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'Survivor Phuket'

The kids from the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation head to Koh Lon for team building fun. Photo by Jon Fowler. See page 8

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Hose down on Soi Bangla

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

PATONG: Public health workers in full anti-contamination gear sprayed and fumigated Soi Bangla on June 14 in a bid to prevent the spread of contagious diseases such as swine flu and chikungunya.

The high-profile initiative followed a single confirmed case of swine flu infection by a staff member at a Patong disco the week before.

Tourists and local businessmen alike were curious about the anti-disease campaign, which involved a number of health officers dressed in Tyvek suits and respirators fumigating sewers with pesticides and spraying an antibacterial solution onto surfaces inside entertainment venues and on the streets.

Leading the campaign was Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima.

Vice-Governor Worapoj said the "big clean-up" follows a visit to Patong by a tourist who developed flu symptoms and was later diagnosed with infection by the A(H1N1) virus after returning home to his native Hong Kong on June 8.

Since then, about 90 people in five Patong venues have been tested for the A(H1N1) virus that causes swine flu. Of these, one tested positive. She was undergoing a seven-day quarantine and her condition was improving, Vice Governor Worapoj said.

"Soi Bangla is the first clean-up area. We plan to conduct more clean-ups at other public places around the island," he added.

Sompetch Moosophon, president of the Patong Entertainment Business Association, told the Gazette that tourists had a good and realistic understanding of the threat posed by swine flu. "There is no panic," he added.



Health workers assured the public that the antibacterial foam and pesticides sprayed round Soi Bangla posed no health risks.

Bt50,000 reward for clues in Aussie assault case

PHUKET CITY: It has taken a phone call from the Australian diplomatic mission, but Phuket Police are now renewing efforts to catch the man responsible for a horrendous machete attack on a young Australian man several months ago.

In early February this year, 20-year-old Jamie Shackleton was left with facial injuries requiring 48 stitches in Bangkok Hospital after being slashed with a machete.

The attack came during a botched robbery attempt on Naka Road in Tambon Wichit.

Almost five months later, the police have yet to arrest any suspects.

Now, following a phone call from the Australian Embassy to the Royal Thai Police Regional Headquarters in Surat Thani, police are offering a Bt50,000 re-



SLASHER: An artist's impression of the man responsible for the brutal assault.

ward for any information that helps to catch the slasher.

On June 13, Regional Commissioner Santarn Chayanon came to Phuket to personally chair a meeting of local police

about the case.

The meeting was attended by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pigad Thantipong and investigating officers from all eight police districts in the province.

"We're offering a special Bt50,000 reward for information about this case. We'll get the suspects as soon as possible," Lt Gen Santarn said.

The sheer brutality of the attack may help explain the Australian mission's interest.

At around 8pm on February 1, Mr Shackleton was returning home by motorbike from the Phuket Old Town Festival with Thai friend Weerapan Klinpon, 24, when two men on another bike forced the pair to stop.

"The guy on the back got off and pulled a big samurai knife out from under his T-shirt. Then he came up to my friend and

started to choke him," Mr Shackleton said.

The man ordered the pair in Thai to give him all their money. When Mr Shackleton reached into one of his pockets, the assailant slashed him in the face – probably believing the young Australian was reaching for a weapon.

Mr Shackleton's mouth was sliced open several inches from the corner of his left lip up through his cheek, exposing the inside of his mouth. He also lost four teeth.

In a state of shock he ran to a nearby laborers' camp and approached a man smoking outside, saying "help me, help me" in Thai.

"When the worker saw me he was really shocked. I thought it was just a really small cut," he said.

Continued on page 2



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Phi Phi tourist deaths: autopsies inconclusive

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

PHI PHI: The Royal Thai Police Institute of Forensic Medicine in Bangkok has concluded its examination of tissue samples taken from two young women who died mysteriously on Koh Phi Phi early last month.

The evidence is inconclusive.

Deputy chief of Krabi Public Health Office Dr Buncha Kahkhong said that the autopsies failed to turn up anything that could indicate what caused the deaths of American Jill St Onge and Norwegian Julie Bergheim.

There were no toxic chemicals found in the blood, bodily fluids and other tissues of the women, Dr Buncha said.

The two young women died within hours of each other in Phi Phi Island Hospital after staying in adjacent rooms in the island's Laleena Guesthouse.

Dr Buncha said the tests ruled out food poisoning, contradicting a statement made by Krabi Provincial Police Commander Pasin Nokasul on May 25.

"I can say it definitely wasn't food poisoning," Dr Buncha said. "From the autopsy and blood tests and the questioning of witnesses, it's been established that the women ate different food prior to their deaths."

Dr Buncha added that if this were a case of food poisoning, more people would likely have fallen ill, too.

The investigation would now need to focus on environmental factors, Dr Buncha said. However, examination of both the air-conditioning unit and the water supply at Laleena Guesthouse had not revealed anything out of the ordinary, he added.

"The investigation will also focus on the personal histories of the women," Dr Buncha said. "Although the autopsies have been inconclusive, we have all the information recorded now and it will be useful going forward."

"This is looking like some freak accident. With cases like this, sometimes you never find the cause. But we're very worried about it because foreign tourists died. Krabi Public Health Office will co-operate with any teams from the US and Norway who want to come and investigate. We'll share all our information with them. It is in our interests to co-operate, because if we find the cause of the deaths we can make sure it never happens again," Dr Buncha added.

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Landfill causing a big stink

PHUKET: Fed up with the stench emanating from a nearby landfill site, residents of Saphan Hin have put up banners and signs and are formally complaining to the city government about the foul odor.

Phuket City Municipality Chief Administration Officer Thawatchai Tongmang has assured residents that the city is well aware of the problem and is working hard to resolve it.

The reason for the stench is that the nearby landfill is being expanded to increase its capacity to accept more waste.

Work has left some of the garbage exposed and rainfall has exacerbated the problem, creating a considerable stench.

"The Municipality is not taking this problem lightly. We are working on solutions including the use of industrial deodorants that should reduce the stench to a more moderate level," Mr Thawatchai said.

The landfill must be expanded to accommodate more waste because the nearby waste incinerator has been out of service for about one month for



A truck approaches the Saphan Hin landfill laden with just a fraction of the 500 tons of trash generated in Phuket each day.

maintenance and repairs.

The facility has a design capacity of 250 tons per day, while the island produces about 500 tons per day, all of which must be sent to the incineration plant.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana apologized for the problem and asked residents for patience.

As a long-term solution, the city is working with a private firm to build a second incineration

plant at Saphan Hin in the same area that will be capable of burning up to 600 tons daily. The plant is scheduled to open in October, 2010, she said.

It will be a long wait for nearby residents, however.

A resident of the nearby Saphan Hin villa residential estate located right next to the landfill described the smell as "similar to rotten pineapples in water".

-Stephen Fein

Slash attack

Continued from page 1

Mr Weerapan had meanwhile managed to make his own escape from the attackers and approached his friend. "I told him I didn't need to go to the hospital," Mr Shackleton said. "But then of course, I did," he added quietly.

He was rushed to Vachira Hospital. "They told me I would have to wait seven hours to get an operation on my face. I really didn't want to lose that much blood," he said.

Mr Shackleton was taken down Yaowarat Road to Bangkok Hospital Phuket where he received 48 stitches in a four-hour operation. Nearly five months after the attack the wound has healed well, though Mr Shackleton has been left with a scar on his face several inches long.

He has also been stung by a bill for Bt170,000 from Bangkok Hospital. With no health in-

surance, Mr Shackleton had to borrow money from a friend to pay the fees.

"I've been told the Thai government has funds available to help tourists who have accidents," Mr Shackleton said. "I'm hoping they will help me out," he added.

Former Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan had seemed sympathetic to his case, but was transferred before he was able to do anything to help, Mr Shackleton said.

He is now hoping for the same kind of assistance from Wichai Phraisa-ngop, the current incumbent.

During the June 13 meeting at Phuket City Police Station police showed a sketch of the slasher. He has short brown hair, a lot of stubble, pimples and a prominent nose. He is believed to be 28-30 years old, well built, and around 180cm tall. He speaks Thai with a Southern accent.

No such sketch exists of his



SCARRED: Jamie Shackleton's face required 48 stitches.

accomplice, who was wearing a motorcycle helmet at the time of the attack.

Police are appealing for anyone who recognizes the man in the sketch to come forward – and claim their prize.

Meanwhile, Mr Shackleton is planning to leave Thailand. "I've been here for almost a year and a half now. I came here to relax," Mr Shackleton said.

Without relaxing as much as he had perhaps hoped, he plans to return to Australia permanently next month.

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Australian expat killed on bike

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn
WICHIT: A young Australian man died just before dawn on June 13 when his motorcycle crashed at high speed on Chao Fa West Road.

Inspector Yongyuth Kongmarai of Phuket City Police identified the deceased as 20-year-old Kain Bonow, an Australian national and long-time resident of Phuket.

Police and rescue workers from the nearby Phuket Ruamjai Kupai Foundation responded to an emergency call reporting the accident at 5:30am.

The crash happened outside the Sala Bua Mansion apartments, not far from the Wang Talang jewelry shop on Chao Fa West Road southbound.

From an examination of the crash scene, it appeared that Mr Bonow was riding his motorcycle at very high speed and was unable to negotiate a curve.

"I don't think Mr Bonow had drunk any alcohol, but he was riding very fast at the time of the crash. Witnesses reported hear-

ing a loud backfire from the tailpipe followed by the sound of the motorbike crashing," said Lt Col Yongyuth.

Based on the fact that the vehicle slid at least 60 meters after the initial impact, Lt Col Yongyuth estimated that Mr Bonow was riding at about 120 kilometers per hour at the time.

It was not raining and police did not find a motorcycle helmet at the scene, he said.

The cause of death appeared not to have been head trauma, but the force of impact of the motorbike's steering column on Mr Bonow's abdomen. Mr Bonow suffered a compound fracture to his hip bone and massive trauma to his internal organs.

Kain's mother, Kim Bonow, later identified her son's body at Vachira Phuket Hospital and was inconsolable from the loss, Lt Col Yongyuth said.

Bathing rites are taking place at Wat Luttiwanaram in Chalong.

Dog chases tail at Provincial Hall

PHUKET CITY: Dog bites man isn't news, as the old journalistic adage has it. But what about dog bites monkey?

Civil servants were greeted with just such a scene one morning last week, when a pig-tailed macaque from Toh Sae Hill wandered onto the grounds of Phuket Provincial Hall.

A local dog took offense at the macaque's presence and gave chase. When it caught the monkey, the brutal canine bit the macaque's tail off.

The attack happened just as civil servants were arriving at work. One concerned witness called Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) for help.

Shortly afterwards livestock office vet Dr Jirayu Niran Wiroj arrived to treat the wounded primate.

Terrified, the stricken animal climbed atop the Phuket Provincial Hall roof and refused to come down.

Only after it was knocked out with a tranquilizer dart were officers able to get the animal

down.

Dr Jirayu cleaned and treated the now tail-less monkey's wound before bandaging it up.

He called Arwach Nitikul of Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Center to take the animal for further care before releasing it into the wild.

This is certainly not the first time a pig-tailed macaque has found itself in Phuket Provincial Hall. Only two weeks ago, another cheeky monkey made off from a stunned food vendor's stall with a belly full of cucumbers.

"The problem of wild animals getting lost in the city is increasing," Dr Jirayu said.

"Imbalanced ecosystems and human encroachment into the jungle mean the animals are losing their natural habitats and are coming into the city to find food," he said.

Dr Jirayu appealed to the public to refrain from damaging natural ecosystems by hunting or hurting wild animals.

Source: Siangtai Daily

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New medical science center opens in Phuket

By Kamol Pirat

SRISOONTHORN: The Public Health Ministry commissioned a new front in the war against infectious diseases on June 11 with the opening of the new Phuket Medical Science Center.

Public Health Minister Witthaya Kaewparadai presided over the opening ceremony, which was attended by more than 200 public health volunteers as well as Phuket MPs Tossaporn Thepabutr and Rewat Areerob.

The new center is located in a one-story building on Bangjo Road in Tambon Srisoonthorn, Thalang District. It will be dedicated to preventing the spread of Legionnaires' disease, chikungunya, food poisoning and a host of other preventable medical conditions.

Mr Witthaya said Phuket is an important tourist destination in Thailand, generating an income of more than 72.5 billion baht each year.

Despite this, the island is still home to infectious diseases that impact upon the tourism industry.

Such diseases include Legionnaires' disease, which can be caused by bacteria breeding in air conditioning systems, the minister said.

"We have reports that within the last year seven European tourists were infected with Legionnaires' disease while on vacation in Phuket," he said.

One of the Phuket Medical Science Center's responsibilities will be to inspect establishments such as hotels, hospitals and shopping centers to ensure their rooms are free from Legionella bacteria. The center will issue certificates to establishments that reach the required safety standards.



The new center will be dedicated to preventing the spread of Legionnaires' disease, chikungunya and food poisoning, among others.

Thus far, two establishments in Phuket – Vachira Phuket Hospital and Katathani Phuket Beach Resort – have been issued Public Health Ministry certificates declaring them free of Legionella bacteria, he said.

The Phuket Medical Science Center will also focus on checking the food production systems in hotels according to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) food safety standards, he added.

"At this time, 22 hotels in Phuket have received GMP certificates. We also took food samples from 22 convenience stores out of the 202 in Phuket. We found that 68 food samples out of 147 failed to comply with GMP standards," he said.

Food sample testing would reduce the risk of poor quality food being served in Phuket and lead to improved health for both residents and tourists, he added.

"The work of the Phuket Medical Science Center will

boost tourism in Phuket by reassuring tourists they're visiting a safe place," he predicted.

The minister said that chikungunya fever had spread far and wide across Southern Thailand. More than 20,000 cases have been reported, though many more people will have been infected without seeking medical attention, he said.

"Chikungunya fever doesn't kill people, but the disease will cost the country a lot of money in drug spending," he said.

The Ministry of Public Health has set up a committee to fight the disease. Its priority is a campaign to help people avoid being bitten by the Aedes mosquito that carries the chikungunya virus as well as the virus that causes dengue fever.

"Public health volunteers are the main weapon in the fight to increase public awareness and help eliminate potential mosquito breeding areas," he said.

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British Navy ports in Phuket



HMS Bulwark arrived in Phuket with 540 Navy personnel. TOP RIGHT: (from left) Captain Wayne Kable with Britain's military Attache to Thailand Jaques Lamay and TAURUS 09 Task force Commodore Paul Bennet. Photos by Dan miles



One of the largest and most revered ships in the British Royal Navy, the *HMS Bulwark* docked at Phuket's deep sea port on Wednesday morning flanked by the *USS Mitscher*, an Arleigh Burke class destroyer.

The 22,000-ton *HMS Bulwark* – made famous for transporting 1,300 British escapees

from Israeli air-strikes in Beirut in 2006 – has been operating in Southeast Asia for the past six weeks. The stopover gave the ship's crew of 540 men and women a chance to disembark for some well-earned R&R on the island until June 22.

The ship is spearheading the TAURUS 09 task force that includes 11 ships and one nuclear

submarine that sailed from Davenport, UK in February.

Since then, *HMS Bulwark* has negotiated the hostile waters of the coast of Somalia, providing protection for civilian vessels as well as executing training operations in the jungles of Brunei with the 40 Commando Royal Marines on board.

Stored below deck in the

ship's well dock is an assortment of amphibious military hardware used to transport an Embarked Military Force (EMF). However, one of the most impressive on-board defense systems is the "Dutch Maid Goalkeeper" Close In Weapon System (CIWS). The auto cannon is equipped with a radar to automatically select and prioritize the most threatening targets, such as incoming missiles, and fires 3,000 20mm rounds a minute to destroy them.

Speaking from the bridge, Captain Wayne Keble said the TAURUS 09 task force relied on co-operation between partners and allies from NATO countries. The task force also remains on alert for anti-piracy, humanitarian and disaster relief missions.

Capt Keble added that

Bangladeshi, Brunei, Indian, New Zealand, Saudi and US forces had been involved in training operations with *HMS Bulwark* prior to her arrival in Phuket.

Accustomed to life at sea, Captian Keble said that he was personally looking forward to some sailing on his down time here in Phuket but added that many of the crew intended to play cricket, rugby and even try bungee jumping while in Phuket.

Captain Keble and TAURUS 09 Commodore Phil Waterhouse had a busy first day on Phuket with visits to the Governor's office, a meeting with Royal Thai Navy chiefs and then a cocktail party for local dignitaries and Phuket's elite on the main deck of *HMS Bulwark* that night.

- Gazette staff

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Thailand to sign dugong MoU



Concerned residents gather round the carcass of a 40-year-old female dugong found off Koh Rading, Krabi in February. PMBC researchers assume the cause of death was an encounter with fishing equipment.

After two years of lobbying by the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), the government has finally agreed to sign an international memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at protecting the endangered dugong population in Thai waters, the *Gazette* has learned.

Kanjana Adulyanukosol of the PMBC's Endangered Species Unit said the government is now ready to sign the memorandum, introduced by eight member states of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) treaty at a meeting in Abu Dhabi in October, 2007.

At a CMS meeting held in Bali in September last year, representatives of three more nations with dugong populations (Comoros, Kenya and the Philippines) signed the agreement, bringing the number of signatories to 11 – but Thailand was not among them.

The dugong's current range includes the territorial waters

of 37 nations.

"I am happy to say that the government has agreed to sign the dugong MoU. We have tried very hard for over two years to get them to sign, but the political situation has been unstable for the past two or three years," she said.

"After we sign the MoU we will take a more regional and global approach to protecting the dugong and the habitat that sustains them," said Miss Kanjana.

Last year the PMBC published a Thai language book entitled *Seagrass and Dugong Action Plan in Thailand*, she explained.

Seagrass beds, the staple food of the dugong diet, have been negatively affected by coastal development projects in the Andaman Coast region that release accumulations of sediment onto the seabed. This is the most serious long-term threat to the dugong, she said.

Dugong also face more immediate threats in the form of

moving speedboats and abandoned fish netting, in which they can become entangled and drown.

Although happy with the agreement to sign the MoU, Miss Kanjana reiterated that it is a non-binding agreement.

She also expects a lack of budget due to the poor economy to limit the number of activities the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) can organize to get all the many relevant agencies on board.

"Next year will probably be the worst in terms of financial support from the government," she said.

Cabinet unanimously agreed to sign the MoU during a meeting on May 19 this year, though it is still unclear when the document will actually be signed.

The MoU could be signed by Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti or one of his deputies at the next CMS meeting, the date of which has not yet been scheduled.



PMBC researcher Kanjana Adulyanukosol in her office. File photo

Alternatively, it could be signed earlier through Thailand's CMS secretary in Bangkok.

"I don't know exactly when

they will sign, but now that we have reached this stage I am not worried about it anymore," she said.

- Stephen Fein

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PM urges new tactics in South



Two soldiers provide security for a school in Narathiwat's Muang district on June 12. Security was intensified after gunmen opened fire on Thai-Muslims praying in a mosque, killing 10 and injuring many others four days earlier. Photo: Amornrat Khemkhao

DEEP SOUTH: Amidst a shift in tactics by insurgents and the changing nature of their violence, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on June 13 pointed to a need for the authorities to change policies in tackling problems in the Deep South.

The PM said he would also see to it that funding approved for the Deep South reached those it was intended for.

New legislation is being drafted to create a body that would help administer the three southernmost provinces, he said.

People must understand that the insurgents always sought new tactics and the violence was not due to the failure of existing government policies, PM Abhisit said.

Asked if the killing of a monk while Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban was visiting was "audacious" or not, the PM said insurgents often carried out such attacks when senior figures visited the area.

The disbursement of Bt18 billion in development will be closely monitored, Abhisit vowed.

Emphasis will be placed on

public participation and making sure as much money as possible reaches local people.

PM Abhisit defended the Internal Security Operation Command (Isoc), which receives part of the funding, by saying it was not purely military but included other government agencies as well.

He urged the public not to be duped by the insurgents into hating the government and said the government had no reason to want to see the problem worsen and would bring those responsible to justice.

It had been alleged that state security forces were behind the attack on a mosque in Yala on Monday.

Vowing to solve the problem within three years, Mr Suthep urged the public to be as patient as they had been with the red-shirt protesters.

On a visit to Narathiwat, Suthep also dismissed the allegation that the state was behind Monday's mosque attack and he said the truth would eventually emerge.

Accompanied by Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan and Army chief General Anupong Paochinda, Mr Suthep visited Narathiwat's al-Furqan mosque, in which six gunmen fired on worshippers on June 8, killing 10 and injuring 12.

He later visited a hospital where he met people wounded in the attack. The deputy PM in charge of security affairs was also briefed about the ongoing violence in the region during a meeting with officials of Isoc.

Mr Suthep told journalists prior to his departure that the government was trying to apprehend the mosque attackers so that legal action could be taken against them.

State officials were not behind the attack and the government would use peaceful means along with development programs to resolve the violence in the South and raise the standard of living of local people, he said.

The number of security personnel patrolling the region could be increased, he added.

The Nation

Senior policeman denies involvement in murders

SONGKHLA: A high-ranking police officer has denied involvement in the murder of a lawyer and his passenger who were shot dead in their car in Muang District on June 12.

A suspect in an earlier murder case who was travelling in the car but survived the attack identified Lt Col Thanit Saencharoen, head of the Songkhla Provincial Police Drug Suppression Division, as one of the gunmen.

On June 13, Lt Col Thanit reported to headquarters where he denied any involvement in the killing of 43-year-old Phumidet Pathumas and Safina Uleeju, 23.

Col Thanit presented CCTV footage and witnesses which he said proved he could not have been at the crime scene.

The shooting happened as Mr Phumidet was driving his client Traithep "Odd Member" Mugen back from reporting to Songkhla Provincial Court in

Nathawee District, as required under the conditions of Mr Traithep's release on bail on murder charges.

Mr Traithep is the owner of the Member Pub in the border town of Daan Nok ("Outer Limits") in Sadao District. He is a defendant in the murder of a police drug suppression officer who was shot dead in a pub in Daan Nok in April this year (see *Gazette issue of May 2*).

As they were driving through Tambon Koh Taow, a pickup truck pulled alongside and a passenger opened fire with an M-16 assault rifle.

Mr Phumidet and Miss Safina, who was also in the car, died at the scene.

Songkhla Provincial Police Commander Wirun Iamphaichit said police are not yet certain if Mr Traithep was the intended target.

Source: Kom Chad Luek / MCOT

"Magic cicadas" poison villagers

ROI-ET: A large numbers of villagers in Isarn were hospitalized last week after eating cicada nymphs in the belief that the larvae possessed magical powers.

Villagers reported dizziness and violent attacks of vomiting and diarrhea shortly after eating the grubs. Incidents were reported in Roi-Et, Kalasin and Maha Sarakham provinces.

The president of Si Kao Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) in Muang District, Roi-Et told reporters that a TAO member and an assistant village chief had been hospitalized after eating the grubs.

Bunhom Yawarak, a 40-year-old member of Si Kao TAO, told reporters from his sick bed that he had eaten a number of raw cicada larvae he and fellow villagers had dug up from woods in the area.

Villagers have long believed the larvae bring good luck and anyone possessing them will find success in their business. With

this in mind, he and his friends decided to take it one step further and eat the critters, thinking they would have a tonic effect.

It didn't work out as planned. About three hours after eating the bugs, Mr Bunhom began to feel faint and nauseous. He was then violently ill. His wife took him to Roi-Et Hospital, where he stayed until his symptoms subsided.

Mana Khanthirath, Assistant Chief of Village 4, reported similar symptoms to Mr Bunhom and was also taken to Roi Et Hospital.

Dr Phasakon Chaiset of Roi-Et Provincial Public Health Office said some villagers believe the larvae have spiritual powers and can increase virility if eaten.

People should be very careful before eating the nymphs as they stay underground for years and can absorb toxic chemicals from the soil, he said.

It's better if people don't eat them at all, he added.

Source: Kom Chad Luek / Khao Sod

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Wraps to come off panda cub soon



A Chiang Mai Zoo official checks an artificial "snow house" constructed for the panda family of Chuang Chuang, Lin Hui and their new cub. The house will be ready when the cub is introduced to the public between July 4 to 6.

CHIANG MAI: The baby panda everyone loves to love will come under direct public display at the Chiang Mai Zoo between July 4 and July 6.

The birth of the female cub has fascinated the whole nation, but thus far the public has seen her only in newspapers, TV or on computer screens.

Even visitors to the zoo have to watch the doll-like creature from a screen that relays her movements via a closed-circuit system.

"We are now planning to let visitors see the cub directly," said Kannikar Nimtrakul, veterinarian in charge of the panda.

The first direct public display of the cub would take place on July 4, she revealed.

Tickets to view the panda were snapped up quickly and there is already a waiting list into 2010.

"We will arrange two rounds of viewing each day from July 4 to July 6," Ms Kannikar said, adding that the cub would be inside a glass cage during the display.

Born on May 27, by June 12 she weighed 630 grams and was about 24 centimeters long.

It is healthy and gaining weight quickly, the veterinarian said.

The cub was born to Chuang Chuang and Lin Hui. Also living at the Chiang Mai Zoo,

the giant pandas are on loan from China.

Meanwhile, panda project chief Prasertsak Boontrakulpoontawee and Zoological Park Organization director Sophon Damnuai joined a recent delegation headed by Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti on a trip to China.

The delegation was to meet with a Chinese minister to discuss the artificial insemination that led to the birth and on a proposal to establish a permanent panda research centre in Thailand.

If the proposal wins Chinese approval the baby panda as well as its parents would be able to stay in Thailand longer.

According to an agreement with China, the baby panda must head to China within two years of its birth. Coming to Thailand in 2003, Chuang Chuang and Lin Hui are slated to stay in Thailand for 10 years only.

Mr Prasertsak said thousands of names had been submitted to the cub-naming contest ahead of the deadline for suggestions on June 12. They would be narrowed down to four, then the public can vote for their favorite name using specially made postcards, with some of the proceeds going to the Panda Fund. The winning name will be announced on August 12, he said.

Source: The Nation

Politician punched

NAKHON PATHOM: A politician was punched in the face by an angry member of the public last week. The victim, 52-year-old Samrit Kaowkret, was left with a black eye and busted lip.

Mr Samrit, president of Hom Klet Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) in Sampran District, told police that as he was driving through his constituency when a group of villagers flagged down his car.

The villagers were meeting about problems caused by wastewater from a nearby iron smelting plant. They challenged Mr Samrit over his lack of effort to solve the problem, he said.

Mr Samrit said he told the villagers that regulating the plant was not under his authority and that he had already passed on their complaints to the relevant authorities.

Unsatisfied with this response, 49-year-old Somphong Reunamnatsap punched him twice in the face, Mr Samrit told police.

Mr Somphong later admitted punching Mr Samrit for seeming uninterested in the villagers' plight.

Source: Khao Sod

Queer News

TRANG: Police have charged a People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) guard with the rape of a 71-year-old man.

The shocking announcement was made on June 11 by Thian Banthip, deputy superintendent of the Muang District Police in nearby Trang province.

Lt Col Thian identified the alleged rapist as 44-year-old Phuan Thajeen, a member of the PAD's elite guard, the "Srivichai Warriors".

The group played a key role in defending PAD encampments at Government House and Suvarna-bhumi Airport last year after those locations were seized by yellow-shirted PAD demonstrators.

The arrest followed an allegation made by the alleged victim, a 71-year-old man identified only as "Mr Duang" (not his real name).

The senior filed a complaint with police alleging that Mr Phuan raped him following a drinking session at Mr Phuan's home in Tambon Na Yong Tai.

Following his arrest, Mr Phuan admitted that he had sex with Mr Duang, but claimed it was consensual.

Mr Phuan said that as he and Mr Duang were drinking, they began to feel horny and performed oral sex on each other.

After the alleged foreplay, Mr Duang allowed Mr Phuan to perform penetrative sex on him. There was no force involved and the act was consensual, Mr Phuan insisted.

However, Mr Duang claimed that Mr Phuan used force which he, being an old man and not a Srivichai Warrior, was unable to resist.

Mr Phuan has been formally charged with rape.

Inspector Amonrat Suthket, lead officer on the case, said Mr Duang was alleged to be a serial rapist who preyed on male senior citizens in the area.

His latest victim was the first who dared lodge a police complaint against him, police said.

Villagers in the area also alleged that Mr Phuan was fond of having sex with male senior citizens.

Mr Duang did not reveal why he went to drink at Mr Phuan's house, given Mr Phuan's reputation.

Source: Kom Chad Luek / Matichon



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Survivors with beaming smiles



Photos by Jon Fowler



From the steamy island jungles of Borneo, to the ancient temples and landmarks of China, the *Survivor* reality TV series has repeatedly tested the skill, intelligence and endurance of its competitors in some of the most exotic and remote destinations on earth.

On June 6, Phuket joined a long list of challenging locations, when nearby Koh Lon hosted its very own "Survivor Phuket" for a group of never-say-die competitors with beaming smiles and rapier like instincts.

The challenges were tough, but then again they had to be, because tackling them head on were two tribes the likes of which have never been seen before: the fearsome Lions and the crafty Monkeys made up of 16 children from the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation.

The day was a joint venture between the foundation and Coral Seekers boat charter company based in Ao Yon that saw the group of disadvantaged kids head out to the island to take part in some fun team building exercises and give them a chance to explore. The sixteen kids and their teachers were split into their tribes and were then taken by speedboat to their tribal camp on Koh Lon.

Upon arrival, the two tribes met 'island leader' Stu Clark, also Coral Seekers general manager, who set them on their first task of building a water proof shelter.

Given just a few items, both tribes showed tremendous ingenuity and intelligence to build their shelters in just a matter of minutes. The remarkable problem solving aptitude of all 16 kids was evident throughout the entire afternoon as they tackled a total of five tasks – something that was not lost on Stuart, a veteran of corporate team building days.

"We do these activities with corporate groups from big companies; we've had Nokia, Nike, Barclays and indeed all the big banks. The adults don't figure these activities out as quickly as these kids who don't even have English as their first language. They just got on with it, working fantastically well together and were just very, very intelligent," he said.

All the kids that were fortunate enough to be given a chance to go on the trip embraced the opportunity and were polite, enthusiastic and most importantly had permanent smiles etched on their faces throughout the day, much to the delight of Tina Hall, the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation director of operations.

"The kids light up. When you see the children around school they have completely different faces to the huge smiles that you can see today," she said.

The only negative part of the day for Tina was having to disappoint all the other children who had to remain behind at the school in Kamala.

"We turned up the school this morning and we had a list with 16 names. The children just ran over as they obviously saw that something was going on and they were all clamoring to see if their name was on the list. But the looks on their faces when their names weren't there was heartbreaking," Tina revealed.

After the final challenge on Koh Lon, the two tribes headed back to Ao Yon where they were rewarded with a bag of goodies to take with them as a memento of a great day and according to Stuart, the first of many.

"I'd like to do a lot more with the foundation. I've already spoken to them about doing something with more of the kids because they have about 100 residential kids at the school," he said.

The plan is to do a similar event on Kamala Beach – like a mini Olympics half day event – and stay involved with the foundation and Kamala school," he added.

-Daniel Ogunshakin

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Tai Chi Timeout

Welcome to the eighth in the series of Tai Chi Timeouts. Each timeout takes you through a single, easy-to-follow *Tai 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*. The 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. 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.

In this particular exercise we use our imagination to scoop water from the sea as we look up at the sky. The forward bend strengthens the legs, while opening the arms and looking at the sky opens and relaxes the shoulders and expands the lungs.

To begin the exercise, stand with your feet shoulder-width apart, toes pointing forward, your heels firmly planted on the ground and your back straight. Release the tension in your neck and shoulders by slowly rolling your head first to the left, then to the right. Place your hands over your solar plexus (*Tan Tien*) and with a slow even breath, calm and center yourself.

Shift your weight forward

onto your right leg, bend your body forward and cross your hands in front of the right knee. Begin to inhale.

Continue to inhale as you straighten your body until you bend backwards, your hands raised over your head and your eyes looking at the sky. Begin to exhale as you bend forward once more, slowly bringing your hands down until they cross over the knee again. Repeat this sequence for five minutes with the right leg forward and then for five minutes with the left leg forward.

To complete the exercise, step back with your feet together

Rick Attix has been practicing Tai Chi for over 25 years with masters from China, Malaysia and the U.S. Rick holds regular Tai Chi classes at his Kamala garden residence. Classes are held three times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am.

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Step 1: Place your feet shoulder width apart, knees slightly bent, with your hips tucked gently underneath the spine (back straight).


Relax your shoulders and hold your head up, keeping your neck relaxed.

Place your hands over your *Tan Tien*



Step 2: To begin the exercise shift your weight forward onto your right leg until your knee is directly over your foot.

Lean forward until your hands cross over your right knee, then begin to inhale as you slowly straighten up and slowly raise the hands towards your head.



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Step 3: Continue to inhale while you slowly raise your arms overhead.



Step 4: Bring your hands completely over your head while you bend backward, looking up at the sky.



Step 5: Begin to exhale as you slowly lean forward and bring your hands down alongside your body.



Step 6: Continue to exhale as you slowly shift your weight onto your right leg again, bringing your hands down by your knee.



Step 7: Bring your hands all the way down until they cross over your right knee. Repeat the exercise for five minutes with the right leg forward. Change legs putting the left leg forward and repeat the exercise again for five minutes.



Step 8: To complete the exercise, slowly bring the Chi down to your *Tan Tien* and gather the Chi within.



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Phuket's own waltzing Matilda



Karen Alexander moved to Phuket and opened the Phuket Academy of Dance where she continues the family tradition of teaching ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary dance to her mother's same exacting standards.

When the stars of the Phuket Academy of Dance present their annual concert at the Mövenpick Resort on June 20, people might be surprised to learn that there will be a celebrity backstage.

Dorothy Alexander – mother of Phuket Academy of Dance founder Karen – was formerly one of Australia's most fa-

mous performers in the era before television. A featured contortionist and skilled acrobat with the famous Flying DePauls team, she toured around Australia as a child, drawing crowds who were excited to see the young starlet.

"I began performing at the age of two and had a natural talent for performing contortions. Of course, it's easier to train a young

child due to increased flexibility but I seemed to have a particular talent. This was in the era after the war before television came to Australia and people were starved for entertainment. It was a wonderful experience to be on stage delighting the crowds," Dorothy remembers.

Dorothy toured with the Flying DePauls for many years until she gave up performing on stage for the more settled life as a mother but despite no longer touring the country, Dorothy still had a passion for performing arts. While she was still a young woman, she opened the Alexander School of Dance in her native Sydney.

"I had the school for 30 years teaching ballet, tap, jazz and aerobics. Some students came to me as children and were still taking classes thirty years later. I even had a number of well-known footballers train with me to improve their flexibility," Dorothy said.

Dorothy introduced her daughter Karen to dance when



Dorothy Alexander – mother of Phuket Academy of Dance founder Karen – was formerly one of Australia's most famous performers in the era before television.

she was also two years old and, like her mother, the youngest Alexander immediately showed a talent for movement.

Under her mother's direction, Karen went on to win many of Australia's top awards for choreography and dance.

"My motto has always been 'near enough is not good enough' as I believe in perfection when it comes to choreography and performance. The Alexander School of Dance won the top awards for choreography for ten years in a row in Australia due to exacting standards of style and competitiveness," Dorothy explains.

Five years ago, Karen Alexander moved to Phuket and opened the Phuket Academy of Dance where she continues the family tradition of teaching ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary

dance to her mother's same exacting standards.

Today, Karen has a full roster of students who will present the best of their work at the June 20 "Let's Dance" concert.

"This year's show will be cabaret-style which is more demanding as it requires a more disciplined, co-ordinated effort," says Karen.

"It's all new choreography with unbelievable costumes, many of which Dorothy designed. Though she is retired, I depend upon her opinion when I put a show together," she adds.

The three-hour extravaganza begins at 5pm in the ballroom of the Mövenpick Resort at Karon Beach. Tickets are available by contacting Linda Cumming. Tel: 081-8937749.

-Bruce Stanley

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EXPAT GALLERY

Eric Smulders

Eric Smulders has brought some of the world's most renowned and collectible art to Phuket for the benefit of his high-net-worth clients who value his taste in contemporary art. He refers to his Soul of Asia gallery as 'almost a museum' due to the high value of its offerings.

Eric grew up in a family in Holland that collected Dutch Old Masters paintings for many generations.

"Holland has an incredible history of enterprising artists in the 17th century. There were at least 10,000 known Dutch painters during that time, who are now referred to as the Old Masters, in addition to the Flemish painters who were then part of the Netherlands."

His early exposure to classical art stayed with him even though he chose to study economics at the Carnegie Institute of Technology where he was awarded a Masters Degree. He went on to enroll in the Senior Management Program at Harvard University.

Eric decided to live and work in Asia and spent ten years as the Managing Director of the largest foreign trading company in Japan. He worked with products from textiles to machinery. After a two-year stint as Managing Director of the upscale Cartier brand in the Far East, he

decided to join a small food trading company in Hong Kong, providing supplies to hotels in mainland China.

"I joined up with Freezeland Foods, as after working for big corporations for 20 years I wanted to make my own footprint in life. I traveled through China and sold our food products to hotels around the country. Eventually, we were handling 300 forty-foot containers every month."

Eric's love of art then resurfaced and he opened his first gallery in Hong Kong which specialized in the Dutch Old Masters. Once he retired from his own business in 2000, he began to visit Phuket.

"I was immediately attracted to the beauty of the island and all the many benefits of living here, such as all the international restaurants and shopping, the opportunities for year around yachting, the wonderful medical care and the pleasure of living in an international community. I think Phuket is the only place to live in Asia."

During one of his early visits to Phuket, he was sailing off Kamala Bay when he spotted an attractive piece of land which he was eventually able to buy. He built his contemporary tropical estate to allow 270 degree views of the Andaman Sea.

"I decided to open Soul of

Asia in Phuket City as I discovered two old Sino-Portuguese buildings that were irresistible. With four meter ceilings, they were the perfect space for my collection of big paintings."

He opened his first Soul of Asia gallery in 2003, offering Asian antiques and furniture, paintings by Vietnamese and Chinese painters, costume jewelry, antique Chinese rugs, and an impressive selection of highly valued Western art by Salvador Dali, Picasso and Andy Warhol.

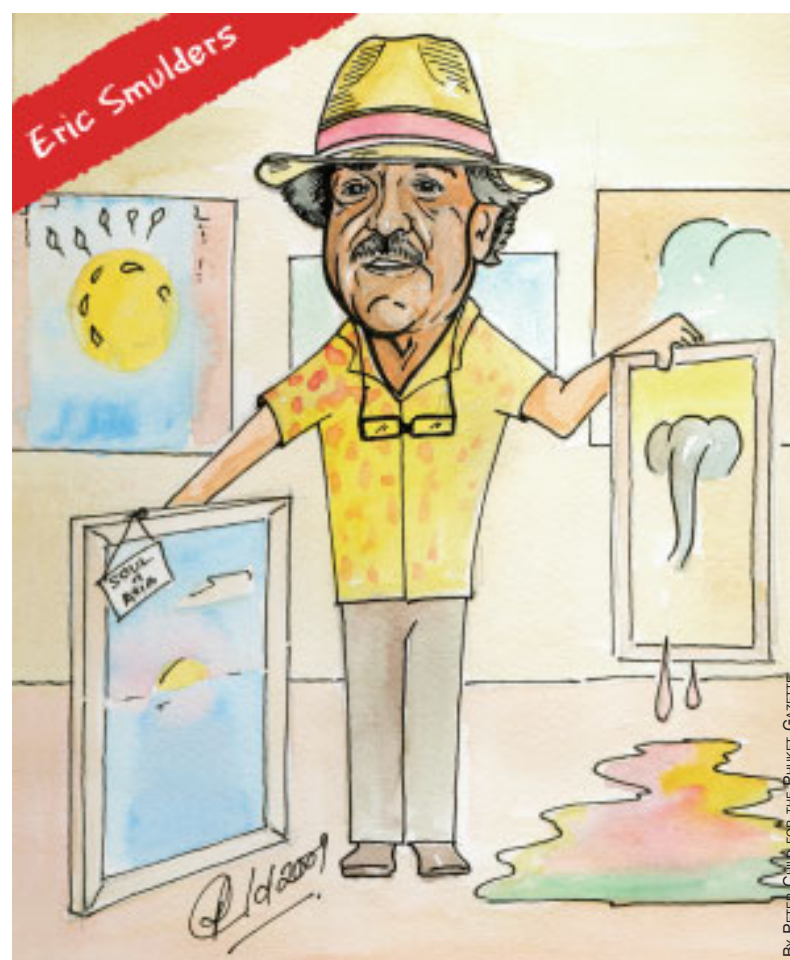
Of particular interest is his impressive collection of paintings by contemporary Chinese artists.

"Chinese painters have extensive training and are bursting with creativity. I visit the art fairs in China and the galleries in Shanghai and Beijing to find emerging new talent whose work excels at attention to detail and painting skills no longer generally taught in the West."

Eric has expanded Soul of Asia and now there are three galleries, including a recently opened boutique gallery at the fashionable Marriot Resort at Mai Khao Beach.

"I'm adapting my sales strategy to fit the new global economy. For the top pieces, the market is still strong, but the middle income market has dropped considerably. I'm finding buyers to be more discriminating. I think it will take a long time for the art market to return to the enthusiastic spending days before the onset of the current economic downturn."

- Bruce Stanley



By PETER CHILDS FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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FILIPINO FIESTA: Members of Phuket's 850-strong Filipino community gathered at the Metropole Hotel to celebrate the 111th Philippine Independence Day on June 14. The event also doubled as the awards ceremony for the triumphant men and women of the recent Pinoy Sports Fest.



HIP HOP HOORAY: DJ Solo (left), Stereo Lab owner Thomas Alexandre (center) and DJ Illest kept Hip Hop alive and kicking at the bar's "Hip Hop is Not Dead" party on June 6.



HEALTHY LIVING: Thai TV chef Yingsak Jonglertjetsadawong (center) with Bangkok Hospital Phuket staff during the hospital's 2009 Be Healthy Fair, which was held on June 6. Chef Yingsak was helping promote healthy eating ideas at the Heart Center's healthy products booth, where he made fresh guava juice drink and shrimp cocktails.



NO BUTTS: Ekgarat "Dax" Wongchalad, lead vocalist of Thai rock group Big Ass, belted out the hits at a concert at the Phuket Brewery on June 13.



AESTHETICALLY PLEASING: Thai artist Kritsana Chaikitwattana (2nd from right) showing off his latest collection at D Gallery last month during the launch of the second "Absolutely Aesthetics" exhibition. Also pictured are D Gallery's Managing Director Pornthip Raksapiksu (2nd from left) and guests.



TAKING THE PLUNGE: A group of 14 government officers celebrate passing a three-day CMAS one-star dive course at Dewa Phuket on June 13. The course included a day's open water diving at Koh Racha and was organized in collaboration with the Thai Diving Association, the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket Office, the Sports Authority of Thailand Phuket Office, Phuket Provincial Office, Aqua Divers and Eden Divers.



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Turkish delight

CHEAP eats

By Dan Waites and Thanasorn Chookate

If you've ever dreamed of chowing down on *Izmir kofte* with Jim Morrison, now's your chance – at Phuket Town's Roxy Bar. But what's *Izmir kofte*, I hear you ask? Didn't the Doors' hallowed crooner-philosopher "break on through" forty years ago, you say? And just what and where is Roxy Bar, you wonder? Questions, questions. All will be answered: brace yourself.

First things first. Tucked away on Phang Nga Road just off Soi Pradit, Roxy is a family business owned by brothers Nuno and Josh Isitemiz, all the way from Istanbul, Turkey. You'll know it by the sparkly lights at the doorway – not to mention the loud rock music that often emanates from within. Nuno, fiancée Mimi and barmaid Wan run the place with a slogan in mind: "feel at home". Home's just what it's become for a growing band of Phuket exiles who are as much part of the furniture as the pool table. Still, this is no clique. "When you're strange, no one remem-

bers your name," sang Morrison. They do here. Nuno greets every new face like an old friend.

And Morrison, how's he fit into all this? Is he alive and well and chugging Chang in a Phuket rock bar? Not exactly, but he's there in spirit. Jim's painted visage gazes haughtily over the pool table – rarely out of use, not least on Friday night, "killer" night (what's killer? No time to explain. Turn up on Friday night and find out). Jules and Vincent from *Pulp Fiction* occupy another wall, brandishing frothing pints rather than guns (it's a peaceful establishment).

Other notable Roxy Bar entertainments include live sport, darts and, new this month, steaming-hot Nintendo Wii action on the big screen.

Oh yes, and Wednesday night's the ever-popular quiz night, led by interrogator-in-chief Eric Haeg.

But isn't this a food column? What's the beef? Well, at Roxy Bar the beef is generally minced, spiced and rolled into meatballs. At least it is since Nuno et al introduced their brand new Turkish menu (though fear not, you can still get a burger).

It's about time Turkish food – surely one of the world's great cuisines – made it to Phuket. It's

long been conspicuous by its absence. Roxy's customers agreed. "Everybody who came here and found out we're Turkish said 'Turkish food is great, why don't you serve it?'," Nuno says. So mom whipped up a menu and the rest was history.

"As far as I know, we're the only people serving real Turkish food in Phuket," Nuno adds.

So what's *Izmir kofte*? Why, it's *kofte* – Turkish meatballs – from Izmir, of course. "Every city in Turkey has its own *kofte*," says Nuno. In the case of *Izmir kofte*, they're fried and then baked with potatoes and tomato sauce. They're served with rice and a side salad – complete with red onions spiced with *sumac*, a bright purple spice that lends them a distinct citrus flavor.

Most of the dishes on the Roxy Turkish menu feature meatballs in some shape or form. Spiced with cumin and *kofte bahari* – an allspice mix imported from Turkey – they're served in any number of ways. *Kadinbuda kofte* (*kadinbuda* means "women's legs") are fried in flour and egg and served with rice and salad. In *Adana durum* – "Turkey's answer to the hamburger" according to Nuno – they're wrapped in tortillas. Other dishes have them suspended in



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Ali Nazik kebab, Izmir kofte, Adana durum and (not for consumption) Josh and Nuno Isitemiz, Roxy's owners.

spicy tomato sauce or just served plain with fries. However they're done, they're rather delicious.

There are *kofte*-free dishes, of course. *Dolma* (meaning "stuffed") are large red peppers stuffed with rice and minced beef and served with home-made yoghurt. Another dish calls itself *karniyarik*, meaning "open belly". The open bellies are those of eggplants, which are sliced open and stuffed with spiced minced beef before being baked in the oven. And another favorite, *Ali Nazik kebab*, is mashed eggplants mixed with fried minced beef, yoghurt, chili sauce and parsley.

For anyone used to the fare generally on offer in Phuket's bars and restaurants, it's interesting stuff. And at 100-120 baht a dish, it won't break the bank. Much like the eggplants in *karniyarik*, you'd do well to "open belly" to Roxy's rather fine line in Turkish comfort food. Even if Jim's only there in spirit.

Contact: Roxy Bar, 50 Phang Nga Road, Taladyai, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 081-397 0033 (Nuno), 089- 4701711 (Josh), Thai: 086 -0359385 (Mimi). E: josh@roxybarphuket.com. W: www.roxybarphuket.com



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Combating climate change

The airline industry generally gets a very unfair rap for contributing to CO2 emissions that cause climate change.

Here are some of the most important measures being taken by the industry, which contributes just 2% to CO2 emissions worldwide.

Biofuel technology: Innovative airlines like Air New Zealand have already flown a Boeing 747-400 jumbo jet using a mixture of biofuel extracted from the jatropha plant which grows wild in Africa and A1 jet fuel to power one Rolls Royce RB211 engine. Other airlines are conducting similar tests. It will still be a few years before biofuels can be used commercially, but they could eventually reduce the carbon footprint of airlines by up to 80%, according to the International Air Transport Association [IATA]

Shorter routes: IATA is also urging countries to ease up on airspace restrictions. For example, China only recently agreed to let aircraft fly over its territory on flights from points in Southeast Asia to London. The shorter routes have saved many millions in fuel costs.

Offset programs: Some 30 airlines also have carbon "offset programs" that allow passengers to donate the equivalent cost of the carbon footprint associated with a particular flight to an organization dedicated to environmental sustainability.

Decommissioning: Another initiative that goes largely unnoticed is the rapid retirement of old, fuel-hungry aircraft. In cargo transportation, which contributes 2.3% to global emissions, older aircraft such as DC-10s, the B747-100 and 200 are being phased out quickly.

Improved technology: Aircraft technology over the past 40 years has improved enormously, with a 70% increase over that period and 23% increase in the last decade alone. New generation aircraft, such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner due for introduction this year, are made of light but very strong carbon fiber materials that will generate an estimated 20% in additional fuel savings.

Industry agenda: The IATA agenda is ambitious: 25% improvement in fuel efficiency by 2020 compared to 2005; use of 10% alternative fuels by 2017 and a 50% absolute reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. Those dates sound a long way off, but given the acceleration of climate change and the very long lead in times to introduce new aviation technology, they are realistic.

Rolling out the red carpet

What do mega-rich American daytime host Oprah Winfrey and Phuket International Airport (PIA) have in common? They are both part of the exclusive, rarefied world of the VIP business jet industry.

News that PIA is to get VIP private jet facilities is not only good news for Phuket, but it comes at the right time – even though private jet ownership still attracts its fair share of criticism.

Take Ms Winfrey, one of the most powerful media figures in the US. She has been criticized for using a private jet to attend high profile events in the US because of the impact on the environment. Critics ask: "why not take a regular commercial flight?"

Ms Winfrey – and others like her – have been defensive of their use of private jets. Ms Winfrey has even urged college students to work hard like she has so that they, too, could one day own a private jet.

We are not sure if we will be seeing Ms Winfrey on Phuket, but you can rest assured that the growing private jet traffic into PIA will include



Britain's Prince Charles walks out of his private jet upon arrival at Halim Perdanakusuma airport in Jakarta in November last year in a visit to promote the preservation of forests and interfaith dialogue in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. AFP PHOTO/ROSLAN RAHMAN

some very wealthy, famous luminaries – the kind who cherish their privacy.

In fact, the private jet industry itself is fighting back against such criticism. Citing its contribution to the global economy, industry players have been banding together to educate politicians and the media.

Some elements of the US media were quick to criticize CEOs of US automakers who flew in on private jets to attend congressional hearings on the multi-billion-baht bailout of their own industry.

The fact is in Europe alone the business jet industry supports around 36,000 highly skilled people and generated 8.8 billion euros in revenue in 2008. It is big business and high quality, popular tourist and investment destinations like Phuket are showing great foresight in developing specialist VIP facilities.

The timing would appear to be about right, despite the world recession. Business jet manufacturers are starting to talk with "cautious optimism", saying that the market may have bottomed out.

In the US, industry lobbyists have been working hard to ensure politicians understand the importance of the business jet sector.

Who are the main manufacturers and what do they offer?

The biggest names are Gulfstream Aerospace (US), Dassault (France), Cessna (US), Embraer (Brazil) and Bombardier Business Aircraft of Canada, which makes the famous Learjet.

And what do these companies offer the Oprah Winfreys of the world?

One leasing company offers a range of aircraft, starting with turboprop, then up to light jet, mid-sized jet, heavy jet and "execuliner". Helicopters are also available.

The execuliner, probably only for filthy rich people like Oprah and Madonna, can be anything from a Boeing business jet to a mainstream B757 (up to 279 seats) or 767 (maximum 255 seats). An execuliner seats only 15-25 passengers, flying up to 7,000 miles at Mach 0.79 with bedrooms, dining rooms, theaters and private baths among other amenities.

Most VIP aircraft fall into the mid-sized jet category. These include Learjet, Hawker, Falcon, Citation and Astra that seat up to eight passengers. They typically have a range of up to 2,500 miles and an average cruising speed of 460mph.

They can accommodate four golfers and their golf clubs or a family of six and luggage for a week's holiday. That range makes a non-stop flight from Beijing to Phuket quite comfortable.

The heavy jets, such as Gulfstream, Global and Challenger can fly up to 4,500 miles at Mach 0.79, offering in-flight services such as a sit down dinner, plasma TVs and couches that open to beds. The 4,500 mile range is just over the distance from Sydney to Bangkok.

All of this sounds very glamorous, but in reality VIP jets are not all champagne flutes and luxury interiors. In many companies, the corporate jet is just a flying office – with plastic coffee cups and cramped conditions.

Still, if they all want to come to Phuket and use the new facilities, bring it on.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

June 20. Phuket Academy of Dance

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

June 21. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

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

June 28. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

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

July 5. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

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

July 7. Asarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 8. Buddhist Lent Day (Khao Pansa)

Occurs one day after the full-moon day of the eighth lunar month (Asarnha Bucha). Khao Pansa marks the beginning of the annual three-month Rain Retreat during which Buddhist monks customarily stay at a particular temple to study and meditate. The monks are not allowed to stay overnight at any other location during this period. A candle festival is held annually on this day. Sculpted beeswax candles, generally depicting mythological creatures, are carried in a ceremonial parade in each province before being presented to local temples.

July 12. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

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

July 12. Phuket Surf Lifesaving Carnival 2009

The Phuket Lifeguard Club, a non-profit organization established in 2003, invites you to join Phuket's second-

Phuket International Fashion Week & Music Festival

Phuket is set to host its first ever international fashion week from June 24 to June 30 at Jungceylon Shopping Complex. More than 100 top models and celebrities will showcase the latest collections from some of the world's best designers. Phuket International Fashion Week and Jungceylon will also play host to 27 of Thailand's top musicians who will perform seven concerts over seven amazing nights. All of the fashion shows are free and concert tickets start at 300 baht. Tickets are available from Jungceylon or www.thaiticketmajor.com. Be a part of the event of the year! From 6pm to 10pm. For further information contact Mr Trisorn. T: 080-993 3331. E: info@phuketfashionweek.com. W: www.phuketfashionweek.com.

ever Surf Lifesaving Carnival at Loma Park, Patong Beach, on July 12. The carnival consists of 80 events for under 18s to over 50s and is open to local and international competitors with a variety of swimming, rescue and sprint events. The emphasis is on having a great time and being part of a great sporting event. The event is being sponsored by Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. From 8:30am to 5pm at Loma Park, Patong Beach. For further information contact Jayne MacDougall. T: 089-645 2576 E: jayne.macdougall@lemeridien.com. W: phuketlifeguard.com

July 16. Boathouse Writer's Night with S. Tsow

S. Tsow washed up on the sunny shores of Thailand in 1986. While his main occupation was teaching English at Thammasat University, he contributed humor and travel articles to the *Bangkok Post* and *The Nation*, resulting in collections published in two books, Thai Lite 1 and Thai Lite 2. Tsow has also been writing for the *Phuket Gazette* for well over a decade, and is now approaching his 200th Tsowndings column for the newspaper. "Somebody must tell this guy it's time to quit," critics have grumbled, but Tsow, now a senile 71, responds by turning off his hearing aid and croaking, "I'll keep inflicting literary atrocities upon the public till they pry the keyboard from my cold, dead hands." From 7pm to 9pm at Mom Tri's Boathouse. For further information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076-330015. E: pr@boathousephuket.com. W: www.boathousephuket.com.

July 19. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact

Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468.

E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

July 22 – 26. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek

Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is a yachting regatta, staged off Phuket's southwest coast in the windy monsoon season. Offering four days of world-class yacht racing across seven classes, combined with five nights of fantastic five-star beachside parties, Raceweek attracts yachts, skippers, crew and party animals from around the world.

Whether you come to race your own yacht, charter a local yacht to race, find a crew place on someone else's yacht or just enjoy the parties, this is one of the most glittering sailing events in Southeast Asia.

Check out our website, including the "crew wanted" pages – someone is always short of crew. From 10am to 12pm at Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. For further information contact Grenville Forham. T: 076-264491. E: raceweek@image-asia.com. W: www.phuketraceweek.com.

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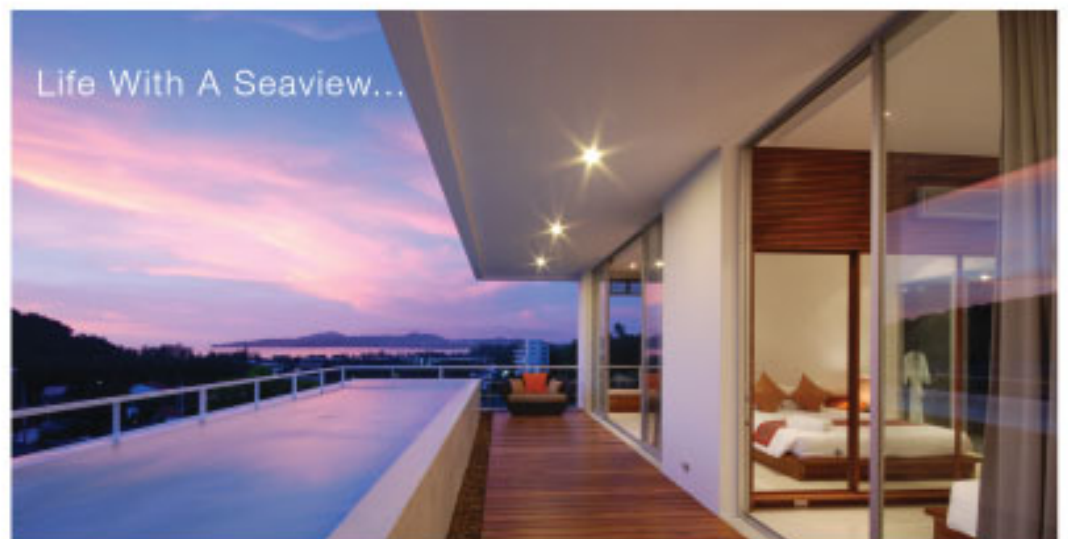
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The four sides of investment funds



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

All funds, aside from the investor, consist of four segments: the fund manager, the fund administrator, the custodian bank and the auditors.

The fund manager has to be an acceptable financial institution within the jurisdiction that the fund is registered, while the second party – the fund administrator – deals with paperwork related to incoming investments and repayments. Sometimes the fund manager and fund administrator are the same group, but in the majority of cases they are separate. The latest trends are towards a separation of these activities.

Many fund administrators deal with a large number of fund management groups; Custom House in Dublin, Ireland is a good



Deputy US Attorney Larry Thomson (center), Task Force Prosecutor Leslie Cauldwell (left) and Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff during the Enron investigation. AFP Photo/Tim Sloan

example.

Custodian banks have an important role to play as they hold the various assets and cash of their respective funds. This is an interesting alternative source of revenue for banks and there are a number of them that have a large part of their operations dedicated to this function. Well known banks in this sector include Northern Trust, State Street, Citigroup and Investec to name a few.

In the event of a custodian bank, say, Citigroup experiencing financial difficulties, the custodian

area is not under threat. No creditor or any other party may seize assets, although it would be technically possible for Citigroup to sell its whole custodian operation to a company like JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Realistically, that would only be possible in theory as the government regulator would have a long, hard look at the transaction and individual fund management groups might wish to choose a new custodian.

All funds have auditors and it is their duty to ensure that ev-

erything related to the fund is carried out properly and that the accounts of all funds are completely accurate.

It has been suggested to me that auditors are often subjected to pressure, especially by large groups. This was certainly the case when Enron – a company, not a fund – had its accountants involved in destroying incriminating documents.

This was when there was a “big five” in the world of accounting. The big five ruled over the accounting empire until one of their number – Arthur Andersen – broke the 11th commandment: “Thou shalt not get caught”.

Regardless that only a few individuals in California were actually involved in document shredding, Arthur Andersen worldwide was forced to disband. Many fine people had careers ruined by the actions of a few. Attitudes at the remaining “big four” changed; no longer would there be any indulgence to assist a client, regardless of size.

None of the big four are really in competition with the other members of the group. Companies using their services usually use one of the big four as auditors and another member for consultancy work. Fund managers routinely use one of the big four as fund auditors. It must be some years since I have seen any auditing firm that is not a member of this clique being used in this context. The fund management business, far larger in total than the whole of the US economy, continues to make strides and recent years have

seen the introduction of hedge funds. It is strange that some people have odd perceptions of what a hedge fund actually is and does and there have been a lot of negative comments made about the hedge fund industry, the vast majority of which is undeserved.

It is, however, easy to understand the negative bias. In America, regulations prohibit investors with less than US\$5 million in assets, using hedge funds and investors must prove they have investment experience. Naturally, they were viewed as elitist. Based internationally and offshore, hedge funds had an easier and more welcoming regulatory environment. This does not mean they escaped close official attention.

The term “hedge fund” is somewhat misleading as it encompasses such a vast range of strategies. Some hedge fund managers saw the looming crisis in the sub prime market and devised strategies to profit from the crisis. Their investors were naturally delighted.

There is a place in the world for hedge funds, although anyone contemplating such an investment would be well advised to read the fund prospectus in full, together with all other related material. To know one hedge fund is not to know them all.

Many hedge funds have closed down, due to low returns or have suffered losses. In these cases the assets were divided among investors after being reduced to cash. This is not new to the fund industry, it happens all the time. The usual reason is that “ABC Group” launch, say, an “emerging markets fund” just before a routine bloodletting in the said category. Even when emerging markets recover, ABC’s fund still looks bad compared with its peers. ABC simply closes the fund, liquidates the assets and sends checks to investors.

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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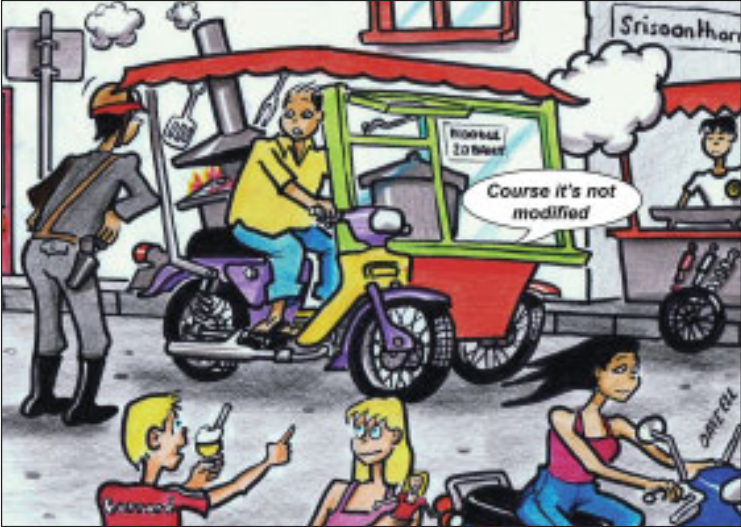
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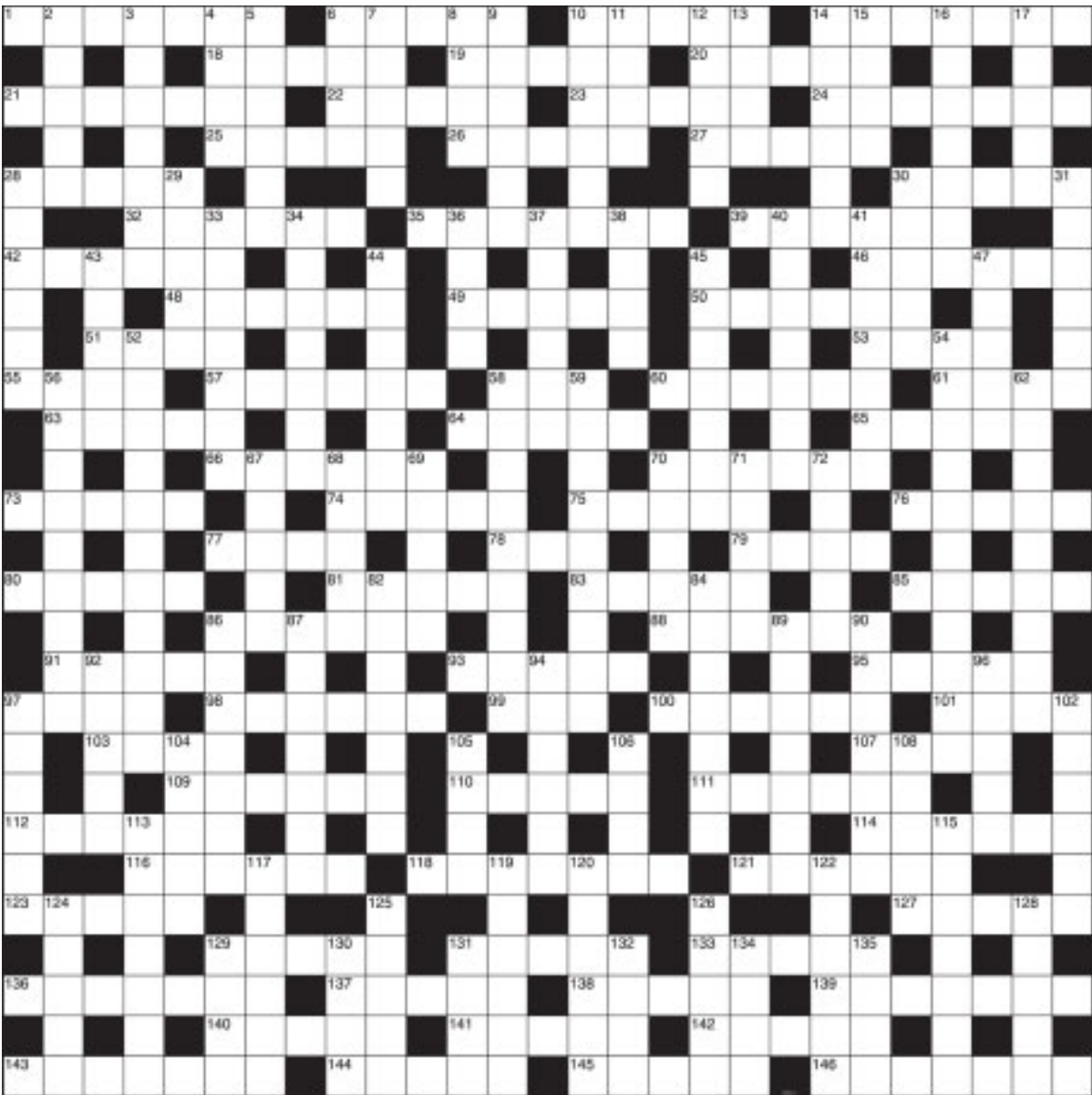
PUZZLES

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. Sleeping in tents
6. Vigilant
10. Move with tide
14. Underwriter
18. Raise spirits of
19. Strange
20. Revived (music)
21. Fatal disease
22. Chat-show hostess,... Winfrey
23. Saying
24. Weirdness
25. Cover with cloth
26. Roam stealthily
27. Backbone
28. Dairy product
30. Insinuate
32. Invaded
35. Bestowed gift
39. Provoke
42. Eggbeaters
46. French woman's title
48. Opts
49. Sewn folds
50. Involve
51. Saintly glow
53. Write with keyboard
55. Signal
57. Groaned
58. Meat and three...
60. African antelope
61. Crones
63. India's New...
64. Of oceanic flow
65. Not these but...
66. Lamb chop
70. Soccer keeper
73. Hessian bags
74. Stench
75. Coal strata
76. Marine growth
77. Elderly

Down

2. Find repugnant
3. Columns
4. Dorky youth
5. Glowered
6. Upon
7. Social outcast
8. Gather (crops)
9. Iran's capital
10. Simpleton
11. Authentic
12. Romp
13. Short-term worker
14. Perversely coinci dental
15. Nodule
16. Anonymous (source)
17. Painting stand
28. Cringes
29. Manufacturer
30. Boot-shaped coun try
31. Surrenders
33. Of Muslim faith
34. Fascinate
36. Ins &...
37. Bent over
38. Alternatively, or...
40. Girls' court sport
41. Mimic
43. Mental picture
44. Showed (to seat)
45. Lunar phase (3,4)
47. Regions
52. Something most im probable
54. Office duplicator
56. Impractical dream ers

78. Cry of discovery
79. Infant's carriage
80. Cinema gangway
81. Proclamation
83. Nephew's sister
85. Former Russian leader,... Yeltsin
86. Likeliest to win (4-2)
88. Extended
91. Belonging to them
93. Human trunk
95. Local expression
97. Functions
98. Smoothed (wood)
99. Born as
100. Making mistake
101. Lessen
103. Skin irritation
107. Heads of corn
109. Pretentious (2-2-2)
110. Cheerful
111. Desire for water
112. Crushing snake
114. Salutes with drink
116. Estimate (damages)
118. Mopped
121. Light-splitting crys tals
123. Quickly
127. Lucifer
129. Metric length unit
131. Either yes or no
133. Explorer,... Polo
136. Language rules
137. Not suitable
138. Glittering metallic fabric
139. Coroner's hearing
140. Section of journey
141. On no occasion
142. Of topical interest
143. Bashful behaviour
144. Set in one's ways
145. Amphibians

146. Passage from text
58. Quivering
59. Arouse to action
62. Window-box plants
67. Impelled
68. Rock veins
69. Poison
70. Donor
71. Colorado ski resort
72. Mindless
82. Irish county
84. Orange vegetables
86. Parentless kids
87. Personal journals
89. Dirtier
90. Absorbs
92. Robbery
94. Resume (case)
96. Desert waterhole
97. Perfect society
102. Encourages (4,2)
104. Shut
105. Dish,... suey
106. Razzmatazz
108. Minute particles
113. Famous actor, Gene...
115. Normally (2,1,4)
117. Turns inside-out
119. Gave speech
120. Wine cup
122. Cut into
124. Sit
125. Doctrine
126. Edit
128. Greek fable maker
129. Church service
130. Picnic blankets
131. Very short skirt
132. European currency
134. Discontinues
135. Banded gemstone

Solution on next page

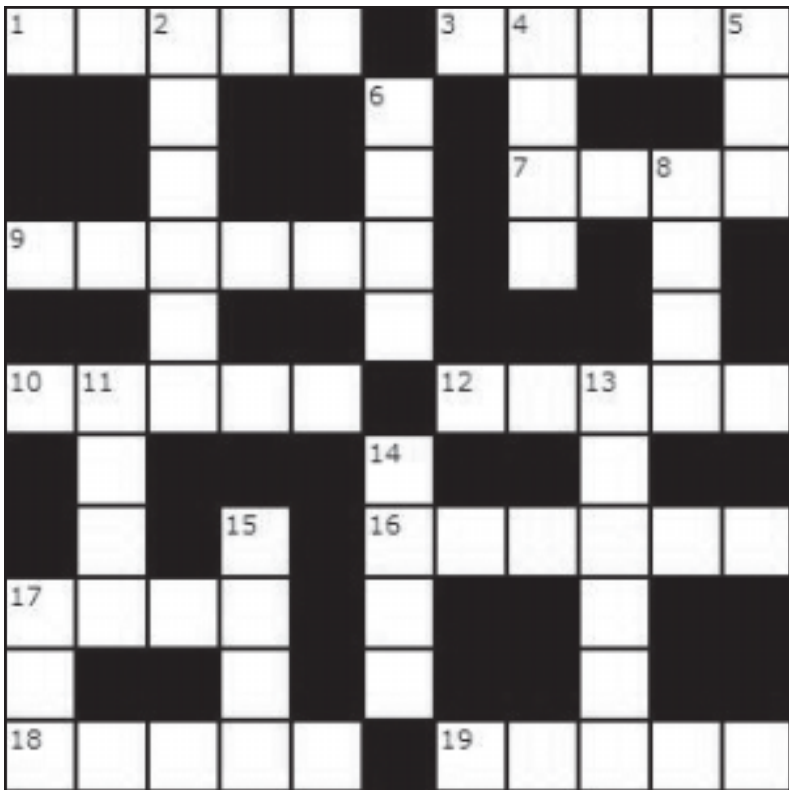
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Month
3. Tells the time
7. Gentle
9. Quit
10. Study
12. Designer, ... Lauren
16. Expert
17. Flip...
18. Happening
19. Delicious

Down

2. Country
4. Animal
5. Child
6. Boom!
8. Circle
11. Nasty
13. Women
14. Potato
15. Not closed
17. Price

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. On TV, who or what was Skippy?
2. What does a funambulist do?
3. What is the name of Dennis the Menace's dog?
4. What are bactrians and dromedaries?
5. Who played Richard Kimble in *The Fugitive*?
6. Who was the "King of Swing"?
7. Who was the first man to fly across the channel?
8. Who starred as Rocky Balboa?
9. In which war did The Charge of the Light Brigade take place?
10. Who is credited with inventing the television?
11. Who would have used a mashie niblick?
12. In the famous song, who killed Cock Robin?
13. What do deciduous trees commonly do?
14. In golf what name is given to a three wood?
15. If you are suffering with caries who would you consult?
16. By what other name is Oliver Mellors famously known?
17. What did Jack Horner pull from his pie?
18. How many feet in a fathom?
19. Which film had song called "Springtime for Hitler"?
20. Name the leg-less fighter pilot of WW2?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



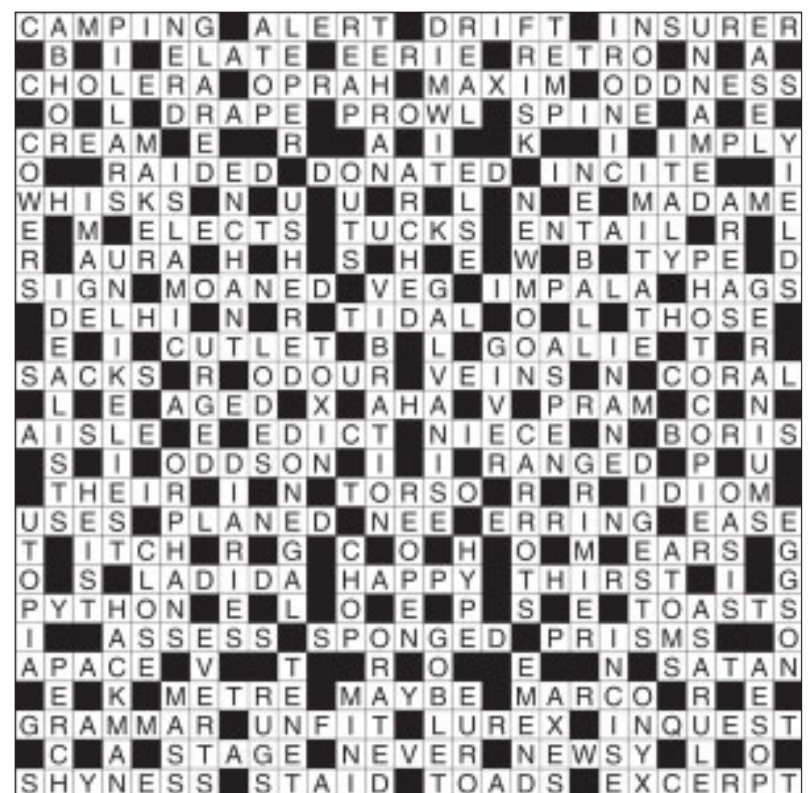
Monster Quiz Answers

1. The bush kangaroo;
2. Tightrope walker;
3. Gnasher;
4. Camels (one hump or two);
5. David Janssen;
6. Benny Goodman;
7. Louis Bleriot;
8. Sylvester Stallone;
9. Crimean;
10. John Logie Baird;
11. Golfer;
12. Sparrow;
13. Lose their leaves in winter;
14. Spoon;
15. Dentist - its tooth decay;
16. Lady Chatterlys Lover;
17. Plum;
18. Six;
19. The Producers;
20. Douglas Bader.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Tortured by a Hollywood hack

What do Julie Christie, Brigitte Bardot, Madonna, Cher, Vivien Leigh, Jane Fonda, Catherine Deneuve, Barbra Streisand, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, Joan Collins, Maria Callas, Natalie Wood and Britt Ekland have in common?

They all slept with Warren Beatty. When Woody Allen was asked what he would like to come back as in another life, he responded: "Warren Beatty's fingertips."

So this was one motive for picking up Robert Sellers' book *Bad Boy Drive* (Preface, London, 2009, 273pp), subtitled "The Wild Life and Fast Times of Marlon Brando, Dennis Hopper, Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson". The other motive is that the book is packaged very nicely in a trade paperback format, leading me to think this was something other than the trash work of a Hollywood hack.

How wrong I was. Robert Sellers has published 10 books about the movies and Hollywood stars. His most recent I had vaguely heard of, *Hellraisers:*

The Life and Inebriated Times of Richard Burton, Richard Harris, Peter O'Toole and Oliver Reed.

Sellers has now turned his sights to four Americans. "Bad Boy Drive" was the nickname of the stretch of Mulholland Drive where Brando, Beatty and Nicholson had houses. Dennis Hopper didn't but I guess Sellers needed a fourth.

This is a terrible read which leaves behind a foul taste. Sellers seems to like Nicholson for his raffish sense of humor, but he portrays Brando as a gluttonous slob, Beatty as a self-absorbed snob and Hopper as a drug-crazed loony. They all go through a lot of women which Sellers recounts with a panting leer. His pages are rife with gratuitous obscenities and he leaves no cliché unturned, including the use of "Tinsel Town".

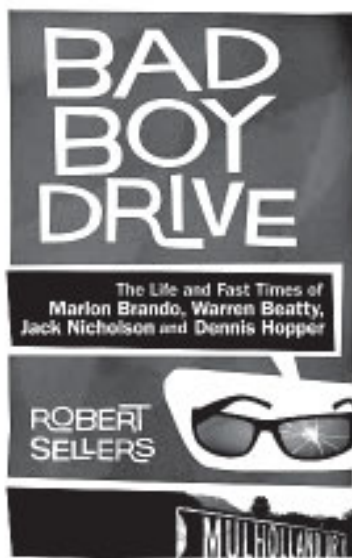
Here he is on one of Beatty's early Hollywood romances with "British sexpot" Joan Collins:

"It was love, addictive love, for Joan, who was twice suspended by 20th Century Fox, with whom she was under contract, for



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



refusing film roles in order to be with Warren. Considering his sex addiction, which meant they got down to it four or sometimes five times a day, every day, it's no surprise that Joan never wanted to be out of his sight, presumably fearing that he might end up rutting the sideboard or an innocent maid who had only popped in to turn down the beds. Joan had good cause to worry about Warren's roving eye: he'd tried to bed starlet Mamie Van Doren, without success. 'Warren drools a lot,' Mamie would say of him. 'He has such active glands.' Joan observed another habit that Warren talked on the phone during copulation."

There are no notes and no bibliography to this book, just hundreds of press quotations stitched together and pasted over by Sellers' relentlessly obscene voice. It's like being trapped in a bar with a garrulous foul-mouthed drunk with his hand cupped around your neck as he brays his hatred for big Hollywood stars.

In writing about *Burn!*, a Marlon Brando flop that was filmed in the jungles of Colombia, Sellers describes how

Brando fled the set and had to be persuaded to return.

"For months the film was in limbo, until Marlon agreed finally to finish it. He needn't have bothered, *Burn!* was a complete flop, his tenth in a row. Hollywood producers were now better disposed to catching a dose of the clap than to hiring Marlon Brando for a movie."

He is much more sympathetic toward Jack Nicholson and at times even insightful.

"As the seventies drew to a close Jack's huge personality was threatening to swallow the parts he played. Bizarrely, the more famous Jack got, the more difficult his job as an actor became."

Often he found himself having to un-Jack his characters in order to get audiences to separate the public persona from his work; un-Jacking meant toning down the mad eyebrows and cheesy grin and all the other Jackisms. It was a challenge because some directors hired Jack to be, well, Jack."

But despite this, I can't recommend this book, not even for beach reading, not even for bathroom reading.

Horoscopes



Isla Star

Birthday Cancerians find spiritual happiness in the year ahead

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians could feel that they have come out of the frying pan and into the fire this week. A financial discrepancy that you believed was put to rest last week may not have been resolved after all. The stars suggest that professional advice may be the only way forward. On a brighter note, romance brings more happiness than you had expected. Those celebrating a birthday this week enjoy spiritual fulfillment in the coming year.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A communication breakdown only needs a simple repair this weekend. Leos should refrain from offering too many explanations as this could stir up a hornets nest. Midweek, you discover that something you paid peanuts for could be worth much more. Romance begins to flourish just when you thought that someone's interests lay elsewhere. Problems with technology are forecast to cause frustration on Monday, but help comes from an unlikely source.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans who have been looking for love in the wrong places receive clear directions of where they should be this week. A water sign friend is ready to hook you up with someone who should suit you down to the ground. Money matters continue to improve slowly, although your impatience could get in the way of a business deal on Tuesday. Wear the color moss green to encourage a softer approach.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your concerns about an air sign friend or family member prove to be justified this week. The best way to assist in this matter is to offer practical support. Trying to make someone see things from your point of view will soon drain your energy. A financial loophole is forecast to bring a welcome bonus to your bank account midweek. Thursday is the best day to indulge in a spot of flirtation.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A whirlwind romance will thrive after a cooling off period. Those Librans who can turn their attention elsewhere stand a good chance of seeing this relationship succeed. Those already committed are also advised to allow their partner a little more space during the last days of June as your demand for attention can make others feel claustrophobic. Wear a piece of tiger's eye to encourage a more practical outlook on life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A laid back week gives Sagittarians a chance to rekindle some energy. Appointments are likely to be canceled at the start of the working week and this could lead to a project being put on hold. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, you become more interested in Aries when they reveal more about themselves. A dream you have this weekend sheds light on a close friend's erratic behavior.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those born under the sign of Capricorn who are feeling washed out need to examine their lifestyle more closely. The stars

suggest that your aversion to exercise needs to be addressed and a Piscean friend can offer a good solution. Employment opportunities remain thin on the ground, but next month promises to bring brighter news on the work front. Wear the color lemon yellow to sharpen your wit.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You become flavor of the month at work and this breakthrough should give Aquarians enough confidence to aim for the moon. The stars suggest that while not everything you touch turns to gold, several projects have success written all over them. Make the most of this trend as it will continue until the middle of July. Finding enough spare moments for romance is a challenge, but a hot date this Sunday is compensation.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pushing a fire sign friend for answers could open up a can of worms that you wish you'd left undisturbed. Pisceans should wait until this person is ready to spill the beans. In the meantime, romantic options improve when you realize that beauty is only skin deep. Overseas business interests need to be monitored carefully as someone may be trying to take advantage of your trust. Number three is lucky next Thursday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Many of those born under the sign of Aries have probably decided that enough is enough this week. If your dissatisfaction relates to employment, keep requests for improvements in working conditions modest. Asking for the moon is likely to irritate someone who can make your days difficult. If you fear that your affections are being toyed with in a personal relationship, Monday is the best day to iron this matter out.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Communication confusion gets your goat at the start of the week, but Taureans will learn something to their advantage from this incident. As the end of the month approaches you have good reason to count your lucky stars. Giving air sign friends advice concerning finances is one thing, but offering practical help is not a good solution. Wear the color violet to encourage a more open mind concerning romance.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A small financial gain could be just the tip of the iceberg if you play your cards right. Where love is concerned, your tendency to put problems in a nutshell is causing frustration – try to see things from your partner's point of view. Those Geminis who are single are forecast to re-encounter someone they met on holiday earlier this year. Wear the color kingfisher blue to encourage a more generous spirit.

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Phuket needs pandas

Few images have totally dominated the Thai media as much as those of the still-unnamed panda cub born at the Chiang Mai Zoo late last month.

Coverage of the cub's every movement has been a constant feature on Thai television for days, while articles on every possible aspect of its development have been addressed in the print media.

Even at two weeks old the cub's "immigration status" is beginning to loom large as a matter of international relations. Its parents are only in Thailand on loan for 10 years and under the agreement that brought them here the cub must be returned to China within two years of birth – an agreement a delegation of Thai officials are now reportedly extremely busy trying to renegotiate.

Even for the typically cynical media it is easy to get wrapped up in all the warm fuzziness that the panda cub story has to offer. This is especially true as it comes at a time when there is so little positive news to report, with the global economic crisis, global flu pandemic and an unprecedented escalation of violence in the Deep South dominating headlines.

From a tourism standpoint, the tiny cub is already an established top earner; tickets to catch a glimpse of the cub have already sold out for the remainder of 2009 and into next year. This surge of enthusiasm has no doubt made some tourism industry experts here in Phuket ask the question: why did Chiang Mai get pandas and not Phuket?

The answer is that the Zoological Park Organization (ZPO) that is now trying to establish a permanent panda research center in Thailand has no presence in Phuket.

Of its five zoos, only one is located in the south – the excellent Songkhla Zoo, which occupies over 900 rai of mountainside land just south of Songkhla Town and has excellent learning facilities for children. Sadly, the only zoos in Phuket are privately-owned facilities that engage in racist double-pricing policies and exist solely as money-making operations, not to educate people or raise public awareness about wildlife or environmental issues. The situation in tourist areas like Patong where animals are exploited for profit is even worse.

The ZPO should consider giving the island the kind of zoo it needs and deserves – while there is still land available to build one.

Possible locations to consider for smaller zoo facilities might include some of the *SorPorKor* agricultural reform land that was formerly reclaimed from Phuket tycoons, including sites in Karon and at Tri Trang Beach in Patong.

Putting a well-designed, environmentally-friendly zoo somewhere in Phuket makes real sense and could also help spare part of the island from current trends that are seeing more and more of the island's remaining forest land covered with asphalt and concrete.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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Letters

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

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

Negative perceptions

After reading the editorial online (*Gazette online*, "Phuket hammered again: Thai justice under fire", May 31) I wondered if – for clarity – you could print the actual statistic's on foreigner's who have been murdered, found dead, or otherwise died of unknown causes in the past six months here in Phuket? After establishing those facts, then could you post how many of those cases have been brought before the judicial system.

As for the Aussie Bar beer mat incident, the lady has no excuses. However, the Thai police handled this issue with poor judgment, making a mountain out of a mole hill that just snowballed.

I understand the issues, and know that you can only control your print, not those who choose to print otherwise.

Perception is a terrible thing, and the current perception of Phuket and Thailand as a whole is obviously negative due to recent events that have taken place. Surely you must agree?

Robert Fisher
Phuket

Summer at last

It seems there are varying opinions among people who live on Phuket regarding the tourism industry's decision to now refer to the low season as "Summer in Phuket". I see nothing wrong with this as this is exactly what this time of year this is! Currently in the northern hemisphere – of which Phuket is a part – it is summer and in the southern hemisphere it's winter – it has absolutely nothing to do with the amount of rainfall. In fact most –

if not all – tropical regions experience the majority of their rainfall in the summer months, India and the Caribbean for example. I think the author of one recent letter must hail from North America's west coast which does get dry summer weather. Besides, what the heck is wrong with refreshing tropical downpours anyway? In this heat, I love 'em!

Derek Steele
Phuket

House troubles

After reading about foreigners not being able to use Thai nominees to buy property (*Gazette Online*: "Land purchase through Thai spouse forbidden: Land dept", May 27), the comments in the article seem to indicate that the Land Office can walk into most houses in Phuket were a Thai and foreigner live and if the Thai can't prove they had money, the house can be taken from them.

I can't see many houses being sold in the near future and the market will suffer even more.

Tony Sowton
Phuket

Thank you

My name is Sue Powell, wife of the late Mr John C Powell who passed away on May 27 at a pharmacy in Rawai.

I would be extremely grateful if you could put a piece in your paper thanking all the friends of John and me for the terrific support they gave me at the sad time of losing my husband and best friend.

Without their kindness, help and support I don't think that I would of got through it.

Thank you so much for all your help.

Sue Powell
United Kingdom

Warning please

I was also at Karon beach the week the drownings took place (*Gazette Online*: "Frenchman and Thai drown in Phuket", June 6) and I also nearly suffered the same fate but was saved at the last minute by my husband.

I wasn't on the southern part of the beach, I was at the northern end where there were no warning flags. It was very disappointing to go to a place that is driven by tourism and find no one to tell us that we should be careful when swimming in the sea.

We read a lot information before we headed of and before going we told many locals that it was our first day at the beach. No one told us to take care and there were no warning signs.

We hope that something will be put in place to warn tourists so that the risk of drowning can be reduced and no further harm is caused to Phuket's reputation as a tourist destination.

Aline Lang
Christchurch, New Zealand

Swimming fines

Maybe it is time for tourists to be told that they can be cautioned or fined for swimming when the red flags are up. All it takes just a few seconds for panic to set in before someone drowns. Here at Bondi Beach in Sydney you must do as you are told by the life guards on the beach.

Brian Hardaker
Sydney, Australia

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.

What's in a name? A lot

Since Songkran, more people seem worried that Thailand's extreme socio-economic inequality lies behind the political mess of recent years. Some Democrats justified their new tax proposals as measures to counter inequality. Pramon Suthiwong of the Thai Chamber of Commerce spoke eloquently about the need to moderate the social gap for the sake of political peace. Bowornsak Uwanno pronounced the current conflicts as being "about inequalities of economics and justice".

The big gap in income and wealth between rich and poor is the most noticed aspect of Thailand's inequality. But it is not the only one. Every time people talk to one another or talk about someone else, they arrange everyone in a hierarchy of superiority and inferiority.

The fact that these practices are so pervasive, so deeply ingrained, shows how much some in society value inequality and want to sustain it.

Societies that value equity make a point of using forms of personal address

that erase differences. The extreme examples are post-revolutionary societies. In revolutionary France, everyone was addressed as "citizen" and in communist societies, as "comrade".

This was perhaps trying too hard. But in most democratic societies, there are everyday forms of I, we, you, he, she, they that everyone can use to address anyone else without a thought of the social significance.

In Thailand this is much more difficult. Most pronouns

have an in-built social weight. They don't just say "I", but "I who am bigger than you", or "you who are smaller than me". There are some value-free versions, but using them amounts to a rather showy choice. The value-laden versions are more conventional and easier to choose.

Then there are titles. The old feudal titles were officially abolished after the 1932 revolution.

Since then there has been no formal aristocracy defined by title and name. But some bits of the old system have lingered, and others have been rescued or re-invented, so that titles and names still serve as a claim that some people are different, special, superior.

Curiously, while all the male titles of aristocracy were abolished, the female titles of Khunying and Thanphuying were allowed to remain. Each year, a few women are granted these titles.

In some cases, the grant seems to be in recognition not of the woman's achievements, but those of her husband. And some of these seem to be almost automatic. For instance, the prime minister's wife is usually elevated (as long as he can stay in office long enough), and also the wives of the top brass in the military hierarchy.

In a parliamentary democracy, the honor granted to the prime minister makes some sense. But why the military chiefs? And why more of them? Why are they chosen and not the wives of the top writers, top scientists, top sportsmen, top enter-

tainers? This automatic elevation seems to say that the military chiefs still amount to an aristocracy.

Another set of titles that has survived into the democratic age are those of Mom Chao, Mom Ratchawong and Mom Luang, which denote distance from the royal line. Thailand may be the only country in the world where such a system remains in use.

In other monarchies, immediate relatives of royal families are still granted titles as prince or princess. In the UK, some more remote relatives are identified as dukes and duchesses. But is there any other country where those three generations removed from the royal line still identify themselves on a daily basis by a prefix to their name?

Other sets of titles in everyday use are those of military and police ranks. This is true in most societies.

But Thailand has one curiosity. People who have acquired an officer rank but then leave the service continue to hold the rank for the rest of their lives – and it is obligatory for the rank to be used in any public mention.

Thus the Thai press still religiously refers to "Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra" even though he resigned from the police 22 years ago. There is even a controversy over whether his rank should be withdrawn, even though it is not a distinguished rank. This practice amounts to a claim that a police or military rank is something rather special.

One form of titling that has expanded over the past generation is that associated with learning and education.

Of course the usage of "Dr" by medical practitioners and holders of tertiary degrees is universal.

But Thailand has developed



The Thai press still religiously refers to "Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra" even though he resigned from the police 22 years ago. There is even a controversy over whether his rank should be withdrawn, even though it is not a distinguished rank.

another level of public academic titling which is again rather unique. "Ajarn" was once a title or form of address bestowed especially on learned monks, but also on other kinds of teachers, particularly in the arts.

While that custom remains, it is now overshadowed to identify anyone with an academic post in graduate institutions.

This titling subsystem is not as powerful as the royal and military ones because there is no standard written form, and no obligation to use the title whenever the holder is mentioned in writing, such as in the press. The usage of "ajarn" is still principally oral.

The fact that there are forms of address which position people as superior and inferior, and titling systems which allow some people to claim they are special, says a

lot about society. Naming and addressing practices that elevate some, while debasing others.

Societies that truly believe in the fundamental equality of humanity and value human dignity try to minimize this sort of thing.

Seventy years ago, there was an attempt to reform the Thai language by abolishing many of the practices, which seemed inappropriate for the modern democratic era.

Perhaps that reform was too dogmatic. Certainly it was resisted. Only a few of its innovations now survive.

Some people are beginning to understand the popular demand for a better economic deal. There is also a demand for more respect. That often comes in small everyday forms like the way people are named and addressed.



Issues & ANSWERS

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

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Dual Pricing at the Laguna Marathon

Regarding the practice of dual pricing (one price for foreigners, one price for locals), the same thing happens at the Phuket Laguna Marathon. Foreigners have to pay 2,700 baht for registration in the 10.5 km event while Thais pay 1,250 baht (This pricing difference is the same for entry into all the races.). I have run every Sunday around Thailand for about five years and it is only at this event that I see double pricing.

Filippo Cevenini
Kathu

Roman Floesser, Event Manager for Laguna Phuket International Marathon (c/o Go Adventure Asia) replies:

Dual pricing is common practice at international running events in Thailand. See the

Bangkok Marathon, Pattaya Marathon, Khon Kaen Marathon and the River Kwai International Half Marathon.

The reason for dual pricing is simply because it is not possible to put on a race of international standards with the entry fees that are normally charged for local running events in Thailand. The international fee we charge represents the real cost of providing the service level and race experience that international runners expect. The Thai entry fee is a discounted to encourage local participation and to prevent the pricing out of these participants. We publish all entry fees on our website, so we are being transparent about this. Out of the 4,000 plus participants that enter our event this year, three have raised concern over this. Two of them said they understood our position after we gave them our reasons for our pricing policy.

Dual pricing is a practice also used by other destination marathons, such as the Honolulu Marathon and the Gold Coast Marathon in Australia. For example, the Honolulu Marathon charges US\$165 to international participants, US\$130 to US participants and US\$85 to Hawaiian participants. The Gold Coast Marathon charges AUS\$100 for local entries and AUS\$120 for international entries.

Moreover, airlines and hotels use dual or multiple pricing, so this practice is neither exclusive to running events nor to Thailand.

Do foreign kids born in Thailand become Thai citizens?

What is the law in Thailand regarding children born to foreign parents in Thailand? Are the children considered Thai citizens en-

abling them to stay here forever?

Leonor Nicerio
Phuket

Police Captain Rassarin Teerapattanakul, Sub Inspector of Phuket Immigration Office replies:

A child being born in Thailand does not automatically make him or her a Thai citizen. However, the child can stay in Thailand without a visa until his or her parents leave the country. When the child leaves, the parents have to present the child's birth certificate and passport to immigration. Should the parents later return to the Kingdom, the child will need a visa just like any other foreigner.

For more information contact Phuket Immigration, 482 Phuket Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang Phuket 83000. T: 076-221905. F: 076-212108. E: phuketimmigration@gmail.com.

Superb Bhatti leads Island Cricket Club to back-to-back IFCL titles

A devastating all-round performance from Pakistani cricketer Ismael Bhatti turned the Island Furniture Cricket League (IFCL) final into a one man show as he led the Island Cricket Club (ICC) to back-to-back titles.

In a sensational man of the match display, Bhatti, who rumor has it will play professionally in England next year, took four wickets and scored the winning runs to cap a remarkable day.

The match took place at Cherng Talay School on June 14, where the ICC and the Liquid Lounge Lizards contested the grand final for the fourth consecutive year.

The Lizards won the first two finals, but the ICC, victorious in 2008, were strong favorites to retain their trophy after a flawless league campaign in 2009.

The organizers had created a carnival atmosphere for the occasion, but the match itself threatened to be a huge anti-climax when the Lizards' batting line up suffered a spectacular

collapse.

After a devastating opening salvo from the ICC bowlers the Lizards found themselves in trouble at 25 for five.

The Lizards managed to add a few more runs despite the efforts of Bruce Whitehead who has the dubious honor of recording three consecutive golden ducks.

However, their brave resistance finally crumbled as they were bowled out for just 61 from 21 overs.

Bhatti was the hero for the ICC, taking three wickets in consecutive balls at one stage which decimated the Lizards' batting order.

With a fairly modest total required, the ICC run-chase took less than five overs as they romped to victory in comprehensive style thanks to some errant bowling from Lizards.

Fittingly it was Bhatti who scored the winning runs, lofting the ball back over the bowlers head and straight through the fielders hands for six.

The Lizards were understandably dejected having suc-



In a sensational man of the match display, Bhatti, who rumor has it will play professionally in England next year, took four wickets and scored the winning runs to cap a remarkable day.

cumbed so easily, but the ICC who take their cricket very seriously were thrilled.

Bhatti, who scored 33 of the ICC's 63 runs and finished with figures of 4/19, said afterwards, "It's my first hat trick in Phuket although I have taken hat tricks in Pakistan before. When I hit the final ball I thought the fielder was going to catch it so I was de-

lighted when it went over the boundary. Its great to win and I'd like to thank all of my team mates and also Kingfisher beer who sponsor the team and have helped us out a lot."

The quick nature of the Island Cricket Clubs' victory played havoc with Phuket Cricket Union Chairman Bill Browns' timetable but he was not too disconsolate.

"It was a shame it finished so quickly but at least the weather was kind to us. The Lizards won the first two finals between the teams and the ICC have won the last two so it is now two apiece. Rumor has it that Ismael Bhatti is heading to England to play county cricket so next year it will really be up for grabs," he said.

-James Goyder

Aussie Paine romps to second Laguna Phuket marathon win

Reigning Laguna Phuket International Marathon champion Stephen Paine of Australia defended his crown in style yesterday, leading from start to finish on his way to an impressive win on a record-breaking day at Laguna Phuket.

A record 4,500 runners and walkers from more than 25 countries gathered at the Y junction area next to Laguna Beach Resort in the early hours of Sunday to contest five separate events: a 42-kilometer full marathon, 21km half marathon, 10.5km run, 2km "kids run", and a 5km walk for charity.



The first wave of unseeded marathon runners set off at 4am. Among them was world famous "slow runner" Hajime Nishi of Japan, creator of the ecomarathon concept and the first person to complete marathons on all seven continents.

They were followed an hour later by the second wave of seeded runners, which included defending champion Paine.

Coming into the event the Australian said that he felt he wasn't in the same shape he was in 2008, when he set the Laguna Phuket course record.

But Paine showed few signs of rust when the air horn sounded to start the race, immediately taking the lead as the pack left the start line and never looking back. Paine finished almost 25 minutes ahead of his nearest rival in 2:39:23 - just outside of the time he set in 2008.

In the women's marathon, Katja Fink (pictured) of Switzerland took full advantage of the absence of 2008 champion Angela Louise Stevens, claiming her first Laguna Phuket Marathon title in a time of 3:34:04, just over one

minute ahead of Reesa Simmonds of Canada.

The race of the day came in the 21km half marathon, with Thai running star Patcharee Chaitongsri shattering the previous course record on her way to victory in 1:25:23. Ms Patcharee was pushed all the way to the line by Singapore's Vivian Tang, who finished just 12 seconds later to take second.

In the men's event, Swiss runner Cedric Aspsi Loichart claimed victory in 1:16:47 ahead of the heavily-favored Paul Kisumba Wayoke of Kenya. Wayoke led Loichart by almost 30 seconds at the halfway mark, but began to tire over the second half of the race, allowing Loichart to come through and win.

Jason Mayeroff, winner of the 2002 Bangkok Marathon, opted to run in the 10.5km race. He dominated right from the start, smashing the course record by more than two minutes.

The veteran runner from the United States later revealed that he will compete in the full marathon in 2010 to stop Paine from completing a hat trick of titles.


Elsewhere, 800 people took part in the 5km sponsored walk that saw funds raised for charities both in Phuket and further afield.

-Dan Ogunshakin



2008 and 2009 Laguna Phuket Marathon champion Stephen Paine.

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Mercurial Ekkarat steals the show



Kamala-based surfer Ekkarat Sriden scored 4.5 points on his first wave before adding several three-point-plus scores to finish with a two-wave best score total of 8.25, 1.75 points ahead of Jamie Smith in second place.

Ekkarat Sriden used his small wave prowess to full effect in a challenging final at Kalim Beach on June 14 to take the top spot in the men's open division at the first of three Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series events.

The Kamala-based surfer scored 4.5 points on his first wave before adding several three point plus scores to finish with a two-wave best score total of 8.25, just 1.75 points ahead of Jamie Smith in second place.

"I knew if I got the right waves I could win, but it was really hard sometimes to know which one would give me the chance to do a big move," said Ekkarat. "I surf with the other guys all the time, so I knew I had to be aggressive to win," he added.

More than 100 surfers competed in the three-day Monsoon Riders event across four divisions: men's open, longboard, women's, and under-14s.

The Quiksilver-sponsored contest attracted an international field with surfers from Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, the USA and, of course, Thailand.

In Sunday's other finals, the longboard division looked to be having the most fun, as competitors treated the crowd on the beach with a smörgåsbord of tricks. In the final, Kata Surf Club member Preecha Trirat emerged victorious thanks to a narrow victory over close friend Chalee Yampluem.

In the women's division, young Aussie Bree Evans turned on the style to take top spot ahead of 11-year-old local Annisa Flynn. Despite losing the final to the exceptional Evans, Flynn was able to atone for her disappointment by beating all the boys in the junior division to claim top spot.

In taking the title, Flynn defeated another exceptional young surfer Oliver Penmit, who competed in the men's open, longboard and junior divisions, reaching the finals of the latter two events.

Quiksilver SE Asia's Sports Marketing Manager and ex-World Tour professional surfer Jake "the Snake" Paterson was thrilled with the entire event.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to be the presenting sponsor for the Thailand Surf Series, and that the Phuket Board Riders Club, the Phuket Government, and the many local businesses here are so supportive in giving their resources to develop surfing here in Thailand," he said.

"Seeing the enthusiasm and the skill of the local surfers and the tremendous potential here, we're looking forward to helping to it develop over the next three years and hopefully longer," he added.

Organizer and President of the Phuket Board Riders Club Chanin "Joob" Aiyarak was equally effusive.

"I would really like to thank Quiksilver for sponsoring our Thailand Surf Series. With their help we can now reach a wider audience and help our young kids to learn what a fun and healthy sport surfing is. Our future is with our kids, we cannot forget that," he said.

The next Quiksilver Thailand Surf event will be the King of the Jungle at Kamala Beach from August 14-16.

Orchard ensures Tesco Lotus 6s is fruitful for Phuket Academicals

Veteran goalkeeper Daryl Orchard scored the decisive penalty to secure victory for the Phuket Academicals after a hard-fought 0-0 draw with the German All Stars XI in the Tesco Lotus Football 6s plate competition in Bangkok.

Fellow Phuket squads the Freedom Bar (pictured) and the bizarrely named Spider Monkeys from Mars joined the Academicals in contesting the tournament at Bangkok Pat-tana School from June 6-7.

The Freedom Bar were handed a tough assignment when they came up against a Royal Samui Golf All Stars side which featured former Wales and Liverpool striker Ian Rush, former Manchester United and England winger Lee Sharpe and former Chelsea winger Clive Walker. The Freedom Bar, who featured no former professional or international footballers whatsoever, were somewhat predictably beaten comfortably, losing 4-0.

The Spider Monkeys from Mars, playing alongside the Freedom Bar in the over 35s section, enjoyed more success on the Saturday, winning all their group games.

It is not known whether the decision process that led to this team – formerly known as Phuket

FC and the Kaizer Chiefs – being named the Spider Monkeys from Mars involved large amounts of alcohol or not. What seems more certain is that the players' Saturday night in Bangkok did, as they contrived to lose every single game on Sunday.

With the other two sides failing to make an impression, it was left to the Phuket Academicals competing in the over 40s section to salvage some Phuket pride.

The team had set its sights on winning the cup competition but a disappointing Saturday saw them lose two of their three games, consigning them to the plate com-

petition the following day. Captain Peter Oldfield took the unusual step of ordering an early night for all concerned. This decision was largely ignored, but the team showed a dramatic improvement regardless, reaching the final.

With nothing to separate the sides the game finished 0-0, setting up a dramatic penalty shoot out. Both sides scored their first six penalties before the German All Stars XI surprisingly missed a crucial spot kick to gift Orchard the chance to secure victory for the Academicals.

The goalkeeper made no mistake, blasting the ball home to win the plate for the Academicals.

After eight years in Phuket, Orchard is returning to his native England and his winning penalty brought the curtain down on his football career in Phuket in style.

-James Goyder



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Seeing red

Seeing red? Certainly. As I write, Phuket is ablaze with dramatic color. In the nurseries along Chao Fa West Road, orange red bougainvilleas are at full throttle; potted cerise euphorbias are turning it on in Thai forecourts; canna lilies of an intense scarlet are exploding into bloom beside way-side klongs. And there are other red-flowering plants. Less spectacular maybe, but certainly worth a mention in this column.

Take the red cattail or chenille plant (*acalypha hispica*, see photo). It is a member of the huge *acalypha* genus, but as usual it is the everyday names that afford clues to its appearance. Its pendant deep red catkins – up to 18 inches long – consist of hundreds of densely packed florets and literally do look, and feel, like velvety tails.

Some people regard the cattail as a bit *de trop*, but it is one of the hardiest and most valuable of perennials. Give it oodles of sun and it will stay colorful all year long. Moreover, the crimson catkins contrast nicely with the large acid-green leaves. Take off the unsightly old “tails” before they drop, and you have an attractive plant which has graced Asian “cottage” gardens for centuries. It looks good in a hanging basket too.

Another unusual plant is the costus, a member of the ginger family, and suggestively nicknamed “French kiss” (see photo). As its name implies, it is a bit of a conversation piece, a phallic-

looking shrub with long red cones rising from a crown of leaves atop fleshy stems. Neat and upright in habit, it won't take over other plants' territory. Surprisingly, small red flowers will sometimes erupt from these densely packed cones. Speciosus, which has more open bracts, produces white flowers. But the costus is a bit fussier than the cattail, and though it will take full sun, it needs moisture for its roots. Without adequate water, the stems will go brown and the plant will die back. As I know to my own cost(us).

This is not likely to happen to the nerium, better known as the oleander. I have mentioned this evergreen shrub before, but it deserves more space – here as in the garden. Like the bougainvillea, it is closely associated with the Mediterranean littoral, but it grows well in southern Thailand. A genus of only two species, it exists in any number of named cultivars, including my favorites: Algiers (dark red), Delphine (single purple-red) and Madonna (double white). It is the shrub *par excellence* for difficult conditions: once established, it will tolerate both the sandy soil and the salt-laden winds we experience in coastal areas of Phuket. Its clusters of flowers are long-lasting and showy, its habit tall and erect. Four oleanders around my pool help to form a natural wind-break. In fact, it puzzles me that it is not grown more widely on the island.

The firebush (*hamelia patens*) is more popular here, in part because it blooms all year round – if given the right conditions. Its small, tubular orange flowers – they can be almost red – are hardly spectacular, but they combine with red-veined leaves to form an attractive bush. Moreover, the flowers are rich in nectar: they attract bees during daylight, and oleander hawk-moths in the dusk. In America, the firebush is beloved of humming-birds. Sadly, we have no humming-birds in Asia... *Hamelia* does best in partial shade with plenty of humus where it will grow into a sizable bush which can be pruned if required: otherwise, it will sulk and mark time.

When I moved to Saiyuan, a Thai lady gave me a potted plant which I had never seen before. Nothing unusual in that. I was, and still am, learning something new every day about the magnificent tropical flora of south Thailand. She called it *phu lab phu kaam*. It had vicious, sea-urchin-like spines, and a waxy, cone-shaped yellow fruit. There were no flowers. But the shrub proceeded to grow apace, and soon produced semi-double scarlet, rose-like blooms about three centimeters across.

Yes, informed reader, you have guessed. It was a wax rose (*pereskia bleo*), a member of the cactus family. That it felt at home in a pot meant that it could tolerate dry conditions. Just like its relative, grandiflora, which produces clusters of reddish-pink flowers and is so spiny, it is often used as a protective barrier. My wax rose is still in a container, but is now two meters tall and in need of a transfer to another sunny situation. For I have seen one in Phuket the size of a small tree...

I confess to some reservations about another border dweller. *Jatropha integrerrima* or peregrine is a woody, open shrub that matures rapidly and produces



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The nerium, better known as the oleander; the chenille, or red carrail; the costus or “French kiss”.

terminal clusters (corymbs) of carmine or coral blooms. Like many plant varieties, it has responded to selective breeding; recent cultivars now available in Phuket nurseries sport scarlet flowers of an almost phosphorescent intensity. In my former garden, a *jatropha* disdained poor soil and a narrow bed to reach three meters within a year. So what's the catch? Unfortunately, the shrub is very disease-prone, its immune system seemingly unable to resist the depredations of mealy bugs and fungal disease. Draconian pruning appears to be the only answer. But I may have been unlucky – or neglectful.

Its relative, the coral plant (*jatropha multifida*) has very distinctive palmate foliage, deeply divided into nine or eleven blades. The umbels of tiny scarlet flowers are borne on slender red stems held high above the leaves. Certainly unusual – and by no means so easy to find. The Thai name, if it helps, is *malako farang*.

My final selections are red almost by default. *Brunfelsia hopeana* has the everyday, if long-winded, names of “yesterday, today and tomorrow” or “morning, noon and night”: its five-petaled flowers change color from purplish-red, to pink and finally to white. The blooms are not spectacular, but their chameleon-like propensities will provide a talking point. It has abundant foliage, and can be grown in pots, provided the soil is kept moist.

A better shrub with which to conclude is the cotton rose (*hibiscus mutabilis* or *phuttan* in Thai). Mentioned before in dispatches, it starts the day with white flowers which turn pink; by evening they are dark red. I like it because it is a vigorous grower and has large, double blooms that appear all year. Good against a wall. *Phuttan* does tend to get “leggy” and shed its leaves; if this happens, it may be better to prune it drastically. I always find that difficult to do.

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Making sure you can always access your own property

How to avoid the possibility of future disputes over access to your land

Scenario: You buy a piece of land that can only be accessed by crossing public or privately-owned land. You have to ensure that you will always have the right to use that land to access your own plot. Crossing public land to access your property should cause few problems but if the land used to access your property is privately owned, then it's important to ensure that correct due diligence is carried out to ensure you will always have the right to access your own land.

Ensuring secured access to a property is often disregarded but to ignore the issue is to risk conflict later on. In order to protect the buyer's interests and avoid the possibility of future disputes, secured access should be verified by a lawyer before going ahead with the purchase.

Ideally, the property you want to buy is accessible via a public road. If, however, access to your property is through privately owned land (third party), it is possible that the privately owned land is sold or transferred to a new owner, who may then decide to restrict entry into the property.

Of course not all properties can be served with secured access via a public road. With most large property developments, access to them is via a road or land owned by the developer and/or affiliates. In such cases, the sales documentation should include a provision under which the developer guarantees secured access to individual properties. Additionally, further protection should be given to a property buyer through registration of an easement right, whenever legally possible, securing unrestricted access to its plot.

Such access right, also called "servitude" or "*para jomyom*", is described under the Thai Civil and Commercial Code (CCC). This would need to be registered with the relevant land department and mentioned on the title certificate of the servient land (the land used to access the other land) for the benefit of the land that lacks

access (dominant land).

An important point here is that the CCC stipulates that the owner of the servient land can not do anything to the land that will diminish its utility or make access to the dominant land less convenient. Furthermore, the CCC states that the owner of the dominant property is entitled, at his own expense, to do all that is necessary to preserve and make use of the servitude. The servitude right always follows the dominant property in the event it is disposed of or made subject to other rights and it cannot be transferred separately.

Enforcing or defending the right to access dominant land is much easier when the easement right has been properly registered. A contractual right may only be enforceable against a third-party landowner. Even if an agreement is made with the third-party land owner, problems can arise if that land is transferred through sale or is inherited by someone else.

A duly recorded servitude right is the best defense against any third-party landowner who tries to prevent access to the dominant land.

This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd., a Phuket based law firm. For enquiries, please contact Michael Greth, Consultant, by email: michael@ilo-phuket.com or by phone. Tel: 076-222 191-5.



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Gambling on Phuket's future



PROPERTY WATCH

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and property consulting firm. His BLOG (thephuketinsider.com) is The Source for all Hotel and Real Estate News within Greater Phuket.

Just a few years ago during the tenure of Thaksin Shinawatra, rumors started to fly about the legalization of gambling in Thailand and the possibility of casinos in Phuket.

Much was written and discussed at the time, but given the current political climate, this is-

sue might be considered too much of a hot potato by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and the coalition government. Top of the agenda must be bringing some sort of equilibrium to an economy which more often than not resembles a drunken sailor on shore leave, zig-zagging his way back to ship.

I recently attended the International Hotel Investment Forum (IHIF) in Macau, staged along the Cotai strip at the Venetian Hotel. Having been to the hotel's alter ego in Vegas, I can confirm that most Asian "mega-hotels" and casinos bear a resemblance to their Las Vegas counterparts but with an East-meets-West, Jackie-Chan-meets-Owen-Wilson twist.

The Venetian has over 3,000 rooms and is part of a hotel, entertainment and casino complex that employs around 17,000 staff. Size aside, there is an undeniable cardboard flavor to the Venetian in that it lacks substance. Staying there is somewhat akin to scarfing down a McDonald's and still being hungry for real food.

During the taxi ride from the airport, I mulled over the idea that

Macau's newly built "City of Dreams" entertainment hub could have been more aptly branded the "City of Lost Souls". However, I failed to see any biblical figures that had been turned to stone on the short journey that would confirm this.

Meanwhile back to Phuket. In an effort to find the right path again, our sailor has now sobered up thanks to a couple of double espressos and is trying his best to get back to ship unaided by "quick fixes".

Thailand's selling point as a brand is its "Thai-ness" – people with great hearts, great food and a mystical culture that remains the envy of foreign tourist markets. Well laid plans in Thailand often fall by the wayside, and of course the country has experienced turbulent times of late, but no other destination offers the zest, spice and *sanoook* so widely enjoyed by Thais. In short, we might not always get there, but the journey is full of life and entertainment.

Trying to introduce casinos in Thailand and Phuket seems like an incredibly bad idea. Investing in additional imported labor would strain the already troubled infra-



The Venetian Macau has over 3,000 rooms and is part of a hotel, entertainment and casino complex that employs around 17,000 staff.

structure on the island and working towards generic Wal-Mart-style cut-rate accommodation, designed to draw-in flocks of tourists like sheep, might not be a beneficial model for Phuket to follow.

If casinos were introduced they would surely prey upon Thai iconic imagery and possibly even use theological references to create the "Thai experience" within the casinos. I am always troubled when I see decapitated heads of the Buddha perched above doorways of guest houses and luxury hotels. If one started cutting the heads off statues of Jesus or those of Mohammed and used them as decor, how would Christians or Muslims react?

Objectively, Singapore seems to be taking more of a tempered approach to gambling and casinos. The upcoming Sands development is not only focusing on gambling but will provide large-scale convention and meeting space with the aim of attracting more groups.

Unlike Macau, there have been no attempts in Singapore to recreate the Vegas Strip. Instead, the developments have formed a small part of a much larger tourism plan. The major difference

between Singapore and Thailand is that the former has the regulatory apparatus to apply the brakes at any time and halt any project coupled with a long-term plan. It is doubtful that the same could be applied to the Thai "all or nothing" mindset.


Gambling is not a quick-fix solution and often takes more than it gives back to a community. Lessons can certainly be learned by looking at the financially troubled companies in Las Vegas. Initially embraced by Wall Street, they have now been left out in the cold to fend for themselves, laden with debt and dim short-term prospects.

Leaving Macau, I was able to breathe a deep sigh of relief and come back to the reality of Phuket with its natural environment and strong culture. It's worth noting that all that glitters isn't necessarily gold.


Sustainable tourism is something that needs to be thoughtfully planned and remains a challenge for Phuket if it is to remain price-competitive with other destinations.

I'm not going to succumb anytime soon on the issue of gambling here in Thailand. Hopefully the government will continue to see beyond its shiny allure.

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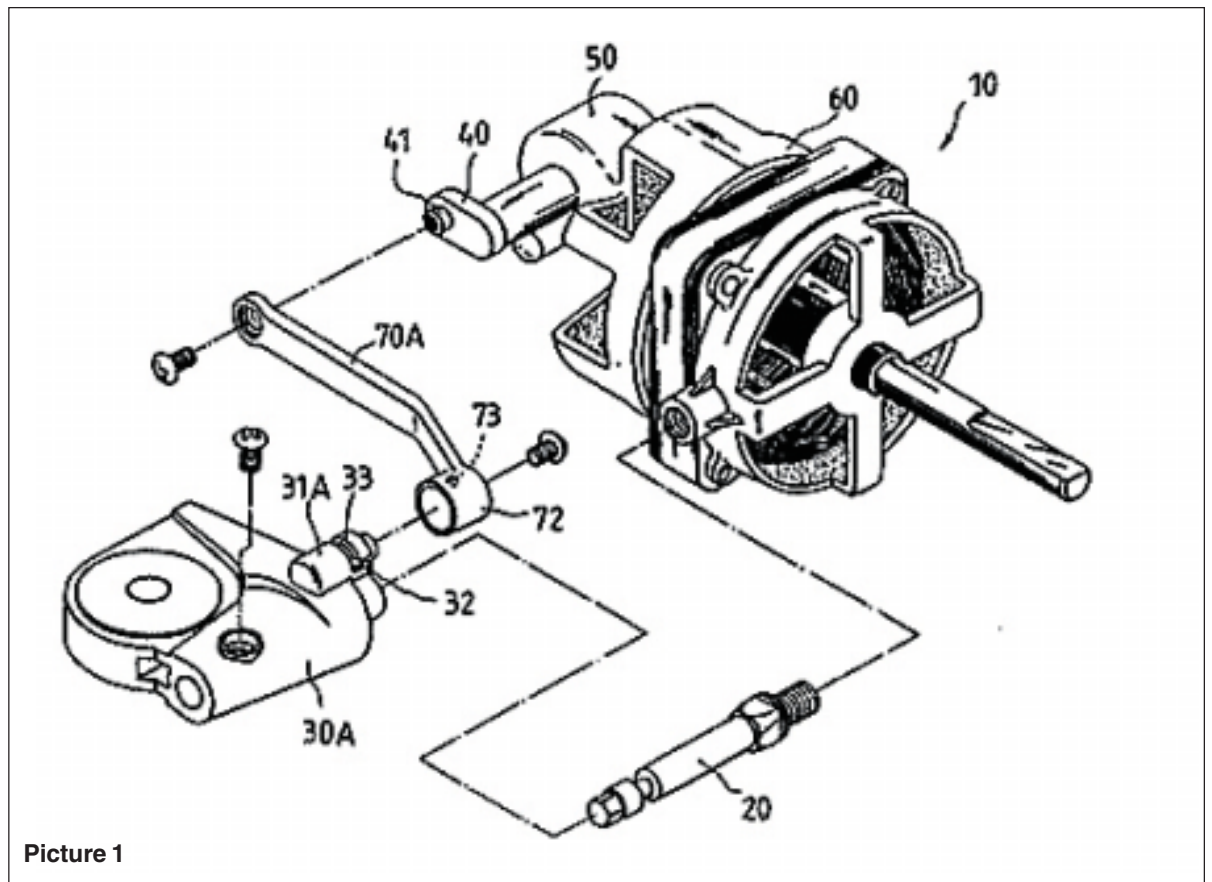
of the picture it's perhaps difficult to see where the bearings are, but when you open a real fan up you will see them.

The rotor, the large shaft with coils of wire wrapped in precise shapes around its sides, is the heart of any electric motor. The rotor spins within two bearings held by the cast frame. These bearings can accumulate dust and dirt and become dry, creating drag and slowing down the rotor.

To lubricate them, you must remove the rear portion of the motor's plastic cover. First, remove the pull-up knob that activates the swing control. There are two types of knobs: screw on and clip on. For the screw-type, simply unscrew the center screw and lift the knob straight off. The clip type requires more care, because you can't buy a replacement.

Remember, warm plastic bends and cool plastic breaks. If you have a hairdryer, use it to heat the "tabs" on the sides of the knob's shaft, then pry them both gently outwards at the same time while lifting. If there is no hairdryer available, set the fan in the sun for an hour or so and let the plastic warm up as much as possible. After removing the knob, extract the screw from the center of the cover's rear face. The cover should then simply pull off, allowing you to see the motor.

First, locate the front and rear bearings where the rotor's shaft passes through the frame (tip: flashlights help here, even in daylight). There is very little space between the edges of the

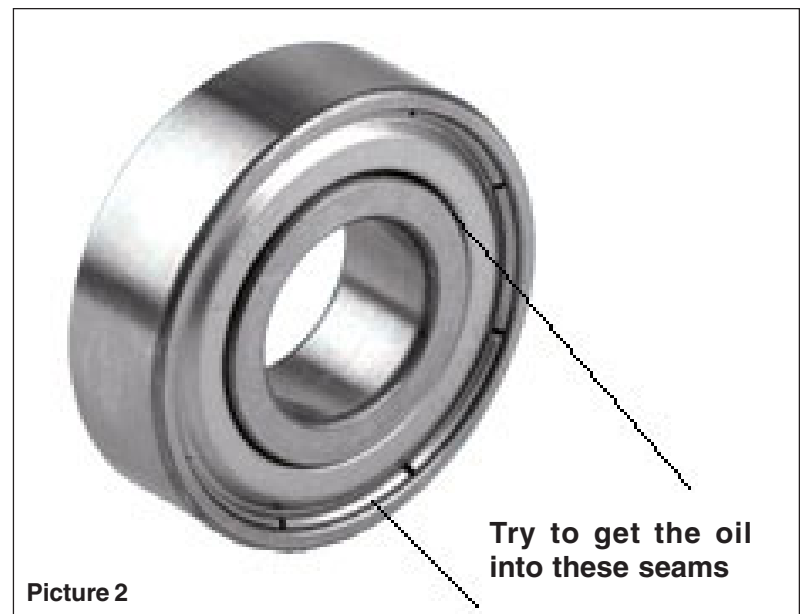


Picture 1

windings and the bearings, so to get the oil in there – without it going all over the windings, brushes or commutator – you will need a slender "oil transfer" tool. Use a cotton swab with the cotton removed from one end, a wooden chopstick or an oil tube with a fine nozzle. Small tubes of light oil, with a long nozzle cap like those on tubes of super glue, are available in hardware stores.

The lubricating process should be done in two steps. First, lube the bearings with light oil and then with a little motor oil. The reasoning behind this is that light oil penetrates better, but doesn't last long, while motor oil is the opposite. The light oil acts as a partial solvent and allows the motor oil to penetrate into the bearing's shell, lasting longer than just light oil alone. A small plastic bottle of motor oil often comes in handy, so always try to keep some around the house.

To begin, lay the fan on its back – blade facing the sky – to lubricate the rear bearing. Don't try to lube bearings when they are in a vertical position as the oil will simply run off. Place the tip of the oil tube's nozzle (or the swab or stick dipped in oil) against the seams where the face of the



Picture 2

bearing meets the inner and outer rims (picture 2).

Apply just a drop or two at a time and spin the blade to work it in. Repeat this process. Then use the tool dipped in motor oil and repeat once again, making sure you don't apply too much. Now, turn the fan so the blade is facing down, and repeat the process with the front bearing. It is better to do this whole procedure twice, with just several drops applied each time, than it is to apply too much and have it flow onto

the windings. Use a fresh swab to wipe up any overflow.

Check to see if the fan works better. If OK, re-attach the rear cover and then the swing knob. If your swing knob is a screw-type, don't tighten the screw too tightly. The knob must be able to rotate easily as the fan swings. If it can't, the mechanism will self-destruct, but that's another story!

That's it! Turn on your fan and enjoy a beer in the breeze! See you next time!



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NICE HOUSE



for sale in Soi Anusorn, Chalong. 468sqm land, 150 sqm living space. Garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, near Home Pro Chalong. Only 15 million baht. Tel: 081-892 5706.

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house on small development with 24-hour security and swimming pool. Only 5 mins from Heroines' Monument. Fully furnished with solid teak furniture throughout and all appliances, curtains and blinds. Full security and fly screens, 3 aircon, 5 ceiling fans. True TV/ cable TV, phone, ADSL. Walk-in condition with great potential for extension and/or private pool. Now 3.6 million baht ono. Tel: 085-782 3273.

PATONG BEACH CONDO

Fully furnished, freehold, 28 sqm. Quiet location, 5 minutes to beach, very good condo, many extras. Price 1.2 million baht. Tel: 084-309 0024. Email: gly53@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 Phang Nga, 45 mins Phuket airport. Chanote title deed 4,700,000 baht Tel: 086-274 0056 English or 087-895 3099 Thai.

NEW TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In the project "The Indy", opposite Boat Lagoon, Koh Kaew. 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, western kitchen. Land: 33.4sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9118.

50% OFF FOR SALE OR LONG LEASE



Several years ago, this villa could lease for **US\$39000** monthly. The villa is located in Cape Panwa with 360 degree sea view. 100m high on hill not far from Sri Panwa, which similar homes sell 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 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 13 million baht, 2nd year 17m 3rd year 20m 4th year 23m and 5th year 28m. Or sale for **US\$12 million**.

Email: info@queenmarines.com

VILLAS CLOSE TO BIS



Pool villas with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and swimming pool. Close to British International School. From 13 million baht. Please Contact: K. Prasong 081-3969307 (Thai), K. Hua 089-7492186 (Eng).

KATA SEAVIEW, 50% FINANCE

5.5 million baht with 50% finance. Includes furniture. See Web link below for details. Tel: 087-041 8821. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

CHEAP LAND

900sqm, Cheng Talay. 3 million baht. Tel: 086-161 1136 (Thai), 086-047 2463 (Eng). Email: jimi_change@hotmail.co.uk

CHALONG NEW HOME

3 Bedrooms with private pool. Unfurnished, aircon, Western kitchen. For sale: 7million baht. Posh 081-989 5487. Email: naphatch2009@hotmail.com

LAND URGENT SALE



3 rai freehold. Spectacular seaview, private, 3 minute drive to Jungceylon. Suitable for building holiday homes. Tel: 089-973 1447. Email: tommakorn@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL POOL HOUSE

800sqm land, 350sqm living space. 12.5x4.5sqm stunning pool, modern family house with landscaped gardens. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 085-212 1794. Email: lan@evocation.net

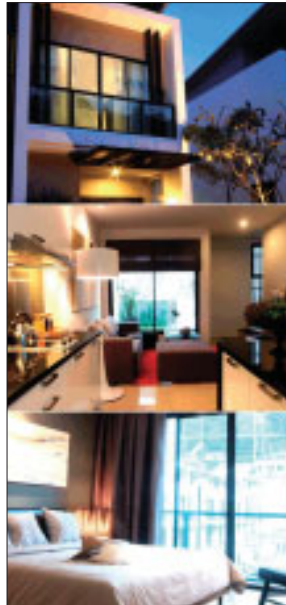
SEAVIEW LAND

10.5 rai with Chanote title and good road. 800 meters to the beach. 8 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-729 8365. Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

SUPER CONDO SALE PATONG

R.O.I. 6 condos, 50 sqm, furnished, great location, package deal. 16.5 million baht. Call Real Pro Co Ltd. Tel: 076-345238. Frank: 084-078 2753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

BAAN BAI MAI



for sale in Samkong near Bangkok hospital. 2 storey, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 car parking space. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

FAIRWAY VIEW CONDO

in Kathu. 56sqm, foreign freehold, fully furnished. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-891 3740.

RARE OPPURTUNITY - MUST SEE

Phuket Country Golf Club (Kathu). 1 rai+ (407sq wah or 1628sqm) and 0.5 rai (200sq wah or 800sqm). Chanote title, next to club house. Flat land, ready to build on, no hassle with water or electricity. Rare opportunity. These convenient (small) pieces of land at the golf course are seldom available for sale. Half rai at 8 million baht including golf club membership (land transfer charges shared equally with buyer). 1 rai+ includes golf club membership (land transfer charges shared equally with buyer) for 15 million baht. Reduced for quick sale. Contact owner directly. Khun Orachon +66(0)81-9587083 or +66(0)81-9587083. Email: jps@loxinfo.co.th

LAND NEAR YACHT HAVEN



for sale. Area: 511 square wah, 38,000 baht persquare wah. Contact Mr Tachin Tel: 081-7871811, Miss Kob Tel: 081-2733303.

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.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

in Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

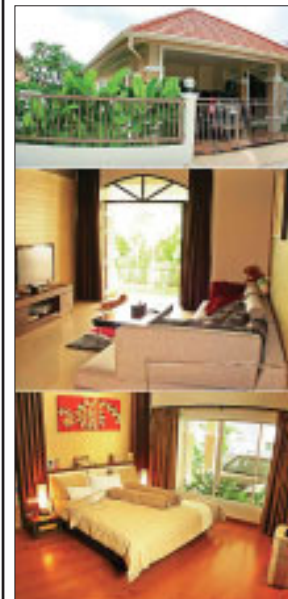
80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

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

PHUKET RESORT FOR SALE

Rated 4-star, perfect business potential. 95 million baht. Email: admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com

VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT



312 sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 24-hour protection. 5 minutes to Chalong Bay, 10 minutes to Nai Ham Beach, 20 minutes to Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Price: sale: 7 million baht. Rent: 65,000 baht per month. Pls contact Khun Sam (English/Thai). Tel: 085-110 6449. Email: vipeurasian@yahoo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.ipdproperty.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

THE ROYAL PLACE

4th floor unit with 2 balconies. Approx area: 42sqm. Fully furnished, ready to move in. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

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Property Gazette

NEW CONDO



for sale. At Royal Place Project, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm at corner, swimming pool view, fully furnished. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-691 2526.

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

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



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

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.

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

renovated freehold. 2 room, terrace, nice view, pool, beach 200m, furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 086-976 0809.

BROKERS WELCOME

A 4-storey shophouse with a lot of extras and in great condition is for sale. Chanote. Tel: 076-319349, 086-905 0056. Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.casadorasa.com

OVER 150 LAND PLOTS

Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong, Panwa. All sizes and prices. Contact Khun Nong. Tel: 083-390 4176. For further details, please see our website at www.warmwaterland.com

QUICK SALE

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

TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



opposite Boat Lagoon. 24sq wah, 3 beds, 2 baths. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

SALE OR RENT VILLA



Below market price (THB). Normally the villa can lease 300,000 to 350,000 monthly. Must sacrifice 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 the following conditions. First year 2m excluding management, utilities, any extra costs, garden and swimming pool. 2nd year 2.5m and last 3rd year 3m. Must pay in advance each year.

No other deposit required. For sale 45m.
For details, please email me your interests at info@queenmarines.com

LOCH PALM POOL VILLA



600sqm land, 230sqm living space, garden, 4 bedrooms, golf course view, on main road. Ready to move in. Partly custom made, fully furnished. Price all in, only 14 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 087-883 6112.

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

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

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

TOWNHOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN

for sale. 2 floors, 110 sqm. Very good location, 5 minute from Central and Big C. Price 2,935,000 baht. Payment plan. Tel: 080-071 9098.

NEW 3 BED POOL VILLA

at Mission Hills, near the new int'l school. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 10 x 4m swimming pool. Located in secure and quiet area, 7 mins to airport and Nai Yang Beach. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-893 4636. Email: info@phuketbedandbreakfast.com

1/2 RAI SOI NAYA NAI HARN BEACH

5 million baht. Can be split. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

BALINESE POOL VILLA

2-3 bed with built-in furniture, A/C, living room, kitchen, garden. Price 10.6M baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0743. Fax: 076-613114. Email: natcha@twovillas.com

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

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.

LUXURY RESORT-STYLE VILLA

4 bedrooms incl built-in furniture, kitchen. Ready to move in. Price 19.9 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.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

HOME 290,000 BAHT

Erected on your land. 1 bedroom and bathroom, lounge, kitchen and deck. Tel: 081-892 4804, 081-125 1873. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.safewayasia.com>

PERFECT LAND

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

NEW BRAND CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-4769612.

OVER 150 LAND PLOTS

Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong, Panwa. All sizes and prices. Contact Khun Nong. Tel: 083-390 4176. For further details, please see our website at www.warmwaterland.com

HOUSE IN ANUPHAS FOR SALE



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

KOH YAO YAI FOR SALE

Land for sale near Ao Klong Son area. 5,033 rai (8,052.8sqkm), 2 access points, title deed, 5 minutes to the beach. 950,000 baht per rai. By The Owner. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-289121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

480SQM, RAWAI BEACH

300 m from the beach. 1.85 million baht. Can be split. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU

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Effective Freehold 2 bedroom, boulevard style, furnished apartment with management and private parking. Only 3 years old up for sale.



Just reduced for quick sale this lovely hillside, seaview apartment presents with seaviews to the front and mountains to the rear. 240 sqm with 2 large bedrooms both with ensuite. Two person Jacuzzi, sitting room overlooking the swimming pool and sea, large well-fitted Euro-style kitchen and cool living area. The apartment is provided with a hot water storage tank and back up generator to complement the main supplies. Access to superb fitted spa & gymnasium with just 5 other units in the development.

Must be seen to be appreciated. Email: ian@phuket-estate.com or Tel: 0874178187 to view. Was 16.9m now 12.7 m Baht
Rental also possible - 70k/month (Long Term Only)

3-STOREY APARTMENT



for sale. 70sq wah, 14 rooms, motorbike park. Four years old with Chanote title. Currently fully rented out. Good return. Asking price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

LAND AT SAI YUAN



168sq wah, Chanote, flat land. Contact Riam. Tel: 081-979 0122. Email: riam.niyom@gmail.com

DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



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

LAND AT PA KHLOK

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

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

POOL VILLA WITH FINANCE

3 bedroom pool villa at The Niche, Nai Harn. 6 years' finance remaining. For sale at 13 million baht. Tel: +60-3-2176 3000, +60-12-292 6511. Email: steve.miller@mscl.com.my

RARE OPPORTUNITY

Choice 1,100 sqm plot located in Cape Panwa with arguably one of the finest panoramic sea views on the island. The hard works done: cleared and leveled, concrete access road, building permit previously issued. Buy and build! Tel: +971-50-293 2183. Email: email2bill@antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

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

BANG TAO APARTMENTS FOR SALE

2 luxury apartments for sale. Both 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, with 2 pools and gym. One is a pent-house (3 years old) with private roof garden the other is a ground floor with private garden (brand new). Both less than 200m to Bang tao beach. Tel: 084-630 2416. Please email for further details. Email: jonhassall@aol.com

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

PATONG STUDIO

2.3 million baht. New decor, pool. 3 min walk to Jungceylon, 5 min to beach. Tel: 081-087 9639.

KOH YAO YAI

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

POOLSIDE APARTMENT

One and two bedroom poolside apartments for sale or long-term lease. Located in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Very quiet and natural setting. You would never know you were in Patong Beach, yet only 5 mins to beach and town center. This is a very special project, consisting of only 3 apartments, under cover secure parking and swimming pool. Now under construction: 80% completed. Now is the time to buy and have a say in the finishing details. Contact Andy. Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view, 2-storey house, 60sqw. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093.

1.9 MB. GOLF-VIEW FREEHOLD

58 sqm, 1 bed, 5th floor at Phuket Country Club Golf Course. Tel: 089-488 0955. Email: together@myway.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

MAI KHAO OCEAN MTN VIEW

One rai lots (in red) with chanote title. Dramatic, unrestricted ocean views to the west and north; stunning mountain views to Phang Nga; and eastern views of Phang Nga bay. Concrete road, water, electricity. Upper limit of property is 80 meters. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-996 9177. Email: doc@russbo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketrealstate.us

HOUSE IN KATHU



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 43sqm. Sale 2.7 million baht. Tel: 086-524 4055.

INDY II SALE / RENT



445sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 floors. Rent: 25,000 baht per month. For sale 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-691 3285. Email: yuwandabier@yahoo.com

EXCLUSIVE VILLA IN PATONG



for sale. Situated only 500m from Patong Beach within a gated community. This is a large 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa, fully furnished and fitted to the highest standard. All enquires. Tel: 081-537 9684.

LAND FOR SALE, PATONG BEACH

Beautiful 590 m2 land plot, in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Very quiet, natural setting; you would never know you were in Patong, yet only 2 minutes to the beach and town center. Comes with wide concrete access road, very good water supply, and underground utility. Contact Andy. Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

OPPOSITE JUNGCEYLON

absolute prime location. 3 level shop! Lease for sale or sublease. For more info you must book an appointment. Tel: 081-537 9684.

LOCH PALM VILLA W/ FINANCE

4 bedroom courtyard villa w/ pool and tenant. For sale at 14.5 million baht. Tel: +60-3-2176 3000, +60-12-292 6511. Email: steve.miller@pactotal.com.my

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



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

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 bed, seaview on beach road. For further details Tel: 084-847 3304., please see our website at <http://www.selectphuket.com>

CHALONG NEW HOME

Value 2 bedroom town home with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Contact more details. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KATHU



2 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, cable TV and TV set. Just bring your bag. 12,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Wannee. Tel: 089-288 9936. Email: wannee123@hotmail.com

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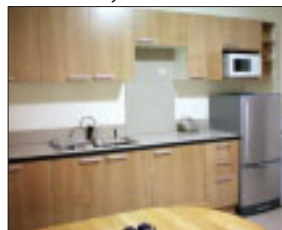
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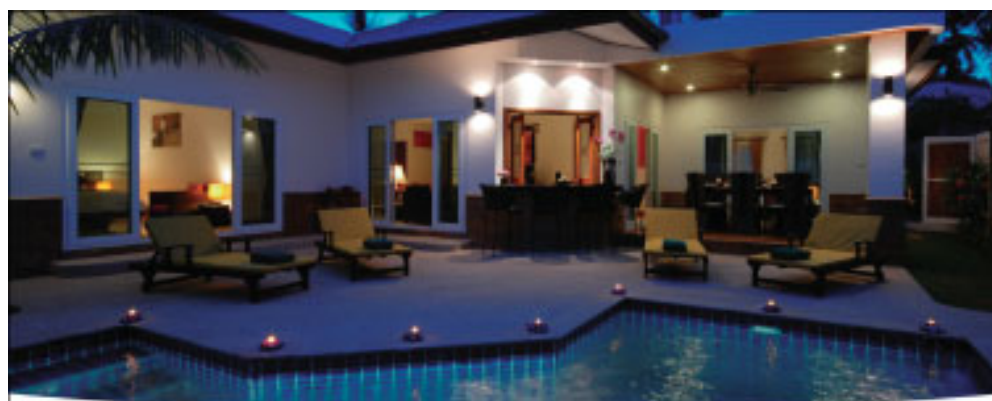
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Good written and spoken English. Relevant experience with established organization preferred. For more information tel: 076-261857, 081-367 4696. Fax: 076-261859. Email: acs@inbreddp.com Please visit our website at: www.inbreddp.com

RESERVATION STAFF

A dive company is looking for reservations staff. Spoken and written English important. Contact K. Sean. Tel: 081-958 5838. Email to: sean@westcoastdivers.com

TEACHERS NEEDED

Primary school teachers (fulltime). Sports, music, art teachers (part time). Only native English speakers with education degree and experience will be accepted. Email: headstartpkt@gmail.com

OFFICE STAFF

We require 3 women to work in Kathu office. Must have good spoken English, pleasant telephone manner, and be competent using computer on the internet. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-612801, 084-309 6934. Email: ssknightoflegend@gmail.com

SALES PROFESSIONAL

Prestige developer and hotelier in Nai Ham requires experienced and motivated sales executive. Excellent English and other languages an advantage. Good prospects please fax CV 076-388565. Or email: anthony@puravama.com

ACCOUNT REP

Thai national is wanted to be the primary contact with our customers & will promote our services to new potential customers. Must have a good understanding of computers and the internet. Must have very strong English skills and a very outgoing, upbeat personality. College degree and good track record. Salary: 15,000 - 25,000 baht plus commission. Please send resume and covering letter to recruitment@circumnave.net

TELEPHONE MARKETING

appointment required. Suit either Thai national educated overseas or native English speaker. Good rates of pay - both basic and commission. Must be willing to work hard, able to handle rejection. Full training given. Office based in Chalong area. Young progressive company. Tel: 081-833 7836.

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

2 THAI TEACHERS WANTED

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

PRESCHOOL STAFF NEEDED

Positions open for exciting new child care facility in Chalong. Seeking native speaking English teacher, Thai teacher, cook and nannies. Tel: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com

SALES & MARKETING GRAD NEEDED

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

ENGLISH SPEAKING STAFF

We require English speaking Thai and Western staff for a new and unique marketing program. 4-5 hrs p/evening, sun-fri. Full training given, top commission, visa and work permit provided for the right applicant. Tel: 083-633 9193. Fax: 076-326292. Email: paul03oreilly@yahoo.co.uk

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LOOKING FOR A JOB

part-time driver with own car. Know's Phuket well, available from 7am to 3pm. Tel: 086-951 1814.

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WANT TO INCREASE SALES?

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searching for work. Available for teaching, translating, private lessons for adults or kids. Tel: 083-390 3356. Email: phuket@list.ru

LOOKING FOR WORK

15 years experience in hotel management, property marketing and developments in Australia. Russian-English speaking. Tel: 084-838 1824.

PART TIME JOB WANTED

I'm female, 21, Thai, good computer skills, fluent English. Want to work Monday-Friday, 5-6 hour per day. Near Phuket Town. Contact Nuch for more additional details. Tel: 084-630 5669.

EMPLOYMENT NEEDED

High vocational BA, computer business education and good English skills. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-234928, 083-505 6663. Email: sayhellothailand@live.com

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Seeking work with owner of private villa. 5 years' experience in villa management. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-797 5207.

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Asian, have been in Thailand for 14 years. Hotel graduate. Experience as pre-opening GM for 3 properties. Looking for new challenge. Email: hotelgm@gmail.com

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KITCHEN BENCHES

modern kitchen 8 pieces. Corner 3, center breakfast, 2 chairs, 3 drawers + 2 doors. Excellent condition. 16 months old. 45,000 baht o.n.o. Please contact me for photos and more details. Tel: 086-947 7233. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

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Singer original dummy, adjustable from size 10-16. Hardly used; still boxed. Cost 15,000 baht; yours for 8,000 baht. Patong. Email: ashworth.ross@gmail.com

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Modern kit. 6 pieces. Corner 3 + centre breakfast + 3 drawers and 2 doors. Excellent condition, 16 months old. 45,000 baht o.n.o. Contact for photos and details. Tel: 086-947 7233. Email: marknsue@loxinfo.co.th

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Wanted: gym bench and free weights in good condition or new. Tel: 076-282272, 087-462 1154. Email: t_y_com@yahoo.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

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2 door fridge, second hand, in very good condition. 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-344542, 081-891 4381. Fax: 076-344542. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

Bulletins

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For Phuket info (English) call 081-8904331, 081-8912895 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings

Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

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

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Women's Meeting Tue 7 PM

Krabi Hospital - Krabi
Wed 1 PM

(additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463103)

Scandinavian Speaking Meetings

Wat Karon School - Karon
Tue 7 PM and (Sat Nov-April only 7 PM)
Tel: 086-9440490 Sue, 082-2708998 Nor

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

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- 5 rooms, fully equipped: AC, fan, fridge, cableTV, internet
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- Bar: very nice bamboo-style stage with sound system, WiFi
Monthly rent: 21,000 baht (water included).
Takeover fee: 750,000 baht.
Tel: 087-275 1373. Email: 49art@gmx.at

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GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Guesthouse with Restaurant & Bar in Kata! 10 rooms, A/C, fans, fridge, cableTV. The restaurant is marine style and the bar has a stage for live performances! Comes with WiFi and either a short or long term Lease! 2 million baht plus rent at 42,000 baht per month (water included). Rent payable monthly. For further info, contact 74sean@gmx.net or telephone 087-275 1373.

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Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-282403
Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

K.L. Mart Tel: 076-280400/3
Patak Rd, Chalong Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School Tel: 076-232398/9
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee Tel: 076-258369
Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521/2
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart Tel/Fax: 076-324312
Srisoonthorn Rd, Chermg Talay

Deli Supermarket Tel: 076-342275
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HOTEL PATONG

for sale. Paradise mansion, 40 rooms. 120 million baht. Contact Mam. Tel: 089-779 8270. See website: www.pmparadisemansion.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE DEALS

1. Great food restaurant + 8 rooms: rent 75,000 baht per month. Sale 1.5 million baht.
2. Best rent, 17 rooms: rent 125,000 baht per month, 8 years lease. Sale 1.75 million baht.

3. Hotel, 20 rooms, elevator: rent 170,000 baht per month. Sale 2.3 million baht.

Call Real Pro Co Ltd Tel: 076-345238. Frank: 084-0782753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Guesthouse with Restaurant & Bar in Kata! 10 rooms, A/C, fans, fridge, cableTV. The restaurant is marine style and the bar has a stage for live per- fomances! Comes with WiFi and either a short or long- term Lease! 2 million baht plus rent at 42,000 baht per month (water included). Rent payable monthly. For further information, contact email: 74sean@gmx.net or Tel: 087-275 1373.

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URGENT SALE OF GUESTHOUSE

I need to return to Canada May 31 2009. As with my bar, I have just drastically lowered the sale price of my guesthouse to 1.9 million baht. The lease is only 60,000 baht per month and is paid until the end of June 2009. Tel: 089-588 3184. Email: pjsguesthouse@hotmail.com

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LOVELY SHOP IN KATA

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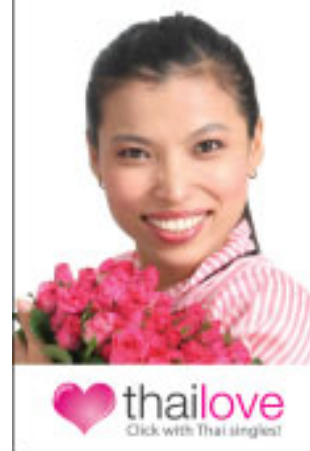
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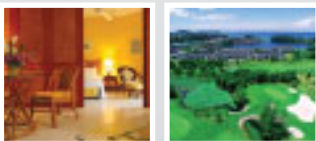
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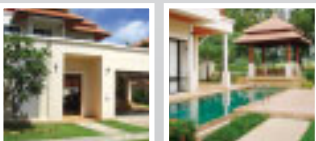
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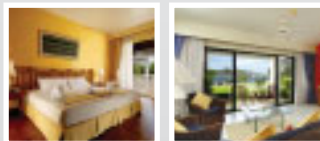
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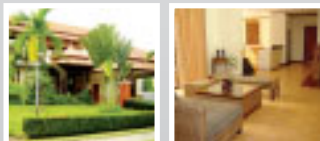
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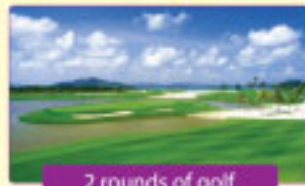


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