything the heart desires, from African, Asian, and Italian to Cape Malay, a unique cuisine of Malaysian origin. Fresh fish and seafood is offered on most menus daily. South Africans also love their meat and it is said that you will find some of the best steaks in this part of the world.

Outdoor life is a big thing in Cape Town. In the summer months between November and March, the beaches around the city are packed with people. As Cape Town is located between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, the enthusiastic swimmer who finds the frigid waters of the Atlantic a little too cold for comfort will have the enviable option of a short hop over to the Indian Ocean beaches in False Bay.

South Africans are fiercely passionate about their sport. Just about every kind of sporting activity is on offer in Cape Town – from diving to paragliding. A number of the main yearly events revolve around sports activities,

such as the Cape Argus Cycle Tour, the Two Oceans Marathon or the Met Horseracing event. Hikers can explore the region on umpteen mountain hiking trails and observe the area's spectacular flora, fauna and wildlife. Golf lovers can choose from no fewer than 11 golf courses in Cape Town alone. Some of the world's

best kitesurfers regularly make the pilgrimage to Cape Town, attracted by its ideal sea and wind conditions.

The wind is a much discussed topic in the city – especially in the early summer months of November and December. The South-Easter, also known as the Cape Doctor, can blow fiercely for days on end, usually outstaying its welcome. The fresh Summer breeze, blowing in off the sea, can mask the 35 degrees Celsius temperatures, while the sun can be fiercely hot.

Although summers are generally pleasant and winters mild – with moderate rain throughout the year – the weather can be unpredictable.

Conventional local wisdom has it that Spring (September and

Food and wine lovers visiting Cape Town will be truly spoiled for choice. South African wines are ranked as among the best in the world and there is a marvelous variety of fine restaurants.



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A great way to gain a first impression of the Cape is by a trip up Table Mountain, either by cable car or on foot.

October) and Autumn (April and May) are the best times to visit Cape Town. Those months fall between seasons when there is little wind and nature is at its most resplendent.

A great way to gain a first impression of the Cape is by a trip up Table Mountain, either by cable car or on foot. At the top there are over two kilometers of pathways that offer spectacular views over Cape Town, Table Bay, Robben Island, the Cape Flats and the Cape Peninsula.

The central part of Cape Town, called City Bowl, stretches from the slopes of Table Mountain to the harbor. The Central Business District, as well as shops and tourist attractions like Parliament, Castle of Good Hope, City Hall, the Malay Quarter, plus a

number of museums, are all located in this area.

Bordering the City Bowl are some of the oldest parts of Cape Town, like Tamboerskloof, Oranjezicht and Gardens, which has recently become one of the trendiest places to live.

The world famous Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, built on top of part of Cape Town's docks at the port, has emerged as one of the city's most popular shopping venues. With several hundred shops, restaurants and hotels, it is a must-see for every visitor to Cape Town.

The Mouillie, Sea and Green Point areas, which house many of the city's high-rise apartment blocks, play host to Cape Town's vibrant nightlife scene. Green Point will also be

one of the focal points for the forthcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Beautiful beaches line the shore along the Atlantic Seaboard via Clifton to the young and trendy Camps Bay. Imposing private homes and apartment buildings are perched on the hills behind the coastal road where property prices are among some of the area's most expensive.

Driving further along the Atlantic Seaboard towards Cape Point, visitors will arrive at Hout Bay. This fishing town sits picturesquely in a sheltered bay, bordered to the west by Karbonkel Mountain and the famous Mount Sentinel, and to the east, by the Constantia Mountains and Chapman's Peak. Chapman's Peak Drive, one of the most spectacular coastal drives anywhere in the world, winds its way around the coastline of Chapman's Peak for nine kilometers between Hout Bay and Nordhoek.

Cape Town and its surrounding areas host a rich assortment of museums, art galleries, craft markets, theaters and places of cultural interest.

South of the City Bowl, the so called Southern Suburbs are the greenest and most wind protected areas of Cape Town. In the noble residential areas of Constantia, grand Cape Dutch-style mansions lie hidden away in private gardens and parks. Prestigious and well-known vineyards, with their exclusive restaurants like Constantia Uitsig or Buitenv-erwachting, attract a large number of visitors for wine tastings and extravagant dining experiences.

Also located here are the famous Kirstenbosch Gardens, set against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain and for the beauty and diversity of the Cape flora it displays. Many events and concerts are held in the Gardens, including the Sunday Summer Sunset Concerts, which take place between November and April.

North of Cape Town, along the Atlantic Seaboard, Table Bay and Blouberg are famous for their

wide, sandy beaches, surfers and kitesurfers, and the spectacular sunsets over Table Mountain. One of Africa's biggest shopping malls, Canal Walk, is located in the Northern areas, within easy reach of the motorway.

The magical city of Cape Town continues to captivate visitors for a variety of reasons. However, many first-time visitors to the city are apprehensive about crime, poverty and class differences between blacks and whites. It is recommended that visitors seek guidance from someone with local knowledge about the "dos" and "don'ts" but common sense will make the visit an enjoyable one.

The country is working hard in these areas and there have been major improvements recently. As with anywhere else in the world, criminals are in the minority and it would be a shame to let apprehension and prejudice spoil a visit to such a beautiful place. Cape Town will welcome you.

Cape Town Fact File

Many international flights fly directly into Cape Town International Airport. Alternatively, visitors can fly into Johannesburg and take a domestic flight to Cape Town with South African Airlines. Information regarding South African Airlines and the airport is available at:
www.flysaa.co.za
www.acsa.co.za
www.go-cape.co.za/airport.htm

Cape Town offers every type of accommodation from 5-star hotels to B&Bs. Information regarding accommodation is available at:
capetown.hotelguide.co.za/
www.sa-venues.com

General information about Cape Town is available at:
www.yourcapetown.com

Information regarding restaurants in Cape Town is available at:
www.eatout.co.za
www.dining-out.co.za
www.food24.com

Information regarding restaurants in the Cape Winelands is available at:
www.greenwoodguides.com
iguide.travel/Cape_Winelands/Eating

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The IS250C's 2.5-liter engine with a 6-speed automatic transmission produces 204 bhp.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

For many, the idea of producing an open-top luxury sporting sedan would seem obvious, yet it has been a long time in the making. At the Geneva Salon in early March, Lexus finally unveiled the IS250C, an open-top version of its highly successful IS range.

The IS250C has the same proven engine as the sedan, producing 204 bhp (153 kW) from its 2.5 liters, coupled with a six-speed automatic transmission. The Lexus also boasts the world's fastest three-part aluminum roof, opening and closing in just 20 seconds.

Although the convertible is clearly based on the IS sedan, it shares only the hood, headlamps and door handles with the closed car.

Longer overhangs – both front and rear – improve the aerodynamics with the roof down, new fog lamps are incorporated into the front air dam, while there are new combination tail-lamp clusters as well as a high-mounted LED stop lamp on the upper lip of the trunk.

The interior, as you would expect from the luxury arm of Toyota, is sumptuously appointed. The audio system is a top quality, 12-speaker Mark Levinson Surround System, with equalizer tuning to ensure consistent sound quality whether the roof is up or down, automatically adapting to the loss of bass when the roof is stowed.

There is a slightly less impressive 8-speaker 246 Watt stereo if your budget will not run to the amazing US-built Levinson,



The Lexus boasts the world's fastest three-part aluminum roof, opening and closing in just 20 seconds.

but both systems are fully iPod-compatible and also accept Bluetooth mobile phone connection with an audio/video streaming function.

The front seats feature integral seat belts, while the full-size rear seats are set a little further inboard than in the closed sedan, optimizing headroom.

The doors also open wider than those of the closed car, allowing easy access to the rear. A one-touch walk-in button offers high-speed automatic front seat fold-and-slide activation.

The instrument panel and ancillary components, as well as the steering wheel, are copied from the IS sedan, although the driver's instrument binnacle has been extensively revised to increase roof-down visibility.

The color of the dials has been changed, LED contrast increased, and the glass light transmission reduced from 30% to 20%. The dial needle shape has been revised and the dials them-

selves feature metal-tone ring surrounds. The central multi-function display has a hard-top status indicator – just in case you are unsure whether the roof is up or down!

The climate control system has been specially configured for top-down motoring with the addition of speed-sensitive control that automatically increases air flow in roof-down mode, upping the flow further as the speed increases.

Safety is a high priority with any Lexus and the IS250C has been engineered with the aim of achieving a top rating in both the Euro and US NCAP crash testing, thereby offering world-class safety in either coupé or convertible configuration. Both active and passive safety has been adapted to the open car, which includes Lexus's state-of-the-art vehicle dynamics integrated management (VDIM), combining shorter stopping distances on split-surface highways and a re-

vised pre-crash safety system. It also operates seatbelt pretensioners and the pre-crash brake assist functions, as well as integrating the world's first SRS twin-chamber passenger airbag.

Further improving the Lexus's safety characteristics are larger, newly designed side airbags, providing increased head protection in the event of a side impact. The coupé-convertible bodyshell has also been equipped with additional energy-absorbing impact pads for both front and rear seat occupants.

The new Lexus IS250C is undoubtedly a welcome addition to the Lexus line-up and offers a luxury alternative to the competing BMW 3-series convertible and the similar Audi. For more details – the IS250C is not yet on Lexus's Thai site – go to www.lexus.com.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigat.com



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

April 18 - 24. Exploring Love, Ceramics exhibition at &joy! Gallery

"Exploring Love" Ceramics Exhibition by Nino Sarabutraat at &joy! Creative Lifestyle Boutique and Gallery. "Exploring Love" is a wall installation of heart-shaped stoneware bowls. Each is hand-crafted in a different shape, glaze, texture, color and decorative detail, and fired to 1,220 degrees Celsius in an oxidation atmosphere. The bowls can serve as domestic fruit bowls or decorative wall hangings. Some are dark, some bright, some simple, some complicated – just like our emotions. From 10am to 9:30pm. Location: &joy! Lifestyle Boutique and Gallery. 177/33, Srisoonthorn Road, Thalang. For further information contact Dominique. T: 085-655095. E: info@enjoy-studio5.com. W: www.enjoy-studio5.com.

April 18. Grand Opening for E.nopi Phuket

E.nopi Math, a supplemental math program that began in Korea over 30 years ago and has now been adopted by more than 2.5 million students in 13 countries, celebrates its grand opening in Phuket. A parents' orientation, program description, and student diagnostic test will be held during the grand opening. From 1pm to 3pm at E.nopi – near Chao Fa Variety Weekend Market. For further information, please contact Khun Boonchai. T: 089-668 7620. E: daekyothailand@enopi.com or basman_lim@yahoo.com. W: www.enopi.com.

April 19. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

Is your computer driving you NUTS? Can't get a decent Internet connection? Worried about the latest viruses? Wondering what to do about your pirate software? 3G phones? High Def TV? Hey, you aren't alone. Join "For Dummies" author and Windows gadfly Woody Leonhard in our ongoing FREE Sunday morning Computer Clinics, which rotate among the three Sandwich Shoppe locations on the island. Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your worry beads. And don't forget your sense of humor. Let's see if we can figure out an answer to your

problems. From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

April 22. Earth Day 09 – Help protect our valuable environment

Scuba Cat Diving and Kontiki are organizing Earth Day clean-up events on April 22. We are offering events for everybody. We are proposing the following beach clean-ups:

- Coral Island Beach clean-up;
- Patong Beach underwater clean-up;
- Racha Yai underwater and beach clean-up.

Similans divers will stay overnight on MV Scuba Cat. We aim to involve as many people as possible to raise awareness about protecting our environment. From 7:30am to 5pm. For further information contact Kath Ridley at Scuba Cat Diving T: 076-293120 or Michael at Kontiki T: 076-280366.

E: info@scubacat.com. W: www.scubacat.com.

April 23. 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.

April 26. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

Mini Marathon & Fun Run 2009



The 5th Annual Mini-Marathon & Fun Run, raising funds in support of the Phuket Marine Biological Center's Marine Stranded Animal Rescue Project, will take place on May 24. The event comprises a mini-marathon race of 10.5k (entry cost: 200 baht); a fun run of 3.5k (150 baht); and a family "Love Turtles" walk of 2.5k (300 baht). Registration takes place on Friday, May 22 from 10am to 5pm at the Phuket Tourism & Sports Office (Surakul Stadium) and on Saturday, May 23 from 10am to 5pm at Turtle Village, Mai Khao. The mini-marathon takes place from 5am to 9:30am at Pru Jeh San Lake, Mai Khao. For further information contact Khun Khemwalai (Aim). T: 086-689 2230. E: info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com. W: www.maikhaoturtlefoundation.com.

April 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 reduce running costs.
- For designers: how to help owners save costs and add 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 - 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 foursome 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 towards the education scholarship scheme of the Phuket International Women's Club. The event will be held from 7am to 4pm at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. For further information about the challenge contact John Dux. T: 076-316711. E: layangolfchallenge@gmail.com. W: www.phuketiwclub.com.

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ON THE MOVE

Mr Fraser Ross has been appointed as the new Director of Sales and Marketing at Banyan Tree Phuket. For the past six years he has held sales and marketing positions with the Sheraton Group in Australia, China and Bahrain. In his position, Fraser will be responsible for all activities involving sales and marketing planning as well as conceptualizing promotional and tactical strategies and overall accountability for the day-to-day communications of the sales, revenue management and reservation forces.



Ms Worayos Sunartphong has been appointed as the new chef for the Ginja Cooking School at the JW Marriott and Spa resort in Mai Khao. Ms Worayos, a Bangkok native, graduated in Kitchen and Restaurant Management from Dusit Thani College in 2005. There, she also gained certification in Food Hygiene from the chartered institute of Environment Health in 2007. Before joining JW Marriott, she was Demi Chef at Tre restaurant at the Banyan Tree Phuket in Laguna.



Mr Oliver Dombey was recently appointed as Chief Information Officer for web-based travel agency HotelTravel.com. He will be based at the company's headquarters in Phuket. Mr Dombey has over 20 years experience in hospitality, travel distribution, consulting and marketing and most recently as Board Advisor for the Shanghai-based DerbySoft. Before joining HotelTravel.com, Mr Dombey served as chairman of the UK's largest travel industry association CIMTIG.



Until death do us part



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Last week's article covered some background information on Personal Portfolio Bonds (PPBs) and their use for expats. This week's article rounds off the subject. Naturally, it can only skim the surface, since it touches on other related matters which, in themselves, are often complex.

An increasing number of insurance companies are allowing clients with PPBs to sign a "nomination of beneficiary" form, which allows all the assets of the PPB to be paid out immediately on the death of the PPB holder. This form can be updated at any time if a change of beneficiary is required.

Naturally, certified copies of the death certificate will be required and insurance companies may ask more questions, simply to satisfy "reasonable doubt". This is a free service, as are income payments. When insurance companies give anything away free of charge, grab it! Seriously,

this is a great advantage for many people and it is so simple.

In more complicated cases, a trust may be required to protect the assets for future generations. The most common are Discretionary Offshore Trusts but there are many other types of trust, most of which can be held by a PPB.

Insurance companies generally avoid offering trust services themselves but will normally give specimen wording for various types of trusts. This is another free service and is often combined with tax, domicile and other related areas. All insurance companies have technical departments that are staffed by experts in matters relating to expats. This is a really useful service for clients, where relevant.

Although insurance companies will normally not manage trust companies, there is at least one exception that manages a full trust service. The advantage to clients is simplicity plus very low fees, when compared with the overwhelming number of offshore trustees available. It seems that where an insurance company has a trust company, they are not looking to make a profit, but simply to minimize the costs entailed.

PPBs can also be owned by companies. For example, an Isle of Man PPB can be owned by a British Virgin Island (BVI) com-



An increasing number of insurance companies are allowing clients with PPBs to sign a "nomination of beneficiary" form, which allows all the assets of the PPB to be paid out immediately on the death of the PPB holder. Pictured: Offices of Norwich Union offices in York, Britain's largest insurance provider.

pany or a Bermuda or Jersey company, and so on.

Partnerships can also hold PPBs and some insurance companies will even insure a PPB; this can be very useful if a breadwinner's death would impact negatively on surviving family members. It may seem strange that offshore insurance companies don't sell insurance but it is nevertheless a fact. Life assurance is a low margin business. No company will even pay commission on any insurance sold with a PPB.

Many people have heard of QROPS in the last year or two. It simply means that it is a Qualified Recognized Overseas Pensions Scheme. This is a UK Pension/Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) that is able to be transferred offshore to an acceptable recipient. What happens – after a mountain of paperwork has been created – is that the money almost always goes into a PPB and a trustee holds it as an asset. The trustee has to be fully acceptable to the UK authorities. I normally use Guernsey (Channel Islands) and Hong Kong for trustees.

Most people would hesitate to be called investors but, short

of living pay-cheque to pay-cheque, we all become investors. My wife simply refers to me – tongue in cheek – as the ATM.

Good tax havens are very useful for expats. As long as an individual has made out a will – signed in ink and dated, preferably, with two witnesses – it can be taken over, after minimal formalities, by an offshore legal firm acting as executors.

Tax havens will take about six weeks, on average, to obtain probate through their court system. This is so much faster and cheaper than winding up estates in more well-known countries. The difference is quite simple. If an Australian tax resident dies in Australia or an American in America, before an estate can be "wound up", the tax authorities want to make 100% sure that they have collected their money.

Obviously, estates anywhere that own properties and other relatively illiquid assets can have delays simply because of the nature of these assets, especially if the market for them is weak. For an expat living in Thailand, a local will is essential and the nature of any foreign assets dictates the estate planning required.

Estate planning – if the assets are in a PPB even without a beneficiary nomination form – is simple. They will glide through offshore probate, unless of course there are other assets or circumstances causing delays. However, some people have very complicated scenarios, such as having one family overseas and another family in Thailand, for example.

Unfortunately, it is all too human to procrastinate with financial and estate planning. Many expats find these subjects either boring or distasteful. However, it is often not only the expat who will be impacted but others and the consequences of poor or non-existent planning are often irreversible.

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

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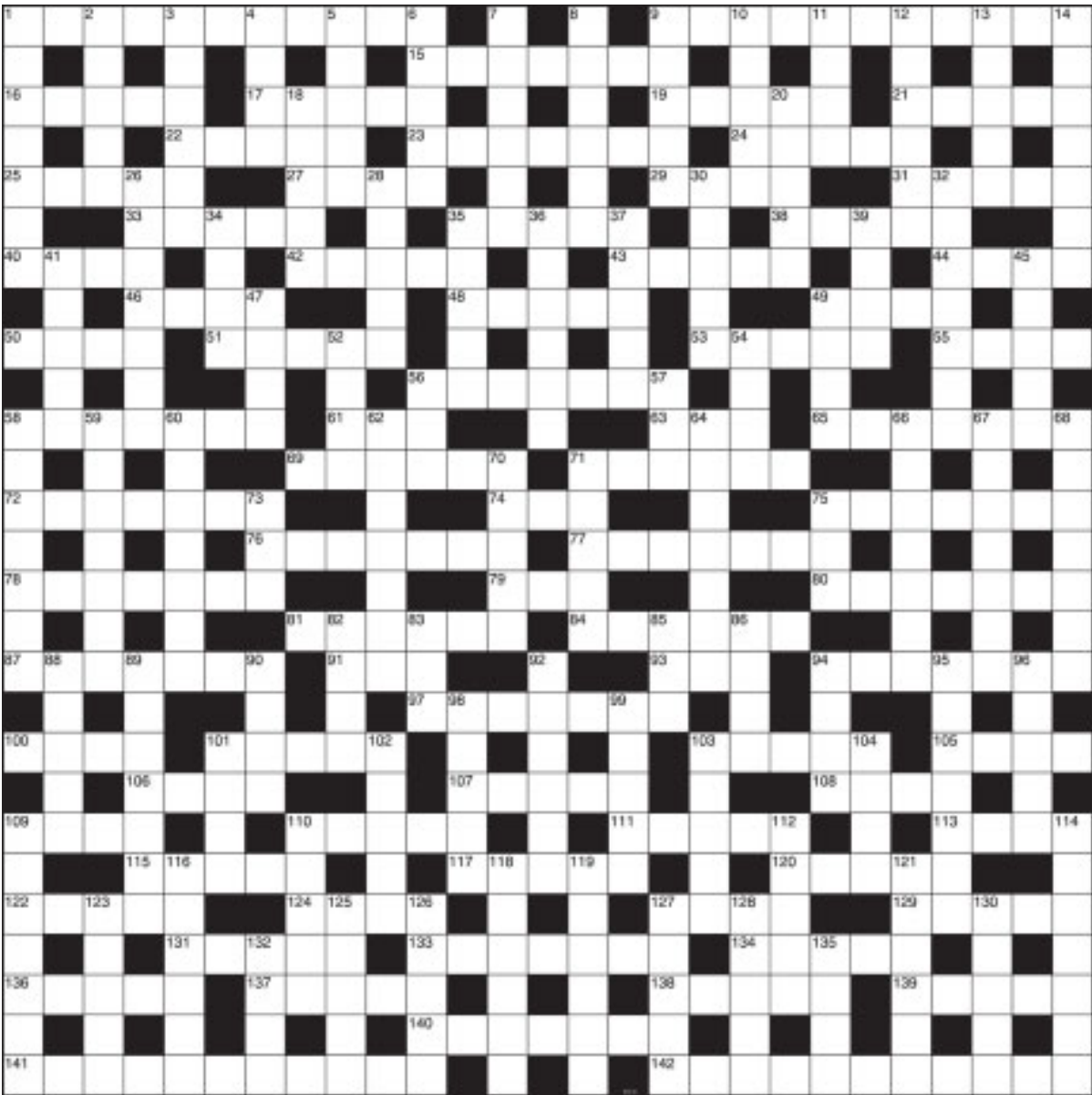
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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are lots of words related to cars.
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.

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



The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Puzzles – www.lovatts.com.au

Across		Down	
1. Personally inscribed (note)	75. Breakfast batter cakes	1. Upper arm bone	64. Gate fasteners
9. Broadcast	76. Simple story lesson	2. Nominated	66. Romantic flings
15. Spring (from)	77. Greet	3. Tap sealing ring	67. Malice (3,4)
16. Child's swollen gland disease	78. Indianapolis state	4. Gen	68. Engine seals
17. Aesop tale	79. Cereal grass	5. Striped cat	70. Large jugs
19. Lament	80. Imposing building	6. Requires	71. Cried (of cat)
21. Specialised (market)	81. Detests	7. Formally consent to (treaty)	73. Therapeutic bath
22. Weapon of mass destruction (1-4)	84. Respectable	8. Bicycle for two	75. ... Willie Winkie
23. Evaporated (5,2)	87. Contraptions	9. Musical time	82. Roughage
24. Diameter halves	91. Umpire	10. Blue shade	83. Illegal field position,... side
25. Long narrow crest	93. Uncle Sam (1,1,1)	11. Dispatch	85. Minor wound
27. Positive votes	94. Brawn	12. Set fire to	86. US space agency
29. Dedictory verses	97. Car's cooling system strap (3,4)	13. Marks as correct	88. Cider fruit
31. Jobs	100. Until (2,2)	14. Garments	89. Searching blindly
33. Covers (gift)	101. Noise	18. Accumulate	90. Equipped with horse-shoes
35. Dwarf	103. India's Taj...	20. Speaks hoarsely	92. Chinese calculator
38. Walked back & forth	105. Perfume ingredient	26. Actress,... Paltrow	94. Dinner or lunch
40. Kill	106. Picked up the tab	28. Praise highly	95. Mix
42. Tremble	107. Outspoken	30. Live	96. Art stand
43. Odds or...	108. Ewe's offspring	32. Took in (child)	98. Smithy block
44. Globes	109. Snow monster	34. Absent	99. Sits idly
46. Ark builder	110. Sheikhdом, Abu...	35. Troublesome	101. Seven deadly...
48. Wise people	111. Truck	36. Male escort	102. Hang
49. Seaweed variety	113. Misfortunes	37. Affirmative responses	103. Queen,... Antoinette
50. Ice-cream cornet	115. Horrid	39. Billiard sticks	104. Placed
51. Pleasure boat	117. Holds out	41. W African nation, Sierra...	109. Yapping
53. Tibetan priests	120. Times past,... days	45. Intelligence organ	110. Dutch levee banks
55. Which	122. Shelf	47. Hindu sect,... Krishna	112. Sing alpine-style
56. Eyelid hair	124. Avid	49. Actress,... Hudson	114. Stitched surgically
58. Door lock aperture	127. Sure thing,... cert	52. Lofty	116. Antenna
61. Precious stone	129. Prove wrong	54. Actor,... Alda	118. Sports stadiums
63. Fashionable,... mode (1,2)	131. Mature	56. Famous record label	119. Hikes
65. Eluding	133. Wild marjoram	57. Trilby or bowler	121. Obliterated
69. Reclining seat,... lounge	134. Islam centre	58. Caressing with lips	123. Sketched
71. Genetic aberration	136. Baghdad native	59. Submitted	125. Happen next
72. Singer, Cat...	137. Beasts of burden	60. Inspire with reverence	126. Snouts
74. Misery	138. Artist,... Picasso	62. Pain in eardrum	127. Tranquillises
	139. More cunning		128. Beer colour
	140. Role model		130. Purchaser
	141. Cowboy fighters		132. Distress
	142. Raised the white flag		135. Arrive

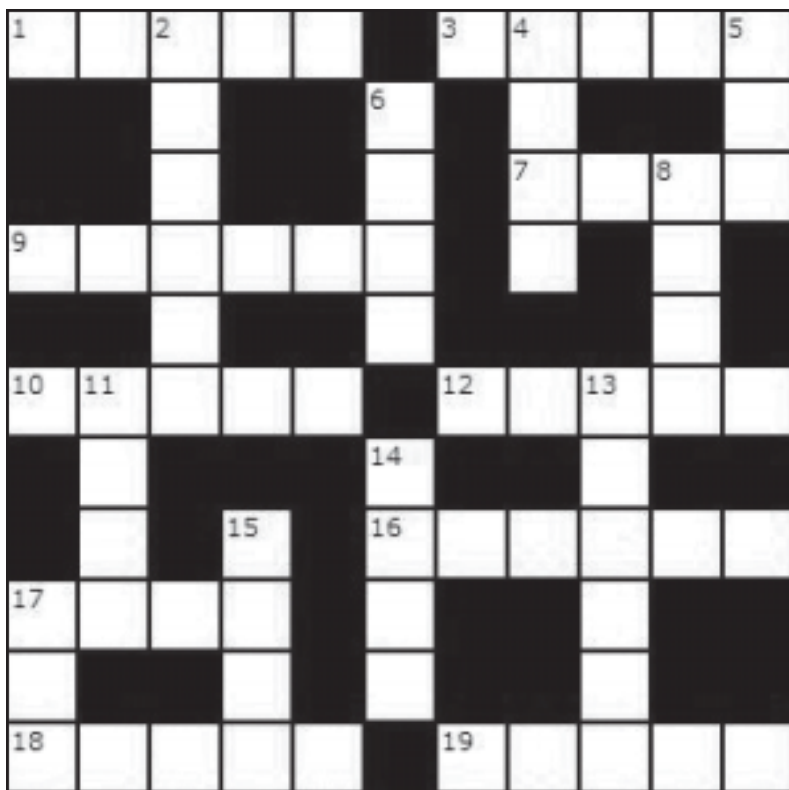
Solution on next page

su|do|ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

3	8		9	7			4
				2			5
	7	4	6		5	1	
8	4			1			2
		9	2		8	6	
5				6			3 7
		3	1		6	7	5
9				8			
	5			4	2		6 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. RNB singer
3. Spook
7. Large cat
9. Lives in an igloo
10. Apology
12. Tall building
16. ...Scissorhands
17. Young horse
18. Country
19. In Africa

Down

2. Computer cheat
4. Spiritual
5. Metal
6. Pimple
8. Monster
11. Cookie
13. Gun
14. For food
15. Buzz
17. Work at diligently

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

1. The passage of water between Australia and New Zealand was named after whom?
2. Which African country was formerly known as Abyssinia?
3. What does the acronym FIFA stand for?
4. Who was the Captain of the *Golden Hind*?
5. In which European city was Beethoven born?
6. What colour are taxis in New York?
7. Who wrote *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*?
8. Whose was shot dead on December 8, 1980?
9. James Butler Hickock was better known by what nickname?
10. What is the collective noun for jelly-fish?
11. In America's most popular field game of baseball, the player who delivers the ball is called what?
12. Who played the part of Ray Charles in the film *Ray*?
13. Which fraternal organization rose from obscure origins in the late 1500s?
14. What was the name of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima?
15. Leicester Square is what color on a Monopoly board?
16. In the hit TV show *The Simpsons*, what is the name of Mr Burns's assistant?
17. Which band released a song titled *Bullet in your head*?
18. Who famously scored 100 points in a single NBA game?
19. Which US submarine was discovered in the Gulf of Thailand 60 years after it sunk?
20. What is *Pi* to two decimal places?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

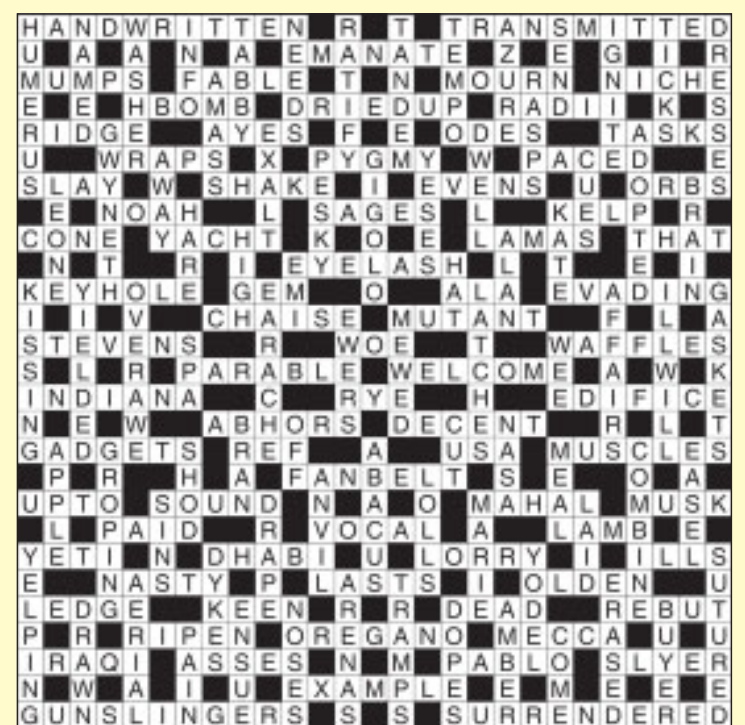
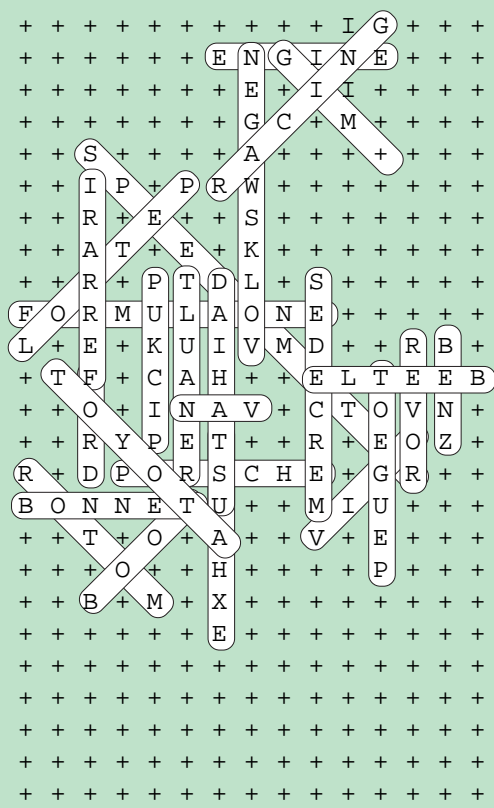
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Abel Tasman; 2. Ethiopia; 3. Federation Internationale de Football Association; 4. Sir Francis Drake; 5. Bonn; 6. Yellow; 7. Jules Verne; 8. John Lennon; 9. Wild Bill; 10. A smack; 11. The pitcher; 12. Jamie Foxx; 13. The Freemasons; 14. Little Boy; 15. Yellow; 16. Waylon Smithers; 17. Rage Against the Machine; 18. Will Chamberlain; 19. *USS Lagarto*; 20. 3.14.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



Off the SHELF

By Patrick Campbell

Any book that deals sensitively with the issue of conservation is to be welcomed with open arms. Especially if the country is Thailand and its twin ecological concerns are destruction of the mangrove swamps and the overfishing brought about by trawlers. But *Killer Karma* (Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, 2008, 224pp) is not an essay or article, but an imaginative work, a thriller that addresses these issues within the framework of a detective mystery. An unusual amalgam.

Nick Wilgus, the author, offers an early justification of his title through one of his spokesmen, the environmentally minded monk, Brother Dhammo: "It's Killer Karma... Because of the greed, anger, and delusion, the trawlers are destroying the mangroves. Because the mangroves have been destroyed, the villages are being destroyed. Because the villages are being destroyed, the community is being destroyed. It's all a circle. It's Karma – one thing leads to the next thing. We've tolerated the abuse of the trawlers;

Greed, anger and delusion make Killer Karma

now we're paying the price."

The narrative is told in the first person by Father Ananda. Our protagonist is an ex-police-man, long since transmogrified into Buddhist monk, who together with his teenage novice Jak, is summoned from his Bangkok monastery. Why? To unravel the shocking mystery of the *Phi Krasue*; ghostly apparitions which appear every full moon as grisly bobbing heads in the waters off Wat Phloi, a temple in Chantaburi province in central Thailand.

Ananda thus describes his first encounter: "I was flabbergasted. Three heads bobbed on the surface of the dark waters – ugly deformed heads. Menacing in appearance, their black eyes seemed to be staring at us, challenging us, daring us to defy them or deny their existence".

Unsurprisingly, these gruesome horrors attract enormous interest among the superstitious locals. But the floating heads soon drift away from the center of the novel's attention, as the writing focuses on tensions within the community, which are being exacerbated by changing values. As the abbot explains to Ananda: "We're divided right down the middle... Some of the men in the community want to continue with the old ways – fishing and such. Others have gone off to work on the boats or to work at the pier. They're making big money. The others aren't." In this divided world, greed

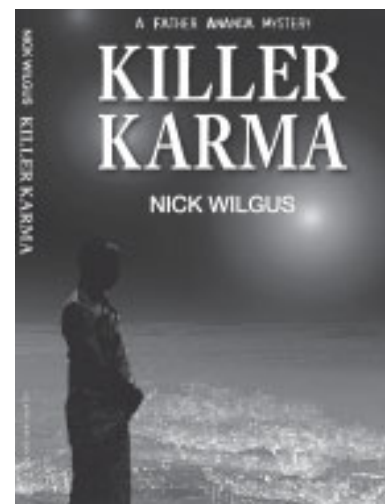
begets violence – from which not even unworldly monks are immune: first Brother Dhammo and then the outspoken female activist Malinee, are murdered, the latter in a motorbike drive-by shooting that sounds all too depressingly familiar to readers of Thailand's daily newspapers.

By now, Brother Ananda's investigations are well under way. After a series of threats and counter protests by the local populace, the dramatic climax and denouement rapidly follow. In a harrowing scene worthy of a Gothic novel, which is played out in caverns overlooking the ocean, the sadistic villain of the piece is unmasked and gets his comeuppance. But not before our detective is forced to witness a third murder in extraordinary and humiliating circumstances. Thanks to his novice, Jak, he narrowly escapes with his own life.

It is to Nick Wilgus's credit that he manages to combine a believable whodunit with a considered appraisal of Thailand's marine dilemma. We should not be surprised. He is the editor of *Outlook*, a section of the *Bangkok Post* that comments on the natural world of Thailand in an informed and sensitive way. In fact he dedicates the book to the 'Outlook team'. And he does more than alert our sensibilities to these issues. There are lively portrayals of teenagers and their quarrels – no easy thing to do –

and perceptive insights into the lifestyles and habits of Buddhist monks, which are the obvious product of careful research.

I have a few cavils. The writing can be a bit one-paced. When I wanted the author to change gear and wax eloquent or poetic, I was usually left wanting. The passage quoted above of the first *phi krasue* sighting is a case in point. It should have raised the hairs on the back of my head – but it did not. In general the author handles dialogue well, though in places it becomes a bit too predictable and labored. Real conversations often consist of disconnected exchanges with replies consisting of a non sequitur or irrelevancy. And are the italicized "thoughts" necessary? The writer creates a consistent picture of the inner turmoil of Father Ananda, though I confess, I found some of his gnomic reflections about life – and death – a bit too trite to be worth making. For example: "Death frightened me. Death was an abyss that opened up at my feet, a fall into nothingness, an abrupt uprooting, a rude awakening." I wondered too about the dream sequences. Was there some deeper Freudian significance which escaped me? True, they add to the sense of threat surrounding Jak, but only once is he seriously at risk in the narrative. The mafia bosses are, in such scenarios, rarely seen or heard – except by their hit-men.



Nonetheless, it was a pity that Anusorn, the owner of the pier, should have such a small walk-on part, combining showy "generosity" – a publicly donated cheque for one million baht, with a whispered threat to Ananda "They say revenge is a dish best served up cold... If it's the last thing I do, I'll make sure you find that out for yourself." Chilling...

Sadly the conclusion is inevitably inconclusive. The reader is left with a series of rhetorical questions to ponder: "Would the saplings take root and grow? Would the marine life return? Would the fishermen go out in boats once more to earn a living by the labor of their hands as their fathers had done in ages past...? Questions for us all. Thank you, Nick Wilgus, for giving them imaginative embodiment in an eminently readable thriller.



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.

Good spelling is easier than ever

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.

Barbara replies: I know very well that a person doesn't have to be good at spelling to be competent and intelligent and otherwise admirable. I learned that from a guy named Ken Gray, who was the art director at the graphic-design studio that gave me one of my first jobs.

When Ken was hand-drawing ad prototypes for our biggest client, Eastern Mountain Sports, he needed to be carefully watched. As a visually oriented person, he disliked the way "E" and "A" looked next to each other. The company's logo was in all caps, and Ken could spend hours lovingly rendering "ESTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS."

But Jeffrey? I'm not making fun of Ken, and I wasn't making fun of you. My point was that spelling matters, for very practical reasons. Obviously, you and I are in agreement about that. It's easier now than ever before to spell things right. Spell-checking helps. Dictionaries are available online. And you can always ask a good speller to look over anything important before it's final.

Back in the day when I worked with Ken, if he misspelled the logo, he had to redraw the whole ad. Now, with computer graphics, he'd only have to type in the missing letter and it would be good to go.

Q: I doubt if a human being has ever used the verb "shutter" in a sentence. But I see it in newspapers a lot. Please tell me why papers use such language.

Jeff Prescott
La Jolla, California

Barbara replies: Do you mean uses like this one, in a recent headline in *The Daily Sound*, of Santa Barbara, California: "Oil field north of SB officially shuttered"?

That is awfully peculiar, inasmuch as oil fields don't have shutters. I don't see how even figuratively they could have shutters. The mental image the headline conjures up is absurd.

"Shuttered" means "closed," and "closed" would have been a much better word there. But I have no objection to this headline from the San Jose Mer-

cury News: "San Francisco garden show may be shuttered." (At least, I don't object to the way it's worded. How sad if there are no future San Francisco garden shows!) "Closed" would be unclear here. An un-shuttered show closes every night. I can't think of any ordinary word that would be clearer than "shuttered."

The language of newspapers in general and headlines in particular has all sorts of idiosyncratic conventions. These are mainly the result of a need to cram as much meaning into as few words as possible. That's the explanation for "shutter" – and a good one it seems to me.

Q: Do you know if in the mid-1800s the abbreviation for "Mister" was just the letter "M." instead of "Mr."?

Carlos A. Altgelt
Martinez, Argentina

Barbara replies: Well, until about the mid-1800s "M." was one possible abbreviation for "Mister." (From Edmund Spenser, in 1596: "The two worthie Gentle-

men M. Henry Gilford, and M. William Peter, Esquyers.") But "Mr." was in use at the same time. (From Sir Thomas More, circa 1524: "All the lettres of Mr. Secretary sent unto your Grace.")

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Q: I was distressed by your previous column about spelling. I have suffered greatly for my whole life in not being able to spell. I am to turn 59 this April, and I assure you that if I could spell well and with confidence, I would have learned to do so by now. I have been mocked and ridiculed by teachers, family and employers because of it. You might want to think of including a disclaimer for those dyslexics who find it profoundly hard to fashion the perfection you so easily achieve.

Jeffrey Stringer
Niskayuna, New York

The Phuket Gazette

- Since 1994 -

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555
Fax: 076-213971
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Sanook stolen from Songkran

Having a good time (*sanook*) is synonymous with most traditional activities in Thailand, especially Songkran – Thai New Year. However, with blood on the streets of Bangkok and Pattaya after the red-shirt riots and many essential services shutting down for longer than usual during the extended break, *sanook* was the last thing on many people's minds.

The Songkran break usually lasts just three days but this year, three extra days were unceremoniously added due to the unrest. With weekends on either side of the official holidays, much of the country was effectively at a standstill for ten days.

Most of those ten days were a nightmare for many of the nation's citizens and foreign visitors, who couldn't travel or gain access to essential government and banking services, including currency exchange and immigration facilities.

Exacerbating the negative impact on tourism were travel advisories issued by foreign governments along with international news reports of the unrest showing dramatic images of a city under siege.

The hotheadedness, selfishness and immaturity of the red-shirt protesters reflect a developing nation still in a state of undisciplined adolescence.

That lack of maturity also extends on to the roads. The number of accidents and deaths on the nation's highways during this year's Songkran is roughly the same high number as in previous years. Despite nine police checkpoints set up around Phuket with the announcement that they were to be manned around the clock throughout the "seven days of danger", the roadblocks were often left deserted – allowing helmet-less motorbike riders and drunken or dangerous drivers to pass through unhindered.

On the upside, Phuket last week welcomed thousands of leather-clad bikers and big-bike enthusiasts who gave a brief boost to the island's economy. Their appearance on thunderous machines and their association with morbid symbolism often give the impression of anarchists on wheels, but the so-called protesters and a good many drivers could benefit greatly by aspiring to the bikers' collective mission of unity, good will, charity and responsible conduct on the roads.

Not one accident was reported among the thousands of Phuket Bike Week participants.

These contrasts highlight a severe deficiency in the most significant area of a country's passage from adolescence to adulthood in the developing world – education. Educate people not to sign away their nation's future for a few hundred baht. Educate people to drive sober, sensibly and safely – not just to avoid fines. Educate people to feel responsible for their actions, and to recognize that each individual is unique – not just another homogenous pawn on someone else's chess board. Perhaps then Thailand will enjoy the admiration of its peers as an adult and as an equal.

– The Editor



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.

Vinegar, not hot water for box jellyfish stings

Regarding "Jellyfish stings", [Letters, *Phuket Gazette*, April 11]. Thank you for attempting to put the record straight about treating jellyfish stings. However, in this case, Dr Somchai was spot on and you were not.

With all due respect, just because you have seen something in several articles does not make it so. Sometimes the press and internet enthusiasts simply get it wrong.

The current recommendation from the Australian Resuscitation Council is:

1. For any known or suspected box jellyfish or Irukandji sting, use vinegar.
2. For any TROPICAL sting of unknown origin, use vinegar.
3. For CONFIRMED blue-bottle stings OUTSIDE THE TROPICS, rinse well with seawater, then immerse in 45 degree C water for 20 minutes; if 45 degree C water for 20 minutes is unavailable or the temperature cannot be safely regulated, rinse well with seawater then use ice for the pain.
4. For unknown stings OUTSIDE THE TROPICS, rinse well with seawater then use ice for the pain.

Dr. Lisa-ann Gershwin
Director, Australian
Marine Stinger Advisory
Services

Find out more from Dr Gershwin and other jellyfish experts in this issue's *Inside Story*, pages 4 and 5.

Sea wall was never built to last

Regarding "Rawai Beach seawall crumbles" [News, *Phuket Gazette*, April 11]. The wall at Rawai was clearly of an inappropriate design from the very beginning.

Constant repairs have been made over the last year or so, and if it is repaired using the same design, I am sure it will end with the same result.

The wall, being constructed of cement panels, allows the seawater to get inside and wash the sand out, causing the collapse of the paved area above (which has to be constantly refilled).

The wall, at the point where it collapsed, received the full force of the waves. Surely the 90 degree angle between the wall and the beach makes it unable to take the force.

Some cement blocks or rocks to disperse the thrust of the sea – as there is in front of Mama Klong restaurant – would help, providing they were big enough not to be washed away.

Also, some steps down to the beach would help tourists get down from the wall onto the beach.

All in all, some careful research should be done before the wall is reconstructed. It was lucky that no-one was injured by this event.

Dawn Farrell
Rawai

Boulder dash

On my regular drive east-bound along the bypass road, just past the Tesco Lotus intersection,

I notice heavy machinery chipping away at the steep rock face on the left-hand embankment adjacent to the road.

This is surely a major accident just waiting to happen. No precautions have been made against the possibility of loosened car-squashing-size boulders rolling down the slope and onto the road.

Every time I drive past the diggers on the hillside, I hunch down low and prepare to take evasive action in case of the errant descent of boulders.

David Nickleson
Surin

Shoe trouble

I have size-13 feet, yet shoes, trainers and flip flops here only go up to size 11 at the most. I understand that the majority of South East Asians have smaller feet than most westerners, but I would have thought that a major tourist destination like Phuket would cater for this small segment of the market, especially with so many expats living here.

Steve Reynolds
Chalong

Football crazy

I think it's great that Phuket finally has its own football team. I will certainly be attending their home games and I call upon all other football fans in Phuket to do likewise and get behind the lads. With the support of many on the island, the side could put Phuket on the footballing map.

Robert Wadsworth
Phuket City

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Editorial Team:

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Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

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Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

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Modern but not accessible



FIRST PERSON

Until eight years ago, Nicholas Bennett lived a very active life working for UN agencies all over the developing world, including

nine years in Thailand in the 1970s.

He walked around Africa when he was 17, and one of his posts in the 1980s involved living and working in a village three days from the nearest road. It was thus some shock to rapidly lose the use of the muscles in his legs through hereditary muscular dystrophy.

He decided to retire in Phuket. With children and grandchildren living in Australia, the USA and Portugal, he has seen how facilities for the disabled are gradually improving in these countries. Yet he was surprised to find that the same was not happening here.

Phuket rightly prides itself in catering to the wide range of different interests and needs of the several million visitors a year drawn here from countries all over the world.

One group, however, that has always been poorly served, and for whom the situation is worsening, is the physically disabled.

To the best of my knowledge, for an island that prides itself on the beauty of its beaches there is no wheelchair-accessible walkway onto any beach.

Most restaurants have one or more major steps to climb, and any convenient parking for a disabled person is usually occupied by some vicious taxi or tuk-tuk driver.

Around 5% of the global population is physically disabled. To cater to this huge group, in Europe every new restaurant, shop or government office has to have disabled access.

There are reserved parking spaces for the disabled in most places, and in seaside resorts there not only have to be ramps onto the beach but also beach bars and restaurants have to have a special wheelchair to take the disabled into the sea.

I have been living with my wife in Phuket for the past six years on an O/A Retirement Visa.

I am wheelchair-bound and cannot walk (with a walking frame) for more than 30 meters on a flat and smooth pathway, and have noticed that most new developments make my life more dif-

ficult rather than easier.

For five years, the Phuket Immigration services such as visa renewal and 90-days reporting were on the ground floor, and I had relative easy access.

A brand new immigration building was completed last year, and all these services are now on the top floor up a long and beautiful stairway.

Totally inaccessible to any disabled person and difficult for any old person with arthritis or a heart condition. Now my wife has to run up and down the steps while I wait for her in the car park.

A brand new government building that is less accessible than the old one!

For years I would go in my wheelchair to my favorite restau-

rant in Chalong. I could go right onto the seafront. A couple of years ago they 'modernized' it, putting steps everywhere to make it look more fancy, and I was no longer able to sit for my meal next to the sea, or even get near the sea.

In Kata there has been major work going on this year to modernize the pavements in the village. Fine new paving stones have been laid and a new fancy curb, which is totally unclimbable, not only by the disabled, but by mothers and their pushchairs.

Unfortunately, those responsible for the work, forgot to put any slipways to allow wheeled vehicles onto the pavement. Now, along with mothers and small children, I have to

face the traffic on the road.

A brand new several-starred hotel claimed to have disabled access. This "access" involved me being wheeled down the service ramp, through the bowels of the hotel and laundry, and then up a service elevator to the required floor.

Each of these might seem small by themselves but they do show a systematic disregard for the needs of the disabled.

We have of course found kindness in many of the places we go, especially the older hotels, restaurants and the airport.

But I do feel that it is time that officials and tourist authorities make a greater effort to cater for the disabled so that we do not need to look at each new development with fear.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Where are the bottle banks?

Are there any bottle banks on the island and if so, where are they located?

John Marmon
Rawai

Prachoom Suriya, Chief of Used Materials Management at the Phuket Incinerator Sorting Plant replies:

Yes, we have a used materials classification plant in Phuket Town, where we sort recyclable material before sending the remaining garbage for incineration.

About 20% of garbage is recyclable. We handle about 300

tons of garbage a day, and this is the only recycling plant in Phuket. Address: Moo 1, Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd, Wichit. For more information call 076-250 437.

A burning issue

Are there laws against burning plastic and other waste? If so, what are the residential zoning regulations for this area: Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, Thalang, near to the Bang Jo detention facility?

Alison Cadbury
Thalang

Mr Wonyot Chetong, chief of public health in Tambon Srisoonthorn, replies:

Yes, there are laws against burning plastic and other waste.

If you wish to make a complaint, write a letter and take a picture if you can, then go to file a complaint at Srisoonthorn Tambon Administration Organization and we'll look into it.

For more information call 076-272 852, 076-617 804, 076-617 803 or 081-081315.

Please help clarify a 300k rumor

Could you please tell me whether it is true that there is Thai legislation stating that foreigners who have motor vehicle accidents must pay 300,000 baht?

Rumor has it that the money must be paid before per-

mission is granted to exit the country.

Could you please give me some idea where I can read up about this or confirm whether what I have heard has any truth before I drive again in Thailand?

Glen Whitting
Phuket

Inspector Nikorn Chootong of Kathu Police station replies:

Following a road accident, the party that breaks the law is the one that has to assume responsibility for the consequences, irrespective of whether you are a Thai or a foreigner.

It is true that if you are a foreigner, and you cause an accident, you may have to resolve the problem before leaving the country.



Obama's Greatest Challenge

History will record that the greatest challenge ever faced by President Barack Obama was not the collapsing economy, international terrorism, or even global warming. In the third year of his first term, a far greater threat suddenly loomed: the First Date.

Scene: The Oval Office, 2011. President Obama has summoned Rocco and Igor, the most ruthless covert operatives from the Really, Really Secret Service, for a hush-hush assignment.

Obama: Guys, my older daughter Malia has a 13-year-old classmate named Tommy who wants to take her to a movie. Of course, it'll be in the White House private theater, hence under continual surveillance. But I want you

to grill this little deviant and find out what his intentions are toward my daughter.

Rocco: Yes, sir. May we waterboard, sir?

Obama: Negative. There's to be no physical evidence of your ministrations. Check the movie, too. Let's have a Walt Disney classic—"Snow White," "Sleeping Beauty," or "Dumbo." None of this "Friday the Thirteenth" stuff.

Igor: "Bambi" OK, sir?

Obama: "Bambi" will be fine. Oh, and guys, off the record...

Rocco: Yes, sir?

Obama: On this one you can ignore the Geneva Convention.

Scene: A long-neglected torture chamber formerly nicknamed the 'Cheney-Rumsfeld Nutcracker Suite'. A decrepit searchlight blazes into the eyes of a frightened 13-year-old boy, who is wired to electrodes and strapped into an electric chair. From behind a one-way glass wall, their voices electronically distorted, Rocco and Igor speak.

Rocco: Do not be afraid. If you answer our questions truthfully,

you will not be harmed...much.

Tommy (sobbing in terror): I want to go home! I want my mother!

Igor: Resistance is futile. Tell us your intentions toward the First Daughter.

Tommy (his voice cracking): I don't have any intentions! I just want to see a movie with her.

Rocco: Do not lie to us! WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS TOWARD THE FIRST DAUGHTER?

Tommy: Just to see a movie! Honest!

Rocco: Give the filthy pervert a few volts, Attila.

Igor: I hear you, Genghis. (Pulls a lever. Tommy receives a mild shock.)

Tommy: Waaaahhh! (Sobbing hysterically.) Just the movie! Just the movie! I swear!

Rocco: We have more powerful tools at our disposal: the lash, the rack, the iron maiden. TELL US YOUR INTENTIONS!

Tommy (screaming): OK, OK, I'll confess! (Blubbing.) I want to see a movie and—and maybe also eat some popcorn.

Igor: See, Genghis? I told you

the little monster was hiding something. He wants to eat popcorn! Shall I zap him harder?

Rocco: Five thousand volts should break him. And let's start smashing his fingers.

Igor: You are too soft, Genghis. That's not enough for an animal like him. Ten thousand volts should do the trick. Plus we should pull all his teeth and commence the skinning process.

Tommy (screaming hysterically): No! No! I just want to take her to a movie!

Rocco: Listen, you vicious little sociopath! I note that you have many zits. We have a zit gouger that will leave craters the size of golf balls in your skin. Thus disfigured for life, you will never dare show your face on Leno or Letterman.

Tommy (wailing): I've told you everything! I want to go home! Please let me go home! I promise I'll never try to date anybody ever again! No more movies! No popcorn!

Rocco: Don't try to trick us, vermin scum! We know you'll go to Bob Woodward and Thomas L. Friedman and tell them everything we've done to you.

Tommy: I won't! I swear I won't!

Igor: I bet the slimy little rodent will go straight to Fox News. Maybe even to Rush Limbaugh.

Tommy: No! No! I swear! My lips are sealed! Scout's honor!

Rocco: Ooooooh! Did you hear that, Attila? He has sworn the unbreakable oath. All right, perv, we'll send you home. But if you ever dare to breathe a word of this to anybody, or even mention the word "movie" to the First Daughter again, we'll track you down and exterminate you like the cockroach you are.

Tommy: I promise! I swear!

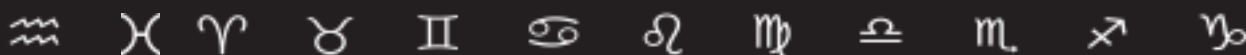
Scene: The Oval Office, later.

Rocco: Mr. President, the threat to your daughter has been neutralized.

Obama: Excellent work, guys. This is change I can believe in. I hope you'll both still be working for us when Sasha comes of age.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's eavesdropping on the goings-on in the Cheney-Rumsfeld Nutcracker Suite.

Horoscopes



Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): An official encounter that you have not been looking forward to turns out to be a breeze this week. Those born under the sign of Taurus who are ready for a business challenge will learn of a lucrative investment opportunity during the second half of April. If your birthday falls during the week ahead, expect to see established romantic relationships take on a new lease of life. The number seven is lucky next Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A small financial gain may seem like a drop in the ocean this week, but cash-strapped Geminis should see this as a taste of things to come. The stars suggest that your situation will start to drastically improve before the end of the month and this trend will continue well into May. Legal agreements are subject to confusion, but involving well-

meaning friends will only tangle the web more.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who are easy to convince could regret listening to an Arian's story this week. Becoming involved with this person's problems is not recommended, no matter how sad their sob story is. Your romantic luck improves as the end of April approaches—Cupid is ready to help you hook up with an attractive air sign. Tuesday is the best day to discuss the potential for new business.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Friendships are put to the test this week when those born under the sign of Leo are forced to confront someone whose behavior has caused them pain. You may find it in your heart to make a compromise, but backing down completely is not the answer. Keep

your wits about you midweek as the stars suggest that financial transactions are subject to mistakes. Your lucky color this week is sky blue.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Another earth sign's words are music to your ears this weekend. Virgoans are forecast to receive a lucky break that will enable them to combine work and pleasure successfully. A romantic split that occurred during the early part of this year could be glued back together when you realize that the person in question really has changed their ways. The number eight can bring good fortune next Thursday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A discussion with your romantic partner is highlighted to clear the air this weekend. Librans who have been stressed over a personal issue should discover that it is a smaller problem than they imagined. If you're footloose and fancy free, an earth sign has plans to change that status. Sunday is the best day for a hot date. Wear a piece of amber

to encourage better luck with money.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Expect sparks to fly when you voice your discontent early next week. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who are tiring of a situation that seems impossible to resolve are advised to get an objective opinion. The stars suggest that your perspective is clouded by frustration at present. On a brighter note, romance is forecast to lift your spirits during the second half of April. Your lucky number this week is five.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A blind date could be just what some Sagittarians need to revitalize self-confidence. The stars indicate that a strong attraction will occur this week—an earth sign is highlighted to make you feel alive again. Where work is concerned, there are signs that too much focus on the future could cause you to miss important events taking place in the present. Wear the color mahogany brown to encourage grounding.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Someone who let you down over a business arrangement is about to indicate that they have changed their tune. Where personal finances are concerned, the best day to raise a sensitive subject is Tuesday, but be prepared to settle for less than you'd hoped for. Romance springs a surprise when you hear that Leo thinks you're the cat's whiskers. The

number three can bring some modest luck this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians feeling blue should see the other side of the coin when they receive positive news regarding property this week. Someone born under the sign of Taurus has a worthwhile tip, but you will need to make a spur of the moment decision. Those who have been rocked by love turning sour lately are advised to spend time with close friends rather than looking for a new relationship too quickly.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Job-seeking Pisceans who were recently disappointed will see light at the end of the tunnel this week. A new opportunity may not be as appealing as the one you lost, but there is promise of promotion. A close earth sign friend whose romantic life is on the rocks is about to come fishing for advice. A dream you have this weekend can hold the key to a troubling money matter.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): This week, Arians are tempted to add their opinions to a hot topic on the grapevine, but this subject needs to be nipped in the bud. Negative repercussions are indicated to give cause for regret later in the month. Travel is highlighted to be more expensive than you expect, but finances will benefit from positive astrological influences in early May. The number eight can bring some good luck on Wednesday.

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A member of the Mossack Fonseca International Group

e-mail: thailand@mossfon.com
Tel: (02) 636-3100, 636-3140-2,
Fax: (02) 636-3110

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Making hay while the sun shines

By Marque Rome

The phrase “Making hay while the sun shines” is an expression the origin of which is perhaps not lost – at least insofar as lexicographers are concerned.

Probably in modern usage it is mostly a literary phrase. Yet its agricultural motif belies its origin in a period long separated from our largely metropolitan modes of life. Evidently born of some farmer’s observation, the phrase is today used to suggest a time of opportunity, ease and plenty.

Even cursory analysis, however, reveals that, for most of us, ease and plenty are in no ways synonymous with making hay – whether sunny out or not.

Personally, though I use the phrase often enough, the idea of actually making hay has never entered my head. I wouldn’t know the first step; and I would have very little to do with the stuff even if I finally succeeded in making some.

Here I must confess a little nervousness around barnyard animals (even those frequenting my favorite bar). I don’t understand them; they’re education is, shall we say, rather different from mine.

I don’t, for example, swat flies with my tail; I spray them with toxic chemicals – the composition of which I understand even less than hay-making. I am told that chewing food over and over as does an ox promotes digestion; but the sad truth is that I am not a patient eater – and I devour carrots more like a ravening wolf than a horse. In this, moreover, I assume I am no different than the generality of male city-dwellers. Women – who, like birds, peck at food in public, but in private disdain not to pick at their feed – are another story.

So, having little comprehension either of hay-making or of hay-eaters – indeed without any feeling (beyond a little gardening) for the agricultural experience – it really should be a conundrum why I and other citified members of the Fourth Estate have recourse to hay-related metaphor. But of course it isn’t.

Our language retains in colloquy and dialect the experience of England’s rural past. In formal use, on the other hand, English often retains the wrong-headedness of half-educated but rarefied 16th Century pedants and their still less prepossessing scholars – a passion for Greek, Latin and French; and who vied with each other as “wits” in introducing to our own language foreign words that they little apprehended, but that provided them the bewildering “illustrated, gilt-edged, tree calf, hand-tooled, seven-dollar Friendship Offering” kind of talk – in Mark Twain’s phrase – they longed for.

We see, or rather hear, the same process underway in Thai,



Dr Samuel Johnson (1709 –1784) was an English author who began his literary career as a Grub Street journalist. He made lasting contributions to English literature as a poet, essayist, moralist, novelist, literary critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer, and he wrote the first recorded dictionary.

which is daily bastardized with foreign, mostly English, borrowings. For example, to me, “jam” used as a verb signifies improvised or informal musical performance; a “gig” might be one such performance – it is certainly a musician’s job. But in Thai, neither of these borrowed English words relates necessarily to music: “jam” means simply ‘doing something together’; “gig” has transmogrified into an “informal lover”.

So in English we all love to

speak of “history”, without the least idea of what it means. I’ve a rather long, detailed, maddeningly inaccurate work from the late 60s, *The Collapse of the*

Third Republic, by long-time CBS correspondent William Shirer. The paperback publisher, Pocket Book, categorized it as a work

of “history” – indubitably true – but then captioned Shirer’s photo “eyewitness to history”, by which the blurb-writer probably meant the author was “eyewitness to the events” covered in his

book, not that he was eyewitness to an inquiry.

But “history” in the original Greek means “inquiry”; it does not mean “truth about the past” (although nearly every English speaker takes it to mean just that). History may, in fact, be openly biased (as Shirer’s work is) – which doesn’t make it a false history.

Shirer himself sub-titled his work an inquiry into the fall of France in 1940, suggesting perhaps a subtle emphasis on the real meaning of the word. Maybe readers have met with some such

sentence as, “Historically, Thais like to smile” – meaning really “Thais like to smile inquiringly”.

Ridiculous! English is veritably replete with these tortured linguistic waifs.

You might smile if I aver that their use is apocalyptic, thinking it indeed not so serious – unless you know that “apocalypse” is not synonymous with “gloom” and “doom”, to which it is often associated, but means in Greek “revealing” (in which case you might agree).

Thus, someone who finds nothing wrong with “an apocalyptic gloom spreading its tentacles across the land” is all mixed up (and that is to say nothing of the adjective “apocryphal”, which is precisely opposite in meaning to its Greek root – a usage that doubtless reveals how our forebears viewed the New Testament Apocalypse [today’s ‘Revelation’] of St. John from which the word derives).

Philologists tell us gaily that inventing new meanings for old words, whatever their origin, is healthy; but I’m not so sure. Most modern speech and literature strike me as debased.

The French often are castigated for refusing to learn English, as if guilty of unwarranted conceit. Can you blame them?

Who, knowing French, can listen to English without laughing? Take “journey”, “voyage” and “travel”, three words denoting kinds of movement for which in English substitutions are ugly (“trip” after all comes from “traipse” and means in old German or Dutch simply “walking”; “sea trips” are therefore impossible except for Jesus). In old French they meant, respectively, “a day”, “travel”, and “work” or “torture”.

Perhaps the French unwillingness to speak English results less from conceit than puzzlement at how to use their own words in this, our mixed up tongue.

I suppose what we can learn from all this is that – rather than mocking the Thais for abusing English, or berating the French for ignoring it – we should take a look at ourselves.

Our words are more mixed-up than we think and our thinking mixed-up by our words.



HELPING NATURE HEAL

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Phuket FC searches for foreign talent



Phuket FC is currently competing in the Regional League Division Two, the third tier of the Thai national football league.

In the opening fixture of the new Thai national league, newly formed Phuket FC failed to get off to a winning start, suffering a 4-1 home drubbing at the hands of Satun "Witch Doctors".

Despite the setback, the "Crabs" bounced back to record a 1-0 win over Krabi in their second game, highlighting the potential, both on and off the field, for Phuket to become a major force in Thai football.

There is no shortage of interest in football in Phuket, demonstrated by the capacity crowd that witnessed Thailand's King's Cup final against Denmark.

There also appears to be no shortage of talent on the island, judging from the glimpses of quality shown by the side in their open-

ing two fixtures.

Currently competing in the Regional League Division Two, the third tier of the Thai national football league, promotion would see Phuket reach the Thai Division One League. Subsequent promotion would see Phuket FC compete in the top flight of Thai football, the Premier League.

The size of Phuket and the huge appetite for playing and watching football on the island warrants the presence of a top-class football team. However, the lack of foreign playing talent in the Phuket squad is all too evident. You would be hard pushed to find a top level club in world football that relies solely on local players.

If Phuket FC is to have an impact on the Regional League Division Two, on the road to es-

tablishing itself as one of Thailand's top sides, it will need to tap into the reservoir of footballing talent that must surely exist among the sizable foreign community here in Phuket.

With this in mind, Phuket FC manager Suratin Lianudom is planning to hold a "farang football trial".

Phuket FC is looking for a maximum of five top-class farang footballers to add to the existing squad of players.

While the club is currently financially unable to pay players, it is a professional league. Accordingly, a work permit will be required to play, which the club itself should be able to arrange.

Matches are played on Saturdays and Sundays against the other teams in the division, which

are: Krabi, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phatthalung, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat – all from the South of Thailand.

In order to qualify for a work permit, players are required to be a member of a foreign football club – something that shouldn't present an insurmountable obstacle. However, as anyone familiar with Thai bureaucracy will tell you, the process is unlikely to be straightforward.

If you think you have what it takes to represent Phuket FC please send an email to farangfootballtrial@mail.com, detailing your age, nationality, previous footballing experience, preferred position and how long you intend to stay in Phuket.

Once the club has an idea of the level of interest it will orga-



Phuket FC manager Suratin Lianudom.

nize a date for the trial itself.

Even if you are not a top class footballer, you can still come along and support Phuket FC.

The opening home fixture of the season against Satun was broadcast live on TV, kicking off at 3pm on a Friday afternoon in order to fit into the TV schedule.

As a consequence attendance was poor, but Phuket's next home fixture is scheduled to kick off at 5pm on Saturday, April 25, which should prove far more convenient for spectators. A much larger crowd is expected.

The next visitors to the Surakul Stadium will be high-flying Nakhon Sri Thammarat, who have won both their opening fixtures and should provide a stern test for the fledgling Phuket side.

-James Goyder

Thousands expected for Laguna marathon

The fourth Laguna Phuket International Marathon, presented by Nike, will take place on Sunday, June 14 at the Laguna resort complex in Cherg Talay. Organized by Go Adventure Asia, the marathon is expected to attract around 4,000 participants, including 1,500 international runners from approximately 40 countries, to participate in this year's event.

A series of events will kick-off on Friday June 12, including

a two-day expo featuring sponsorship booths, a welcome pasta party the evening before the race and a farewell party on the final day. Race day on June 14 will feature a 42k marathon, a 21k half-marathon, a 10.5k run, a 2k kids run and a 5k walk.

The marathon's scenic course will start and end within Laguna Phuket, passing through tropical rainforests, rubber plantations and local villages, heading north towards Nai Yang beach before turning back to the La-

guna complex. The course is mostly flat, with just a few rolling hills.

The start time of the 5k walk has been moved back an hour to 8am in a bid to encourage greater participation from families and corporate groups. Last year, some 800 participants took part in the walk and this year the organizers are aiming to surpass the 1,000 mark.

Participants in all races at the Laguna Phuket International Marathon are also being encouraged to take part in fundraising for charity, whether it is for a cause of their choice or for Laguna's preferred cause, currently the Baan Klongsai School for disadvantaged children in



neighboring Phang Nga province.

After a successful introduction in 2008 and in an effort to emphasize the fun aspect of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon, a photo contest for runners, walkers, volunteers and spectators will again be held in conjunction with the event. The

idea has been proposed by renowned eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi, who has taken more than 50,000 photos during his 550 marathons in 71 countries since 1990.

Nishi himself will again take part in the event to demonstrate his ethos of slow running and environmental protection.

Online registration is now open until June 5, 2009. For further information about the event and registration details, visit www.phuketmarathon.com.

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The Phuket Gazette is an official media partner of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon with Action Asia and MTV.

Registration now open for Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2009

Online registration is now open for the Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2009, which will take place on Sunday, December 6. Athletes looking to sign up for the internationally recognized event – known as the “Race of Legends” – are being advised to get their running shoes on, as the race has completely sold out in each of the last four years.

Now in its 16th year, the event promises to be bigger than ever with an expected field of over 900 athletes taking part in the triathlon, which comprises a grueling 1.8k swim, 55k cycle and 12k run.

Last year's event was a case of “Aussies rule”, with three-time Ironman Champion Belinda Granger and compatriot Richie Cunningham securing the 2008 Laguna Phuket Triathlon women's and men's titles respectively.

The victories of both Cunningham, who had competed in the Laguna event five times, and Granger, who has now raced Laguna Phuket six times, had been a long time coming. Both athletes had always made it on to the podium without ever

claiming victory.

The 1.8k swim course at the Laguna Phuket Triathlon is unique in that it comprises two bodies of water. The swim will start on the beach at the Laguna Beach Resort at 7am. Athletes will swim the first 1,200 meters in the sea before sprinting 100 meters across the beach to swim the last 600 meters in a lagoon.

The 55k bike course, leads competitors from Laguna Phuket to the north of the island, past tropical jungle, rubber plantations, beachfront and local villages. The 12k run course takes competitors around the immediate Laguna Phuket area.

There is also opportunity for teams to participate in the corporate relay challenge. Corporate teams consist of three athletes – a swimmer, cyclist and runner, all above the age of 18. Participants will have to negotiate a demanding course made up of a 1.8k swim, 55k bike ride and 12k run. The 6k Fun Run is also open for registration.

Information on how to register can be found at the official Laguna Phuket Triathlon website at www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com



Now in its 16th year, the event promises to be bigger than ever with an expected field of over 900 athletes.



The 1.8k swim course at the Laguna Phuket Triathlon is unique in that it comprises two bodies of water.

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Losing your edge?

Sharpening kitchen knives and cleavers

Anyone who marries into Thai culture will eventually hear that old Thai saying that a man who is afraid of his wife doesn't keep sharp knives at home. So, I hope you're all on good terms with your wives, as this week we'll discuss sharpening knives and cleavers. Outdoor implements, like axes and machetes, we'll leave for another time.

Steel is just iron with carbon added to harden it. Knives used by professional chefs and butchers aren't made of the stainless variety, but of high-carbon steel that can take a sharper edge but rusts quickly, requiring constant care. Most kitchen knives and cleavers sold here are less expensive and made of stainless steel, perfectly adequate for the home. Stainless steel is steel with nickel added, softening the steel slightly but helping to prevent corrosion. However, even stainless steel will rust, given enough time and moisture. Never use a rusted blade (or anything else) on food. Rust is poisonous, and rust-particles can be carcinogenic. If a blade begins to rust, use fine steel wool or a wire brush to remove the rust, and then apply a light coat of cooking oil.

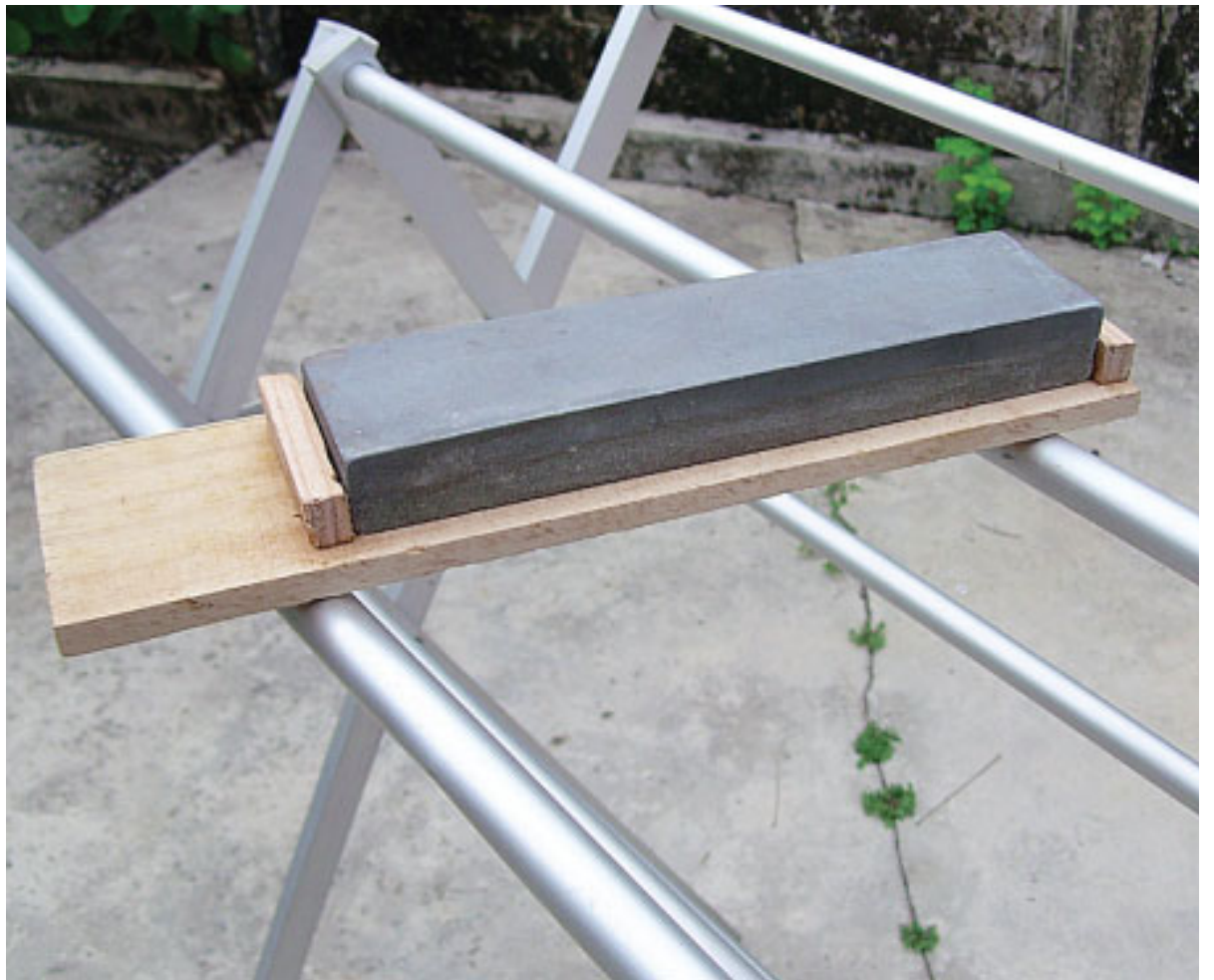
Most sharpening stones have one side slightly coarser than the other. The coarser side re-

stores a very dull edge (or is used with axes and machetes), while the smoother side is used to "hone" or finish the edge, creating a higher degree of sharpness.

The best way to sharpen is with the stone secured in some way. If not secured, it must be held with one hand while the other works the knife. Not too difficult for knives, but tricky with cleavers. It is also best because it is safest to finish a sharpening stroke with the tip still on the stone.

Let's start with a kitchen knife. Have the stone in the "six o'clock" position and smear a generous tablespoon of cooking oil on the stone's smoother side. Grip the knife's handle firmly, and lay the blade flat on the stone, cutting-edge towards you, at the far end, angled slightly from two to 11 o'clock. The short, unsharpened part between the handle and the cutting edge should just be touching the edge of the stone.

Now lift the back of the blade (the spine) about 1/4" and draw the knife towards you, pressing firmly, moving it slightly to the right (for right-handers) as you pull it forward. Co-ordinate the forward and sideways motion so that when the knife reaches the stone's end closest to you, the blade's tip is about halfway across the stone. Don't draw the blade all the way off the stone!



Most sharpening stones have one side slightly coarser than the other.

Keeping the tip on the stone is safer. The tip can be finish-sharpened later. Do about five or six strokes this way, trying to keep the spine's height above the stone exactly the same on each stroke.

Now flip the knife over. Start at the end closest to you, the cutting-edge facing away, angled from four to seven o'clock, and repeat the process. Finish with the tip still on the stone, halfway across at the far end. Wipe the edge and test it on a piece of potato, or something similar. If it seems sharp enough to you, it's ready to finish.

Finishing strokes move more horizontally, and less vertically. Start at the far end again,

cutting-edge facing you. Draw the blade so that the tip is in the middle when you're just a third of the way down the stone. Use a slightly lighter pressure on these strokes. Repeat. Flip over and repeat. Keep the height consistent! Test the blade again. It should be ready for use.

Cleavers are sharpened the same way, but hold the spine slightly higher than when sharpening a knife, as cleavers need a sharper angle on the blade's edge for chopping. Use a two-handed grip, one on the handle and one on the top left corner of the blade, for a smooth, steady stroke. Remember, the most important thing is not the pressure, but keeping

the height the same throughout the stroke and consistent from stroke to stroke.

Knives and cleavers that are used frequently should be "touched-up" frequently. Just a few finishing strokes will restore their sharpness each time. You can also use a "sharpening-steel" – a steel rod mounted in a handle – used to stroke lightly along the edge to restore its keenness. Always wash and dry a blade carefully after sharpening.

If the blade is not stainless-steel, wipe it with a very thin coat of cooking oil.

That's it! Go slice some veggies for the missus, then have a beer! See you next time!



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Construction Update

Rawai

In the garden of Eva

Construction work on the exclusive Eva Residence project in Rawai began in July, 2008 and is scheduled for completion by December, 2009.

The development, which comprises 16 seaview pool villas, is located on 3.5 rai, just 50 meters from Rawai Beach.

The project was designed by Authanop Engineering Co Ltd – a company owned by Authanop Pankamnerd, one of the co-founders of The Eva Group – that is overseeing project development and construction. Authanop Engineering has overseen some 30 construction projects in the region.

Prices for the seaview pool villas start from Bt14.9 million. Units are available for purchase freehold or leasehold.

The Eva Residence development is being built on a private estate that offers spectacular views of Ao Yon, Coral Island, and Cape Panwa.

The developers of Eva Residence are targeting families or couples who are looking for a luxurious, yet affordable modern townhouses with seaviews.

Eva Residence villas will occupy plots of land ranging from 229 to 311sqm. Total floor space per unit is 490sqm. Each four-storey property features tropical gardens and three bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms, walk-in closets and private balconies. One bathroom per unit will also have a Jacuzzi.

Owners of the units have the option of furnishing the properties themselves or choosing a furniture package priced at Bt1.4 million.

The ground floor of each property will feature an 11.2m pool, with enough extra space to accommodate a kid's pool if necessary.

A signature feature of Eva Residence villas promises to be the rooftop patio. Designed as a relaxation and entertainment area, the patio deck will include an outdoor cooking area with a barbecue, dining table with seating for eight and a sala with views out over the coast.

Although the Eva Residence has no communal facilities apart from a central lobby and management office, the develop-



The ground floor will feature an 11.2m pool.



The development is being built on 3.5 rai just 50m from Rawai Beach.

ment will offer owners a maid service, gardener, private cook and driver.

What's more, residents will have year-round access to the estate's two 26-ft, 400hp speedboats.

Owners will also be able to bask in this lap of luxury with total peace of mind, as the project will boast 24-hour security with CCTV cameras situated throughout the estate and access restricted to those with a keycard.



The signature feature of the Eva Residence promises to be the rooftop patio that will include a sala with views over the coastline and Phang Nga Bay.



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Note: The above details including all pictures are indicative information only. The final details are subject to change(s) made by the developer without giving prior notice to the customer.

Predatory females

Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

Today, a large mantis came to the margins of the swimming pool to sip water. In Europe, this impressive insect is generally known as a praying mantis [*mantis religiosa*] on account of its habit, when threatened, of raising itself up on its hind legs and putting its forelimbs together in a prayer-like gesture. Only it ain't praying: it is preparing to attack. But one can see why its Greek name of *mantis* means fortune teller or prophet. When adopting this pose, they look remarkably humanoid.

There are many varieties in Thailand, of which the most beautiful is the orchid mantis: it actually bears a strong resemblance to a pink orchid bloom – a fine example of insect mimicry. Less exotic but much larger, this particular visitor was a giant green mantis (see photo). Utterly fearless, she refused to stand up and 'pray', or even to fly away. So I moved her to a palm tree where her vivid green coloration matched the fronds and rendered her almost invisible.

You may ask why I am using the female pronoun. In truth, female mantids are much larger than their male counterparts, and this one was huge – about three inches long, with the characteristic triangular-shaped head, and enormous, compound green eyes.

They are much bigger for a reason. During mating, the female often devours the smaller male, beginning with his head, just as he is in the act of injecting sperm into her abdomen. An insectivorous angle on the Shakespearean expression: "to die upon



Giant green mantis.

a kiss". Bizarrely, the predatory female continues to chomp, and the decapitated male continues to bonk, until most of him has disappeared. Good animal protein for the newly fertilized eggs which are later deposited in a frothy mass, and subsequently hardens into a protective capsule.

I was happy to see a mantis in the garden – you can even buy the egg pouches in some garden nurseries – since they prey on pestivorous insects. Big ones such as yours truly's can even manage a small gecko or lizard. Their victims are impaled on pincer-like forelegs which are capable of piercing the hard exoskeletons of beetles and grasshoppers. Good to have around – provided you are not a sex-crazed male mantis. Maybe there's a moral somewhere.

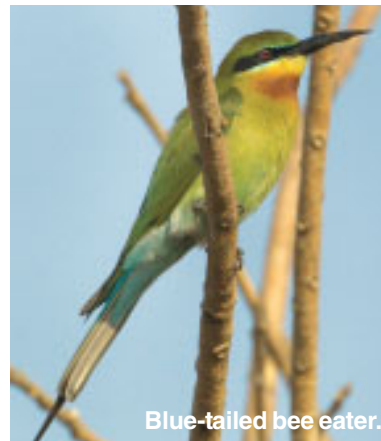
A bee in my bonnet.

Another visitor this week has been the bee-eater. There are bee-eating insects, but this one is a striking bird, the blue-tailed bee-eater. For many people it is a spe-

cial favorite. One can see why. It is brilliantly hued, with a red and yellow throat, green wings, a yellow tail and black eye-shadow (see photo). One of the most beautiful birds in the kingdom, it is slumming it down here in Phuket only as a winter migrant, far from its usual haunts in the northern rainforests of Thailand and beyond. They are gregarious creatures, and sit together on the telephone cables, uttering a pleasant trilling sound, and occasionally darting off to ensnare a passing insect.

I recognized them from my years in Andalucia, where the European variety [*merops apiaster*] nested in deep holes in the banks of the Guadalquivir river. Only marginally different in appearance from their Thai cousins, the

Spanish birds were very unpopular with the locals because, as the name implies, their favorite food is the honey bee. Bee keepers used to shoot them on sight. Say



Blue-tailed bee eater.

it softly here in Phuket – where there is a colony of bee-hives less than a kilometer away from the house – but these birds will consume up to 250 bees a day, which they catch on the wing. They have a novel way of removing the venom: they hold the

insects in their long black bills, and bang them against their perch until the sting has come away.

Of course, nature remains, as Tennyson said 150 years ago, "red in tooth and claw". I cannot lament the passing of so many local bees or, for that matter, the dragonflies that used to quarter the swimming pool, which have

all disappeared down the gullet of these blue-tailed bee-eaters.

But if we were better at respecting our environment, we would not be short of honey bees in the first place.

The world desperately needs bees. They are the principal pollinators of 90 major crops – everything from fruits to nuts – not to mention flowers. It has been estimated that honey bees contribute 15 billion dollars to the US economy every year.

That the world is losing these crucial insects – and at an unprecedented rate – has nothing to do with bee-eaters and everything to do with us. And while no one is clear about the root cause of what has been called "colony collapse disorder"; changes in farming practice, loss of floral habitat, even climate change, all these factors may have contributed to the shrinking bee population.

Do I have a bee in my bonnet? Of course I do. Come on, folks. We need our bee-eaters and our honey bees.



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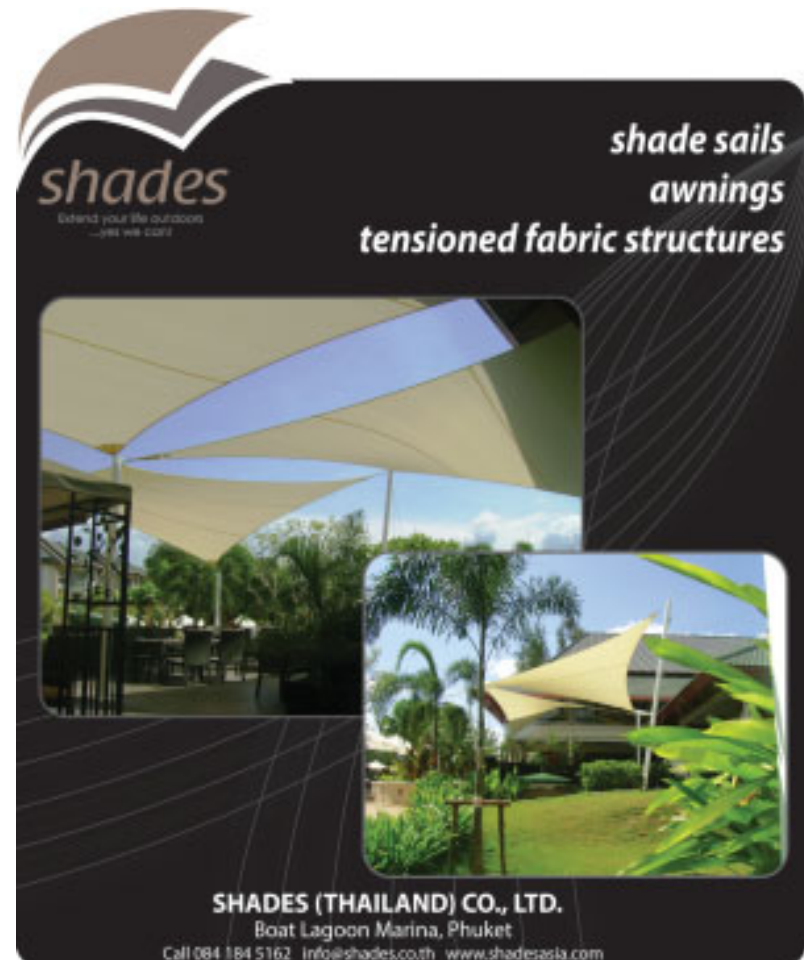
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Land leases in Thailand

Legal consultant Michael Greth looks into some of the pros and cons of land leases as a means of acquiring property for foreigners in Thailand.

One of the most viable options for foreigners wishing to purchase property in Thailand is the land lease. Under current Thai law, a residential lease is limited to a maximum 30-year term (commercial purposes up to 50 years). However, renewal options, providing additional 30-year extensions to the initial 30-year term, are widely used in Thailand.

Recent announcements by the government stating that longer lease periods of as much as 90 years will come into effect as part of a whole package to pre-empt the anticipated property investment slowdown have further focused attention on land leases.

Additionally, a purchase option (under a separate agreement) can be agreed between the lessor and lessee, providing the lessee with the right to demand title transfer upon change of the applicable laws, allowing foreign nationals to hold land freehold titles.

Whenever entering into a lease agreement, the utmost attention should be paid to proper registration of the lease against the land. Every long-term lease (more than three years) needs to be recorded with the relevant land department in order to be enforceable against a third party in the event of land transfer through inheritance or sale by your landlord.

It is important to note that there is nothing guaranteed or automatic with regard to the renewal of a lease. A landowner may refuse to register a new lease agreement for the lease extension when the previous lease period expires. The default provision under your lease should therefore be carefully examined to protect your interests.

It is also worth noting that such a renewal option may not be honored by the beneficiaries of the lessor who have not signed the lease. With this in mind, some more sophisticated developers have implemented legal structures that allow land lessees to acquire a share interest in the company that owns the land that includes your individual plot. Under these structures, the holder of a land lease, together with the other lessees in the project, are, in effect, joint-lessors of themselves and can assure renewal of the lease term for an additional 30-year period upon expiry of the initial term.

Every investment, especially a lease investment, should be carefully scrutinized in terms of its capability for re-sale. Therefore, a long-term lease that is subject to advanced rental payments should be checked for the following provisions: fair termination clauses, unrestricted assignment and transfer rights for the lessee, protected right of renewal and inheritance of lease rights.

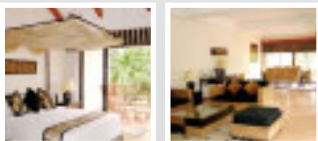


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PROPERTY RESALE

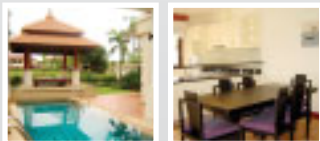
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Laguna Townhome THB 21 M



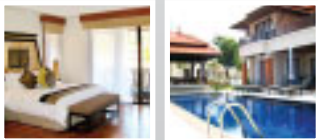
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2 Laguna Village Townhome I THB 21 M



- 2-storey 4 beds 4 baths
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- lagoon view

3 Laguna Village Residence II THB 34 M



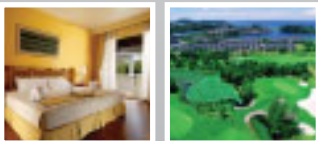
- 2-storey detached Residence
- 4 beds 3 baths fully furnished
- lagoon view

4 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 36 M



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Careful attention should also be paid to ensuring the correct application and submission of the documentation that is to be provided to the relevant land department as evidence of actual payment of rent. This is essential in the event that any kind of (lease) interest is registered against the land.

Simply put, a land lease may be an interesting means of acquiring interest in land in Thailand. It is, however, always advisable to examine lease agreements thoroughly and obtain legal advice from a qualified legal representative to ensure that your interests and rights are protected.

This article is written by Michael Greth, consultant of the Phuket-based law firm International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. He can be contacted at E: michael@ilo-phuket.com or T: 076-222191-5.

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NEW CONDO



for sale. At Royal Place Project, opposite Tesco Lotus. 42sqm at corner, swimming pool view, fully furnished, ready to move. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-691 2526.

BEAUTIFUL HOME

Hillside, big pool & garden, freehold. Very nice! Reduced for quick sale. Best offer. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407. Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.villa-sale-phuket.com>

GREAT CHERNG TALAY LAND

for sale. Price 3.4 million baht. Soi Pasak 8. Tel: 086-047 2463 (Eng), 086-161 1136 (Thai). Email: jm_chance@hotmail.co.uk

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.

KATA LAND 2

700 meters to beach, title deed, 1300 sqm. 12 million baht. Great location. Tel: 081-271 9340. Email: brandyblackcherry@gmail.com

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 087-8836112.

LAND AT SAI YUAN



168sq wah, Chanote, flat land. Contact Nicky. Tel: 089-730 9666. Email: nicky_ph@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-277 0978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

CHALONG HOUSE

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

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.

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

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

3 BED POOL VILLA BOAT LAGOON



15.9 million baht. 600sqm. Compound of 6 & gym. Tel: 084-783 9054. Email: oggyowen@yahoo.com

RAWAIAPT 3.3 MILLION BAHT

5 mins walk to Yanui Beach and 10 mins to Nai Harn beach. 1 bedroom, 84sqm fully furnished, equipped, kitchen. Comes with rental management service, maid service, pool with Jacuzzi, internet WiFi, cable TV. Price 3.3 million baht. Please contact by email or call. Tel: +212-661-492628. Email: smadih@hotmail.com

PERFECT LAND

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

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.

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

ON THE BEACH

2 bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276 5 117 Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.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

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 annualy 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. For details, please email me your interests at info@queenmarines.com

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 m² home on 700 m² of land. Quality build inside-out. 12.5 million Thai baht. Tel: 084-850 0568.

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.

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

INEXPENSIVE LOTS

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK

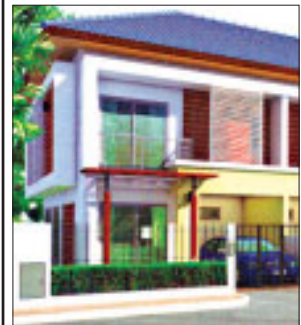
flat, 13 rai and 8-metre access road. Tel: 081-979 0122 (Riam), 089-866 2816 (Lian).

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

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In the project "The Indy" at the entrance to BIS. Townhouse is at the corner and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Land: 33sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

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

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.

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....because they're real.

Property Gazette

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. 476sqm of land and over 300sqm 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.

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.

BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW

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

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

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

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.

ALAMANDA LAGUNA APARTMENT

1 bedroom apartment with Golf Course view. Freehold (non rental pool). For sale at 5 million baht. Tel: +65-91-157254. Email: bgevens@singnet.com.sg

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

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

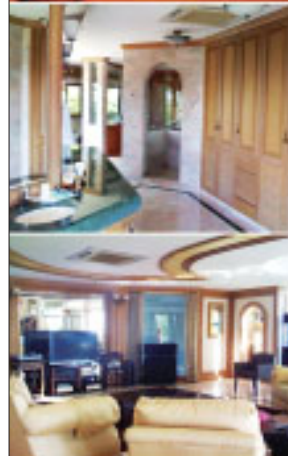
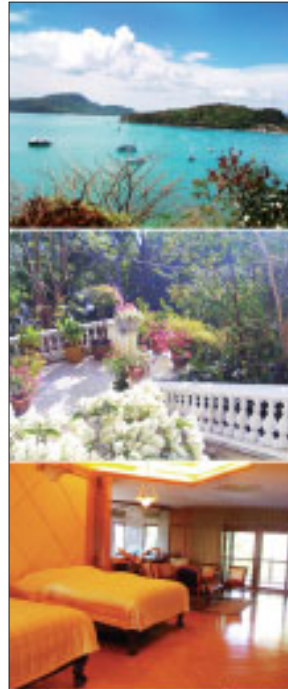
KOH YAO YAI

Cheap land, good investment. 2.8 rai, Chanote title, water, electricity. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

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.

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. Email: info@queenmarines.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.

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

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

HILL HOUSE AT KATA

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

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

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.

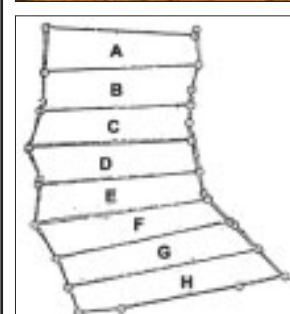
HOUSE IN ANUPHUS GOLF VILLE

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

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: 085-783 1890.

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.

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

VILLA URGENT SALE

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

QUICK SALE

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

POOL VILLA, NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, Thai sala on roof top. Price 9 MB. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

BEACH LAND FOR SALE

Beach property for sale from private owner. Email: info@siamxpress.nl www.thai beachfront4sale.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com Tel: 081-894 1994.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

Property Gazette

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

ROCK GARDEN VILLAS

4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, living room, American kitchen, car park and garden. Tel: 081-090 8637, 081-396 5752.

BEACH LAND FOR SALE

Beach property for sale from private owner. Email: info@siamxpress.nl www.thai beachfront4sale.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

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.

HOUSE IN LAND & HOUSES

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

SARIYA HOUSE



This beautiful modern Thai-style house is located in Rawai, only 5 minutes to the beach, restaurants and necessities. Built on 320sqm, its built up area totals 380sqm. The 2 storey villa comprises 3 bedrooms, bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, a dining room, living room, and a private 4x8m swimming pool. A double covered carport, landscaped garden, private deep well and airconditioning is also included. All rooms have terraces and the villa also has a rooftop with sala where you can enjoy beautiful sea and mountain views. The asking price for this cozy villa is 11.5 million baht. Contact Miss Kob. Tel: 081-273 3303. Email: sariyapat-t@hotmail.com

2 STORY HOUSE CENTER RAWAI

for sale or lease. 160sqm, 2 bed, 2 bath. 1.5 million baht, close to the beach. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

400,000 DISCOUNT
1,772sqm of land in Rawai. April special for only 5.5 million baht. After April back to 5.9 million baht. Tel: 085-795 5383.

NEW STUDIO CONDO

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

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

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

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

HOUSE IN BAANMON, PATONG

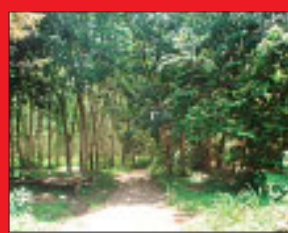
Lovely house on 38wah in excellent quiet location with patio. 2 bedrooms with a/c, separate large bathroom, modern open kitchen and spacious living area. 3.5 million baht. Contact owner: +66 (0)86-952 1201. Email: marcus@legalthai.com

NEW 3 BED POOL VILLA



Buy for 6.5 million baht or rent it long-term for 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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.

BIG NEW HOUSE

Great location on the main road to Laguna area. 3b/r, 2b/t and 2carports. Land plot 240sqm. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-396 5239. Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

RAWAI TOWN HOME

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

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

PHANG NHA LAND

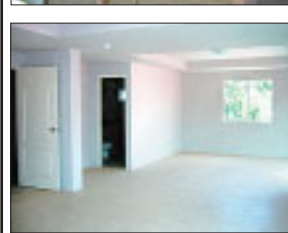
21 rai of beachfront land, 10 minutes from Phuket bridge. Ideal for resort project. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-396 3784. Email: oligi10@hotmail.com

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

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.

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

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.

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/>

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

15 MILLION BAHT



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

390,000 BAHT SALE OR LEASE

Condo, central Rawai. 27 or 54 sqm. Old room, 200 meter from the Rawai pier. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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

COMPACT POOL VILLAS NAI HARN

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

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.

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

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See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

RAWAI BEACH 12 YEAR RENTAL



92sqm apartment. Furnished, ADSL, long lease. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Or send email: rawai1@yahoo.com

GUEST HOUSE 800,000 BAHT



Rawai beach. 4 bedrooms, pool, 5 year lease left. 20,000 baht monthly rent. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE ON YAOVARAT RD

Good area in Phuket City. Ideal for house or office. 120sq wah, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, aircon, kitchen, living room, phone line, 2 car parking spaces. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-797 3138 (Thai), 083-551 8855 (Eng).

BUNGALOW RAWAI

1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, washing machine, kitchen, quiet location. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

HOUSE NEAR BIS

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

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



In the project "The Indy" at the entrance to BIS. Townhouse is at the corner and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Land: 33sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

for rent, 2 bedroom. Price 20,000 baht monthly or for sale 3.9 million baht. Tel: 086-277 3381.

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.

NAI HARN VILLA

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, furnished, aircon, ADSL, big garden. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@ttmaxnet.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 bed nice condo on beach road. Tel: 084-847 3304. For further details. www.selectphuket.com

MARINA BOAT LAGOON

2 bed, fully furnished and aircon. 25K/month min. 1 year near BIS. Tel: 076-261271, 081-892 1732. Fax: 076-261273. Email: ann@siamticketing.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL
in Nai Ham. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Please contact us by email mervyn.crocker@yahoo.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

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

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

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS



Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. UBC and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool & gardening service. Daily rental 8,000 baht, monthly rental 55,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-843 6837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280 degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available from March 24, 2009. Tel: (86) 1381634 4147. Or email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com See our web site at patongTowerRental.com

PATONG TOWER 12 FLOOR

for rent or sale. 1 bedroom, foreign ownership, mountain view, full renovation 3 months ago, 62sqm. Rent 25,000 baht per month. Sale 520,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 8231. Email: peterlomm@hotmail.com

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

Phase I houses for long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669
Email: info@baansuanpana.com www.baansuanpana.com

FOR RENT OR SALE

Boat Lagoon Marina

2 or 3 bed, fully furnished, UBC

3 months	6 months	12 months	Type
40,000	30,000	28,500	2 bedroom
50,000	45,000	40,000	3 bedroom

Misson Heights Complex

5 min. from mission hill golf course, 10 min. from airport, 3 or 4 bed house all with private pools, UBC, fully furnished and complete maintenance

3 months	6 months	12 months	Type
60,000	50,000	45,000	house 332 sqm. 3 bed. 4 bath
90,000	82,500	75,000	house 454 sqm. 4 bed. 4 bath

Please contact Sophit 081-3444473
For further information

PATONG 3 BED TOWNHOUSE

This is a newer townhouse with swimming pool and fully furnished. Available in May for long term at 36,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-498 0872. Email: shetz66@hotmail.com

NAI HARN LUXURY POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon units, 2-car garage, ADSL, UBC, very secure, 2 mins to beach. Tel: 081-090 8776. Please send to email: availrawai@yahoo.com.au

SEAVIEW HOUSE IN CHALONG

2-bedroom sea view house with pool for rent. 19,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-207 0543. Email: nai@rentthaihome.com Website: http://www.rentthaihome.com/modules.php?name=NukeC30&op=ViewDetail&id_ads=412

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Renting or buying a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Call 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for rent and sale. 3 million baht. Yoo Charoen Village, 3km from Laguna Phuket. 2 telephone lines, ADSL, 3 bedrooms, aircon, 2 bathrooms, warm water. 14,000-18,000 baht. Please contact more details. Tel: 087-417 2757 (Eng), 087-417 2756 (Thai).

CHUAN CHEUN LAGOON

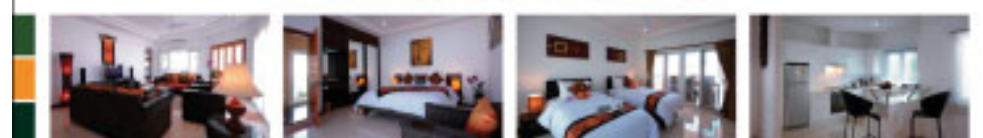
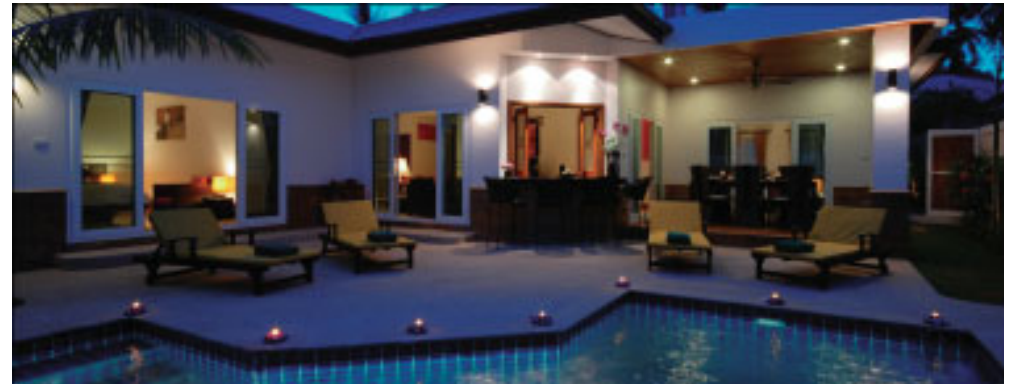
25,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Fully furnished and includes aircon. Located near BIS. Tel: 076-261271, 081-892 1732. Fax: 076-261273. Email: mclee@siamticketing.com

Luxury Seaview Apartments for rent Long Term.



Panoramic view over Patong Bay, Mountains and Town. Apartments one, two or three bedrooms and Jacuzzi's. Residence includes: Pool, Restaurant, SPA & Fitness, Meeting room, Laundry, Bar, underground Parking. From 27,500 Baht up, per month (yearly contract).

www.Prince-Edouard.com Contact@Prince-Edouard.com
Tel: 076 296888 Fax: 076 297021 Up the hill of Soi Prabaram Sam.



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for Special Offer Rates

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Island Job Mart

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

SECRETARY WANTED

Must have good English + Excel. Monday-Friday 45 hour week. Chalong, salary 12,000 baht. Tel: 080-624 7060

2 THAI TEACHERS WANTED

for an international nursery in Rawai. 1 part time (afternoons), and 1 full time. Tel: 081-979 3839. Please send CV and expected salary to lisaaston04@aol.com

REAL ESTATE SALE ASSISTANT

Mon-Sat, good pay, plus bonus. Please send to email: simon@aquapropertygroup.com

SALES MANAGER - EXPAT

Must have track record, university degree, start ASAP. Please contact for further details. Tel: 085-787 6321. Email: tgutherie@gmail.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, 081-970 6503. Fax: 076-330990. Email: dive@siamdivers.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@teffphuket.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

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

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

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. 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.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Avantika Boutique Hotel, a small boutique beach front luxury hotel with 31 rooms, at the South-end of Patong Beach, is looking for suitable candidates (Thai national only) for the following positions: Reservations - Reception - Housekeeping - Engineers. Please send a recent photo, resume, expected salary to: Human Resource Department. Avantika Boutique Hotel 4/1 Thaveewong Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-292801-7 ext. 602, 603, Fax: 076-292 809. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com Website: www.avantika-phuket.com

RECEPTIONIST & MARKETING

Staff wanted at Phuket Spa, Chalong. Urgent! Please tel: 076-282704, 085-567 8929. Fax: 076-282703. Email: natali1800@hotmail.com

SALES & MARKETING GRAD NEEDED

to market the Phuket Fish Boat Co in Thailand and worldwide. 6,000 baht base salary and 5% revenue commission. Tel: 076-282542, 081-833-4795. Send resume to martin@phuketfishboat.com For further details, please see our website at <http://phuketfishboat.com>

SECRETARY WANTED

Smart English-speaking Thai required. Must have construction / hotel knowledge. Tel: 081-137 1001. Or send email to: solitude001@aol.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

I am looking for a retired or qualified primary school teacher to home-school my 7 year old. Tel: 084-006 8736. Email: leondisley@yahoo.com

ASSISTANT NEEDED

Assistant needed for charity. Fluent written and spoken English, good organizational skills, able to work flexible hours and travel, drivers license and own car required. Email C.V and covering letter to: david@happyheartfund.org

ASSISTANT: 20,000 BT/ MONTH

Our business is link building. Websites are ordered and before we can process, data needs to be prepared and organized. That's your job. Thai nationals only. Monday to Friday: from 8:00 - 12:00 noon, and 13:00-17:30. Nice work environment. Tel: 076-388960, 085-4737812. Fax: 076-388960. Email: michiel@online-internet-marketing-services.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.manual-submissions.com/directory/how-to-do.php>

PRESCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a qualified female preschool teacher. Experience is a must. Native speakers only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-006 8736. Email: info@smiley-kidz.com

WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!

Customer Service Agents needed for Expanding Internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? Salary of 15,000 to 25,000 baht. Tel: 085-789 9249. Email: work@holyclothing.com For full details <http://www.holyclothing.com/workcs.html>

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@stjames-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.

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

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

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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. SUB EDITOR

- Fluent in English
- Able to work to strict deadlines
- A team player
- Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- Some page layout skills, experience with PageMaker or InDesign preferred

II. REPORTER

The successful candidate will possess initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and transport. Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2-3 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-238555 Fax: 076-213971

Email: editor@phuketgazette.net

TRISARA

Phuket's most exclusive resort, spa and residential villa development is searching for a number of exceptional people to join our team in permanent positions.

Trisara's facilities and services have set new standards and if you have the personality, skills and experience to be part of a world-class team, our Human Resources Director looks forward to hearing from you.

VACANT POSITIONS

- Resort Manager/Executive Assistant Manager
- Food & Beverage Manager
- Assistant Villa Estate Manager

Human Resources Department

60/1 Moo 6, Srisoonthorn Road, Thalang District, Phuket

Tel. 076 310 354 Fax. 076 310 299

E-mail address hr@trisara.com

"SALES OPPORTUNITY"

COMPUTER SOFTWARE, ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI, COMPUTER AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ESSENTIAL. OWN TRANSPORT. EXPENSES PAID. PLUS EXCELLENT COMMISSION. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO: Email: thailandmls@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER NEEDED

Must have good English communication skills and a Bachelor's degree. 3-5 years experience in related field. Tel: 087-716 2700. Or send email: thairusmedia@gmail.com

WORK CUSTOMER SERVICE!

Description: Customer service agents needed for expanding internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? Salary of 15,000 to 25,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-079 9607. Email: work@holyclothing.com Website: For full details click here: <http://www.holyclothing.com/workcs.html>

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!

Island Job Mart

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

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 and visit our web at www.cafe101.co.th

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Quality. Accuracy. Speed

We have more than 20 years in-depth experience in legal and property to serve the need of clients.

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- Property Transactions

Email: info@phuketipa.com / www.phuketipa.com



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: hmrgr@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
for an interview.



'The Bell' is an exciting new property development comprising 17 luxury pool villas. 'The Bell' is also opening its Luxury Private Pool Villa Resort, which will be fully serviced and managed like a 5-star resort.

Director of Sales

The Bell Pool Villa Resort is now looking for a Director of Sales with the following experience:

- Direct knowledge of overseas market and direct contact with them
- Knowledge of the pool villa resort market
- Minimum 5 years experience as Director of Sales

The Bell is looking for people with the right attitude!!

The Bell,
41/31 Moo 5, Baan Hua Khuan,
Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120

Tel: + 66 (0) 76-279914-5 Fax: + 66 (0) 76-279412
E-mail: info@TheBellphuket.com
Web: www.TheBellPhuket.com



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

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



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

Employment Wanted

CHILDRENSITTER 23

Nice girl, German + English speaking. Full or part time Patong. Tel: 083-639 9137.

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

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

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

AUSTRIAN CHEF/ COOK

is looking for a new job. Have lived in Thailand for 1 year. Tel: 080-650 2326.

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

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

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 object orientation. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroe@gmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

ITEMS FOR SALE

King bed/case 23,000 baht. Wardrobe 6,500 baht. Fridge 2 door 7,000 baht. Tel: 087-263 4992. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

MODERN FURNITURE FOR SALE

Outdoor and indoor furniture in stainless steel with wood, synthetic, laminate and acrylic. Modern design and high quality material. Please visit our showroom in Plaza Draceana, opposite the new Home Pro center near Chalong Circle. Tel: 089-843 1803, Fax: 076-602290. Email: Seasongroup@live.com

WOODWORK MACHINES

All machinery to make kitchens. Tel: 084-847 3304. See website at www.selectphuket.net

ITALIAN KITCHEN SALE

Original Italian kitchen wood nuts. For photos contact K. Pat. Tel: 089-5309124.

KITCHEN BENCHES

MODERNKIT 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: mayday1978@hotmail.com

AQUARIUM 500 LITER

Very nice, very cheap! Tel: 081-080 8831 or for a photo send email to jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

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

DESK AND CHAIRS

2 desks and chairs from Index. Perfect condition. 2,500 baht per desk and 1,000 baht per chair. 085-212 1794. Email: lan@evocation.net

LANDSCAPE ART FURNITURE

Solid Teak and Redwood Table and Chair Sets. Gorgeous, easy to maintain, will last forever. Export service available. Tel: 089-813 4456, 086-478 0385. Fax: 076-282436. Email: chilly.han@gmail.com

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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

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.

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

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

FOR SALE

Curtains, safe, bath cabinet, bed suite, dresser/mirror, lamps, sun lounge, bar table, LG flat TV + home theatre, wine fridge, outdoor furn, fish pond pump + filter, kitchen benches, fridge, RO water filter and more. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-947 7233.

ESPRESSO COFFEE FOR SALE

Top quality espresso roast, whole bean, 100% Pure Highland Arabica Coffee from Chiang Mai. Only 400 baht per kilo. Only 75 kilos available at this price. Hurry, call now! Tel: 081-091 4335. Email: ray_vallancourt@yahoo.com

NEW RESTAURANT FRIDGE

Must see. Quick sale price 10,000 baht. Tel: 081-8081804. Email: ttpitstop1@hotmail.com

AQUA SCOOTER

150W underwater AQUA scooter. Includes charger. Ideal for snorkeling. MAX depth: 20m. Excellent condition. Tel: 084-850 1387. Email: dominic@hitemp.co.za

MACHINE BICYCLE

New 250 CC sale 10,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-294 5441.

SONY PLAY STATION 3

games. 12 titles. Excellent condition, great price. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-279 6700.

GOLF CLUBS PING

9 irons, 2 woods & bag, price 12,000 baht. Surfboard Mini Malibu, 7" x 4", classic, as new plus bag, price 15,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-881 7600.

STUDY DESK / WALL UNIT

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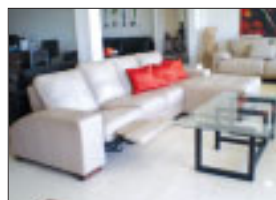
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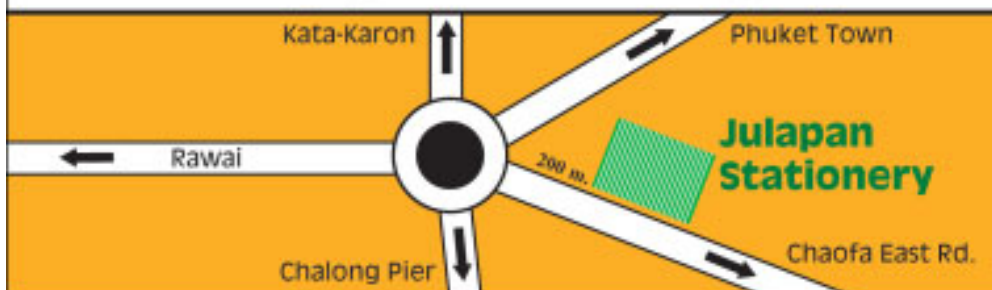
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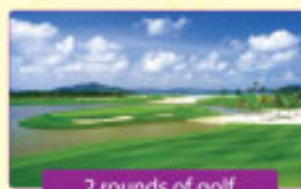
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