



Phuket Gazette

Volume 16 Issue 17 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

April 25 - May 1, 2009

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 25 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with

The Nation

INSIDE



Celestial Sky

Ibiza's first Asian female resident DJ brings her blend of Balearic grooves to Phuket's Vanilla Sky.

See page 18

NEWS: Kathu reservoir planned; Final Songkran accident stats; Pirate victim laid to rest.

Pages 2 & 3

LIFESTYLE: Rick Attix guides us through another Tai Chi Timeout.

Page 17

People: Former Las Vegas entertainer Ricky Zen reveals all.

Page 12

INSIDE STORY 4 & 5; AROUND THE NATION 6 & 7 AROUND THE ISLAND 8; GOOD LIVING 10; EXPAT GALLERY 13; HAPPENINGS 14; LIFESTYLE 16; WHAT'S ON 19; BUSINESS AND MONEY 20; TAKE A BREAK 21 & 22; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 24; FIRST PERSON 25; HOROSCOPES, HUMOR 26; MOTORING 27; SPORTS 28 & 29; CONSTRUCTION 30; DESIGN 31; GARDENING 32; PROPERTY WATCH 34; CLASSIFIED Ads 36-48.

Paradise plundered

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod & Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

PHUKET: Sources in the aquarium fish trading industry have revealed that orders for some one million tropical fish have been placed with market traders in Phuket and nearby provinces.

An aquarium market trader who wished to remain anonymous told the *Gazette* that the selling of tropical fish taken from the sea had continued to take place in Thailand since the practice was banned 20 years ago, but there has been a marked increase more recently, he said.

"The aquarium business is growing. There are currently one million tropical fish on order from markets in Phuket and surrounding provinces destined for aquariums around the country," he added.

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the smuggling of tropical fish and marine life as more out-of-work fishermen look for alternative ways to make money.

On April 19, a team of officers from the Marine and



This 120kg green turtle was rescued before it could be sold for its meat. He is believed to be the largest found near Phuket in 10 years.

Coastal Resources Department Region 5 office in Phuket discovered a large number of clownfish and a large male turtle that had been caught by fishermen.

It is believed that the fishermen caught the turtle to sell as food and also to make a profit from the carapace.

The rescue came when officers intercepted a boat near Koh Bon, a few kilometers off Phuket's coast, at 3am.

As the patrol team approached, it is thought that the

fishermen, not wishing to lose their catch or be apprehended, tied the turtle tightly to the anchor line by one of its flippers and then tossed it overboard before making their escape. They had marked the area with a buoy so they could return and collect the turtle at a later time. However, officers found and freed the turtle before it drowned.

The turtle, the largest found near Phuket in over 10 years, weighs 120kg and is 97cm long. It was transported to the Phuket

Marine Biological Center (PMBC) where veterinarians treated an 11cm-long gash in its carapace.

Paitool Panchaipoom, the director of Marine and Coastal Resources Department Region 5 told the *Gazette* that in the past month their officers had received a number of reports of fish being caught to be sold in aquariums. However, despite the increase in illegal activity, the department has been unable to arrest a single smuggler.

"When fishermen see the patrol boat, they put the fish back into the sea. When our officers inspect a vessel, they cannot arrest anyone unless they find proof," Mr Paitool said.

Sodium cyanide and water solution is commonly used to render the fish unconscious so they can be easily caught. To counter the rise in tropical fish smuggling, the Marine and Coastal Resources Department plans to inspect boats more frequently, even during stormy conditions. Those caught face four years in jail or a fine of 40,000 baht. We also plan to investigate suspects more thoroughly, Mr Paitool added.

Boy killed in gun play gone wrong

CHERNG TALAY: A 12-year-old boy was shot and killed following a gun play accident at an internet and games shop in Baan Bang Tao, Chong Talay at about noon on April 22.

The shooting occurred at Dr Com Electronic Center located opposite Baan Bang Tao School on Srisoonthorn Road when the owner of the cafe, Ekawood Pipatratana, 34, was showing off his .38 pistol to a group of children playing computer games in his shop.

According to witnesses, Ekawood "playfully" pointed what he thought was an unloaded

gun at Amornthep "Gaga" Panyasirikul's left temple.

Three friends of Gaga told the *Gazette* that Ekawood had been repeatedly loading and unloading bullets from the gun.

He then went and sat next to Gaga and jokingly said, "I'm going to shoot you".

The friends revealed that Ekawood pulled the trigger twice without incident. However, when Ekawood pulled the trigger a third time, the gun went off, seriously injuring the boy.

According to the victim's three friends, Gaga did not die immediately from the head

wound, but was losing a lot of blood and going into convulsions as Ekawood closed the cafe and put Gaga in his car, telling Gaga's friends that he would take the boy to Vachira Hospital.

However, when the victim's parents found out about the shooting and called the hospital, they were told that Gaga had not been admitted.

By 3pm, a crowd of about 500 angry villagers had gathered at the scene of the shooting, about two kilometers from Chong Talay Police Station.

The villagers blocked the road with make-shift barricades

and demanded that police take swift action in apprehending Ekawood.

Gaga's body was later discovered in marshland at the side of a lane near Sala Deang Junction in the Nai Yang area at about 5.30pm that afternoon.

At the time of going to press, Ekawood remained at large with his five-year-old son.

An arrest warrant was issued for Ekawood, who police believed was still somewhere in the province having checked with police officers at the Tha Chat Chai checkpoint near Sarasin Bridge. — *Atchaa Khamlo*



Gov tackles sea gypsy issues

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop chaired a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on April 21, in which he pledged to address the problems faced by the inhabitants of 28 villages on the island.

Attending the meeting were representatives of all 28 villages – including a number of sea gypsies – while more than 200 poor and disadvantaged members of the affected communities gathered outside. Those attending also met with other related government department officials.

On April 7, around 400 members from Phuket's poor communities marched on Provincial Hall to lobby for support in solving problems relating to land disputes, the state of public utilities – electricity and water sup-

ply in particular – and the issuance of temporary registration documents for their homes.

By the time of the April 21 meeting, some of these problems had been resolved. However, a number of issues remained outstanding. The governor instructed representatives of all relevant departments within his administration to attend the meeting with the intention of fixing the remaining unresolved issues.

In reference to the public utility supply problems, the governor commented that the problems with the water supply had for the most part been resolved, but that a final solution to the electricity problem still faced some regulatory hurdles.

The matter of the sea gypsies inhabiting the areas of man-

grove forest still posed a problem, said the governor. He said that he would resist implementing the official government policy that would require the sea gypsies to vacate the land. He had already succeeded to some extent, but still needed to gather additional information in order to settle the matter in favor of the inhabitants of the land. He hoped to complete this process by the end of the month, he added.

Regarding temporary addresses for the community members, the governor said that those people who had homes could now apply for temporary house registration documents.

"A number of land area disputes are already in the court system. People who have a dispute have to lodge appeals individually



Attending the meeting were representatives of all 28 villages, including a number of sea gypsies, while more than 200 poor and disadvantaged members of the affected community gathered outside.

or relocate to government facilities that have already been set up for them.

"As regards the other outstanding problems, I will continue to research and attempt to resolve them myself on a case by case basis. Thereafter, we will

hold meetings to reassess the progress made on each issue. Most importantly, I want every village that occupies land inside forest and mangrove areas to ensure the protection and preservation of these areas", he said.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

Funeral held in UK for murdered yachtsman

UK: The funeral of yachtsman Malcolm Robertson, 64, from Sussex in the UK was finally held in his home town of St Leonard on April 21, almost one month after he was murdered by three Burmese migrants off the coast of Satun last month.

Mr Robertson was killed while on a sailing trip with his wife Linda, 57, on their 44ft yacht *Mr Bean* when the three assailants boarded their boat off Koh Dong, about 75km from Satun province.

The three Burmese men later confessed to police that they had killed Mr Robertson with a hammer and thrown his body overboard. After an extensive search, the body of the slain British sailor was recovered by fishermen about 10 nautical miles north of Satun's Lipe Island on March 30.

Mrs Robertson suffered mi-

nor injuries after she was tied up, beaten and dumped below deck for 10 hours during the attack on March 23.

A memorial service for her husband was held off Phuket shortly after his body was found. Petals were thrown into the water where the couple's 44ft yacht was berthed, a tree was planted and a marble plaque put up in his memory.

Mr Robertson had owned a chain of coffee shops in the UK, but was semi-retired and fulfilling a life-long dream of spending the winter months sailing around warmer climes with his wife in their yacht, called *Mr Bean* after his coffee chain.

The couple, both qualified yacht masters who had sailed round the world, had been married for 25 years and had four children and seven grandchildren.

Phuket to host SME loans event

PHUKET CITY: In an attempt to ease financial difficulties for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the SME Development Bank of Thailand has scheduled a public event at the Royal Phuket City Hotel this Saturday.

According to news released by the bank's Phuket branch, the head office has chosen Phuket as its first regional venue to launch mobile services for special loan packages.

The half-day event will comprise public and private businesses who have networks with the bank giving presentations and successful clients sharing their experiences as guest speakers. Bank executives will be on hand to give guidelines on the 'Procedures for seeking loans from SME Bank'. The event is to be held from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on April 25th. For reservations contact SME bank call center (Tel: 1357) or the Phuket branch. Tel: 076-217 009.

Songkran leaves 4 dead, 60 injured in Phuket

PHUKET CITY: The final tally for this year's "Seven Days of Danger" road safety campaign over the Songkran holiday period in Phuket is four dead, with 60 people injured in 60 road accidents.

The figures are almost identical to last year, when four were killed and 64 were injured in 64 accidents.

In the annual accounting, only injuries requiring admittance to hospital for treatment are recorded.

A total of 78,188 vehicles were called over for inspection at road checkpoints set up across the island over the period, with a total of 6,315 people arrested or fined.

The most common violation was driving without a license (2,509 cases), followed by operating a motorbike without a helmet (1,648), riding in the front seat of a car without wearing a safety belt (922), and riding an unroadworthy vehicle (461).

There were 16,309 people tested for drink driving, with 775

charged. Nationwide, the period ended with 373 deaths and 4,332 injuries in 3,977 road accidents.

The number of deaths increased by five from last year, but there were 471 fewer injuries and 266 fewer accidents, said Interior Ministry permanent secretary Wichai Srikwan.

Chiang Mai reported the most fatalities at 14. Chiang Rai had the highest number of injuries at 164 and the highest number of accidents at 145.

Meanwhile, Trat, Chachoengsao, Yasothon, Amnat Charoen, Sakon Nakhon, Nan and Yala provinces did not report any deaths during the period.

On Thursday alone, there were 52 deaths and 371 injuries in 343 road accidents.

A total of 5,271,977 drivers and motorcycle-riders were examined at checkpoints nationwide. Of those, 408,020 were cited for violating the law, including 137,806 for driving without a license and 136,772 for not wearing a helmet.


Motorcycles were the vehicles most involved in road accidents, accounting for about 82% of all vehicles. The biggest cause of accidents was drunken driving (40.7%), followed by speeding (20.0%).

The Public Health Ministry reported that its emergency units had given medical assistance 21,456 times and 74% of victims had received help from the units within 10 minutes.

People called the 1669 emergency hotline 11,113 times.


Ministry officials checking alcohol sales, randomly inspected 28 provinces in all four regions between April 10 and April 15 and found that three times more shopkeepers on secondary roads violated the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act of 2008 than on main roads.

Alcoholic drinks were also sold in 28% of petrol stations inspected.



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Oil slick hits Satun's Koh Lipe

SATUN: Waters off the resort island of Koh Lipe in Satun were polluted last weekend by an oil slick, initially estimated by authorities to cover an area of about five kilometers.

Marine Police Region 3 Inspector Banjerd Manawetch was first notified of the slick by the crew of a Marine Police Patrol boat at about 7am on April 18.

The slick, which began as a small spot before radiating outward, was first noticed about two nautical miles off the island's west coast, he said.

From its brownish-black color and viscosity, officials believe the slick was caused by bunker oil, commonly used as fuel in the shipping industry.

Given that a fishing vessel is known to have sunk in the area 13 or 14 years before, Lt Col Banjerd suspected the slick was caused by a corroded fuel tank beneath the surface that eventually cracked open, allowing its contents to rise to the surface. Samran Rakchard, Bangkok-based director of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, said the oil posed a threat to the marine ecology – including coral and clownfish – as well as the local tourism industry.

Strong seasonal monsoon waves, expected to arrive in May, would completely clean the island beaches of oil and other accumulated debris, he said.

Satun Governor Sumeth



A view of the oil slick at Ao Pramong, Koh Lipe, at 11am on Saturday, about four hours after the source of the oil was first spotted by Marine Police a few nautical miles offshore. Photo by Surasak Saleemane.

Chailertwanichkul ordered staff at the provincial office of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to survey the contamination plume and engage a private contractor to clean it up.

A survey of the site on April 21 by Alee Sukswan, head of the Satun Provincial Environmental Protection Unit, revealed that three days after its initial discovery, oil continued to rise to the surface from the sunken fishing vessel, which sits on the seabed at a depth of 42 meters below the surface.

Accompanying Mr Alee on the initial survey of the site, made aboard a Phang Nga-based Navy patrol boat, was Pootipong Jirayutwiboon of the Ecomarine Company, which specializes in oil spill cleanups at sea using sorbent booms and dispersing chemicals.

Questioning of local residents revealed that the source of the oil is a 70-meter fishing vessel that was designed to process

catch into fishmeal at sea.

The vessel, whose original port was at Kantang District in Trang Province, went down with an estimated 60,000 liters of fuel in her tanks about 13 or 14 years ago.

After the sinking it was determined that the vessel, with a beam of 12 meters, was too large to salvage.

By the afternoon of April 22, Satun Governor Sumeth Chailertwanichkul had agreed in principle to provide an emergency budget of three to four million baht to conduct the clean-up operation, but was still waiting for navy divers to inspect and videotape the leak before signing off on the work.

In the meantime, the oil slick had already affected much of Koh Lipe, with the worst-hit area being near Ao Pramong (Fisherman's Cove) on the north coast of the island.

-Surasak Saleemane

Governor to lobby for new reservoir at Kathu Waterfall



KATHU: The Phuket Provincial Office will seek a budget from the central government to construct a new reservoir at Kathu Waterfall in order to solve chronic dry season drought problems in the area.

On April 20, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop toured the proposed project site, also a popular tourist destination.

He was accompanied by Kathu District Chief Siripath Patakul, Kathu Tambon Chief Sarawuth Kaewpradub, and a number of other local officials.

Gov Wichai said people in Kathu District had complained to him about a lack of water during the the island's dry season, the four-month period when monthly rainfall often dips below 100 millimeters.

Describing it as "unbeliev-

able" that an island with so much annual rainfall could experience such shortages, Gov Wichai, after talks local officials, agreed to

push for the new water supply source at Kathu Waterfall, which flows year-round.

Gov Wichai told the press he had already asked the Phuket Irrigation Office to submit, within 30 days, a budget plan based on the construction of a dam to create a reservoir 30 meters deep with an approximate storage capacity of 500,000 cubic meters.

Under the plan, an existing basin located about half a kilometer away on Soi Namtok 5 would also be developed, increasing its current storage capacity to 150,000 cubic meters, the governor said.

"If the government agrees with me and provides the budget, the project could be finished by the end of this year," he added.

-Kamol Pirat

Rock Garden Village accepts responsibility for wall collapse



SONGKRAN SURPRISE: The section of retaining wall that collapsed during heavy rains on April 13.

RASSADA: A section of hillside-retaining wall, under construction by the Rock Garden Village residential estate, collapsed during heavy rains on April 13, causing a mudslide that blocked the access road to the neighboring Sri Suchart Grandview Village estate.

Sulaimarn Kaewngarmdee, an officer with Rassada Municipality, said municipal workers using heavy equipment were able to clear the road the following day.

The municipality also put up signs warning people of the danger posed by the collapsed wall, which poses a threat of further slides if heavy rains continue.

Rassada Mayor Suratin Lian-udom said the municipality had granted permission to Rock Garden to construct a 320-meter reinforced concrete retaining wall as part of its real estate development project.

Given that the wall col-

lapsed well before it had reached its design height, municipal officials will now oversee the construction much more closely and review the materials and construction methods used so far.

The municipality has also reported the incident to the Phuket City Police, charging the project owners with carelessness resulting in an inconvenience to the public.

After an April 20 meeting between the project owners and the municipality, the Rock Garden management agreed to take responsibility for damages caused by the collapse, Mayor Suratin said.

Rassada Municipality has also reiterated that the management of Rock Garden Village must also take measures to protect nearby residents from dust and noise pollution associated with the project, he added.

-Kamol Pirat

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Records

Thai AirAsia bullish on Phuket

By Atchaa Khamlo

As part of its plan to establish Phuket as a second aviation hub for Thailand, Thai AirAsia hopes to establish direct air links with important cities in the region and set up a sales office on the beach road in Patong, the company's chief executive officer (CEO) told a recent press conference.

Thai AirAsia CEO Tassapol Bijleveld told the *Gazette* at the April 2 launch of the carrier's new "Bangkok Calling" project that the low-cost carrier wants to help decentralize current air links, enabling more regional passengers to reach destinations in Thailand without having to transit through Bangkok.

"As I said in Thai AirAsia's first year, our philosophy is not to look at Thailand as Bangkok, or Bangkok as Thailand," said Mr Bijleveld.

Thai AirAsia currently operates eight daily flights between Phuket and the capital.

Phuket will be the first of a number of new aviation hubs the carrier hopes to establish in



Servicing the Phuket hub will be some of AirAsia's current fleet of six Airbus A320s. Thai AirAsia currently operates nine Boeing 737-300 aircraft and six Airbus A320s, among 40 brand new A320s ordered to gradually phase out the 737-300s and expand the fleet.

Southeast Asia.

AirAsia hopes eventually to establish direct flights to Phuket from major cities in the region, including Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh City.

As an example, Mr Tassapol said that people in Indonesia wanting to visit Phuket currently have to get two connecting flights to reach the island.

A scheduled service from Jakarta to Phuket would reduce the time by about one hour, he said.

Mr Bijleveld said it was still too early to announce which other airports in Thailand or the region were likely to be upgraded to aviation hub status.

By making it easier to fly, the new Phuket hub will increase the number of inbound passengers and help the Thai



The launch of the Bangkok Calling project was led by well-known Thai TV personality Andrew Biggs (left) of Bec-Tero entertainment. Holding the microphone is Thai AirAsia CEO Tassapol Bijleveld.

economy, he said.

The number of flights to and from each destination will depend on load factor, with new routes typically starting with one flight per day, then gradually increasing as demand rises, he revealed.

More specific details about the carrier's regional expansion plans will be released later this year, he added.

Servicing the Phuket hub will be some of AirAsia's current fleet of six Airbus A320s. Thai AirAsia currently operates nine Boeing 737-300 aircraft and six Airbus A320s, among 40 brand new A320s ordered to gradually phase out the 737-300s and expand the fleet.

The first of these A320s was delivered in October 2007 and the remainder are being delivered on a schedule that ends in 2012.

Mr Tassapol told the *Gazette* that he "definitely" expects tourism to Phuket not only to recover, but expand. This is reflected by AirAsia's establishment of Phuket as a regional hub, he added.

However, AirAsia has no immediate plans to use Phuket as a hub for long-haul international flights such as its popular Kuala Lumpur-London route, he said.

With regard to AirAsia founder Tony Fernandos' plan to establish a network of budget hotels, Mr Tassapol said the project might begin by the end of the year – but declined to give further details.

AirAsia will also open a new ticket and reservations of-

fice on the beach road in Patong, near Loma Park. The service is expected to commence operations by the end of the month. AirAsia – and several other carriers – already operate ticket booths in the Tesco Lotus shopping mall.

At the April 2 event in Bangkok, AirAsia launched its "Bangkok Calling" project in co-operation with Thai TV Channel 3, content provider Bec-Tero Entertainment Public Co Ltd and the Holiday Inn hotel chain.

The project offers a number of all-inclusive travel and accommodation packages to Bangkok from the provinces, scheduled around events taking place in the capital as a way of attracting customers.

These include the performances of the acclaimed Cooking Nanta stage show at Siam Paragon in July as well as the smash hit *Mamma Mia* – the musical that holds the all-time ticket sales record for any Broadway performance.

Packages can also be booked for the Thailand Open tennis tournament in September.

A press release at the launch describes Bangkok Calling as "a strategic partnership that is the first of its kind in the industry and unique in offering value for money and easy accessible choice of booking to its guests."

Typical packages cost just over 11,000 baht and cover round-trip domestic airfare (excluding airport taxes and fees), two nights hotel accommodation and show tickets.

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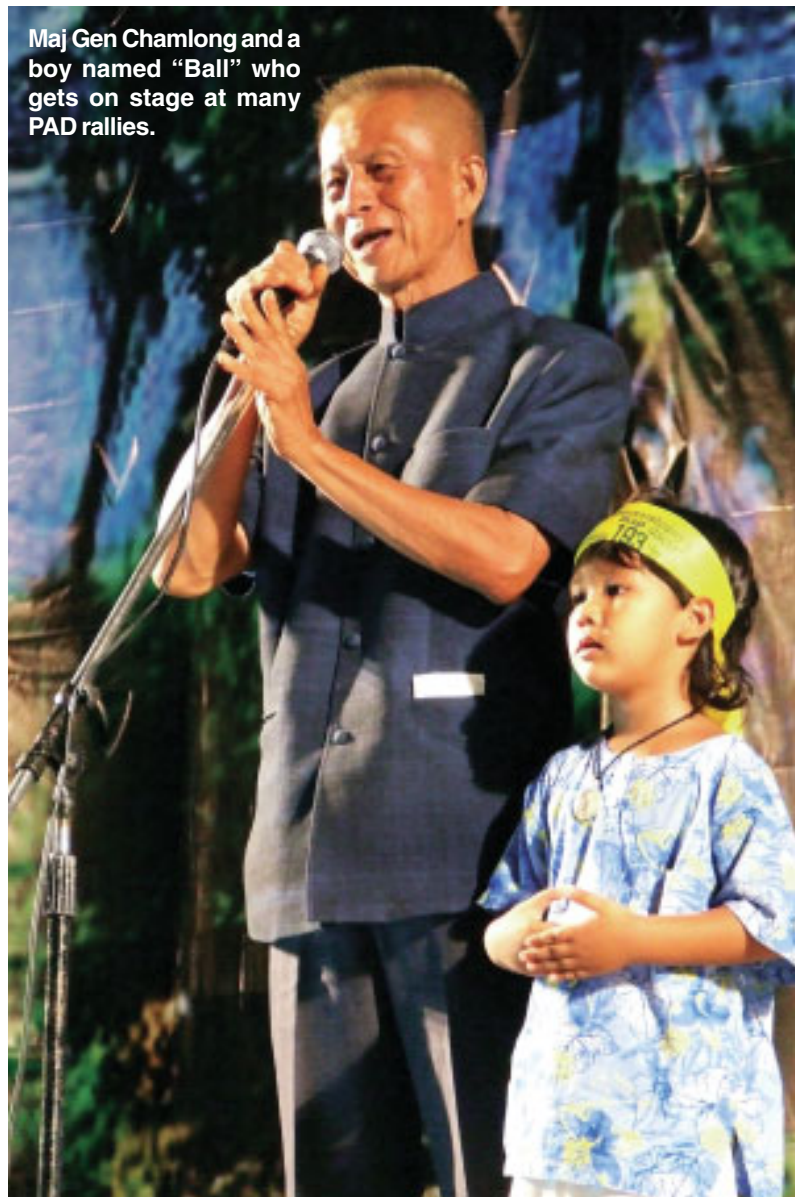
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PAD concert goes off without a hitch



Maj Gen Chamlong and a boy named "Ball" who gets on stage at many PAD rallies.



Core PAD leaders (from left) Somsak Kosaisuk, Pibhop Dhongchai and Somkiat Pongpaiboon used the event to slam former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra. All of the PAD leaders left the island early the following morning citing security reasons.



SAPHAN HIN: The night of Saturday, April 18 saw more than 30,000 yellow-shirted People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) followers gather in a show of support for injured leader Sondhi Limthongkul at the sold-out "PAD 6th Political Concert", which was aired nationwide on ASTV.

Maj Gen Chamlong Srimuang, one of the PAD's five core leaders, told the crowd he felt happy to see such a large number of supporters pour in from all over the country.

He never expected the planned concert would have to be staged without fellow core leader Sondhi Limthongkul, who survived an assassination attempt in Bangkok on the morning of April 17, he added.

Mr Limthongkul, who owns the ASTV satellite television network, is still recovering after successful surgery to remove a bullet lodged in his skull.

Gen Chamlong told the crowd that the reason behind the assassination attempt could not have been truly "political" in nature, because violence is not an accepted part of politics, which inevitably involves differences of opinion among rival groups.

"The real motivations were twofold. First, Mr Sondhi is an important leader in the movement to protect our three key institutions of country, religion and King. If [his attackers] were able to take out Mr Sondhi, the yellow shirts would rise up against the red shirts and become involved in open conflict that would have

been beyond the government's ability to contain. With that, some parties would try to take advantage of the situation to assume control. Fortunately, by some miracle, Mr Sondhi has survived.

"Second, growing political development and public awareness of political issues are higher than they have ever been in the history of the country. With [Mr Sondhi's] ASTV as the mouthpiece, they [his attackers] believed they could weaken the movement by finishing off Mr Sondhi," he said.

Maj Gen Chamlong added that recent events demonstrated the difference between the two sides, as PAD supporters were unarmed and used only non-violent public gatherings to get their message across.

The red-shirted protesters of the rival United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), while claiming to use similar non-violent tactics, exposed their true nature by torching 30 public buses in the capital as well as jeopardizing the safety of Bangkok residents by threatening to explode a gas tanker in their neighborhood, he claimed.

Maj Gen Chamlong also asked the PAD supporters to feel proud of their own past actions, which he said were done for the good of the nation.

The event, which ran from 5pm to midnight as planned, included several musical performances, donation announcements and speeches slamming former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra for his failure to re-

turn to Thailand and face legal charges.

The event raised about two million baht, some 300,000 of which would go to cover expenses and the remainder to support ASTV, the organizers said.

Even though there was no fence around the concert ground and very little crowd control, there were no reports of violence or infiltration by UDD members, who are greatly outnumbered by PAD supporters in Phuket and most of the South.

On the topic of the possibility of the PAD forming their own political party, Gen Chamlong said the topic had repeatedly come up during a recent trip to the United States to meet with PAD supporters living there.

The core leaders were preparing to meet with regional PAD leaders from around the country on April 24 and 25 to discuss the matter, he said. (See First Person, page 25, for more on this topic.)

Other PAD leaders who addressed the crowd included Somsak Kosaisuk, Pibhop Dhongchai and Somkiat Pongpaiboon.

Mr Somsak slammed the red shirts' recent actions calling them destructive to the country and said the government needs to treat its leaders as criminals.

Mr Pibhop said PM Abhisit Vejjajiva needs to "innovate" more to bring about the corruption-free "new politics" that all PAD supporters aspire to.

Mr Somkiat, who is a party-list member of the ruling Democrat Party as well as a PAD lea-

der, told the crowd that PM Abhisit had "listened to the wrong people" – Newin Chidchob supporters in the coalition government – in being persuaded to hold a press conference at the Ministry of the Interior and the ASEAN Summit in Pattaya.

Both events were marred by violence. On April 12, red shirt Thaksin supporters at the Interior Ministry attacked a car they thought was carrying the prime minister.

Four men in PM Abhisit's motorcade were attacked and wounded, including the PM's Secretary General Nipon Phromphan. PM Abhisit himself sustained minor injuries.

That attack came shortly after the humiliating last-minute cancellation of the much-anticipated ASEAN Summit after more red shirt protesters overwhelmed security forces and stormed the Royal Cliff Resort in Pattaya, which was hosting the important summit.

Claiming that the red shirts posed a threat to everybody from law-abiding citizens to foreign heads of state, Mr Somkiat said that PM Abhisit eventually did the right thing in ordering the army to forcibly remove the protesters from the streets of Bangkok and hand-picking the army units himself to ensure they followed his orders.

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Foundations feud

ANG THONG: Two people were seriously injured in an attack on a rescue service dispatch centre in Muang District on April 15.

Police believe the perpetrators were volunteers from a rival rescue foundation in neighboring Ayudhya Province.

Witnesses reported that at around 2am, six pickup trucks fitted with emergency lights pulled up outside the radio room of the Samakhom VR Kupai Foundation. Armed with metal bars, baseball bats and pistols, around 20 men in rescue service uniforms jumped out of the trucks and stormed the office.

The four or five on duty rescue volunteers fled for their lives, but two relatives of the volunteers were unable to escape and were set upon by the mob.

The father of one of the volunteers, 54-year-old Capt Ron-nachai Thaikhana, was shot once in the abdomen.

The wife of another volunteer, 33-year-old Tim Inthanu, was clubbed repeatedly on the head with a blunt instrument until unconscious as she was trying to protect her eight-year-old child. The child was unharmed.

The victims were taken to Ang Thong Hospital, where they were both reported to be in serious condition.

The attackers smashed all of the association's radio equipment and shot up the building before leaving. The attack lasted for around 10 minutes.

Witnesses said that the attackers' uniforms and trucks identified them as being from the Poh Tech Tung Foundation's Phut Thai Centre in Ayudhya.

Police investigating the scene said that the glass front of the office was smashed and there were around 10 bullet holes in the walls. Police collected one .22 and one .38 caliber bullet casing as evidence.

Monthien Onsakun, who heads the Samakhom VR Kupai foundation, said that there were about 10 witnesses to the attack.

He believes the Poh Tech Tung Foundation's desire to open a center in Ang Thong may have been the motive for the attack.

"The Samakhom VR Kupai foundation has sent a letter to the governor of Ang Thong objecting [to the Poh Tech Tung Foundation's request to open a

center in the province] as it would mean the two services would be doubling up on the same area. This could cause problems of rivalry between the services, as has happened in many other provinces," he said.

Samakhom VR Kupai foundation volunteers have training from the Provincial Public Health Office and have a high standard of care for accident victims, he added.

Muang Ang Thong Police Duty Officer Chaiya Duangriwong said investigators were collecting witness statements and other evidence to allow police to arrest the gang.

Reporters tried to contact the Phut Thai Centre, but were unable to talk to anyone, despite the fact that the center is supposedly open 24 hours a day.

Violence between rival rescue services occurs fairly frequently in Thailand.

Disputes over who will care for accident victims have led to violence between rescue volunteers in the past.

A number of murders have been put down to rivalries between foundations over the years.

Source: Thai Rath

Queer News

Faithful flock to holy hole

NONG KHAI: Villagers in Phon Phisai and neighbouring districts have been flocking to Tambon Soem to pay respect to a mysterious hole that appeared in a rice field shortly before Songkran.

Residents of Village 9 told reporters that one morning earlier this month, after a day and a night of constant rain, they heard a loud bang – like that of a bomb exploding.

When they went to investigate where the sound seemed to have come from – about 200 meters from the road – they found a hole about a foot in diameter and three to four meters deep in a field belonging to Sawat Nonsurat.

Sensing that the hole was not quite of this world, the villagers went to fetch the local spirit medium to see if he could shed any light on the issue.

After the medium had examined the hole and conducted his ceremonies, he announced that the hole had been made by a *naga* – a type of serpent deity from Hindu-Buddhist mythology – called Thao Jed See. The creature had come to the village to drive out evil, the medium explained.

Very happy with this explanation, the villagers immediately sealed off the hole with tape to prevent anyone falling into the realm of the *naga*. Then they set up a tent nearby to make offerings to the deity.

Sawai Janthasri, 71, said that this was not the first time a *naga* had chosen to visit their village. Five years earlier, a similar

hole had appeared in the field. That cavity belonged to a female *naga* called Mae Nakhi Daeng, believed to be the elder sister of Thao Jed See. She sent her younger brother to take her place in the village, Mr Sawai explained.

Thao Jed See wanted the villagers to perform a traditional dance with at least seven dancers as an act of worship, he said.

Those wanting the *naga* to help them with problems in their lives could bring incense and flowers to offer by the hole. The *naga* is even able to cure illnesses, Mr Sawai enthused.

Word of the miraculous hole soon spread to other villagers in the province and more and more people came to make offerings.

Nual Bamphenchop, 55, from Fao Rai District said that five years earlier when the *naga* Mae Nakhi Daeng appeared in the village, her husband brought her to pay respects to the deity.

At that time she was suffering from a growth on her right eye and was due to have it surgically removed, but was very apprehensive about the procedure. She paid respects to the *naga* and took water from the hole home to drink and wash her face.

After a week of drinking the muddy water, the growth disappeared, she said.

On hearing of the appearance of Mae Nakhi Daeng's younger brother, she brought her family to get some of the sacred water, which will bring them good fortune, Mrs Nual said.

Source: Khao Sod

Man rapes his own mother-in-law

LOEI: A 25-year-old man was arrested for raping his mother-in-law in Phu Reua District on April 17.

Around 6am that day Phu Reua Police Investigating Inspector Prasan Thonsri arrested 25-year-old Mr Winai (not his real name).

The arrest followed a complaint by 55-year-old Mrs Nu (not her real name), Mr Winai's mother-in-law.

Mrs Nu told police that in the afternoon of the day before, Mr Winai came home drunk after celebrating Songkran with friends.

After seeing her bathing by a well behind the house where they lived, he attacked her.

Part way through the attack, Mr Winai took fright after hearing children shouting in front of the house. He got dressed and fled.

Mrs Nu told the story to the local village headman (*phu yai ban*) who took her to report the incident to the police.

Mr Winai will be charged with rape.

Source: Khao Sod

Ministry to ban alcohol next Songkran

BANGKOK: Unhappy with the continuing high road casualties over Songkran, Deputy Public Health Minister Manit Nopamombodi on April 18 vowed to promote a ban on alcohol sales during the festival next year.

The number of deaths and accidents indicated that the cam-

paign against drunken driving had failed, he said.

According to statistics released by the ministry, the number of road deaths were up by five more than last year. However, there were 471 fewer injuries and 266 fewer accidents.

Source: The Nation



Chiang Mai Zoo launches Thailand's first "zoo mobile unit" on April 20 to promote activities at the zoo. Photo by Warattaya Chailangka

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Tourism sector calls for global roadshow

BANGKOK: The tourism industry is urging Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to lead an urgent roadshow across the globe to restore confidence in the country and woo back tourists.

Many Bangkok hotels are running well below capacity, some recording an occupancy rate of just 30% in the wake of the violent civil unrest.

Apichart Sankary, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, described the damage to tourism caused by the red-shirt riots in Bangkok and Pattaya as "beyond calculation".

Confidence-restoring campaigns are critical, as tourists are greatly concerned about their safety, he said.

Thailand's image must be repaired before the arrival of the high season in October or more bookings may be dropped later on this year, he said.

Prakit Shinamornpong,

president of the Thai Hotels Association, expressed concern that political extremism could resurface and further sabotage the industry.

Up to four groups of Japanese tourists have already postponed trips during April and May and some meetings in May were also cancelled, he said.

Chanin Donavanik, CEO of Dusit International, one of the country's largest hotel chains, said it was outrageous that the entire industry was being destroyed by a group of protesters.

Many travellers are considering going to other destinations such as Vietnam and Indonesia, he said.

The average hotel occupancy rate in Bangkok during the Songkran festival has been reported at only 20% to 30%, lower than the 50% witnessed during the normal low season.

Source: The Nation

ICT Ministry plans E-Government Road Map

BANGKOK: The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry plans to launch an "E-Government Road Map" as a framework for e-government developments over the five years from 2010 to 2014.

ICT Deputy Permanent Secretary Angsumal Sumalai said a draft of the road map would be submitted to the Cabinet early next month for approval before being sent to all government agencies. The roadmap consists of four stages, all of which are designed in keeping with the concept of "citizen-centric development", Mr Angsumal said.

The first stage, which will begin this year, aims to establish collaboration among all government agencies to provide public e-services.

In this stage, the road map envisages the establishment of at least one interchanged e-service between government agencies and one integrated e-service between Ministries, as well as the pilot phase of government e-ser-

vices via mobile phones.

The second stage, scheduled for 2010 and 2011, involves the expansion of e-government services and greatly increased accessibility via mobile devices.

The third stage, scheduled to start in 2012, aims to provide e-services to the public around the clock through various channels including websites and mobile devices currently being developed.

It is hoped that during this stage, all interchanged e-services between government agencies will be completed.

The final stage aims for a complete transformation of government services to an electronic basis, providing e-services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via a variety of channels, along with interchanged e-services among government agencies.

"At the end of this stage, we aim to have totally transformed government services to become a completely electronic government," Mr Angsumal said.

Porn movie banned

The National Film Board has firmly stood by its decision to ban the movie *Zack and Miri make a porno* from being screened in Thailand, citing that its explicit sexual content goes against moral principles here.

"The screening of this film may encourage copycats here," Culture Ministry permanent secretary Vira Rojpojchanarat said last week. The film is rated NC-17 in America.

Source: The Nation



Photo by Pares Lohasan

Longtail boats on the shores of the Thale Noi conservation area in Phattalung Province. Boatmen use the craft to take tourists on birdwatching tours of the area, known for its impressive variety of water fowl.

Cultural events to combat street riots, promote tourism

BANGKOK: Thailand could counterbalance its unsettled image by showcasing its rich tradition of culture and arts, starting with a fair to impress the diplomatic corps here, the Culture Ministry announced on April 19.

"We will invite foreign ambassadors in Thailand to attend the event and present to them that Thailand is quick to welcome international tourists," said Culture Minister Teera Slukpetch.

The recent political riots had painted a dark picture of the Kingdom and other nations were not confident about the country's safety, he said.

The Cabinet should form a panel using cultural diplomacy to restore the country's reputation and rebuild foreigners' confidence with the collaboration of the Foreign, Tourism and Commerce ministries.

The ministry's Office of Contemporary Art and Culture is preparing to organize an event featuring art, statuary, contemporary performances, documentaries, films and discussions, Mr Teera said.

The show, called *Bangkok Kluay Kluay* will run from April 30 to May 9 at leading shopping malls in the Siam Square area and

at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center.

Following the event would be a "Culture Expo" to be held in August at the Impact Arena Muang Thong Thani featuring cultural products and performances from around the world, he said.

"During the past Songkran Festival, we saw people enjoying splashing water on one another. The activity presented through the media could show foreigners that Thailand has a fabulous culture.

"It is not as horrible as many people think," Mr Teera added.

Restaurant duo gunned down

SONGKHLA: A Songs for Life musician and a waiter were shot dead in the early hours of April 17.

The pair were gunned down at around 4:30am while making their way home from Ruean Mai, a restaurant in Songkhla Town where they both worked.

The body of 32-year-old Chatri Thon-gkaow, a regular

singer at the restaurant, was found on Chai Mongkol Street. Mr Chatri had been shot five times in the head with a 9mm pistol.

Nearby, police found the body of 18-year-old Warocha Sirikul, who worked as a waiter at Reuan Mai.

Mr Warocha had been shot four times in the head and neck with the exact same caliber

weapon.

Police said that they believe that the killer followed them after they finished work at the restaurant.

Police also believe that they know the identity of the gunman and are currently in the process of applying for a warrant for his arrest.

Source: Khao Sod

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Phuket stars in The Dream Hotel TV series

Last week, the cast and crew of romance adventure *The Dream Hotel* celebrated completion of filming in and around Phuket for the German-speaking movie, which will be broadcast in Germany and parts of Scandinavia to approximately 12 million viewers in 2010.

Dream Hotel is a popular German-speaking travel documentary TV series that highlights luxury resorts in exotic locations around the world.

The show is often responsible for rises in tourist numbers in its featured locations following its broadcasts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Scandinavian countries.

The scenes shot in Phuket will become part of a 90-minute movie with a cast of well-known German-speaking actors and a plot that involves a treasure hunt in which people mysteriously go missing.

The story begins in Chiang Mai and ends in Phuket with several diving scenes, including the recently sunk Coral Reef Squadron resting in the waters off Bang Tao Beach.

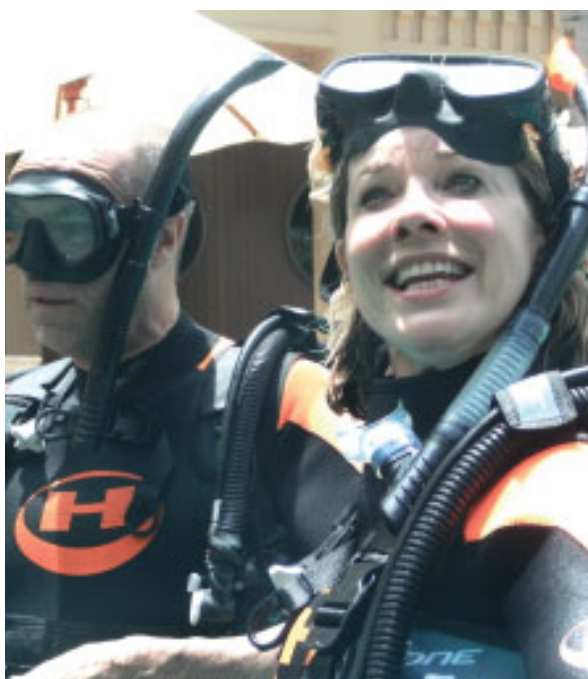
However, none of the cast's main actors – including Ann Kathrin Kramer, Heinz Hoenig and Gunther Gillian – were proficient scuba divers. In fact one of the actors was 'petrified' of diving as they had previously had a bad diving experience in the past; sinking to the bottom with a heavy weight belt that wouldn't undo, so Lisa Film Produktion GmbH enlisted the help of certified dive instructors at the Orange House dive center in Bang Tao run by Ted Sivert.

The actors were given initial scuba training by Orange House divers in a swimming pool before moving on to shallow waters just beyond the surf. A handful of divers were also used as doubles for some of the deeper underwater shots.

Asked what was the most challenging aspect of the production, the answer was always the same: visibility. The crew would



TOP LEFT: Actors and their doubles during filming. The actors display their newly acquired diving certificates after receiving training from Orange House dive center. TOP RIGHT: Actor Heinz Hoenig and his diving double.



LEFT: Actors Heinz Hoenig (left) and Ann Kathrin Kramer during scuba training. RIGHT: Cast and crew celebrate the end of a gruelling filming schedule with a beach party at Pla Seafood restaurant on Surin Beach on Friday April 17.



sometimes spend hours hanging around on the surface waiting for the right conditions.

To ensure filming was kept on schedule, two film units were used to film different scenes simultaneously.

Shooting was originally planned to take place in the

Maldives, but for a number of reasons, including bureaucratic hurdles, Phuket became the location of choice.

Although Phuket already provides a stunning backdrop, the creative director was at liberty to add a few extra props here and there, including an extra palm tree

on the beach.

Apparently, the synthetic tree looked so real that it even fooled some of the locals, who were amazed to see one of the crew simply lift off the top of the tree.

David Spiehs, owner of Lisa Film Produktion GmbH, also

brought his family along. When his five-year-old boy saw David scuba diving, he said to his dad, "Daddy, I want a bottle!".

As for real treasure hunting in the region, according to Ted, there are a lot of undiscovered wrecks out there. You just need the means to go out and find them.

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The Lighthouse Chalong

On the menu WITH WILKO

There is a fundamental and undeniable truth about Chalong's Lighthouse restaurant – it isn't a lighthouse. It looks like one and does a sterling job at impersonating one, it must be admitted, but it isn't.

Jimmy's Lighthouse, over the last however many years, has enjoyed a legendary status as a well-acknowledged pivotal meeting point and yachting watering hole. A navigational aid it most certainly is not – except to boozers hanging a left to Chalong or to their moored yachts in the harbor.

The Lighthouse – as it now known – has witnessed birthday parties, wakes, fundraisers, mad New Year's Eve and Christmas bashes; boozy and sometimes quasi-violent yachting meetings, weddings, divorce celebrations; quizzes, arrests, celebrity visitors, illicit clandestine lovers' meetings; a rather high tide that provided an inadvertent longtail boat display under its windows in December 2004, and a lot more besides, but never, until now, a full food review.

So many amusing and enthusiastically circulated stories have emanated from this center of Chalong's waterside universe, that nowadays apocryphal tales have firmly clung onto the backs of the true anecdotes and subsequently grown roots with a vengeance. In short, the place is the stuff of legend.

The Lighthouse has been home to some excellent live music as well as excruciatingly bad, ear-busting stuff, plus a lot more in-between. One guy whose name is synonymous with this iconic eatery is 'Good ol' Tyson'.

Hailing from Illinois, in the US of A, Tyson fearlessly strode the stage boards every Saturday

night in the late 90s and made an art out of hollering everything from Johnny Cash to Black Sabbath, through a jumble of PA systems, dodgy mikes, feedback and gallons of beer.

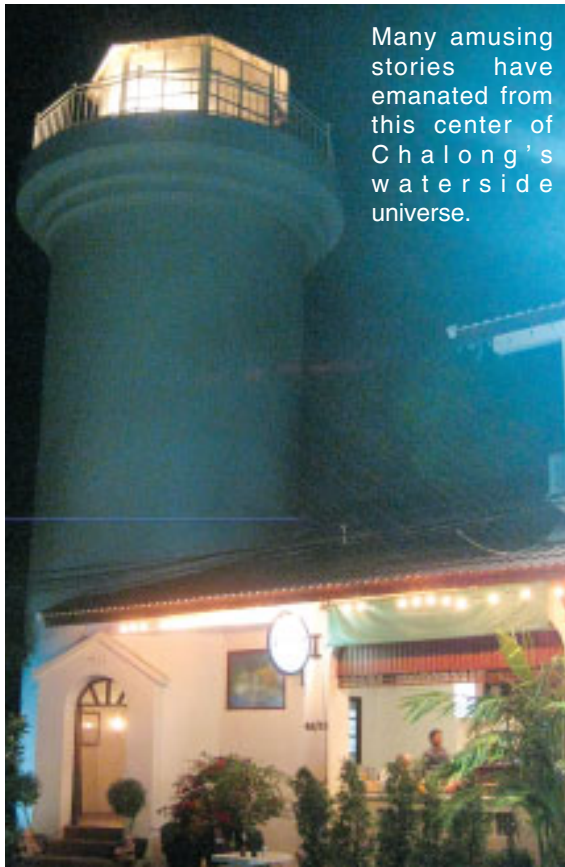
So what of The Lighthouse of late? Well, there's still the same signature phallic tower with its oscillating light – totally surplus to requirement in an East coast sheltered harbor – but nevertheless a welcome sight to anyone thirsting after an icy brew and a solid meal.

Ex-proprietor Jimmy Pearson, deserving a separate article about himself (as is Tyson), often turns up for its wholesome breakfasts, as does Willy, his second-in-command in those heady days, when just getting to The Lighthouse was a shocking experience (for your car that is) due to the rutted thoroughfare leading down to it from Chao Fa East Road.

According to Mai, the new proprietress from Bangkok, the 'Old Dame' is still popular for breakfast and has maintained a regular clientèle of retirees, yachting and people like me, all appreciative of its eastern sunset views over the flotilla of yachts and sundry *bateaux* at six o'clock every night.

We arrive one rain-threatened evening, to meet Barry Daniel and Bruce Stanley – both accomplished food reviewers in their own right – and settle in at a window-side seat – highly recommended pews.

Due to popular demand, the



Many amusing stories have emanated from this center of Chalong's waterside universe.

old menu hasn't changed much and although tempted by chicken pie and chips, Mai urges me to try the Parma ham pizza made by her own fair hand (pizzas range between 170 to 220 baht) along with a glass or two of excellent South African *Nama Quan* red (150 baht a generous glass).

Barry has a house white from the same vineyard to complement his grilled bass fillet (220 baht), while my 'trouble and strife' (wife) orders a *pla muk* with fried vegetables and ginger – a squid dish with garnishing (100 baht).

Bruce, as usual, turns up late and orders a God-knows-what-sort-of-sandwich (and Lord knows how much it costs) with a Singha Beer, and appears more than happy with the combination.

The verdict? Great, and even better than the old stuff. The venue has retained its nautical and whimsical charm.

Open daily from breakfast until late. Tel: 076-381709. Email: thelighthouseatchalong@gmail.com.

An Evening of Friuli Flavors



The view from Tre restaurant at Banyan Tree as lanterns glide over the resort's lagoon.

The classically tranquil setting of Banyan Tree's teakwood lakeside restaurant Tre was recently the venue for an evening in the cultured company of five fine Italian wines from the Livio Felluga estate in Friuli.

As lanterns ascended from the resort to join the stars in the clear night sky, stories were told of the Felluga family's pioneering spirit. The wine makers have endured two world wars and crossed borders over the generations, first living in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and then in the young Kingdom of Italy, on the rocky coast of the Istrian peninsula and the lagoon of Grado, before finally settling in the gently rolling hills of Friuli.

As a series of unique delicately fused dishes created by Tre's chefs Stephan Trepp and Alex Nassar appeared magically on a silent cue to accompany the selection of wines, heirs to the Felluga estate, the vivacious Anna Paola and the softly spoken Maurizio Felluga, explained their charmingly simple vision for the future of the Livio Felluga wines. They just want as many people as possible to experience their wines and appreciate them for the generations of knowledge and experience that goes into each bottle and the fertile vineyards where the grapes are grown. In the words of Maurizio Felluga, "They are wines for everybody".

Connoisseurs spew forth a torrent of adjectives when describing the fascinating combination of tastes in each of the wines, but some would rather dwell privately on those flavors as they awaken distant memories of childhood days spent in the countryside familiarizing yourself with every scent in the rugged fresh air. With each of the wines, flavor by flavor, the palette pinpoints the taste of a winter fruit or a summer herb.

Vertigo, the star wine of the evening, tastes as if a year's worth of Friuli's seasonal flora has been crammed into the bottle. *Vertigo* is a full-bodied Merlot - Cabernet Sauvignon blend with an intense fruity and spicy nose, perforated with aromas of cherries, red pepper, currant, blackberries and blueberries integrated with liquorice and moss.

With so much character and celebrity status, one would expect *Vertigo* to have a dizzyingly high price tag but even the most conservative aficionados will find the magnificent red quite agreeably affordable.

Vertigo is best served at 16-18 degrees C with savory pasta or rice dishes, grilled or stewed meat, or moderately mature cheeses. It also goes down exceedingly well in a sanctuary like Banyan Tree, where you can explore the wine's richness and appreciate the subtle sights and sounds of a summer evening on the edge of a lagoon.

-Nick Davies

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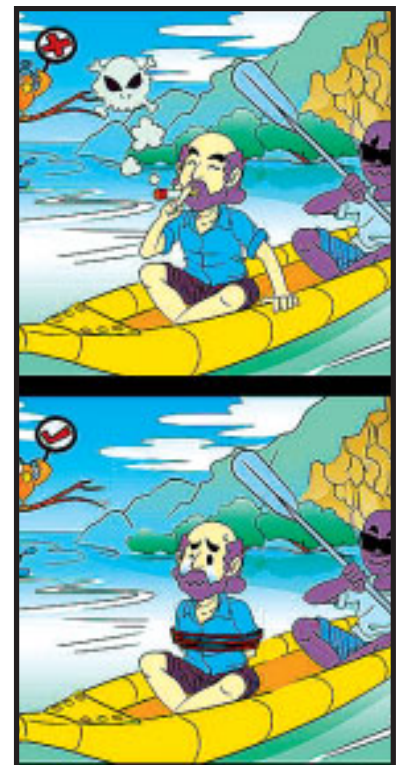
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Zen master

By James Goyder

Ricky Zen was not actually born on a stage but he might as well have been. Whether as a singer or a compere, this elegant showman adds a touch of Vegas to proceedings wherever he performs. In truth, Ricky would probably still be in Vegas now had he not wound up in Phuket 10 years ago.

At the time, Ricky was based in "Sin City" but was touring Australia, New Zealand and Asia as part of a Vegas-style show. He took time out for a holiday in Phuket and instantly fell in love with the island. He began singing in bars and hotels and as word spread that this consummate entertainer was new in town Ricky found himself more and more in demand. Then, in 2004, the tsunami struck. Ricky was deeply affected by the disaster and immediately set about doing all he could to raise money for the victims, including organizing a series of Live Aid-style concerts in his native US.

A year ago Ricky, who has previously sung with the likes of Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis and Tom Jones started his own bar, the Flamingo's Splash

Always the showman. Ricky Zen with friends.



Lounge, in Kata. Under Rickys' management, the bar – which comes complete with its own swimming pool – has since become renowned for its parties. Indeed, Halloween at Flamingo's has become a firm fixture in every expat's social calendar. It therefore came as no surprise that the organizers of the Phuket International Blues Rock festival chose Flamingo's as the venue for their official after-party this year.

"I think I have really opened peoples' eyes with Flamingo's," Ricky says. "There are a lot of bars in this area where guys can go to pick up girls, but there are very few places where people can go and just have a good time

and not get hassled to buy drinks; where people can bring their families or young children.

"The response has been fantastic, we get a lot of families with children who come to use the swimming pool during the day and then the parents will come back to have a few cocktails by the pool in the evening. I put on a lot of live music which has also proved very popular," he added.

However, Flamingo's commercial appeal has proved something of a mixed blessing for Ricky. "It's been a great success but the management is very time consuming. I am also restricted as to what I can play as it is situated right in the middle of Kata

Night Bazaar, so the music has to appeal to everyone," he said.

Ricky's latest venture is a much more modest venue, the Rick N' Roll Music Café. It is also in Kata but unlike Flamingo's, which is big and brash, it is small and intimate and, crucially, affords Ricky total control over the music.

"I am also a promoter with my own management company, so bands can come, play and stay here and I will also arrange gigs for them elsewhere. Later this year we'll have recording equipment installed so that bands can tape their live shows here," he said.

Rickys' singing career has been put on the back-burner since he started Flamingo's but this is a situation he is looking to redress. "I want to concentrate more on singing and writing music. By next high season I will have my own band, so it won't just be Ricky the singer, it will be Ricky and the Rick N' Roll band. I would also like to start touring again and playing more shows internationally, but I'll always be based in Phuket," he said.

Ricky has gained a reputation as an accomplished MC, but anyone hoping to book him anytime soon is destined for disappointment. "I would like to officially announce that I am retiring as an MC," he reveals. "Time is an issue and I prefer singing and performing myself, that's where my heart is," Ricky added.

With the challenge of juggling roles as singer, MC, promoter and bar owner threatening to engulf him, Ricky reluctantly decided to listen to offers for Flamingo's.

"In the past I've had a lot of interest but I've always said no because I've put my heart and soul into this bar and losing it would have felt like losing a limb. However, I hadn't anticipated how successful Flamingo's would become, and it takes up a lot of my time. I would be sorry to see it go but I need someone else to take it over. I would like to continue being involved in promotion and arranging entertainment, but I don't want to deal with the day-to-day running of the place anymore," he revealed.

In his ten years in Phuket, Ricky has just about seen it all and has this heartfelt message for people. "Since I've been here, we've had bird flu, the tsunami and a coup. It's been one thing after another. Phuket may have its flaws but it is still a fantastic place and I think people sometimes need to remember that.

"With all the problems going on elsewhere in Thailand I think it's more important than ever for people to come together and help each other out and remember why we chose to live here in the first place. This is still the land of smiles," he said.

To find out more about Ricky or to contact him, visit his website www.rickyzen.com.

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EXPAT GALLERY

Lori Ashton

Lori Ashton created the popular series of *Art and Culture* guides which promote the art studios, boutiques and other special places of Phuket and Chiang Mai. She also produces 'Treasure Maps' of Phuket City and Chiang Rai which help one to find the most interesting places to explore.

Lori began her publishing career in 2000 after working as Public Relations Manager at Mom Tri's Boathouse for four years.

"During my time at The Boathouse, we presented interesting shows in the art gallery which featured painting, jewelry, textiles and the whole range of art and handicrafts found in Thailand. At that time, there was no directory or guide to the art treasures of the region and I was very excited about giving these deserving artists exposure to new markets. This is why I decided to launch a compact guide to these special places."

Lori is an entrepreneur by nature. She founded her first company, Serendipity Designs, in her native Canada in 1983, and still uses the Serendipity name for her publishing company in Thailand. She grew up in a family where the women were expert at sewing and embroidery.

Lori attended Dalhousie University where she graduated with

a degree in Costume Studies. She worked as a freelance costume fabricator for theater companies in Toronto before she set up her own company to produce high-end cotton and silk sleepwear, much of it with Victorian designs. At the same time, she coordinated fashion shows in Toronto, attracting up to 300 buyers at an event.

Over the next 13 years, she sold her own line of custom wedding dresses and sleepwear to Saks 5th Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Holt Renfrew and other top-end retailers.

"I was working out of my factory in a small town in Nova Scotia. We were involved in all aspects of the business, from design to manufacture, even selling at craft shows and shops. I had two retail boutiques, one in Ottawa and the other in Halifax. But the costs of producing such quality garments were very high as I had to import such items as Nottingham lace, etc. By the late 1990s, I felt ready for a change of life."

Lori and husband Ken Brookes decided to travel around Asia for 18 months to consider their future. They settled on Phuket as they share a love for the sea. Today, they spend as much time as business will allow aboard their motorsailer.

In 2000, with the immediate success of her first guide to the art and culture of the Phuket region, Lori was encouraged to offer a similar guide for the Chiang Mai region. *Art and Culture Lanna* was launched in 2003.

Today, Lori spends her time flying between Phuket and North Thailand to oversee her publishing ventures.

Lori's company has been so successful that she moved her corporate offices into the recently refurbished Soi Romanee in the heart of Phuket City's historic old town.

"I was attracted to the history and character of this small street. These old walls were not originally made of concrete but of limestone, sand and brown sugar, which means they tend to seep when the humidity is high or when it rains. But we've upgraded the electrical system and opened up the interior walls by using large glass to divide rooms; so this preserves the feeling of the architecture."

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— 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, ah, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.



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FAME GAME: True Academy Fantasia Season Six held an audition at the Royal Phuket City Hotel from April 18-19 in a bid to find Phuket's hottest young talent to compete in its reality TV competition. The sixth season will be broadcast from June 29 and will run for 12 weeks until September.



HEARTWORK: Ceramic artist Nino Sarabutra (in black) and friends celebrated the launch of "Exploring Love" on April 17. The wall installation of heart-shaped stoneware bowls at &Joy Creative Lifestyle Boutique and Gallery on Srisoonthorn Road in Thalang is Nino's first solo collection.



TWO TICKETS TO THE GUN SHOW: Deridrie "Dee" Naughton (left) and Veronique "Vero" Bergeron of the Phuket Stunt Show flex their muscles for the camera at Arfur O'Tools in Kata Beach. Photo by Dan Miles.



QUARTERMASTER: Ms Wanwipa Horbut, Managing Director, Surin Hill Development Co Ltd. (center) with Surin Hill development team, recently held the Seaview Living Party, launching the luxurious three-bedroom show unit at The Quarter Condominium at Surin Hill. The Quarter Condominium will be completed this coming high season.



SHARP SHOOTERS: Members of the Queen Mary darts team celebrated their recent win in the Patong Darts League on April 7. The league party was held at the Queen Mary pub and restaurant at Soi Patong Beach Resort.



MAKE MY DAY: Songkran Day at Nai Yang Beach was followed by a swim and dinner at Dewa Phuket for the children of the Phuket Community Foundation (PCF). The special day was organized by Alasdair and Pen Forbes together with the management and staff of Dewa Phuket.



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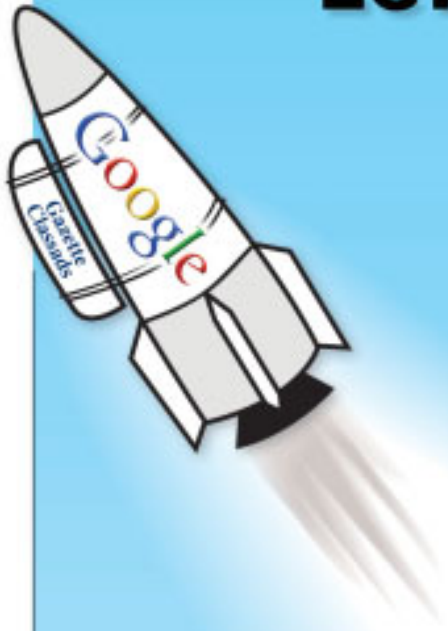
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Advancing your education



BENEATH THE WAVES

By Diver Dan

In the first two 'Beneath the Waves' articles I talked about starting out and learning to dive. I can say from experience that for many people, passing their open water course feels like a major achievement and something to be proud of.

Learning to dive is undeniably fun and scuba diving is also highly addictive but where do you go from there?

Under the PADI system – the world's biggest certifying agency – newly qualified divers can go one of two ways: simply continue fun diving or take the next step up the PADI ladder and enroll for an advanced open water course.

During my time as an in-



Good buoyancy control allows divers to enjoy aquatic life more easily and if you have developed a keen interest in the plants, coral and marine life that exist beneath the waves, then a naturalist or fish identification dive is recommended. Photos by Lia Barrett.

structor, I encountered a number of open water divers who said, "Why should I do my advanced? I can't see any benefits of doing the course". While there is no actual need to take the course, it does allow divers to go deeper underwater and develop important skills.

Although the notion of being considered an advanced diver after accumulating a minimum of nine dives is a little unrealistic, the course itself is one of the most

enjoyable to take and to teach. Firstly, unlike the open water course there is no classroom time. Students are required to do five knowledge reviews that can be completed at their leisure – absolutely no cheesy PADI videos and no exams.

Secondly, the course is time efficient. To become an advanced open water diver, a student need only complete five dives and it can be achieved in just two days. Thirdly, the dives are practically



fun dives, requiring just a few tasks per dive and finally, students are able to tailor the course to suit their needs and areas of personal interest.

Of the five dives, two are compulsory while the remaining three can be chosen from a list of 15 options. The two prerequisites are the deep dive and the underwater navigation dive. As an open water diver the maximum depth limit is 18m. This limit can often prevent divers from being able to fully appreciate certain dives – wreck dives in particular.

As an advanced diver, the limit is 30m which gives greater flexibility. The increased depth does bring additional factors in to play, one of which is nitrogen narcosis or being "narked".

Under pressure, the nitrogen in the body acts as a narcotic slowing down the brain. It can produce a sensation of slight drunkenness and euphoria and can cause people to act strangely underwater – people have even been known to try and offer their regulator to fish!

The good news is, the effect disappears once a diver ascends above 25m.

The second compulsory dive, underwater navigation, teaches the student a number of different techniques for measuring distance and also navigation techniques both with and without a compass. These skills allow a diver and their buddy to be more assured when diving without an experienced guide.

The final three dives can be extremely diverse, ranging from fish identification to search and recovery, or from wreck diving to ice diving. Naturally, if learning to dive in Thailand's tropical waters, ice diving and altitude diving are off the menu, but there is still a huge selection to choose from.

One that comes highly recommended is the peak performance buoyancy (PPB) dive. Many instructors, including myself, strongly urge newly certified divers to select this dive as it will benefit a diver more than any other on the course.

Good buoyancy is the key to great diving. The ability to hover motionless in mid-water enables you to relax, conserve energy, reduce air consumption and importantly look at cool stuff underwater with considerably more ease without potentially damaging it.

Most people who finish the open water course have indifferent buoyancy control and it is said that doing the PPB dive is the equivalent of having an additional 20 dives under the belt – definitely a dive worth considering when making your choices.

Outside of that, choose dives that interest you. If you have developed a keen interest in the plants, corals and marine life that exist beneath the waves then a naturalist or fish identification dive is recommended.

If you are a keen photographer why not try underwater photography – the list simply goes on and on. For a full list of adventure dives consult any PADI dive shop or the PADI website at www.padi.com.

Finally, each dive that forms part of an advanced course is stored as credit should a diver decide to enroll in a PADI specialty course. For example, the PADI Deep Diver course requires a total of four dives taking you to a maximum of 40m.

As an advanced open water diver, you would have already completed the first dive to 30m as part of the advanced course, meaning that you only require three more dives to successfully complete the PADI Deep Diver course.

The advanced course is great, as it teaches new skills, improves dive technique but most of all because it's fun!

For more info contact diverdan@phuketgazette.net.

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Welcome to the sixth in the series of Tai Chi Timeouts. Each timeout takes you through a single, easy-to-follow Tai Chi – Chi Gung exercise.

One of the aims of Tai Chi is to develop the intrinsic energy (*Chi*) within the body through slow, rhythmical breathing exercises known as *Chi Gung*. These ancient martial art exercises naturally relieve tension from stress, and aches and pains from stiff limbs.

Perform them whenever you wish to unwind and loosen up, but they are particularly beneficial in the early morning when the *Chi* is especially clean and light, relaxing and energizing the mind and body for the start of a new day.

This particular exercise aims to move *Chi* in and out through the palms, while stretching the *Chi* meridians of the heels, ankles, knees and lower back. It is important to have and maintain correct posture to benefit from the exercise. It is one of the best exercises for building energy and healing injuries to the ankles, knees and lower back (golfers take note!).

To begin the exercise, stand with your feet positioned shoulder-width apart, toes pointing forward, your heels firmly planted on the ground and your back straight. Bring your arms to shoulder height, relax your neck and shoulders. Begin to exhale through the nostrils, while slowly lowering your body by bending your knees. Lower yourself slowly and steadily while maintaining a straight back. Continue until you've lowered yourself to a full squatting position.

Please note, it is important that you squat only as low as you can without compromising your posture, and without causing any pain or injury. With practice and patience you will gradually reach full extension of the lower back.

As you begin the ascent, slowly inhale as you steadily rise into a full standing position. Maintain a straight back throughout the movements. Repeat the cycle for a period of 10 minutes then stand in a comfortable position with your feet together, back straight and your hands placed over your center (*Tan Tien*).

Before beginning, release the tension in the neck and shoulders by slowly rolling the shoulders forward and backward. Then roll your head in a circle, keeping your neck loose, first to the right, then to the left.

Once you've completed five of these rotations, place your hands over your *Tan Tien* and relax into a comfortable, forward-facing posture and begin the exercise.

Sequence

Step 1. Place your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, with your hips tucked gently underneath the spine (back straight). Raise your hands to shoulder height while keeping your head up and your neck and shoulders relaxed.

Step 2. Begin the exercise by slowly exhaling through the nostrils, while slowly and steadily lowering yourself into a squatting position.

Step 3. Continue to exhale while you continue to slowly lower yourself, maintaining a straight back and relaxed neck and shoulders.

Step 4. Lower yourself until you have reached a fully extended squat position. Maintain the ankles, knees and back in proper alignment and allow the lower back to open and extend.

Step 5. As you begin to inhale, slowly begin to rise while keeping a straight back and relaxed neck and shoulders.

Step 6. Continue to rise while maintaining a sense of calm and relaxation.

Step 7. When you have reached full height, slowly begin to exhale and lower yourself again. Allow the abdomen to relax and slowly expand, as you begin to exhale. Continue this exercise for 10 minutes to build energy, open the lower back and begin a calm, relaxed morning.

Step 8. To complete the exercise, cross your hands over your *Tan Tien* and gather the *Chi* within.

Tai Chi Timeout



Rick Attix holds regular Tai Chi classes at his Kamala garden residence. Classes are held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9am. All levels welcome. T: 081-728-9980. E: serenethai@yahoo.com. www.taichiphuket.com.

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Celestial body in the Vanilla Sky

F&B Sales and Marketing Manager Jorge de la Torre Koch (right) and DJ Celeste pose for a photo with two Vanilla Sky patrons.



Party-goers kicked back and enjoyed the cool breezes blowing in from the Andaman Sea and Celeste's bouncy grooves.



Asia's first female Ibiza resident DJ Celeste brought her own brand of bouncy, instrumental, Mediterranean-style house to Phuket.



The chic and sophisticated Vanilla Sky bar lounge at the new Cape Sienna Hotel in Kamala played host to DJ Celeste – the first Asian female DJ Ibiza resident – on Saturday April 18 as part of its plans to bring a high profile international DJs to Phuket once a month.

Celeste, born in Chiang Rai and raised in Bangkok, has been DJing for just five years and has secured residencies at the El Club and Manumission Bar on the Balearic isle as well as appearing regularly at Ibiza's infamous Cream and Manumission night clubs.

On her first visit to Phuket, Celeste brought her own brand of bouncy, instrumental, Mediterranean-style house to the decks of Vanilla Sky, entertaining the crowd with her grooves as they kicked back and enjoyed the cool breezes blowing in from the Andaman Sea.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Celeste revealed that she was enjoying Phuket, especially the local people, the tourists and the beaches.

"Phuket is beautiful and the tourists here are very stylish. If you compare the tourists of Phuket and Pattaya, those that come here are much better," she said.

Phuket has recently started to attract some high profile Ibiza

regulars, but how does Celeste feel the two islands compare?

"They're similar in that they both have stylish hotels, people and bars. However, in Ibiza the clubs, parties and music are better, the crowds also. They go to Ibiza for one thing – the parties. That said, Ibiza is only open for four months a year, unlike Phuket, and Ibiza's far more expensive," she said.

The plan to host a top-class DJ once a month is part of a move by Vanilla Sky to establish itself as one of Phuket's most highly-regarded after-dark venues.

Food & Beverage Sales and Marketing Manager Jorge de la Torre Koch told the *Gazette*, "Cape Sienna is a trendy, sophisticated city hotel on an island. With Vanilla Sky we are trying to create a bar lounge with a relaxed, sophisticated ambiance and fantastic views where people can chill out and enjoy one of our signature cocktails."

"On the third Saturday of every month we will have an international DJ – with a view to showing them what Phuket can offer – and on the first Friday of the month we host a wine and tapas evening. We will also be offering Phuket residents a Cape Sienna residents' card that will entitle them to 20% off food and drinks," he said.

AFTER DARK

By Dan Ogunshakin

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island



Greg Burns

Punchline Comedy Club Live Stand-Up Comedy

**8pm – 11pm at the Holiday Inn Resort
Phuket, Patong Beach on May 19.**

Punchline Comedy is part of the same British comedy circuit that produced stars such as Eddie Izzard, Mike 'Austin Powers' Myers, and Steve 'Alan Partridge' Coogan.

This May, the Punchline team brings you the personification of the classic comedy feedline, "An Englishman, an Irishman, and a Scotsman"; Greg Burns, Lloyd Langford, and Geoff Boyz.

For full show details and ticket outlets, please go to our website. For further information contact Khun Boom. T: 083-646 4671. E: info@phuketcomedy.com.

W: www.phuketcomedy.com.

April 26. 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 at his on-going 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 29. Spanish Wine Tasting @ Wine Connection Chalong

A wine tasting evening with the

well-known Vallformosa Winery from Spain. Enjoy six different wines with a tapas buffet and live band from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. For more information and reservations contact Pascal.

T: 076-282 411.

E: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th.

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

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

- Why damage to pools occurs, and how to prevent it.
- For owners: how to 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. 40 newcomer pool companies are seeking dealers in Thailand! From 9am to 9pm at Bangkok, Miracle Grand Convention Center. For further information contact Khun Amornrat. T: 082-562 7494.

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). 24 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. From 7am to 4pm at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. For further information contact John Dux.

T: 076-316 711.

E: layangolfchallenge@gmail.com

W: www.phuketiwc.com.

May 3. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

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May 5. Coronation Day - Public Holiday

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

May 8. Visakha Bucha Day - Public Holiday

Visakha Bucha Day is observed

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

May 10. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468.

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May 11. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day – Public Holiday

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

May 17. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468.

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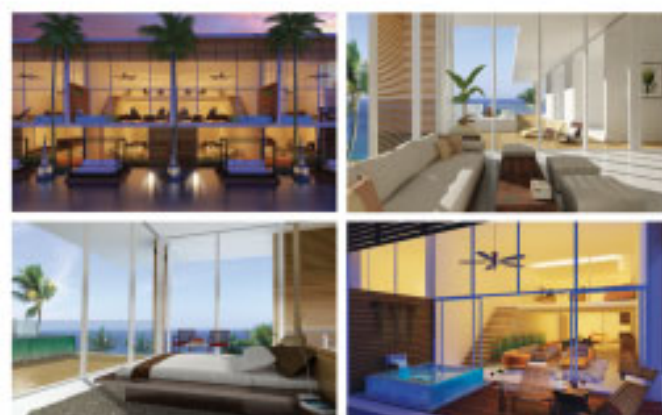


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Airport Subway aims for 400 customers per day



The new Subway sandwich shop at Phuket International Airport is expected to serve about 400 customers per day.

Leading sandwich shop and restaurant giant Subway is due to open an outlet at Phuket International Airport in May, bringing the number of sandwich shop franchise stores in Phuket to four. It is also the 21st Subway restaurant in Thailand.

Naravadee Waravanitcha, managing director of Aroy Bread Co Ltd, which owns the franchise for six Subway outlets in the Kingdom, is hoping that the outlet's prime location within the international departures lounge will attract up to 400 customers per day.

Mr Naravadee also believes the restaurant will reap the benefits of the airport's planned expansion, which will increase annual capacity from six million passengers up to around 11.5 million.

The store – which will operate with a staff of 15-20 – was scheduled to open on April 15, but was delayed due to work being carried out within the airport terminal. The revised opening date has now been set for the second week in May.

The Subway brand began when 17-year old American Fred DeLuca opened his first sandwich shop in 1965 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, as a way of paying his college fees.

Fred's starting capital was a \$1,000 loan from a family friend. 20 years later, the chain had already expanded to about 4,000 outlets in the US.

There are now more than 30,000 restaurants in 89 countries – from Argentina to Zambia.

This year, and for the 16th in a row, the chain was named the "Number One Franchise opportunity for 2009" by Canadian publication *Entrepreneur*. The top ranking in the "Franchise 500" beats McDonald's (2nd) and Pizza Hut (7th).

For franchises to be eligible for the awards, the company must be a genuine entrepreneurship and have a minimum of 10 units with at least one being a US-based franchise.

In 2005, the company's global sales totaled \$9.05 billion. It now claims to be about 3,000 locations away from becoming the single largest fast food chain in the world.

The Road to Recovery

The causes of the banking crisis and the resulting recession have been well reported but the road to recovery has still to be traveled.

It appears that in many countries, falls in retail sales, rises in unemployment and other key indicators are showing signs of leveling out, but this is not an easy process to gauge. For example, with retail sales, figures can be boosted by dumping inventory into the market at discounted prices. Once the inventory has been sold, the question remains whether demand to buy goods – at prices that allow manufacturers and retailers to make a profit – will return.

Unemployment is regarded by most analysts and economists as a "lagging" indicator, like looking in the rear-view mirror when driving, as it gives little indication of what is happening at present or in the future.

Unemployment figures related to existing economic conditions serve to fuel prevailing feelings of uncertainty about the future. They also have other knock-on effects on an economy, starting with reduced consumption and the reluctance to spend freely.

We human beings are inherently social animals whose behavioral instincts are often more closely related than we are consciously aware. That is after all what keeps the fashion business functioning as an industry. One of the current fashions is to avoid conspicuous consumption. People are reigning in on spending even when they can easily afford a new car or other expensive items. It simply does not feel right to buy a luxury vehicle or designer clothes at present. Of course many have concerns about the future of their jobs or businesses whilst others are just not in the mood.

This is a period in which good discounters and cheaper restaurants can at least survive. Consumers are demanding value for money. It's simply the environment in which we currently live. This is not a normal environment. Recessions are nothing new, of course, but it is the combination of a recession and a



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson



"Unemployment is regarded by most analysts and economists as a "lagging" indicator. It's like looking in the rear-view mirror when driving, as it gives little indication of what is happening at present or in the future."

credit crunch that makes the current state of affairs so much more difficult to assess.

Stock markets in many countries began rebounding strongly in early March. However, "bear markets" are notorious for having strong rallies that run out of steam before falling back to previous lows.

Certainly, the rally that started in March had at least a plausible reason for taking place. After the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008, economies went into freefall as the whole financial system came under threat of imminent collapse. Rapid moves by central banks and governments headed off potential disaster but many are still concerned that there still

could be worse to come.

Recovery is not a forgone conclusion as we are in new economic territory. Banks in many countries are still surviving, but are often in no condition to actually lend money. These banks are often referred to as "zombie banks". One prominent economist, Professor Nouriel Roubini from New York University Stern School of Business, believes that these banks should be temporarily nationalized.

This would effectively be a case of admitting a patient (zombie bank) into hospital, and probably to the ICU. However, in most countries, there is little danger of governments wanting to keep these banks nationalized for any length of time.

There are several reasons for this. The most important is simple politics. If a bank has a serious problem and is in government hands on a formal basis, at some stage, it is likely that one or more of their corporate clients is going to be shedding large numbers of jobs. Politicians do not want to be entangled in having to continually bail out these companies as would be expected from a nationalized bank.

The other reality is that governments make just about the worst managers possible – not just banks but of any enterprise. Most politicians are very aware of this and have well-developed instincts for survival.

There is an alternative that makes the exit strategy easier. Banks in trouble can be controlled by government without actually being nationalized.

In all likelihood, economic recovery will take place, but for many countries it will be a slow process. Economic growth will tend to be below trend, simply because there will be less credit available for economic expansion.

Banks have also learned hard lessons and the days of easy credit will disappear for a long time. There will be a tendency to return to basics in lending and only genuinely credit-worthy applicants will receive loans.

This goes back to an old adage about banks – when a bank wants to lend you money you neither need nor want it, when you need a loan, banks do not want to lend.

The latter part of 2009 will produce more green shoots of recovery for some countries. It is those green shoots that have already been noted by US President Obama. However, for many countries, these green shoots will only become apparent in 2010 or 2011.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years experience in this field. Office : 076-381 997. Mobile: 081-0814-611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th www.global-portfolios.com.

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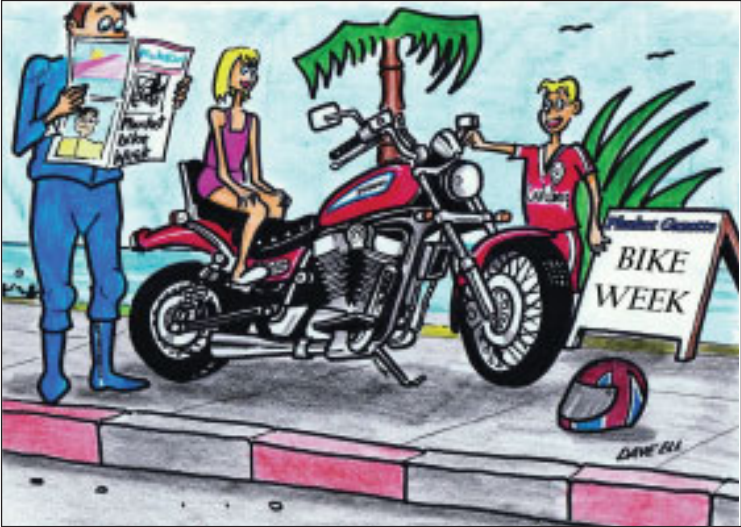
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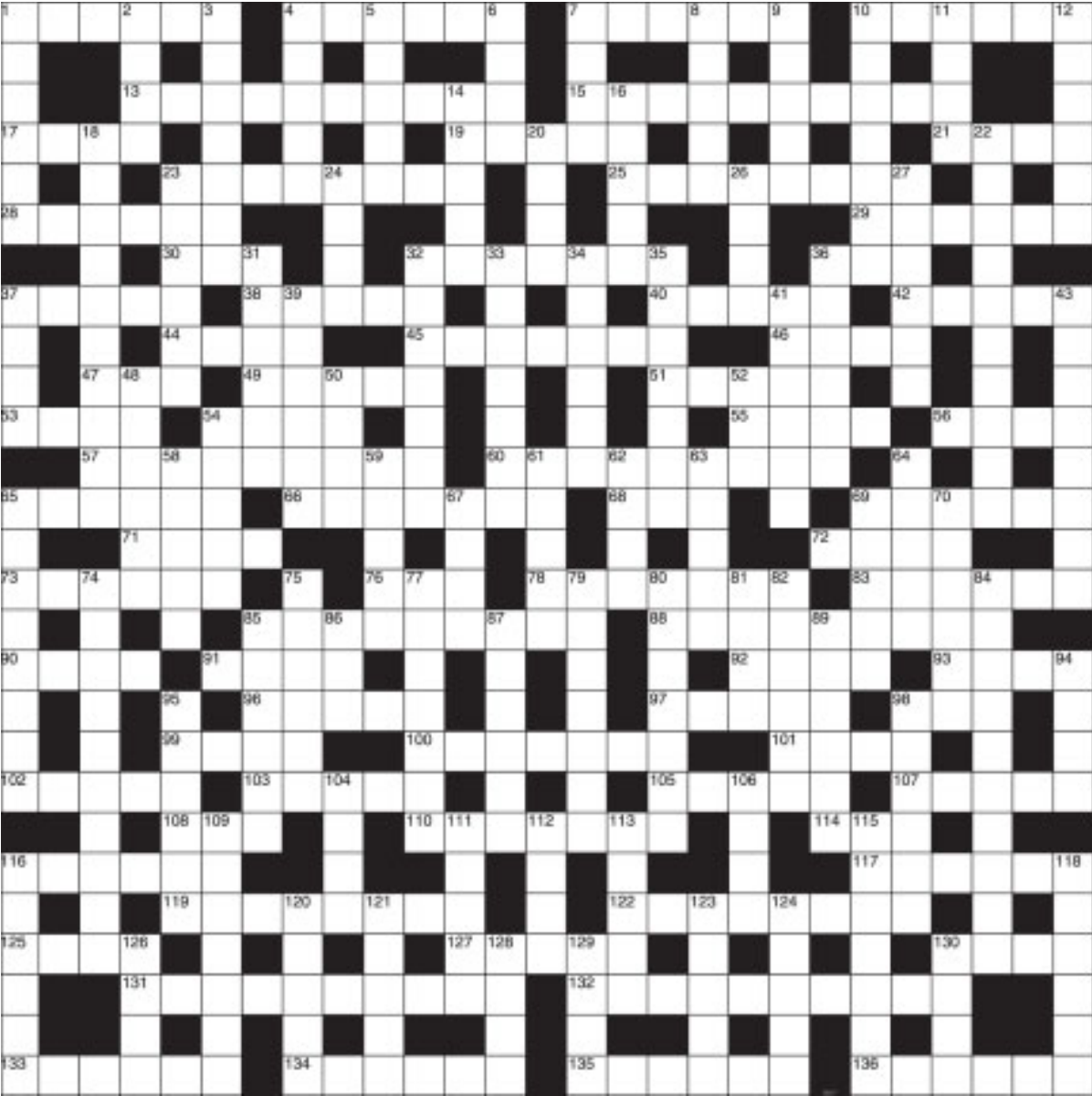
PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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





The BIG Crossword

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Across

1. Makes public speech
4. Weeding
7. Move in jagged course
10. Bring up (subject)
13. Unquestioning
15. Dining-room linen
17. Drunkards
19. Outmoded
21. Long tale
23. Impartial negotiator
25. Two-masted ship
28. Mars or Saturn
29. Plunder
30. Joined up
32. Dishevelled
36. Invite
37. Enthusiasm
38. Greets
40. Cures
42. Very cross
44. Street
45. Land unit
46. Symbolic picture
47. Actor,... Liotta
49. Signalling code
51. Firearm
53. Urchin
54. US divorce city
55. Pig's cry
56. Plant, aloe...
57. Credible
60. Nasal haemorrhage
65. Engines
66. Experienced sailors (3,4)
68. Colour (fabric)
69. Brawls
71. Behaves
72. Part of ear
73. Ice shoes

76. Possesses
78. Overwhelming
83. Heathens
85. Investment certificate
88. Introductory
90. Red-rind cheese
91. German Mrs
92. Support
93. Quote
96. Command
97. Cheapskate
98. Adios!
99. Melody
100. Utilise (equipment)
101. Wind-borne toy
102. Jewelled crown
103. Actor,... Flynn
105. Screened (movie) again
107. Learnt (of)
108. Unburden
110. Sets of steps
114. Golly,... whiz!
116. Seats
117. Differed
119. Swiss mountain singer
122. Presumed
125. Conformed,... the line
127. Bird of prey
130. Bogeyman
131. Fittest
132. Swings
133. Lacy borders
134. Musical beat
135. Form liking for (4,2)
136. Nod off

Down

1. Admits guilt (4,2)
2. Consequently

3. Ooze
4. West Indian republic
5. Survive
6. Festive occasion
7. Pimples
8. Nought
9. House lizard
10. Post-WWII generation, baby...
11. ...& ahs
12. Zimbabwe's capital
14. Smock
16. Greek fable teller
18. Written copy
20. Location
22. Garden of Eden couple (4,3,3)
23. Recollection
24. Drink,... spumante
26. Killer whale
27. Gathering (leaves)
31. London's river
32. Escorted (to seat)
33. Striking with foot
34. Cat cries
35. By that means
36. Climb
37. Bite persistently
39. Handsome youth
41. Pond plants
43. Fatigues
48. Not sinking
50. Gown
52. Enemy
54. Corrodes
58. Short-circuited
59. Wood-turning machine
61. Playwright,... Wilde
62. Border
63. Lured (3,2)
64. Exclude
65. Handed out cards wrongly

67. Expel
69. Use sponge (3,2)
70. Heritage
74. Combine
75. More expensive
77. Music style, rock... (3,4)
79. Wellbeing
80. Boils gently
81. Town plans
82. Shout of discovery
84. Estranging
85. Buzzed monotonously
86. Unopened bloom
87. Straighten
89. Injuring with horns
94. Children's writer,... Blyton
95. Twinkling (of night sky)
98. Decapitate
104. Train track
106. Space
109. Map pressure lines
111. City, Buenos...
112. Pull
113. Fragrant flowers
115. Turned inside-out
116. Discontinued (telephone call) (3,3)
118. Trawl (riverbed)
120. Come in
121. Non-clergy
123. White wine,... Riesling
124. Eskimo shelter
126. Lentil dish
128. Minute particle
129. Attic
130. Knuckle of veal stew,... bucco

Solution on next page

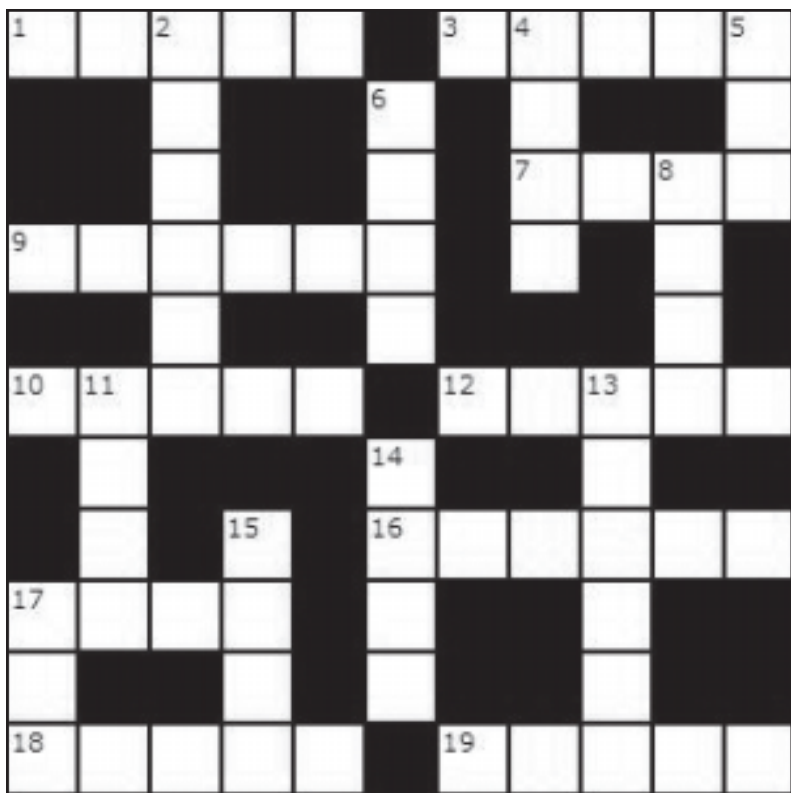
su | do | ku

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Study
3. Wrestler, Hulk...
7. Volcano
9. Pics
10. Cat
12. World
16. Candy
17. Water
18. Biblical character
19. Friend

Down

2. Close
4. For baking
5. Basketball
6. Shove
8. No feeling
11. Country
13. Univeristy
14. Particle
15. Cassette
17. Limb

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

1. Sergey Bubka excelled in which event?
2. On a racing form what does the letter "U" indicate?
3. Of Andorra's 120km borderline, how much is coastal?
4. What is the first word of Bohemian Rhapsody?
5. Where is the car with the license plate 28IF?
6. Where was this year's Wrestlemania held?
7. If a bird nidifies what has it just done?
8. What bird is on the Canadian \$1 coin?
9. Who was the author of *The Art of War*?
10. Which character is known as the "Man of La Mancha"?
11. Which particle is named after the Greek for "first"?
12. Which hotel chain has the motto "Travel should take you places"?
13. What is the name of the panther in *The Jungle Book*?
14. Who created *The Cat In The Hat*?
15. Roger Hargreaves created which characters in the 1970s?
16. Name the three ports in which the *Titanic* picked up passengers?
17. Which sport uses a ball, a wall and a wicker basket?
18. Which asian airport holds the record as the most expensive airport project at US\$ 20 billion?
19. Which tennis player curenly holds the fastest recorded service in pro tennis, 155 mph?
20. Which singer went solo after having success with the Commodores?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



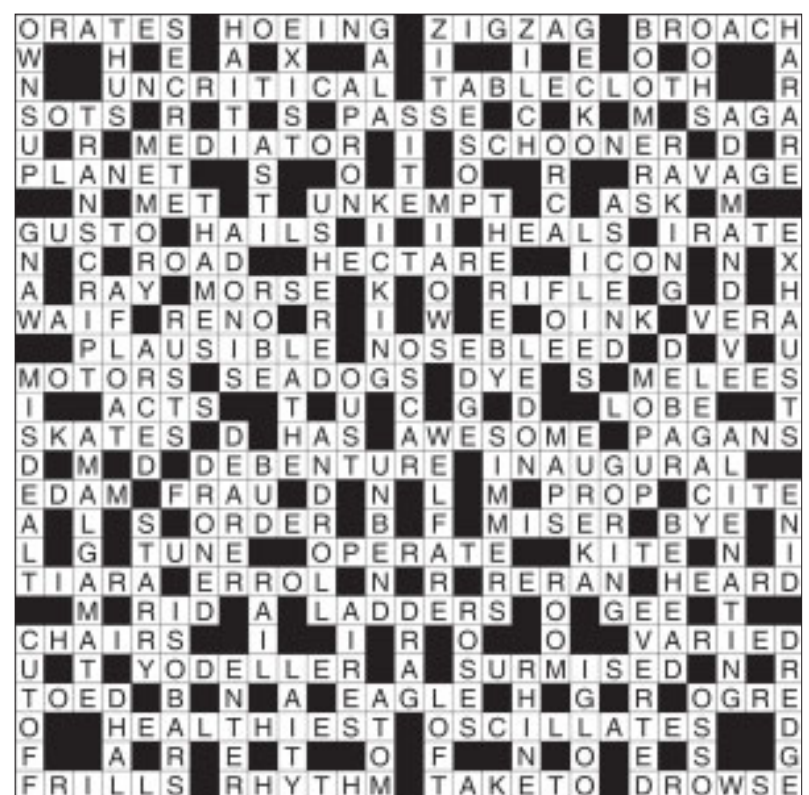
Monster Quiz Answers

1. Pole vault; 2. Unseated rider; 3. (+/- 10km) 0 km (landlocked); 4. Is; 5. Abbey Road; 6. Houston, Texas; 7. Built a nest; 8. The loon; 9. Sun Tzu; 10. Don Quixote; 11. Proton; 12. Hilton; 13. Bagheera; 14. Dr Seuss; 15. The Mister Men; 16. Southampton, Cherbourg and Queens-town; 17. Jai Alai; 18. Hong Kong International; 19. Andy Roddick; 20. Lionel Richie.

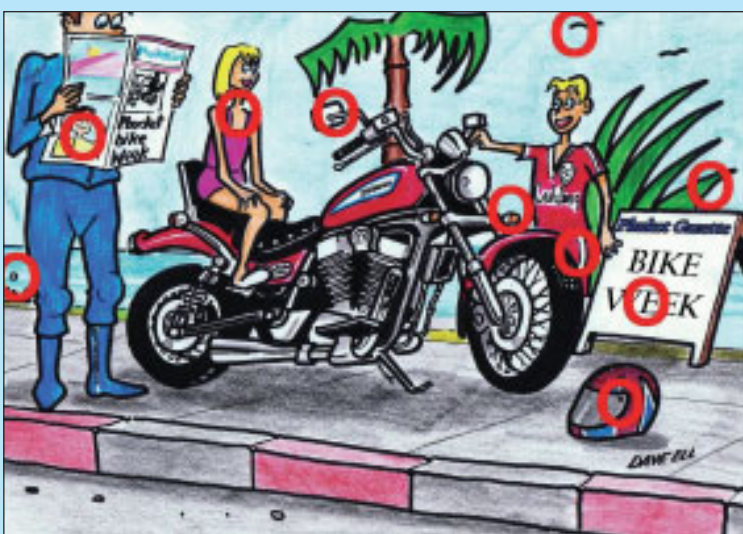
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Aid for Aids? A review of *Cocktail*



Off the SHELF

By Patrick Campbell

The play *Cocktail* (Silk worm Books, paper back, 295 baht) is a very contemporary play, which chronicles the remarkable pharmaceutical career of Dr Krisana Kraissintu.

A Thai national, she formulated and combined – in one tablet – three ARVs, a trio of anti-retroviral drugs for treating HIV/Aids. Before, they had been marketed and administered separately – hence the drama's title of *Cocktail*. Her ground-breaking research meant that, for the first time, three of these hazardous but life-enhancing drugs existed in one pill. More crucially, this 'cocktail' now became available to those unfortunates who so desperately needed it.

As is well documented, HIV is especially resistant to individual drugs. What is perhaps less widely known is that taking a range of separate medications on a daily basis is not only prohibitively expensive, but for most patients in the developing world, not even possible – the drugs simply don't exist in their communities. Dr Krisana's dedication,

single-mindedness and moral drive has ensured, and continues to ensure, that this is no longer the case. Among a rash of statistics cited during the course of the play, we learn that her work has resulted in an effective treatment for HIV sufferers 18 times cheaper than was before possible. By 1999, this meant that her 'cocktail' of drugs was in use in most hospitals in Thailand.

But the action does not only concentrate on Thailand. Disillusioned by events in Bangkok, where she finds herself fighting mounting problems: native prejudice about Aids, corrupt governmental attitudes and, most crucial of all, monopolistic and protectionist stances on the part of chemical and pharmaceutical multinationals, she tenders her resignation from the GPO (Government Pharmaceutical Organization) and publicly vows to leave her beloved Thailand. That this outburst comes at an International Aids Conference in Barcelona, makes for very effective theater.

The final scenes of the play are played out in sub-Saharan Africa, in a Congolese landscape where the twin scourges of malaria and civil war hamper, but do not dampen, her continuing dedication to the cause. As she says, "This is where I'm supposed to be. This is a new beginning for me."

By 2005, she has managed to help set up a factory in the Congo for the production of her triple-drug HIV cocktail – the first in Africa. Worldwide, her combination drug is being bought

up in massive quantities by the international organization Doctors without Frontiers. Persistence breeds success. The last word comes from her faithful assistant, Tido, as she emails her former boss and raises a distant glass to Krisana in the play's final moment: "Never give up, Krisana. Never give up".

The play is a collaboration between two authors from totally

different backgrounds: molecular biology professor Vince LiCata, and Ping Chong, an oriental performance artist based in New York.

The artists' statement reflects what they see as a unique enterprise, a dramatic marriage of two cultures:

"the first professionally produced play cowritten [sic] by a professional artist and a professional scientist". Happily, their laudable intentions coincide. They "want to raise public awareness of the work of Krisana Kraissintu...to communicate accurate details about HIV manufacture and development...", and finally to raise "awareness of the HIV treatment problems faced by the developing world".

I have no doubt that the play achieves these political ends.

Whether its artistic intention succeeds, namely "to create an accessible and memorable play", is a matter I can only speculate upon. In large measure, this is because a play is meant to be performed on the stage, and not read on the page. While reading the text, I constantly found myself wondering how this piece might – or might not – work in performance. So I can only surmise how successful it might be as a theatrical event.

It certainly makes bold use of many of the devices of experimental drama – a giant projection of an HIV virus, BBC broadcasts, television commercials, live camera feed images, minimalist staging, shadow plays and so on. There are only sporadic gestures in the direction of naturalistic representation, as one would expect from a director coming from the iconoclastic world of performance art.

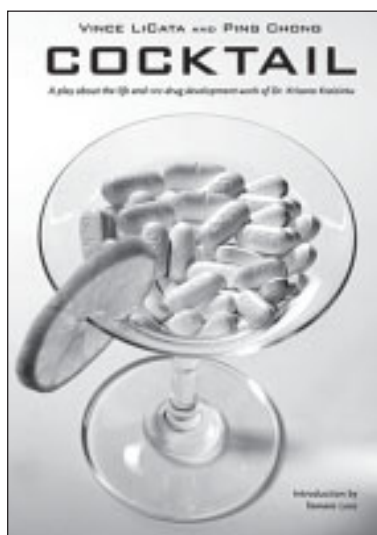
Nonetheless, I found too little care and attention was paid to veracious dialogue; the verbal exchanges were too often stilted or unconvincing. Would a doctor really have said to a patient: "You should have thought about that before you fucked that prostitute."

You are Thai Aids case number 228,654".

There are far too many cloying statistics for an audience to take in, too many – twenty two – bewildering changes of scene. Have the creators paid enough attention to the needs and expectations of their potential audiences? In essence, drama thrives on conflict: Dr Krisana is so saintly that little real tension is generated by her brushes with authority. Full-blown Aids is an appalling torturer of human beings – it destroys the immune system and renders its hapless victims open to every disease under the sun. They die horrific and agonizing deaths. But we are told almost nothing of the impact on individual sufferers.

There are some good dramatic moments – with the self-important health minister, with the racist MP restaurateur, Mr Patiset. The play could do with more of these lively confrontations, more flesh-and-blood human interest. There are some memorable one liners. Referring to the situation in the Congo, we are told: "Between Aids, malaria and the war, they live with death here like it's a member of the family". In our western ivory towers, we need to be reminded of these things.

And remind us, the writers certainly do. In the final analysis, I think it remarkable that anyone could begin to make a successful play out of such important, but dramatically intransigent, material. Hats off to Vince Licata and Ping Chong for trying.



Kids don't care for cursive



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 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.

Q: I recently helped a friend's 10-year-old do her homework and I was shocked to see her writing in block letters. She said her older sister, a freshman in high school, doesn't use cursive either.

I researched this and found a huge controversy there, about which I've heard nothing in general conversation. Will kids be able to read the Declaration of Independence?

Andrea Lubershane Gardner
Evanston, Illinois

Barbara replies: Right you are that writing in cursive, or long-hand, is on the wane. Many kids already have trouble reading it, and of the 1.5 million students who wrote essays as part of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 2006, just 15% wrote them in cursive. So what?

Well, cursive is a more efficient way to write than block lettering. And we're all still called on to read it, at least occasionally. Schools are so frantic to teach students the material they'll need to pass standardized tests that penmanship is getting short shrift.

I suspect this is one of those useful but not critical things that kids won't learn in the future unless their parents teach them.

Q: Someone wrote that a prophet was "squashed" by the authorities. A critic asserted that the word should be "quashed."

The writer countered that "squashed" is most appropriately applied to things, including people, whereas "quash" is appropriately applied to ideas, positions, laws, etc., and the point of the essay was that the prophet's ideas had not been suppressed or silenced.

Richard McMahan
Glenville, New York

Barbara replies: To give you a definitive answer, I think I'd need to know exactly what happened to that unlucky prophet.

When "squashed" is applied to things, it tends to mean physical crushing. For instance, a Nebraska TV station's website recently reported, "A mangled Chevrolet Cavalier was squashed under the semi trailer at Interstate 80 and the South Express-

way," in Omaha.

I certainly hope the authorities didn't crush the prophet to death! However, I also found many examples in the news of "squashed" applied to abstractions, such as rumors.

I agree with your critic that the better word in most of these cases would have been "quashed."

To "quash," according to the *New Oxford American Dictionary*, is to "reject or void, esp.

by legal procedure" or to "put an end to; suppress: 'a hospital executive quashed rumors that nursing staff will lose jobs.'"

Neither of those sounds quite right for what happened to a prophet whose ideas live on.

This makes me suspect that the word should be something else entirely: "banned" or "confined" or "detained" or "punished" or "restrained" or "stifled"?

What did happen to that prophet?



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Not just fish threatened

The news of the green turtle found tied to an anchor and left to drown by fishermen just off Rawai Beach was appalling [See news pages]. Not only were the fishermen who caught it in violation of the 3km rule established to preserve Phuket's delicate marine ecosystems, but treating an animal in such a way is barbaric.

Avid divers will be sickened to know what is happening off our "idyllic" shores, and this is only what we get to read about. Who knows what other clandestine fishing operations are taking place undetected under our noses?

The coral reefs around Phuket are a major tourist attraction that generate considerable income for the province. Over-fishing is a huge problem the world over and certainly an issue here in Thailand. If all the fish are removed, the number of divers will diminish, and, secondly, one widely suspects that the fishermen would then head to the Similans and pillage what that area has to offer. Those handed the responsibility of clamping down on these atrocities face a daunting task indeed.

Although it is the fishermen who are directly charged with catching these precious aquatic creatures, the blame cannot be laid entirely at their feet. Equally culpable, to be realistic, are those who want tropical fish in their aquariums and, of course, the middlemen who facilitate their procurement. It is, for many, natural to want to take advantage of an opportunity to make quick and easy cash.

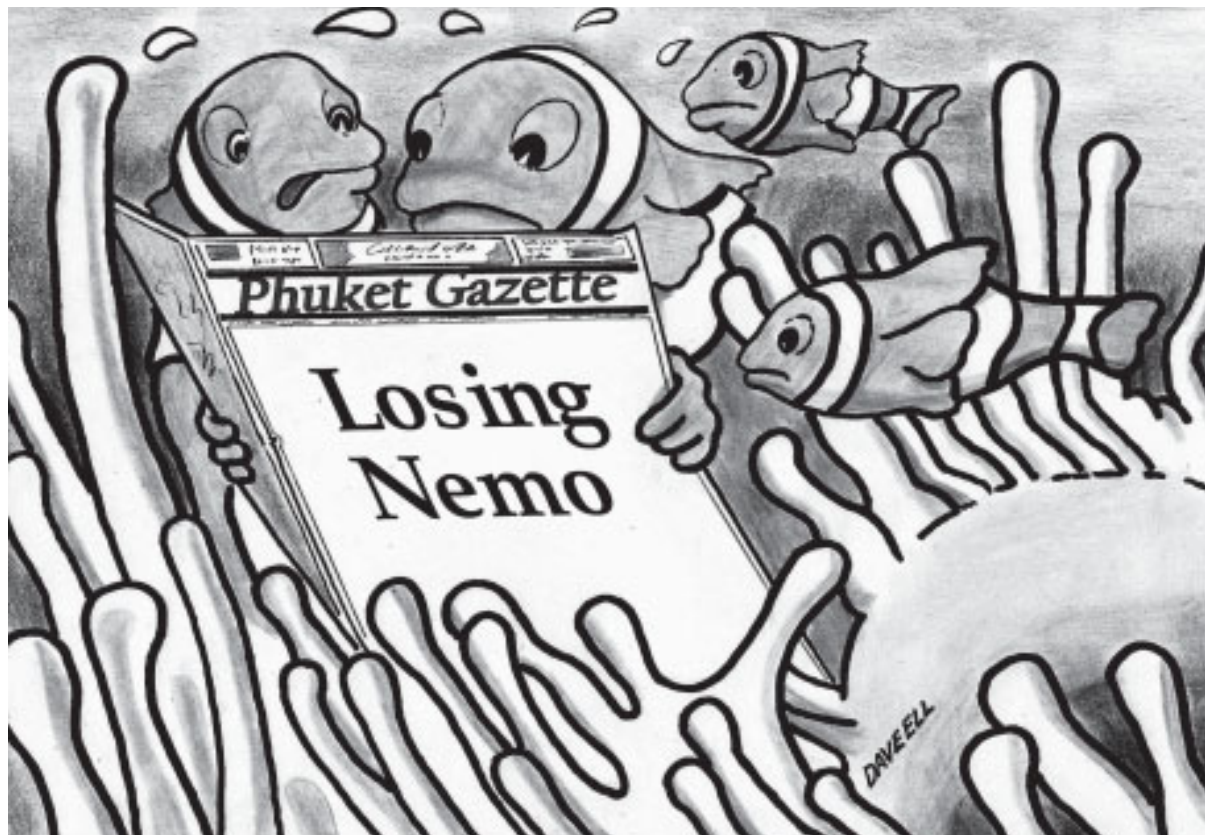
Some tropical fish can fetch a fortune on the black market. The Napoleon or Maori wrasse can go for up to AUS\$300 dollars per kilo. These magnificent and now endangered fish can grow up to two meters long and weigh in excess of 150kg, which gives some idea how much money is at stake.

It is highly unlikely that the fishermen caught recently would make anything near that amount of money – as is also the case with the shark finning industry – but they nevertheless receive substantial sums. To obtain fish destined for aquariums, sodium cyanide is often used, and to devastating effect. This chemical can annihilate an entire ecosystem in one fell swoop, rendering it barren for years to come. If the cyanide is caught in a current, it can sweep the deadly substance across an entire reef, killing all in its path. A local fisherman is unlikely to understand the impact that such fishing practices have on coral reefs.

Without the demand for tropical fish, the middlemen – the ones making the big money out of this exploitation – would soon be out of business. If people wish to see rare tropical fish, perhaps they should do so in the fishes' natural environment.

Meanwhile, though, it is somewhat comforting, that the news of the recaptured turtle and the arrest of the fish poisoners is a result of extra vigilance by the authorities. Hats off to them.

– *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.

Access denied

I read with interest the "First Person" article about Mr Bennett, a wheelchair user who has difficulty in accessing some of Phuket's attractions.

The Tourist Police Volunteers have surveyed the Bangla Road area for wheelchair access and their guide can be read online at www.phuket-tourist-police-volunteers.com/access.

Perhaps surprisingly, most of the beer sois on Bangla Road are accessible to wheelchair users, either with level entry from Bangla Road or via the ramps provided for delivery of bar supplies. In some cases, a colleague would be needed to provide some assistance, since some of these ramps are quite steep.

However, two of the major global brand name stores, namely the Starbucks and McDonalds restaurants on Bangla Road, have failed to provide any form of wheelchair access.

How can these global brands ignore provision for wheelchair users, particularly as accessibility for disabled customers is enshrined in public building law in most western countries? I raised this issue directly with the Customer Services HQ for both stores via email to their contact address. Unfortunately, neither company saw fit to reply to my questions.

I would therefore be grateful if The *Phuket Gazette* could raise this question with both the Starbucks and McDonalds stores in Bangla Road. These are new stores, and access should be provided for all potential customers, regardless of their abilities.

TPV Simon
Thalang

New AirAsia route

I am not a rocket scientist, but if AirAsia is looking for new routes then it must seriously think about the Siem Reap - Phuket/Phuket - Siem Reap routes. I am taking that trip in August this year so I am speaking with some authority when I say it is a potential goldmine. \$400 one way per person is what my wife and I are having to pay. Very few airlines ply that route, so there is plenty of opportunity.

Food for thought, as I am sure a lot of tourists would take up the chance to fly at a much reduced airfare – good for Siem Reap and good for Phuket.

John Dedman
Perth, Australia

Reply to Dr Gershwin

I would like to thank Dr Lisa Gershwin for taking the time to reply to my previous letter [April 11, 'Jellyfish stings'] regarding the correct treatment of Jellyfish stings. It is always reassuring to hear from an expert in their field and I am happy to stand corrected in this matter. I also found the article by Daniel Ogunshakin on the subject very informative. I just hope I don't encounter one, as it is obviously a very painful experience.

Peter Hay
Phuket

Sports fan

As a fresh-faced Phuket resident and an avid sports fan, I have so far been impressed by the number of high-profile sporting

events that have taken place or are scheduled to take place this year. It was a pleasure to attend the Singha Thailand Open and the Phuket Cricket 6s and I am eagerly awaiting the Laguna Marathon and triathlon later in the year.

Let's not forget that the legend Martina Navratilova herself saw Phuket as the perfect place to warm up before competition.

Coming from Britain it is often hard to attend sporting events, so it is with great pleasure that I welcome all these top-class athletes, and long may it continue. Now, if only we could get some English football teams to visit....

Will Farbrother
Kathu

Happy New Year

2009 was my first experience of Songkran and I just have to say how much I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

It was so nice and refreshing to see everybody – Thais, local expats and tourists – getting into the party spirit and having a thoroughly good time. What's more, the water was such a blessed mercy from the oppressive heat.

I did not see a hint of trouble and the day passed off without incident. I can't imagine that this would be the case in the UK where the consumption of alcohol often results in anger and violence, spoiling the day for all concerned.

Thank you for a wonderful few days, Phuket. I shall certainly be back to celebrate Songkran with you in the future. Meanwhile, *Sawasdee pi mai!*

Naomi Rose
York, England

The Phuket Gazette

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The views expressed in the *Phuket Gazette* are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The *Phuket Gazette* Co Ltd.

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

The year of living dangerously



FIRST PERSON

Born in Nakhon Sri Thammarat 64 years ago, Somsak Kosaisuk is employed as the State Enterprise Employees Union Secretary. However, it is his other job as one of the five core leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) for which he is perhaps better known. In Phuket to attend the PAD 6th Political concert at Saphan Hin on April 18, Somsak met with the *Phuket Gazette's* Atchaa Khamlo to share his thoughts on a range of issues, including the attempted assassination of Sondhi Limthongkul, the red shirt movement, Thaksin Shinawatra, the airport seizures, ASEAN and the prospects of the PAD forming a political party.

On the attempted assassination of the PAD's Sondhi Limthongkul:

The PAD movement is calling on the government to apprehend and bring to justice the perpetrators of this crime as soon as possible. If the government fails to act, it will show that it is weak. Allowing such criminals to run amok will destroy this country.

The government needs to restructure the political machinery to ensure that those charged with maintaining law and order in the country are qualified, equipped and capable of doing the job. It is our duty to scrutinize the actions of the government, otherwise the problem will escalate further, rendering any solution to the crisis crippling our economy impossible.

On the identity of Sondhi's would-be assassin:

The person behind the attempt on Sondhi's life has support from people in positions of authority, people who are also behind the red shirts of Thaksin, who is the real terrorist. The PAD has no enemies except Thaksin; he who talks of democracy all the time. And do not for-

get that this is not the first time the PAD has been attacked. The offices of ASTV were fired upon three times on October 7 of last year.

On retaliation:

There will be no acts of retaliation. Instead, we will let the law follow its course and hopefully demonstrate that the rule of law remains sacrosanct in this country. We resolutely refuse to resort to the type of cruel behavior exhibited by the red shirts. We shall protect ourselves from harm through the criminal justice system.

On the hijacking of the ASEAN conference in Pattaya:

The government was at fault by holding the conference there in the first place. The area was not safe, with police officers known to be working at the behest of opposition interests. The government should have known what was going to happen with the conference.

As a prime tourist destination, Phuket is the best place to hold such a meeting, along with Hua Hin, Prajuab Kirikhan or Chaum, Petchaburi. The government

was careless and listened to the wrong people.

Before the conference, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva called us saying that if we chose to mobilize to Pattaya, we would not be troubled by any officers.

The PM ended up listening to all and sundry, including the blue shirts, the controller of whom is well known to us all. The collapse of the conference caused immeasurable damage to the reputation of Thailand. It also proved that the officers in charge of maintaining law and order willfully permitted the red shirts to destroy the conference.

On PAD plans if the ASEAN +3+6 conference comes to Phuket:

Given the strong PAD network and the fact that 99% of people in Phuket are yellow shirts, our opponents would not be able to get through to the island. Therefore, there would be no need to mobilize if the conference were to come to Phuket.

On treason charges facing the leaders of the PAD:

We are not worried by the treason charges laid against us,

some of which are with the Attorney General, some with the police, and some with the courts. We know that we acted as good citizens for the benefit of the country and in line with the constitution.

On the people's reaction to the airport seizures last year:

Actually, it's not about airport closures, but about protest. However, certain opponents spread rumors that made us out to be international terrorists.

The real terrorists, however, are the mobs under the control of Thaksin Shinawatra, such as the red shirt protesters, who chased the people through the streets and brought the country to its knees.

The PAD protested peacefully in accordance with the final paragraph of criminal law section 135/1, which clearly states that "Any demonstration, gathering, protest, or movement that calls for the government's assistance or for fair treatment, which under the Thai Constitution are legal exercises, shall not be regarded as a terrorist offence."

If Thaksin had remained in Thailand, the country would have

been irreparably damaged. So the worst thing had to be got rid of. We did not damage anything during our protest period, compared with others, who sought to destroy our country. What's more, we are not concerned about the charges brought against us because we believe we did nothing wrong.

On plans to form a political party:

Right now we are canvassing opinion at various public meetings such as our rallies. If the people agree with our plan, then the process will move forward. The ideas are not just those of the PAD leadership but also come from the general population.

The rules of "New Politics" demand a leader who can truly be trusted, who is courageous and who is willing to make sacrifices for the good of the country. He must work under the guidance of HM the King to improve the economy of the country.

On April 24, regional PAD leaders from around the country will hold a meeting to discuss the principles and purposes of a such a political party. Later, we will talk about party membership.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Write to:

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

Dual Nationality

I have been told that the Thai government does not allow its Thai citizens to hold dual nationalities. What are the consequences for a Thai national who has obtained another nationality and resides in Thailand?

Gaffory
Phuket

Thai consul, Bangkok authority replies:

The Thai government does not allow its citizens to hold dual nationalities, except if the other country agrees to grant citizenship to that Thai person, in which case he/she can use that as well. If he/she uses the other citizenship to reside in Thailand, then they will be subject to the laws as they apply to foreigners. If he/

she uses the Thai citizenship, they have the same rights as normal Thai citizens. For more information contact: Thai consul Bangkok at Tel: 02-981 7171

Six wheels on my wagon

Can a foreigner obtain a license to drive a six wheel truck for private use? I have a European license to drive a truck of any size.

Andy
Patong

Official at Phuket Department of Land Transportation replies:

A foreigner in Thailand can obtain a driving license for a motorcycle or car but not for a six-wheeled vehicle. However, if you already have a driving licence that

allows you to drive six-wheel vehicles from overseas, it is okay to drive in Thailand.

For more information contact Phuket Land Transportation on T: 076 214 930, or Muang Police Station on T: 076-212 115.

Charitable recycling

Is there a charity in Phuket that will accept recyclable material? I have many bags full of plastic containers, aluminum cans and glass bottles.

I used to leave this material in the bins at the end of my soi for an elderly couple who regularly came with an old *salaeng* to collect it.

However, now the bins are being emptied of anything salvageable by people living nearby,

who appear to have started a recycling business.

Roger Neil
Rawai

Mr Niti Raktaetrakul of Wongpanit replies:

There is no charity organization collecting rubbish in Phuket. However, you can bring any materials you wish to dispose of to the Wongpanit center in Kathu.

We will purchase your recyclable materials such as plastic, steel, copper, aluminum, stainless steel, old machines, industrial machines, used vehicles, construction debris, paper, glass, scrap wood and more at a good price. For more information please contact Mr Niti Raktaetrakul, 75/72 Praphuketkaew Road, T. Kathu A. Kathu Phuket 83120 T: 076-203271 W: www.wongpanit.com



The Scroll Dethroned: A Shakespearean Tragedy

Scene: A villa in the suburbs of Rome. Time: 98 C.E. A Roman aristocrat, Demetrius Cotto, is relaxing in his garden. He calls his slave boy, Lucius.

Cotto: Lucius! What ho, Lucius!

Enter Lucius.

Lucius: You called, my lord?

Cotto: I did. Bring thou a scroll from my scriptorium. I wish to read The Iliad.

Lucius: Aye, verily, my lord. Exit. Returns, carrying a book. Here thou art, my lord.

Cotto (staring at the book): What's this? What squalid trash afflicts my rheumy eyeballs? I asked thee for a scroll, whelp, not a sheaf of scraps.

Lucius: This is a new invention, lord; the scroll is obsolete. The gods have given us this wondrous innovation: sheets of parchment, bound together, in a mating most auspicious. In short, a book.

Cotto: Tush! Pah! A fig for it! What are these stinking strips of goatskin, tied akimbo at the edge? Away with them! They offend the civilized eye.

Lucius: Listen, lord, and stand amazed. Those sheets, which thou despisest so, are called pages; bound together, they are called a book. The scroll hath now been superseded by this marvelous medium. No longer dost thou have to use both hands t' unroll thy cumbrous scroll and roll it up again, inflicting toil and strain upon thy tender tendons. Nay, by Jupiter, thou canst hold this little volume in one single hand alone, and flip the pages merrily.

Cotto (crossly): I care not for these poncey baubles of a foul, degenerate age. This wretched thing shall not defile mine elegant scriptorium. Away with it! I yearn to hold a noble scroll, stately and venerable, exuding the sweet fragrance of old papyrus. I love t' unroll and reroll it leisurely, according to my plea-

sure. It hath an ancient dignity that shall never be usurped by thine impudent upstart "book".

Lucius: O my lord, do not disgrace thy faithful slave by being so Jurassic. My fellow slaves will laugh at me. They'll say my lord is retro. Cast off this vain attachment to the relics of the past! Get with it, dude! I mean, my lord. Embrace the future, please, I pray thee!

Cotto: What, naughty lad! Wilt thou insult thy master?

Lucius: Please chill thou out, my lord, I do but seek t' upgrade thee. Lo, the book taketh up less room, is less cumbersome to manage. Thou canst mark important passages by dog-earing the pages. Canst thou dog-ear a scroll? Behold, a dog-eared scroll would be a dog indeed, and fit for only kicking. Why, sir, this invention hath foredoomed the scroll to quick extinction. It soon will rule the reading world.

Cotto (grumbling): Thou'rt very glib of tongue, thou ras-

cal boy. I'll give thy book a look. But I doubt that I shall like it.

Lucius: There is in town a soothsayer who hath predicted even greater wonders. Now thou canst read of fierce Achilles, and how he slew brave Hector; but in centuries hence, men will view their clash upon a TV screen.

Cotto: What blighted brain hath spawned this fevered fantasy?

Lucius: In truth, my lord, this soothsayer saith that in time to come, bold Hector will be played onscreen by Eric Bana, and Achilles by Brad Pitt.

Cotto: What barbarian names are these?

Lucius: They are in a language yet unborn, my lord. In our fair Latin tongue, they are Hericus Bana and Bradleius Pitto. And there will be yet more prodigious marvels t' astonish our first-century brains. The book itself, which thou despisest as an upstart novelty, will in time to come be superseded. Five thou-

sand books will be contained in one small hand-held doohickey, read through miraculous electronics.

Cotto: What tushery and pap is this! Must I then give up my hallowed scrolls for a soulless doohickey?

Lucius: Not yet, my lord, for that is yet far off.

Cotto (grumbling): Let be, then. For now I shall try to read thy lousy book; but methinks I will detest it.

Lucius: Farewell, my lord. I go to water the geraniums. Aside, to audience: Alas, I did not tell him of the soothsayer's worst prediction: that in time to come, his surname, Cotto, will be famed through the world – not as a symbol of civilized ways, but as a brand of toilet bowl.

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



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your instincts are sharp this week and many Taureans will make a move that could surprise even those who know them well. Mid-week, you see red when an air sign tries to back out of a promise. Give this person chance to explain their circumstances before flying off the handle. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days could see a platonic friendship turn into something more serious in the year ahead.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Most Geminis will be preoccupied by romantic matters during

the last week of April. Toying with a Sagittarian's affections is playing with fire, but Libra shares your wish to keep a relationship casual for the time being. Progress at work is not only hampered by your inability to concentrate, but also by others' lack of cooperation. The stars suggest that important decisions should be delayed until the beginning of May.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Navigating a rocky path at work could leave Cancerians considering a change of employment. The stars suggest that an opportunity late next month will be worth pursuing – in the meantime, put time to good use by sharpening your skills. A misunderstanding with a romantic partner this weekend is not good reason to scuttle back into your shell. Tuesday is the best day to explain how you really feel.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos who haven't been looking in the right places for love receive confirmation of this. It may be hard

to swallow your pride, but a well-meaning earth sign friend can help direct you from the wrong track. Wednesday is the best day to hold talks relating to delicate financial affairs. Your luck with money is set to improve from the beginning of May. The number six can bring good fortune late next week.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Even though a lazy mood overcomes you this weekend, it is worth continuing to invest energy in a business project. Virgoans who are starting to think that they will never be rewarded for all their hard work will change their minds when they see results at the end of April. Love also benefits from auspicious astral conditions – those who are single enjoy flirtation with a water sign during the coming days.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A fun-filled week awaits those born under the sign of Libra. An earth sign friend surprises you this weekend with a generous invitation and this could lead to meeting new, exciting people. The month of May is highlighted to be a demanding one, so put your ability to enjoy free time to good use this week. Wearing a piece of orange agate can encourage energy to flow more freely.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpions can expect a calmer atmosphere to prevail during the remaining days of

April. An ongoing bureaucratic issue can be safely put on the back burner while you concentrate on more productive matters. In the world of work, there is chance to collaborate with another water sign at the start of May. Where love is concerned, it may come as a surprise to learn that Aries thinks you're red hot.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians receive the green light to go ahead with a project that was beginning to seem beyond reach. The only downside could be that working with an air sign will push your patience to the limit. A romantic interlude that occurred last month could be repeated, but there are signs that the other person would like a more committed relationship than suits your mood at present. The number two can bring luck on Thursday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns should get to where they want to by the end of April, although this will involve prioritizing. The stars suggest that your aims are too scattered, particularly where business is concerned. New romance is subject to changes of plan this weekend and you may not know how to react to this. Keep an open mind until you know the person better. Wearing the color pearl pink encourages a clearer mind.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are likely to

get caught up in a fruitless search this weekend after following the advice of a water sign friend. Your lack of patience could also lead to accepting a job offer that will not bring the satisfaction you seek. Those who would like to get to know someone special on a more intimate level are advised to use a subtle approach. The number seven can bring good luck next Tuesday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Those born under the sign of Pisces who have been trying to track down an elusive work contact are forecast to make headway early next week. The stars forecast that you enjoy more work satisfaction in May. Where love is concerned, treading water is recommended until you know the true circumstances of someone who has caught your interest. Those already committed learn that their partner has been keeping a secret.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A property matter becomes too hot to handle this week and Arians may find it necessary to back out. Relocation is more positively highlighted in May – an earth sign acquaintance will provide useful information at the start of the month. Your finances take a temporary downturn when unexpected bills arrive, but this will be a valid reason to reject a friend's request for a loan this weekend. Wear the color turquoise to encourage patience.

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The amazing Mazda MPS



BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

First seen at the North America International Auto Show in Detroit, the new Mazda3 MPS made its European debut in Geneva in early March. The MPS model is a high performance version of the latest Mazda3, a model that has won universal acclaim.

The engine of the MPS is Mazda's impressive 2.3 liter inline four, now with direct fuel injection and a turbocharger. Power is a heady 256 bhp (191 kW) with a huge torque figure of 380 Nm, produced at just 3,000 rpm. Maximum speed is electronically limited to 250 km/h while the 0-100 km/h sprint takes a shade over six seconds.

Obviously, the amount of power on tap can induce a vast amount of torque-steer from a front-wheel drive vehicle, so Mazda has carefully optimized the left and right drive shafts to minimize any torque effect. In addition, a torque-sensing limited-slip differential is standard. The manual shift features six ratios, slightly wider spaced than before for maximum flexibility. Power steering is provided electro-hydraulically reducing any power loss.

With a car that provides such top performance, safety features are of prime importance. The Mazda MPS has reinforced front members and slightly different floor panels to increase body stiffness, while modified front and rear suspension keeps the wheels pointing in the right direction. Larger brakes are fitted – ventilated discs at the front, solid at

the rear – as well as electronic brake assist and dynamic stability control as standard equipment.

The interior emphasizes the Mazda's sporting prowess, with snug, semi-bucket seats for driver and front passenger, while the dashboard is dominated by a large tachometer complete with red MPS logo. There is also an LED turbo-boost gauge positioned between the meters, which also heightens the car's high-performance feel.

Black is the keynote color throughout the interior, while the seats and trim fabric have an organic red graphic design. Red stitching enhances the sporting character on the steering wheel, seats, door trim, shift lever and center armrest.

Mazda's MPS has an exterior design that continues the current model's acclaimed aerodynamic performance. Beginning with the Mazda3 five-door hatchback, which has one of the segment's lowest coefficients of drag, the MPS developers added a number of exterior features, optimized for aero efficiency. These include large front and rear bumpers, a large floating rear roof spoiler and front under spoiler. The result is aerodynamic performance that provides stability and easy control when traveling straight, changing lanes or overtaking other vehicles at high speed.

The shape of the A-pillars and door mirrors were also designed keeping aero efficiency in mind, while increased rigidity around the door sashes delivers improved sealing of the doors to reduce wind noise. The air intake for the turbo intercooler is in the center of the hood, while the front fender design is exclusive to the MPS.

The wheels and tires are also unique to the MPS, although the aluminum alloy wheels are based on the same theme as those on the Mazda RX-8. These have a strong, three-dimensional

form that helps the car look nimble and aggressive when viewed from the side, while the tires are

ultra-low profile Dunlops. These are wider than those on the previous model and by improving the grip of the tires – allied to rigid sidewalls of just 40% aspect – the MPS delivers response with a more direct feel and a strong feel-

ing of oneness between driver and car.

The optimized aerodynamics, direct fuel injection, turbo-boost and light weight all combine to reduce fuel consumption. Mazda claims a consumption of 9.2 liters per 100 kms for the MPS, while the single-nanotechnology, fast-reacting catalytic

converter under the floor delivers cleaner emissions and Euro V compliance. A top performing hatchback that is both attractive to the eye and satisfying to drive.

For more information, visit www.mazda.com

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com





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Bahrain claims cricket 6s trophy

By James Goyder

The annual Phuket International Cricket Sixes took place in Karon from April 15-19. The International Cricket Council award-winning tournament drew teams from all over the world with the 26 participating teams divided equally between the southern and northern hemispheres.

Traditional cricketing nations England, Australia, India and Pakistan were well represented as well as Malaysia, Hong Kong and, of course, Thailand. Bringing a touch of class to the occasion were former international cricketers Kenny Jackson, who represented South Africa and Trevor Chappell who, alongside brothers Ian and Greg, played for Australia.

Jacksons' team, the CBB Postels, reached the cup final where they faced the Bahrain Apsara Camels. The games, con-

tested over five overs apiece, were short and sweet. The outfield at Karon, almost the size of a regular cricket pitch, give the fielders a lot of ground to cover, ensuring some impressive scores.

Bahrain managed to amass an impressive 83 runs with Sreekanth Bhavadasam scoring 33, after which he was obliged under the rules to take mandatory retirement. In a rain affected final, CBB Postels knew they had a mountain to climb to overtake Bahrain. Some sharp bowling and fielding from the Saudi Arabian based side made that task even more difficult.

Kenny Jackson blasted a few boundaries to keep alive the hopes of CBB Postels – an amalgamation of Thai based side CBBs and Australian team The Postels. However, when the former South African international batsman was clean bowled by Ashwani Sharma, CBB

Postels' hopes evaporated. The Bahrain Apsara Camels eventually ran out comfortable winners by 21 runs. A jubilant Sharma said afterwards, "I am happy to have bowled out Kenny Jackson, but I am more happy for the team because we needed the wicket at that time. It's not about winning or losing for us though, we are just happy to have played well."

There were ten new teams participating this year and a couple of them claimed two of the remaining available titles with Hong Kong's Long Dong Wongs winning the Plate and the Custom Cockatoos from Australia lifting the Spoon. There was silverware also for CBB SC's who were crowned Bowl champions.

A Twenty20 cricket match on the Friday night featured two teams consisting of the best players from the tournament led by Trevor Chappell and Kenny Jackson. There was also a beach



Former South African international Kenny Jackson's middle stump is uprooted by Ashwani Sharma in the final of the cricket 6s.

cricket tournament prior to the main event and along with the cricket, players and spectators enjoyed social events at the Green Man in Chalong and Mövenpick in Karon.

"It was a superb week of

'fun in the sun' cricket for 26 teams, fans and officials; highly entertaining and full of enjoyment, on and off the field, and in one of the best holiday locations around," concluded tournament director Brad Tarr.

Support your local team

Phuket FC will play its second home fixture in the newly formed Regional Thailand League Division Two against high-flying Nakorn Sri Tammarat on Saturday April 25. Kick-off is at 5pm and tickets are priced at 20- and 40-baht. After two matches, Phuket FC have recorded one win and one loss. If you are interested in forming a Phuket FC supporters club, visit the Facebook group Phuket FC Supporters Club or email phuketfcsupportersclub@hotmail.co.uk.



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Young Aussie race ace seeks formula for success

Most 21-year-old men who drive fast attract headlines for all the wrong reasons, but one young Australian is making a name for himself by speeding around circuits in Asia. Dylan Young, a Phuket resident, is currently hoping to represent Thailand in the 2009 Formula BMW Pacific Series.

Formula BMW, a feeder series for Formula One (F1), is becoming the main pathway for young drivers trying to break into F1 racing. For Dylan, this is his ultimate ambition.

"My love of motorsport started at the age of seven when my father took me to the 1996 F1 Australian Grand Prix (GP). It was my first experience of F1 and I was instantly hooked on the adrenaline, speed and excitement. My dream of becoming a racing driver was born that day," he said.

Dylan's dream took a giant step closer to becoming a reality when he was selected to race for Eurasia Motorsport earlier this year. Team Principal Mark Goddard believes that Dylan has the talent to make it to the top of the fiercely competitive racing world.

"We were very impressed with Dylan. He demonstrated that he possesses a great deal of potential by posting some lap times that were extraordinarily fast for a novice. His determination to succeed is also a great asset and the team is looking forward to racing with him in the remaining races of the 2009 season," he said.

Dylan is particularly proud to be representing Thailand. "As a Thai resident, I will be representing Thailand. Asia is the emerging market for international motorsport and I want to put Thailand on the international motorsport map, bringing recognition and extensive international

brand exposure to those who show faith in me through financial sponsorship, helping me launch my motor racing career and achieve my dreams," he said.

Dylan clearly has the ability and in Eurasia he has found a team to nurture his talent. A lack of sponsorship remains a major obstacle towards achieving his dreams, however. According to Dylan's father Greg, "The Team Eurasia directors and high level BMW Motorsport officials see him as having enormous potential and he has been awarded a 50,000 euro (2,250,000 baht) Team Scholarship with Eurasia.

"This cash will not go directly to Dylan, but towards subsidizing the race budget. Unfortunately, the scholarship doesn't work for him unless he finds some sponsorship money to support the remaining race budget requirements," he said.

Greg has been based in Phuket since 2002. Dylan had been spending his school holidays in Phuket and finally made the decision to move here last year. He and his father are hoping to find the sponsorship – essential to developing his career – here in Phuket.

The 2009 Formula BMW Pacific Series is a six race event. A lack of funds caused Dylan to miss out on the first that ran on the undercard to the Malaysian Grand Prix. The next event will also take place at the Sepang Circuit on May 30, followed by an event in Indonesia in July and then Singapore with the F1 race in September. The series then visits Okayama in Japan supporting the World Touring Car Series event before culminating at the legendary Macau GP in November.

BMW awards three drivers of different nationalities a 50,000 euro scholarship each season. A full season costs in the region of 150,000 euros, excluding damage, travel, pre-season testing and

other miscellaneous costs. Dylan narrowly missed out on the scholarship available to Australian drivers before Eurasia came to the rescue.

Despite missing the start of the season, Eurasia – who currently lead the constructors' championship – are still keen to have him as their third driver. They believe that had Dylan been able to race in Malaysia, he would have finished in the top five.

Should Dylan get the opportunity to compete in the remainder of the championship, he believes a podium finish, and even a race win, are a real possibility. Mark Goddard also believes Dylan could make an instant impression.

"We are sure Dylan will be highly competitive and will feature in podium finishes by the time we reach Macau, providing he can take part in all five remaining events," he said.

Dylan has temporarily abandoned his studies in Australia in order to pursue his F1 dream, but without sponsorship it may be all over before it has even begun. The young man who drives fast for all the right reasons had this message for anyone who is considering sponsorship.

"I am extremely confident in my ability to be successful in Formula BMW, and at higher levels of motor sport. All I need is sponsors who are prepared to show some faith in me and assist me in achieving my career ambitions.

I will be very grateful to anyone who is prepared to assist me and give me this opportunity," he said.

To find out about the commercial benefits of sponsorship or for more info on Dylan, contact Greg Young on T: 0810771600 or E: greg@metrotropic.com

-James Goyder

Kaiser Chiefs take another lap of honor



The Kaiser Chiefs enjoy a well-deserved beer as they celebrate their second successive Bangkok German All Stars Masters 7s victory.

Phuket football team Kaiser Chiefs FC won the Bangkok German All Stars Masters 7s (over 35s) tournament for the second successive year, following a resounding 3-0 victory over the Bangkok Legends in the final. Against the odds, the squad of just eight players managed fend off challengers from as far afield as Singapore, China, Vietnam and England, as well as teams from Thailand, to retain their trophy.

Kaiser Chiefs started its campaign slowly, winning the first match against Sexy All Star FC by just a goal to nil. Building on this early victory, Kaiser Chiefs went on to win its remaining group games more emphatically, thrashing BC Exiles 4-0 and Hibernian Legends 5-1.

In the quarterfinals, the confident Chiefs came up against German All Stars Bangkok (GASB). GASB sat back, parking the proverbial bus in front of its goal, successfully thwarting the Chiefs' attack. The game finished goalless, requiring a penalty shoot-out to separate the two sides. Kaiser Chiefs prevailed 9-8 in the shootout, setting up a semifinal encounter with the Singapore German All Stars. The semifinal turned out to be a decidedly one-sided affair, as the

Chiefs ran out comfortable 4-0 winners to advance to the final for the second consecutive year.

The final against the Bangkok Legends was over almost as soon as it started. Kaiser Chiefs broke down the Legends' defence with ease, scoring twice within the opening few minutes. Strong defending by the Chiefs' Marcus Benzinger, Steve Smith and Fred Van Dyk allowed the Bangkok Legends few opportunities, ensuring that Kaiser Chiefs keeper Soontorn enjoyed a quiet afternoon.

A third goal in the second half rounded off proceedings and Kaiser Chiefs FC were duly crowned champions for the second year in a row.

"The team was really pleased to go up to Bangkok and win again this year. The quality of the pitches and facilities there are far better than we are used to. Unfortunately, we cannot get pitches of this quality yet in Phuket," said team captain Andy Hewett.

Kaiser Chiefs FC, also known as Phuket Town FC, is constantly looking for better training pitches in the Phuket area and teams that are interested in playing them. Any interested persons should contact Andy. Email: Andrew@hidef.com

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Design

Cherng Talay

Design with RnR in mind

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod



Rona quit her job with Cathay Pacific to focus on design.

Despite owning a successful design business, Rona R Hosking doesn't have a background in interior design. Before launching her own company – RnR decor – here in Phuket, Rona had lived in Hong Kong and worked as a service manager for Cathay Pacific.

She and her husband moved to the island in 2001, despite her misgivings. At that time she was expecting her second child and was, as she revealed, a self-confessed, "city girl". After becoming acquainted with a number of Phuket's many attractions, notably the food and its people, Rona gradually fell in love with the island and agreed to settle down here.

Unfortunately for the happy couple, Rona's husband's business began to struggle. The pair then decided to move into the property development sector, which brought immediate success. They began by developing eight villas that sold out within two weeks. It was through this property business that Rona began her career as an interior designer, crafting the interior of the development's show house.

Following her success, Rona quit her job with Cathay Pacific to focus solely on design. Although never formally trained, it soon became evident that she had a talent and that design had become a true passion for her. With the support of her husband and friends, she set up her own company. Even before opening, she had secured five clients.

Now well established, Rona has found that she doesn't need to advertise, but is able to rely on word-of-mouth, as news of her product has spread across the island. She is currently being assisted by her brother who, with a degree in design, is helping her understand more about colors, how to blend styles and incorporate them with local themes.

For Rona, the key to designing the perfect interior for a customer is spending time with the client, getting a feel for their personality, their lifestyle and what they want. She does however admit, "Sometimes I don't know where I get my ideas. They just come to me".

As well as interior design, Rona's shop in Cherng Talay also stocks a number of decorative items from across parts of Asia, offering customers the chance to create the perfect household of their own.

To see more of Rona Hosking's work at RnR, visit the company's website at www.rnrdecor.com.

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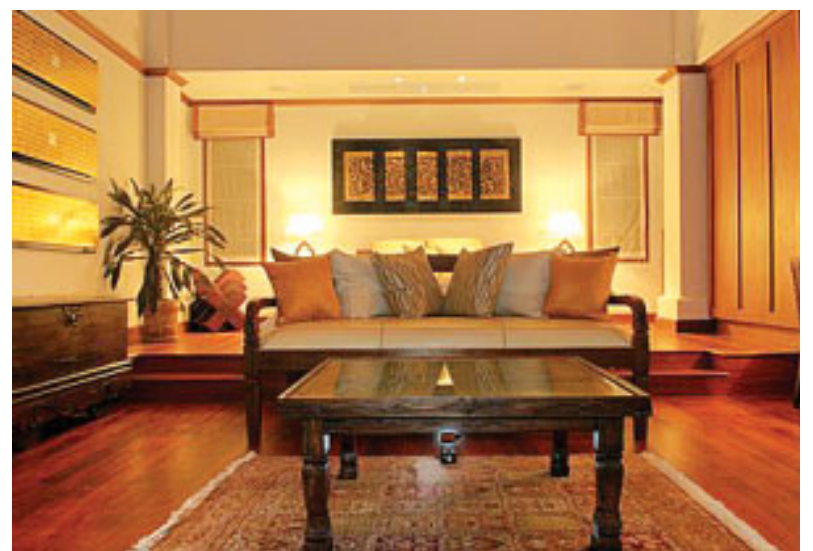


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5 Beach villas
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A RnR designed bedroom.



As well as interior design, Rona's shop in Cherng Talay also stocks a number of decorative items from across parts of Asia.

First boutique pool villa nears completion

Marina Villa is a luxury residential project of six private-pool villas in Nai Harn. The first villa, a show unit, is scheduled for completion by the end of April. Each of the two-storey villas comprises two bedrooms, three bathrooms and a European-style kitchen surrounding a central 30-sqm pool and terrace.

Other special features in each of the villas include private balconies and an outdoor spa bath just off the master bedroom. The dining and living areas both open out onto the central terrace.

The villas also come fully furnished and ready to move into with facilities already on hand, including air conditioning, Internet access, cable and satellite TV and parking for two cars.

The villas are available freehold at 12.5 million baht each and range in size from 278 to 296 square meters. Each unit has an additional 80-sqm landscaped garden.

The entire project covers about 2,000 square meters. The design and construction of the residential development is wholly controlled by Sirirattana Land Co Ltd.

Managing Director of Sirirattana Land, Mr Santi Sirirattanakit, says the emphasis of the villas is to offer residents privacy and security in an environment of superior quality and functionality.

"Several adjustments were made to the design throughout the planning stages with the aim of offering comfortably tasteful dwellings that fit in with their natural surroundings," he added.

For more information contact the developer. Tel: 089-170-0161. Email: sirirattanaland@yahoo.com. Website: www.sirirattanaland.com.



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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.

Water, Water, Everywhere: Aquatic Plants

Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

Most of Thailand has a high annual rainfall and Phuket is no exception to this, as anyone who lives here through the late summer and autumn months can testify.

Like all natives of hot countries, Thais have a special reverence for water and its vital role in life. *Farangs* have only to experience the April water festival of Songkran to realize that one of the impulses behind this celebration is to cleanse and renew, to herald the onset of the new rains that will bring life to the parched earth. This respect is related to rice, the staple food and lifeline of all Thais, and the single most important contributor to the kingdom's economy. Why rice? Because successful production of the cereal is reliant on water: all those marshy paddy fields bear testimony to its dependence on a constant supply of H₂O in the growing season from May to November.

Unsurprisingly then, aquatic plants are a feature of Thailand's floral landscape – and to a much greater degree than in Europe or America. Take the lotus [*nelumbo nucifera*]. It is the national flower of India and Vietnam, not of Thailand, but it is a constant presence here in lakes, water gardens and decorative pots. Central to Buddhist iconography, deities are often depicted seated on a lotus flower; the enlightened one is said to have caused lotuses to burst into bloom wherever he walked. Most im-

portant of all, the lotus is one of the eight auspicious signs of Buddha – a symbol of cosmic harmony or spiritual illumination.

I first encountered the plant many years ago in London when I bought the seed heads – without realizing what they were – for inclusion in an arrangement of dried flowers. The massive heads are truly exotic, resembling the pierced spout of a watering can. But even these are upstaged by the fat pink or white buds which develop into blooms up to 20 centimeters across (see photo).

In Phuket, I had no intention of relegating this marvel to the kitchen garden, though everything is edible – flowers, seeds, leaves, even the rhizomes. Instead, I planted a couple, Thai style, in waterproof earthenware pots, half filled with the rich, glutinous mud sold at nurseries and watched them grow. A couple of provisos. The leaves may turn brown and rusty-looking at the edges. If so, you can easily remove them. Secondly, the lotus is a heavy feeder and will need proprietary fertilizer every couple of weeks. But it is worth all the trouble.

“To those of us who hail from the West, water lilies [*nymphaeas*] are much more familiar, in part because some varieties thrive in temperate conditions that would spell death to the exotic lotus. There must be few goldfish ponds in England without a complement of lilies. Moreover, they have been immortalized for art lovers in the paintings of French Impressionist Claude Monet, who created more than two hundred paintings based on the water lilies in his garden at

Giverny. If these plants are not revered here as the lotus is, they are still regarded as key elements in any aquatic landscape. Indeed, there is a Thai book devoted entirely to water lilies – all one hundred and fifty hybrids. You can grow them here in wide pots –

as you can the lotus – but although they are sold in this way at most garden centers in Phuket, they look better in fish-ponds in company with other aquatics, where their floating pads have plenty of room for maneuver.

Where the lily wins over the lotus is in its wide range of colors – I have magenta and violet varieties in my pond. On the other hand, the lotus scores because it is fragrant. Moreover, its flowers and leaves balance above the water on long stems, and so needs a much smaller surface area. It will happily grace a vase-shaped container.

If these two plants are pre-eminent in the world of Thai water-gardens, there are others which can perform useful cameo roles.

One such player is the Egyptian papyrus [*cyperus papyrus*: see photo]. Every schoolboy knows one fact about this plant: it was used to make the first paper. The second ‘fact’ is not common knowledge – namely that the ‘bull-rushes’ in which the infant Moses was hidden, were almost certainly papyrus reeds.

Tall with long, elegant stems surmounted by a ring of narrow leaves – modified stems – that radiate out from a central hub, this sedge will grow a couple of meters tall. It is what Americans like to call an ‘accent plant’, and



Burhead.



Varieties of rice on sale at market.

provides a contrast to surface-hugging plants such as water-lilies, water lettuce or water hyacinths. I have one in my fishpond and a couple in large pots keeping company with Mexican swordtails, which hide in its ample roots. And it will grow more-or-less anywhere. Another familiar sight on Thai forecourts is the *kraa daeng* (see photo), an upright foliage plant with attractive red stems and bright green, lanceolate leaves.



Water hyacinth.

Earlier I mentioned the water lettuce and water hyacinth. The latter produces lilac spikes of hyacinth-like blooms above bulbous, air-filled stems. It's a bit more exotic than the humble water lettuce which also floats, its light green rosettes of leaves sprouting from roots trailing below the surface. If grown in fish ponds, both need to have their dead leaves removed before they

de-oxygenate the water. The hyacinth also has commercial value here: its fibrous roots are used to make upmarket, woven furniture. Also worth a mention is the Asiatic pennywort, a marsh-dweller that appears from nowhere in moist conditions. Its small, rounded leaves will, given the chance, carpet over whole areas of water. And finally, the burhead [*eichornia crassipes*: see photo] which has dark, deeply veined leaves and small white flowers, which appear at intervals along bare stems. A favorite in spas, it is usually grown in decorative pots. Aren't they all?

Dr Patrick Campbell taught English Literature at a London University, and as Visiting Professor at the Universities of British Columbia and Colorado.

He led the first MA in Performing Arts in the UK. Author of five academic books and numerous published articles, he recently completed a novel.

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Make Phuket a Special Administrative Region?



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

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

Having lived in Phuket for a number of years now, trying to recall the names and faces of past governors is a bit like remembering past seasons of *Survivor* or *American Idol*. At times, I'm almost expecting to see a real life "where are they now?" segment.

Viewing Phuket's increasing role as a national leader in tax revenue, industry and tourism, you have to look at the one thing that both Bangkok and Pattaya have but is missing in Phuket. It

is that they are both "special administrative regions" (SARs) with the power to elect rather than appoint their own governor. They also enjoy far greater autonomy over key issues such as zoning, building regulations and approvals, transportation/roadways, utilities and the environment – more or less all the fundamental issues important to those residing here on Phuket.

For the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA), the governor is elected for four-year terms and may run for re-election.

What gives the position its teeth is not only the powers that are accorded to politically appointed governors, but also the mandate to formulate specific policy, the ability to appoint deputies, advisors and civil servants along with drafting legislation for the SAR.

While the public and private sectors fairly align goals, a number of factors are always clear in any strategic vision or long-term planning: consistency, the establishment of a party line in keeping with the goals and having a stake in the results you get.

The election of a Phuket native to the office of governor brings with it a certain amount of accountability. Phuket is a fairly small island and there can be no escaping the consequences of critical decisions when your po-



Bangkok (pictured) and Pattaya are both special administrative regions. They enjoy autonomy over the same key issues important to those residing in Phuket.

litical welfare is in the hands of the voters.

While I have no intention of entering into political debate or venturing into current affairs, I would say that in considering Phuket's future, it is important to recognize models of government that have already shown themselves to be effective.

The current lack of direct mechanisms to react to declines in key economic indicators such as tourism, property, the service industry and investment (domestic and international), is important

to the lives of nearly all who reside here. The hangover from the island's property and hospitality boom is evident everywhere you look.

While we all groan about lagging infrastructure, utilities, zoning, planning, security and the environment, perhaps greater emphasis on what solutions could be put in place would be a positive move.

Turn back the clock to 1997 and Hong Kong's conversion to a special administrative region. Industry went back to work the

next day, lives improved and the economic miracle of one of the hardest working nations on earth continued, as indeed it does today. Perhaps this is not the perfect analogy, but it does nevertheless provide a model of local work efficiency brought about by empowering those who live and reside in a place where they also do business.

While we might be years away from seeing a national consensus on the establishment of an SAR, this sort of thinking helps us to better understand private industry's vital role in developing alliances and common objectives to preserve, promote and develop the key economies of Phuket.

Organizations such as IBAP, Rotary, SKAL, and the Thai Hotel Association assist that process. We hope this continues and grows, as it bridges the gaps between local and foreign business people and helps get everyone on the same page.

In the meantime, we live in interesting times and whether you watch the international news, local news or just look around the corner from your house, things are moving at a pace that's often hard to keep up with. It is good to get off the couch, go out and join something, whether it's for business, pleasure or charity, and leave your own footprint here in the sand.

Local business group rebrands Phuket

A group of local hoteliers and businesses in Phuket have 'canceled' Low Season – April 15 through November 1 – and are renaming the period the "Summer Season" to better reflect the fact that Phuket is one of the world's top year-round

vacation and second home destinations.

"We're going to have a bit of fun with this campaign which starts with 'canceling' the Low Season," explained Nick Anthony, Managing Director of Indigo Real Estate.

"In the process, we hope to

expose to the world the fact that during the summer months (April-November), the period formerly known as the Low Season, Phuket actually has an abundance of delightful sunny weather," he said.

"Cooling afternoon showers sometimes refresh the island and set up spectacular sunsets and it's also a time of good value with lower occupancy, great deals on rates and generally a quieter island that hums with local festivals," he added.

The six-month international public relations campaign and internet promotion launching Summer in Phuket also looks to counter negative media reports about the effects of the global economic downturn and internal



Phuket still has a lot to offer visitors during the 'Summer Season', including spectacular sunsets.

Thailand political issues.

On the heels of Phuket being named the number one luxury

destination by the *New York Times* in January, the group is taking a proactive approach to promote Phuket and to support tourism in the province.

"We're looking to change the incorrect perception of Low Season that the weather in Phuket is poor. Phuket is a great destination which also has enjoyable sunny weather right through the year," commented Dominique Rongé, Executive Assistant Manager at The Chedi Phuket, one of the campaign's major supporters.

"We need to be proactive in delivering our positive message to our audiences. That message is that Phuket's luxury market is thriving despite the world tailspin and that we're open all year for business," he added.

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SEA VIEW KATA LAND

for sale. 8 plots available. Starting price 3.8 million baht. Email: kaiteedin@hotmail.com

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

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

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.

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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: cherngtalay@gmail.com

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 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.

CHALONG HOUSE

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

LAND FOR SALE

(The investment opportunity of a life time)



The most beautiful and the last big plot of land near the commercial center on Thepkasattri Road.

Total area: 165 rai

Contact: Jatupon

Mobile no: 089-472 9996

Price on obligation

Serious potential buyer only. No broker please.

PERFECT LAND

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

NICE PLOT

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK

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

QUICK SALE

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

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

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



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

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Property Gazette

SURIN BEACH

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

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

ON THE BEACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

RAWAI TOWN HOME

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

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.

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

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

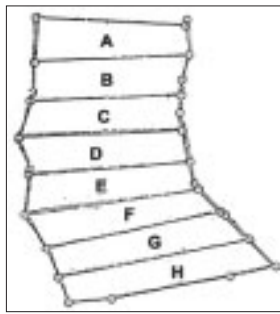
KATA LAND 2

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

INEXPENSIVE LOTS

Chanote title lots 1/3 to 1/2 rai, 700,000 to 1,100,000 baht total price. Road and electricity. Near Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 086-942 1930.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

NEW TOWN HOUSE

in Phuket town. 2nd floor, 140sqm. Very good location 5 min from central and Big C. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 080-071 9098.

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

LAND AT SAI YUAN



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

ROCK GARDEN VILLAS

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

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.

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.

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Property Gazette

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

GOLF VILLAS 6.9 - 8.9 MTB

Loch Palm. Tel: 081-537 9684. www.vistaphuket.com

PATONG CONDOMINIUM

Fully furnished, very good condition, laundry and cooking facilities. Mountain views, aircon, pool, security, clean, relaxing, 300 meter to beach. Foreign freehold: 1.4 million baht neg. Contact Grant. Tel: 084-307 0024.

HOUSE FOR 6.9 MTB

2 bedrooms with private pool. Ready to move in now. Tel: 086-274 6886, 089-867 4724. Fax: 076-521554. Email: mammy399@yahoo.com

OCEAN VIEW, KATA 5.5 M. BAHT

Price includes furniture. One year old. 90 square meters. Tel: 087-041 8821. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

POOL VILLA, NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, Thai sala on rooftop. Price 9 MB. Tel: 076-289900, 081-9700742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



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

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

Asking price: 52 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093, 081-868 7676.

NEW 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.

KATABEACH

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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/>

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

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

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

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

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

NEW STUDIO CONDO

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



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

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.

TOP VILLAS IN RAWAI

Best two villas. 500sqm and 220sqm. In quality development, near beach. Great investment. Finance available, no interest. Must see, free pick-up. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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 3 BED POOL VILLA



3-bedroom pool villa at Mission Hills, just 10 mins to the new int'l school, airport, and Nai Yang Beach. Luxury finish. Quiet area. Furnished. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-893 4636. Email: info@phuketbedandbreakfast.com

KATA BEACH

2 apartments, 130sqm. Both only 4.4 million baht. Owner leaving Thailand. Tel: 085-783 1890.

BEAUTIFUL 2 STOREY HOUSE

for sale. Sai Yuan, Rawai, Phuket. Sea view from 2nd floor and roof terrace. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, custom woodwork, swimming pool, fully furnished. Good investment. Two 80sq wah lots, both with concrete fences, house and pool on one, next lot cleared. Build and return your investment. 10 million baht. Tel: 080-999 8784.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrungs School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-6912526.

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 ANUPHAS FOR SALE



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

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

15 MILLION BAHT



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

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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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

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

THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong new 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht per month. Contact K. John. Tel: 081-979 1976.

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

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

B.L. APARTMENT FOR RENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Contact more details Tel: 081-692 3163.

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

RENT 2 BEDROOM CONDO

10,000 baht fully furnished, euro kitchen & bathroom, 3 aircon, ADSL. Tel: 076-245871, 086-2634678. Fax: 076-245871. Email: roy@kool-mix.com

NEW HOUSE ON YAWARAT 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).

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.

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bed rooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living, dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936.

POOL VILLA RAWAI

in lovely gardens close to Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches. Private pool, 2 bedroom, aircon. 35,000 baht per month available May to November. Tel: 081-970 1716.

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

OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH

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

THAI VILLA AND POOL

in Nai Harn. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Please contact us by email mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

KAMALA BEACH RENTAL

Very nice house/apartments. Fully furnished, 2 to 4 bedrooms, view. 13,000 to 18,000 per month. details. Tel: 082-421 9169.

HOUSE & POOL

for rent. Rawai 2-3 bedrooms, furnished from 30,000 baht only!! Tel: 089-728 6242. Email: purimas_re@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLAS

for rent. Loch Palm, Kathu. Fully furnished with pool. Tel: 081-797 6266.

3 BED LUXURY POOL VILLA



59,000 baht per month. Located in compound by Boat Lagoon and near British International School. Free Cable TV, WIFI, Gym, and Garden/Pool costs. Beautifully furnished. Would consider sale at around 15 million baht. Tel: 084-783 9054. Email: oggyowen@yahoo.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Apartments and houses for rent from 15,000 baht. Tel: 086-285 3355.

CHALONG NEW HOME

Good value 2 bedroom town home with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Please sent email for details anandaestates@yahoo.com

RAWAI CONDO

for rent. Walking distance from shops and sea. Newly furnished, TV, air conditioning, hot water, sea view. Rent 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-389 4628.

LUXURY MANSION IN RAWAI

Over 500sqm, living area, 4 bedrooms, complete top-end furniture, large private pool, big tropical garden. Tel: 085-783 1890.

BEAUTIFUL POOL VILLA RAWAI

Fully furnished, fully equipped, near beach, 24-hour security, internet access. Tel: 085-783 1890.

2 STOREY BUILDING, 500SQM

newly furnished, aircon, parking. Price 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-897 0501. Email: russ.export@gmail.com

ONE BEDROOM CONDO

New condo in Patong with swimming pool for rent 25,000 baht per month. Contact Peter. Tel: 084-852 0338.

VILLA SAUNLAUNG

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon. Fully furnished, ADSL. Tel: 081-086 7398. Email: motu726@gmail.com

PATONG SERVICED APTS

Quality serviced apartments in Patong. Maid, gym, large pool, mountain views. 100-sq-meter 2-bedroom units. 25,000 baht a month. Contact more details. Tel: 087-077 8454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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2 or 3 bed, fully furnished, UBC

3 months	6 months	12 months	Type
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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
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Please contact Sophit 081-3444473
For further information

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Available for straight-up rent or rent-to-buy. Two bedrooms, cable TV, aircon. 9,500 baht per month to rent, or for sale on terms. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-589 2046. Email: svein@byggguiden.no

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2 storey house for rent. Kasaemsarp Village, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, garage. Price 25,000 per month. Please call Maria for more information. Tel: 076-381303, 084-845 0003. Fax 076-381303. Or email: maria@bayproject.com

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RENT IN PATONG



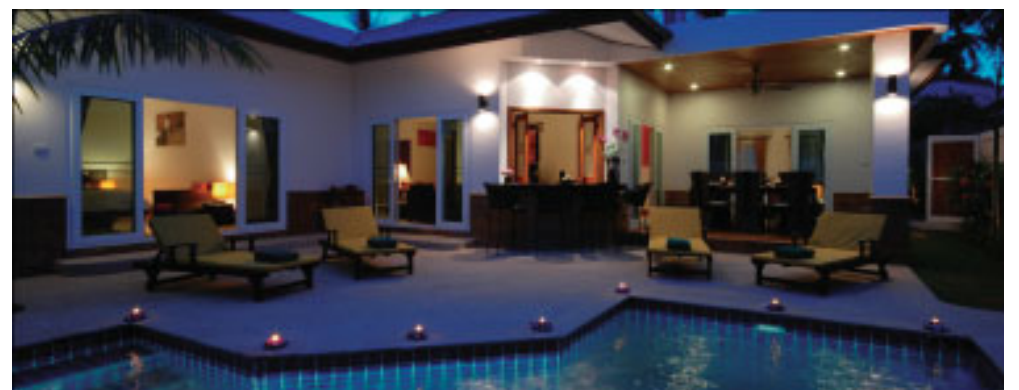
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■ Yacht Haven Marina Office
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Mobile: 081 891 3237
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■ Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
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Mobile: 081 787 9408
tel: 036 235 061 fax: 036 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.net

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for sale or rent. Nissan 450hp, 25kw, 21m. Generator: Bauer compressor or cert 45 pax. Pay over 3 years. Price 3.5 million baht. Contact more details. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

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SALES JOB LOW SEASON

If you are an experienced sales person and want to earn 50,000 up/month, please call 083-393 6226. Requirements: good appearance and impeccable English.

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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

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Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket 83200



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Tel: 076-238711-20 # 2103
Fax: 076-238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: patcharakorn@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th

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: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971
Email: editor@phuketgazette.net

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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.

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Human Resources Department

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- Resort and real estate accounting background is an advantage
- Personal Accounting License is an advantage

• Human Resources Manager

- Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree in Human Resources or relate field
- At least 6-8 years experience in hotel/HR functions with at least 2-3 years in HR managerial level in 4-5 star properties
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Other necessary qualifications:

- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Highly organized and able to work under pressure
- Strong leadership, organizational, negotiation and communication skills



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Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
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- Work with text editor software: QuarkXpress, Indesign or illustrator
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- 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

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- 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

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Island Job Mart

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

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for an international nursery in Rawai. 1 part time (afternoons), and 1 full time. Tel: 081-9793839. Please send CV and expected salary to lisaaston04@aol.com

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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

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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

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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

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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

ACCOUNTANT / BOOKKEEPER FT

Must have experience, speak English, use quickbooks. Start ASAP. Tel: 085-787 6321. Email: tgutherie@gmail.com

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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

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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

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Staff wanted at Phuket Spa, Chalong. Urgent! Tel: 076-282704, 085-567 8929. Fax: 076-282703. Or send email: natali1800@hotmail.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.

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

SECRETARY WANTED

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

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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

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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

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Tel: 076-282411-12 Fax: 076-282414.
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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 your resume with picture to jean@cafe101.co.th and visit our web at www.cafe101.co.th

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speaking lady seeks position in Phuket, age 27. Experience in marketing/advertising, tourism and hotel business. Tel: 080-601 7792. Email: 4milonga@gmail.com

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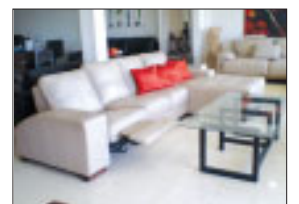
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Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM

Chalong Health Clinic (near Chalong Circle)
Tues and Sat 1 PM

Surin Beach - Surin
Thurs 9:30 AM (Nov-Apr only)

Knabi Hospital - Knabi
Wed 1 PM

(additional Knabi meetings on request by contacting 084-463103)

Scandinavian Speaking Meetings

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Tel: 086-9440480 Sue, 082-2708958 Nor

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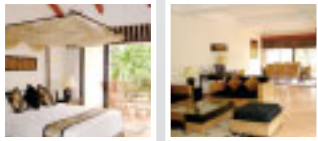
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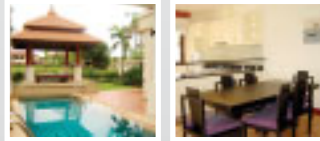
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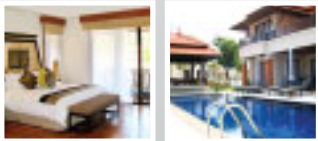
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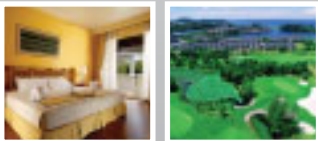
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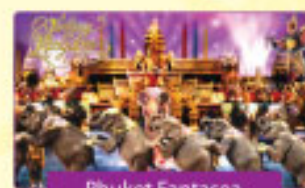
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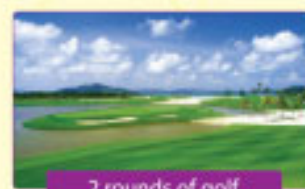


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