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Criminal cowards

Teenage thieves attack helpless blind woman

By Gazette reporters

TWO heartless teenagers attacked and robbed a helpless blind woman in Phuket City on Friday night, stealing her handbag, her room keys and her two mobile phones.

Because she is blind, masseuse Wilawan Maikong, 43, relies heavily on her telephone.

It is her only way of telling the time, and is a vital lifeline in a sightless world.

The 'baby bandits' struck just after 7.30pm while Ms Wilawan was sitting on a concrete bench outside the Nong Neuy traditional Thai massage parlour in Phuket Villa 1.

A youth, described as 'a skinny teenager wearing a red shirt and shorts', ran up to Ms Wilawan, grabbed her handbag and raced off to where an accomplice was waiting on a motorbike.

The pair then sped off in the direction of Yaowarat Road.

The handbag contained Ms Wilawan's two mobile phones, a phone charger and her room keys.

Fortunately, her money was

safely inside the massage parlour.

This is not the first time criminals have hit the massage parlour which employs seven blind or visually impaired people.

In previous attacks, a motorcycle has been stolen, a phone booth has been vandalised, and ten pairs of shoes have been taken from outside the parlour.

Ms Wiliwan, who comes from Lamphun province in northern Thailand, moved to Phuket five years ago after completing a course in Thai massage, sponsored by the Association for The Blind in Chiang Mai. She earns only about 5,000 baht a month.

Phuket police Captain Kittiphum Thinthalang said cowardly thieves often preyed on the disabled.

"They attack elderly and disabled people as well as pregnant women," he said.

"They ride around town looking for easy targets."

Captain Kittiphum said he felt sorry for Ms Wilipan.

"Like most disabled people, she works very hard for her money," he said.

Pocahontas knows how to party



MORE than 40 revelers turned out in their best fancy dress for a costume party at the Watermark restaurant last Friday night. Party-goers came dressed as soldiers, schoolgirls, and samurai, while Natalie Deschamps came as a rather fetching Pocahontas. *Story, more pictures, page 11.*

Sea gypsy families will rise from the ashes

THE central government has promised to build temporary housing for the 17 sea gypsy families whose homes were destroyed by fire last week.

Social Development and Human Security Minister Issara Somchai visited what remains of the Ban Hin Look Diow sea

gypsy village on Saturday and presented each of the families with supplies including rice, palm oil and cooking equipment, as well as 3,000 baht in cash.

He said the families would also be given temporary homes costing about 120,000 baht each.

Mr Issara encouraged the

sea gypsies, whose homes tend to be little more than seaside shacks, to build more permanent accommodation in the future under the Social Development and Human Security Ministry's Stable Homes project.

Under the terms of the project, the sea gypsies would

have to form a co-operative and take out a government loan to build homes under a long-term lease agreement.

Boonchuey Varee, whose home was destroyed in the blaze, said that in the short term the community members' first priority was just to get shelter.

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Swine flu kills student

A UNIVERSITY student who died of pneumonia at Vachira Phuket Hospital last Thursday was infected with the A(H1N1) virus that causes swine flu, lab results have confirmed.

Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) chief Dr Pongsawas Ratanasang said the student was a 19-year-old in his first year of the engineering program at Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket campus.

He was a native of Phattalung province.

The lab results were released by the government-run Phuket Medical Science Center in Thalang on Monday, Dr Pongsawas said.

Like most other people who have succumbed to the virus in Thailand, the boy had a pre-existing medical condition.

His mother said he was 'chronically ill'.

He had also recently been treated in a hospital in Haad Yai for a broken leg, the cast for which was removed just a few weeks ago.

These factors may have weakened his immune system and made him vulnerable to the virus, the mortality rate for which is less than 0.5 per cent of those who are infected.

The cause of death was listed as a second-

ary bacterial infection in the boy's lungs.

Three roommates who shared an apartment with the teenage swine flu victim have been ordered to report daily to the Phuket Provincial Health Office.

After four days, none had tested positive for A(H1N1).

Dr Pongsawas said this was the only case of A(H1N1) infection reported at PSU.

An investigation into the student's death suggests he may have contracted the virus at a nightclub, he said.

The boy died at about 3pm on Thursday after a four-hour effort by doctors to treat him with anti-viral drugs and a respirator failed.

The student had visited a private hospital early last week complaining of a slight fever.

He was given medication and a follow-up appointment was made.

At 1pm on Thursday, friends found him in his dorm room. He was conscious but extremely lethargic and was having difficulty breathing.

The friends rushed him to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but doctors were unable to save him.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn



THE 77-foot yacht the *Chrysalis-T*, which was left floundering on the sands of Maya Bay last month after the yacht owner's 21-year-old son ran it aground during a joy-sail with friends, was successfully refloated on June 30. The US\$2 million yacht was taken to the Boat Lagoon and is now out of the water so that repairs to the damaged rudder and scarred hull can be carried out. The cost of the repairs has yet to be determined.

Chikungunya outbreak worsens

WHILE much attention is on the fight against the spread of swine flu in Phuket, the island is still suffering from a chikungunya outbreak and has the highest per capita infection rate of any province in Thailand.

According to recently released figures from the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO), there have been 2,155 confirmed cases of the disease in the province in the first half of this year – with no deaths.

PPHO Director Dr Pongsawas Ratanasang said 98.6% of the victims were Thai, with 31 cases reported among foreigners.

Most of the foreign sufferers were low-wage Burmese laborers, whose work and substandard living conditions put them at risk of being bitten by the Aedes mosquito that spreads the virus that causes the disease.

Statistically, Phuket had an overall incidence rate of 669 reported cases per 100,000 people for the first half of 2009.

The province thus ranks first in the country, although the

number of cases remains much higher in the lower south, where the outbreak originated.

Dr Pongsawas also noted the high incidence rate for Phuket is skewed by Phuket's huge unregistered population of migrant workers from other parts of Thailand as well as Burma.

The incidence rate is calculated as the number of reported cases divided by the registered population, which is less than half of the actual number of people on the island according to most estimates.

However, chikungunya cases often go unreported as many sufferers do not seek medical attention from hospitals, but from private clinics or simply by treating themselves with non-prescription drugs.

In a breakdown by district, Thalang had the highest incidence rate overall followed by Kathu and Muang Districts.

Within Thalang, tambon Srisoonthorn had the highest incidence in June followed by Thepkasattri, Pa Khlok, Cherng Talay and Sakoo.

A statistical breakdown by month reveals the outbreak has become much worse in the province in recent months. In March and April the incidence rate was less than two cases per 100,000, but jumped dramatically in May (297/100,000) and again in June (1,352/100,000).

The PPHO has adopted a 'blitz' campaign in its efforts to rid the island of the disease by using a variety of measures, including disease control and prevention units at district and tambon levels.

The units are tasked with collecting statistical data to track the spread of the outbreak, organizing preventative measures such as spraying mosquito breeding sites, and raising public awareness about how to avoid mosquito bites. They also advise people about the steps to take if they do contract the disease.

The public relations effort is being conducted in tandem with steps to control the spread of the A(H1N1) virus that causes swine flu.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn / The Nation

Woman killed by truck



A YOUNG woman died instantly on Tuesday afternoon when a pickup truck slammed into her motorbike as she tried to cross the busy Thepkasattri Road.

Sirintip Jongjaleam, 26, was on her way home from work at the Blue Canyon golf course when she pulled onto Thepkasattri Road in Thalang and into the path of a fast-moving Toyota Hilux pickup.

The driver, Sophon Janlap, 22, was unable to avoid slam-

ming into her, and Ms Sirintip died instantly of head injuries.

The pickup then careered into an electricity pole.

The pickup was extensively damaged and Mr Sophon fled the scene.

Miss Sirintip's body was hurled 20 meters away from her bike.

Mr Sophon, who later surrendered himself at Thalang Police Station, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

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Protestors demand police action

By Atchaa Khamlo & Tipwar-intron Tanaakarachod

ABOUT 200 people protested outside the Kathu Police Station on Wednesday, charging officers there with failing to keep their word by not stopping work on a private real estate project at the south end of Patong.

The protesters blocked off a section of Ratchapatana-nusorn Road, which runs in front of Kathu Police Station.

Many of the protestors are fishermen who keep longtail boats along the banks of Klong Pakbang, and who wanted to vent their frustration at police for not stopping construction work on the project, located in the Klong Pakbang area.

The project, which will cover 112 rai, is being developed by the Belair Marina Park High Company on what the protestors claim is part of a mangrove forest project initiated by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

The company has already started building a 2.5-meter concrete retaining wall which runs for about 500 meters along the banks of the canal, which is the main drainage canal for most of Patong.

Protest leaders included party-list MP Chalermluck Kebsup of the Democrat Party and Somkiet Kuru, a local politician who failed to defeat Mayor Pian Keesin in the last Patong Municipal election.

The protesters first set up a tent at the project site on Monday, complaining that the project was being built on public land for which two chanote title deeds were illegally issued many years ago.

The land, the largest remaining large tract of undeveloped land near Patong Beach, was originally set to be developed by the Martello Holdings company as the 'Malina Marina project', which failed to eventuate.

Several years ago, Phuket Municipality hired its own consultants to draw up a development plan to buy back the land and develop it as a recreational area which would include public walkways, tie-up areas for longtail boats and 'Gam Ling' (monkey cheeks) lagoons which would minimize flooding in Patong.

Recently, the Belair Marina Park High Company started work on its project and filled in large sections of the canal.

The company claims it has legal title to more than 30 rai, but the protestors claim the land is public land which was to be used for HM Queen Sirikit's mangrove project.

On Monday, more than a hundred protestors met with Vice Governor Smith Palawatvichai to discuss what they claim is an encroachment onto public land.

No one from the company was at the meeting.

Vice Governor Smith told the protestors that if a construction company having land title deeds was harming the environment or causing trouble for local communities, it would lose its title deeds. He advised the villagers to 'calm down and follow the regulations'.

On Monday afternoon the protestors officially reported the encroachment to police and demanded they order the company to stop work immediately. The company appeared to agree, but as soon as the police left, construction work resumed.

One protestor, Somkiet Kuru, said the Belair Marina Park High Company had two title deeds, numbered 1501 and 1974, to 112 rai of public land.



A police officer talks to protestors outside the Kathu police station



A sign that protestors say was removed from public land designated as a mangrove plantation under royal patronage.



A protestor points to stagnant water and land fill debris where a canal used to flow to the sea and was populated with mangroves.

"But it's not right for them to build on public land," he said.

About 30 local fishing families live in the area and they park their boats in the Pak Bang

canal, which used to run into the ocean. A sign proclaiming that the land was part of a project under royal patronage is now the Kathu police station.

Summer storm deluge leaves Patong under water



MONDAY's thunderstorm which brought heavy rain, left parts of Patong flooded, with waters rising to knee level in some areas.

The worst hit areas were around Soi Sainumyen and the Patong Hospital where the entrance and the lower levels of the carpark were under water.

Locals said the flooding occurred when a nearby canal overflowed under the heavy deluge.

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Employers rush to register illegal workers

FOLLOWING a Cabinet decision, employers of unregistered foreign laborers from Burma, Cambodia and Laos have been given a 30-day grace period until July 30 to register them with both the Phuket Provincial Employment Office and Immigration. After that a crackdown is promised, with unregistered workers facing deportation and their employers fines and arrests. The Gazette's Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod and Atchaa Khamlo report.

THE period for new alien worker registrations – and the impending crackdown – were announced during a seminar at the Phuket Merlin Hotel last Thursday.

The event was attended by the heads of the Royal Thai Navy Third Command, the Phuket Employment Office and Phuket Immigration as well as representatives of provincial fishery associations.

The issue of unregistered foreigners working illegally in the Andaman coast fishing industry was the main topic of discussion.

In the only exception to the deadline, Rear Admiral Sarayut Deangthed said unregistered fishing boat crew aboard vessels already at sea would be given an extra 60 days to comply.

There are an estimated 3.5 million foreign laborers in Thailand, with 200,000 in Phuket alone, he said.

Despite the large figure, just 768 illegal workers were apprehended in Andaman waters between January and April, according to Navy statistics.

Third Naval Area Commander Vice Admiral Narong Thedvisal said a recent 10-day inspection of fishing vessels in local waters showed only 300 out of 1000 foreign crew members were legally registered.

Many foreigners take advance money from employers to work on fishing boats and then escape to go and work in different professions or in other provinces, he said.

He promised that the Navy will prosecute all violators – both crew members and those who employ them – after the grace period runs out.

The task of registering and issuing new work cards to illegal aliens in Phuket falls to the



Employers flock to the Phuket Labor Department office near Saphan Hin to register their workers.

Phuket Employment Office, which requires all employees to report foreign staff. It is not possible for foreign workers to register by themselves.

In the past, there was a quota system by province and no new worker registrations have been accepted in recent years.

This led to a massive increase in the number of foreign

workers, especially from Burma, and the emergence of a lucrative trade in smuggling illegal Burmese workers into Thailand.

The extent of the problem came under the international spotlight in April last year, when 54 Burmese bound for construction jobs in Phuket suffocated in the back of a truck.

Recognizing the scale of the problem, the Cabinet finally passed a resolution allowing more unregistered workers from three countries – Burma, Cambodia and Laos – to obtain work cards.

Phuket Employment Office chief Thanawan Tongsukchote said employers must first report to the Employment Office between July 1 and 30 and report the number of workers they currently have – or wish to employ.

Then, the employers have until August 14 to get health clearance certificates issued by hospitals registered with the Public Health Ministry. After this they have until August 29 to submit applications and

pay a 3,880 baht fee for each worker.

The entire process can be completed in just four days if all the paperwork is in order, Mr Thanawan said.

Only workers from Burma, Cambodia and Laos are eligible for the pink alien worker's cards, which will remain valid until the end of February, 2010. After that, workers are eligible to extend them annually for a maximum of two years.

Workers from other countries – including Nepalese and stateless Rohingya refugees from Western Burma – are not included.

They must go through the same process as other foreigners and be issued a work permit in order to work legally.

Applicants from those countries claiming to be from Burma, Cambodia or Laos face deportation under immigration law, he said.

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Phuket Provincial Employment Office chief Thanawan Tongsukchote.



The head of Phuket Immigration estimated there are about 70,000 low-wage foreign laborers working in Phuket alone.



A Navy vessel inspects a fishing boat off the coast of Ranong, the main transit point for illegal Burmese workers on their way to Phuket.

the six work categories: fishing (blue), domestic servants (gray), agricultural and livestock (green), construction (yellow), fishprocessing (orange) and 'others' (pink).

Almost all are low-paid jobs that Thai workers 'are unwilling to do', he said.

"We hope as many employers as possible will take advantage of the registration period, because if they don't, they will face trouble for employing illegal aliens when the grace period ends," said Mr Thanawan.

In cases where the number of foreign workers available is less than required, the government will liaise with governments of the three countries to try and address the shortfall.

In some cases, this effort would include helping foreign workers to obtain the required travel documents from their home countries, he added.

Once in possession of work cards, foreign workers would be allowed to legally travel to and from their own countries through Immigration checkpoints – a luxury they currently don't enjoy.

Once the grace period is up, the task of deporting workers caught working illegally in the country will fall to Phuket Immigration.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Chantapol Yongbunjerd estimates there are currently about 70,000 alien workers from the three countries in Phuket.

To register with Immigration, workers need to submit photos of each employee together with copies of the employer's house registration forms and ID cards.

"The government has said this will be the last chance for employers to register new workers under their administration," Col Chantapol said.

Asked about the Immigration status of scores of ethnic Nepalese working as touts in places like Patong, Col Chantapol said that if his office received any reports of foreigners working illegally in the country they would be arrested and deported.

Their employers would also face arrest, he added.

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Thai Muslim girls at an event to promote peace in Yala province last Friday. Photo by Nakarin

Cat burglar caught napping on the job

CHONBURI: A young burglar was arrested after falling asleep in the house of a Pattaya public prosecutor.

The sleepy thief, identified as 20-year-old Prajak Jak-nguleum, was found by a housemaid sound asleep in an upstairs bedroom at around 8:30pm last Friday.

The maid shouted out for

help, waking Mr Prajak, who slammed the door shut and locked it.

When police arrived, he refused to open the door, forcing police to break it down.

Mr Prajak told police he broke into the house about 6pm.

He said that while he was looking for valuables to steal, he

began feeling tired and had a quick lie down.

He fell fast asleep and slept soundly until he was woken by the maid's screams.

Mr Prajak said he locked the door hoping it would give him time to escape through a window, but couldn't find any way out.

Source: MCOT/Khao Sod

Surat Thani cops nab suitcase bomber

SURAT THANI: Police have arrested a man suspected of planting a bomb in Kanchanadit district in mid-March, after five bombs were found and defused by Surat Thani Police over a two-day period.

Ranong native Sirichat Khongphan, 44, was arrested at his wife's home in Chumphon on Friday.

Upper South Police Commissioner, Santhan Chaianon, said Mr Sirichat admitted planting a bomb under a Democrat Party billboard near the party's office in Kanchanadit, but denied any involvement in the four bombs planted in Muang District.

Mr Sirichat told police he planted the bomb to repay a debt of gratitude to someone.

He said he did not know what was in the case he was asked to place beneath the sign, but he suspected it was not something good.

After being charged for planting an explosive device, Mr Sirichat asked for police protection, claiming others involved in the plot might try to have him killed to silence him.

Source: Thai Rath

Killer jumbo takes three more lives

TRANG: An elephant killed three people after breaking its chains and going on a rampage in Palian District.

The 35-year-old elephant, named Phang Natalie, killed four other people only last month.

Police received a report at 2am last Wednesday that an elephant had attacked a man in tambon Laem Som.

At the scene police found the body of 44-year-old rubber tapper Sophon Jinala who had been trampled to death.

Sophon's wife, 39-year-old Od Jinala, told police she went to tap rubber about 500 meters from the house, leaving her husband at home to care for their grandchild.

While she was working, she heard her neighbor cry out that an elephant was coming, and she ran back to the house, but Mr Sophon was not there.

At first she thought her husband had probably gone to help capture the beast, but a short while later, a neighbour found his body.

Not long after that, police received a report of two more deaths.

In Tambon Thung Yao, rubber tapper Priya Mekchai, 51, was trampled to death while out working with her daughter, who was able to flee in time.

Another rubber tapper, 38-year-old Jintana Changkhao, whose surname translates as 'white elephant' was killed by Phang Natalie while out working with her husband.

The elephant's owner, 55-year-old Somchok Chuban, is a member of Laem Som Tambon Administration Organization.

He bought Phang Natalie around six months ago in Nakhon Sri Thammarat for 620,000 baht.

The elephant's former owner told him that Phang Natalie had previously gone on a rampage, killing three villagers, and on June 9 this year, she became angry and stomped on her new owner's elder brother, Jamnan Chunban, killing him.

Phang Natalie's death toll now stands at seven.

Mr Somchok said he didn't know how Phang Natalie had escaped.

The elephant was recaptured and chained to a tree about three kilometres from the village.

Mr Somchok said he would sell Phang Natalie and pay compensation to the families of the victims.

Police would not say whether any criminal charges would be brought against Mr Somchok.

Source: Thai Post

Queer News

Abbot claims black magic nailed him

UTARADIT: A temple abbot has been admitted to hospital after doctors found nails in his stomach for the second time in two months.

Phra Athikananuwat Wisutho, 32, abbot of Wat Hat Song Khwai in Tha Pla District, was admitted to Utaradit Hospital last Tuesday after an X-ray found five 3- to 4-inch nails in his stomach.

The director of Utaradit Hospital, Dr Thianchai Khorayothin, said doctors were hoping the nails would pass through the monk's intestines naturally, avoiding the need for surgery.

The nails are not the first unusual foreign objects to appear in Phra Athikananuwat's stomach this year.

Two months ago, Phra Athikananuwat was admitted to Utaradit Hospital after an X-ray revealed two two-inch nails and a pin in his intestines.

Doctors surgically removed the objects and the monk was allowed to resume his duties at the temple.

Phra Athikananuwat said he did not swallow the nails and that he believed black magic had made them appear in his stomach.

But his doctors are convinced that the abbot deliberately swallowed the nails.

Source: Khao Sod



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Monks arrive at a military air base in Songkhla last Friday. They were deployed to temples in Pattani during Buddhist Lent after monks there fled to escape daily acts of violence. Photo by Thoranit Piroonla-ong

Aquatic escape foiled by rescuers

CHONBURI: A drunken Englishman plucked from the sea off Pattaya during the early hours of Sunday was trying to 'swim away' from a hefty bar bill.

Gary William Donovan, 41, was picked up by rescuers in a dinghy at about 1.30am as he was floating about 200 metres off Central Pattaya Beach.

Saijai Khongsomsong, the 39-year-old owner of a beer bar on Soi Pattaya 8, said Mr Donovan had been drinking in her bar since about 8pm.

At the end of the evening, Mr Donovan left the bar without paying his 1,155 baht bar bill, she said.

A staff member followed Mr Donovan and asked him to pay up, but rather than hand over the money, Mr Donovan attempted to escape. He ran onto the beach and dived into the water.

He swam about 200 meters out to sea, where he was eventually picked up by the rescue team, who handed him over to police.

Source: Khao Sod

Child killed by stray bullet

NONG KHAI: A police Senior Sergeant Major has been arrested for manslaughter after a bullet he fired allegedly hit and killed a 12-year-old boy on Saturday.

The young victim, Saranyu Chaisan, was playing outside his house in Muang District about midday when he was hit in the head by a bullet.

He was taken to Udon Thani Hospital, but died of his injury.

Police arrested and charged Senior Sergeant Major Pathomchai Sukkhaya, 44, with the shooting, although he denies any involvement.

Saranyu's aunt, 41-year-old Sumantha Wirasak, said Pathomchai had been arguing with his wife all that morning, and about noon, a pick-up truck pulled up outside the policeman's house and two people got out.

A short while later, she heard Pathomchai shouting foul language at the pair.

She said Pathomchai shot at the truck as it drove away and one of the bullets hit her nephew.

The two men in the truck were later identified as Chaianand Suwanapaksa and Khampha Bunthawee, debt collectors for a motorcycle dealer

in Nong Khai.

They told police they had gone to the house to collect a 200 baht instalment that Pathomchai's wife owed for her motorbike.

When they arrived, Pathomchai and his wife were having a fierce argument.

When the debt collectors told Pathomchai they were there to collect a payment, he became angry and abused his wife for adding to their debts.

They said Pathomchai shouted at them to get out of the house and shot at them three times as they drove away.

Chakat Thianwong, Deputy Superintendent of the Nong Khai Muang District Police, said Pathomchai denied responsibility and refused to make a statement about the incident.

Bullet casings found at Pathomchai's house match those of the bullet that killed Saranyu, he said.

The 12-year-old's death follows the death of 13-year-old Yotsiri Thamma-satuek, who was killed when a stray bullet fell through the roof while he was having a swimming lesson in Phetchaburi province three weeks ago.

Source: Khao Sod

CCTV bags Brit tourist wallet scam

BANGKOK: A Bangkok duty free shop has hit back at a British couple who claim they were arrested and falsely accused of shoplifting at Suvarnabhumi airport and forced to pay £8,000 (approximately 450,000 baht) in bribes to secure their release.

Stephen Ingram, 49, and Xi Lin, 45, from Cambridge, were detained by security guards as they waited to board a Qantas flight to London on the night of April 25.

They claim they were falsely accused of stealing a Givenchy wallet worth 6800 baht from a King Power duty-free shop and arrested.

According to the *Times Online* website, the couple said they spent five days locked up in a cheap 'love hotel' near the airport.

They said they were released only after they handed over the £8,000 bribe money to a fixer named Sunil 'Tony' Rathnayaka, a Sri Lankan national who works as a volunteer interpreter for Thailand's Tourist Police.

After they paid the 'bribe', the couple said they were given an official release order giving them permission to leave the country.

The King Power chain of duty free shops this week released CCTV footage purporting to show Xi Lin putting the wallet into her handbag.

The company also released an official statement detailing its side of the story.

The statement, which is signed by the company's group managing director, Sombat Dechapanichkul, said sales staff noticed the wallet was missing after the couple had been browsing in their shop.

They alerted security staff who looked at the CCTV footage, which 'clearly captured Xi Lin placing the Givenchy wallet into her handbag and exiting the shop without paying for the item', the statement said.

Mr Sombat said security staff went looking for the couple and found them sitting at separate tables in an airport restaurant.

They were now wearing different clothing, he said.

According to the statement, when airport police approached Xi Lin and asked to search her, Mr Ingram got up and went to a block of toilets.

Security staff followed him and found the stolen wallet in a bin near the toilet entrance.

Meanwhile, the British media have picked up the story and run with it, claiming the 'scam' is widespread and that hundreds of 'innocent' tourists have been ripped off.

Stephen Ingram denies the video clip implicates him and is suing for one million baht for wrongful arrest and imprisonment.

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Asarnha Bucha

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop attended a Buddhist merit-making ceremony at Wichit Sankharaam Temple on Suthat Road, on Tuesday.

The ceremony was held to mark Asarnha Bucha Day, which commemorates the Lord Buddha's first sermon.

The governor and about 500 others took part in the traditional ceremony, which involved circling a chedi at the temple three times before placing an offering of flowers, incense and candles on an altar.

The two-hour ceremony began at 8.30am.

Many of those taking part were government-school students on a three-day holiday which began on Monday.

Asarnha Bucha Day is an official government holiday in Thailand, as was *Khao Pansa* Day, the first day of Buddhist Lent, on Wednesday.

The province asked all bars and nightclubs on the island not to sell alcohol.

Butterflies fly to freedom



Settapan Puttaneer, Director of TAT Phuket (top right) joined children and local officials at Khao Phra Thaeo National Park to release butterflies.

Khao Phra Thaeo National Park in Pa Khlok came alive with color on Saturday when 1,000 butterflies were released into the forest. Phuket Butterfly Garden and Insect World (PBGIW) supplied 15 different species of butterfly for the annual event.

Included were the wonderfully named great mormon, common mormon, tailed jay, lime butterfly, lemon emigrant, leopard lacewing, autumn leaf, orange oakleaf, great egg-fly, clipper, great orange tip, plain tiger, dark blue tiger, common tiger and common glassy tiger.

The event was designed to increase the number of butterflies in the forest and to teach local people how to prevent butterflies from dying out.

Officers from Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, Khao Phra Thaeo National Park, Thalang Police, Thepkasattri Municipality and other government departments took part.

"The numbers of butterflies in Phuket is decreasing, and we have already lost some species," Wasin Koysiripong, managing director of PBGIW said.

Ms Wasin said some species of butterflies were dying out because construction projects were destroying their habitats.

"Construction workers are destroying the places where butterflies lay their eggs and the plants they feed on," she said

- *Khunakorn Terdkhachorn*



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A rich tapas-try of delights

On the menu WITH Dan Ogunshakin

The very mention of the word tapas invokes happy memories from my childhood and early adulthood: summer and Christmas holidays in Spain, long summers spent working in Greece.

I was privy to these opportunities largely thanks to my half-Spanish uncle.

He was a godsend given that I was raised in deepest, darkest North Yorkshire, where most people thought cosmopolitan was a fancy type of ice cream.

The notion of anything foreign was met with suspicion.

"Helmsley born, Helmsley bred, Helmsley life, Helmsley dead," was the locals' expression – frightening.

In Spain, the family would head out late in the evening for food and, more often than not, we would take great pleasure in ordering a number of tapas dishes that we could share. Calamari, olives, cured meats, prawns in garlic, bread, cheese to name but a few. All very exotic for a young lad.

As the night went on the adults would enjoy more than a few glasses of the local plonk while my brother and I would continue to eat and eat and eat, determined to sample everything on the menu.

Getting older, heading to Greece for the summer as an adult gave me a chance to relive those lost summer nights, this time with my colleagues.

There are few differences between many of the dishes in Greece and Spain, but the food took on a whole new lease of life with the addition of a few glasses of good wine.

Now all the pieces were in place – the moonlit sky, the friends, the meal and a hearty bottle of red – heaven.

Good food and a couple of nice glasses of wine, two of life's simple pleasures.

On the first Friday of every month, the Vanilla Sky bar at

Cape Sienna hosts a wine and tapas evening which includes free-flow hot and cold tapas and four glasses of wine – two white options and two red.

The open-air design of Vanilla Sky overlooks the Andaman Sea and affords beautiful views of the sun setting at the end of another day in Phuket.

The tapas itself starts at 6pm, giving diners the chance to catch the sun dipping below the sea.

As the sky darkens, the candlelit tables create an intimate ambiance and it is easy to sit back, close your eyes and relax, imagining that you are sitting at a quaint taverna somewhere in the Iberian peninsula as a cool breeze rolls in from the sea.

A great place to take a date or share a meal with friends.

The food is served for four hours until 10pm and is a fusion of cuisines, rather than the traditional Spanish fare.

Given the success of the night, despite still being in its infancy, the service can be a tad on the slow side. Diners should expect more of a steady trickle of dishes rather than a rampaging Niagara Falls.

The occasional wait for your food, however, doesn't put a damper on the night by any stretch of the imagination.

Once seated and comfortable, the staff will offer you a glass of the selected wines, on this occasion an Argentinian Mosaico Chardonnay-Chenin and Shiraz Malbec, and a Chilean PasTao del Sol Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Selecting the Sauvignon Blanc, I then plumped to start with the selection of cold tapas dishes – Parma ham and avocado roll, tuna and noodle sushi, Caprese skewer and spiced gazpacho soup.

The Parma ham and avocado made a delicious salty-sweet combination, while the spicy gazpacho was complemented well by the tangy and dry Chilean white.

After a couple of servings of the cold offerings, it was time to make the switch to the hot tapas accompanied by a glass of full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon.



SALUD! (clockwise): The cold tapas selection. Seafood wontons and beef yakitori with ponzu sauce. The sun sets on another day at Vanilla Sky.

This time round we were treated to Thai fish cakes with a superb onion and chili jam, seafood wontons with balsamic and garlic puree, beef yakitori with ponzu sauce, chicken quesadillas and fritto of tomato and mozzarella.

The beef yakitori was the stand out dish. Tender and full of flavor, it was a wonderful partner for the smooth red.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to make my four glasses of wine last the night. However, a Cape Sienna resident's card affords its holders a 20% discount on drinks, so a bottle of house wine became a very affordable 880 baht.

The meal itself was just 699 baht net which, including four glasses of wine, represents tre-

mendous value, given that you can pay up to 300 baht for a single glass in some establishments.

The service was a little on the slow side and the glasses of

wine could do with being filled slightly higher, but overall the tapas night is great value for money and a fantastic way to spend a Friday evening. *Salud.*

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Technique

1. Start with the downward-facing dog pose.
2. Inhale and bring one leg forward, placing it just beside the respective palm. Now align the knee over the ankle.
3. Inhale again and lift the back leg up to the level of the hip, parallel to the ground. Straighten the front leg and shift your entire body weight onto the front leg. Gently lift the pad of the palms, coming over the finger tips. Lift the chest up, and look slightly forward and down with a fixed gaze. Now stay strong through the front leg and maintain the vertical alignment of hip, knee and ankle by pressing your foot strongly on the ground. Maintain this position for a few breaths.
4. Inhale and walk the hands one step forward, trying to lift the chest further with arms and fingers interlaced to keep the torso parallel to the floor. Breathe evenly in the pose while balancing. The body (except the front leg) should be kept parallel to the floor. The front leg, which should be fully stretched and stiff, should be kept perpendicular to the floor. Pull the back of the thigh of your front leg and stretch the arms and the back leg as if two persons are pulling you from either end, maintaining a perfect 'T' shape.
5. Release the back foot down first and place the hands by the side of the front foot. Step back to downward-facing dog and repeat with the other leg. After completing the position on both sides, relax in the child pose.

Benefits

This pose improves your balance, harmony and poise. It also strengthens the leg muscles and is especially good for runners as it gives vigor and agility. The pose also tones the abdominal organs.

Cautions

For people with hyper-extended and knocked knees, or bow-legged practitioners, please micro-bend the knees to avoid further injuries and recruit all the muscles of the leg. It is recommended that you practice this pose under the supervision of your yoga teacher.





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Phuket's nightlife took a surreal turn last week at Watermark restaurant's 'We Want You' fancy dress party. Soldiers, schoolgirls and samurai joined Pocahontas, Lady Gaga and the late 'King of Pop' Michael Jackson for an evening of revelry at the Boat Lagoon eatery last Friday.

More than 40 of the 150 guests dressed up for the occasion, with a hooker, a geisha, a princess and a rather chic lady pilot also spotted in the crowd.

A panel of eagle-eyed judges awarded prizes to the five best-dressed guests. Top prize went to a young gentleman dressed as a *Kinnaree*, a half-man, half-bird creature from Thai mythology.

DJ Tank kicked off the night, spinning hip-hop and R'n'B before DJ Jon upped the pace with a funky house set.

Watermark plans to hold a party with a new theme on the first Friday of every month. "After people get paid each month they can come and enjoy a special night with us," said Watermark's Paschara Luealamai.

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Tsownding all the right notes

Bill Page has been delighting readers in the *Phuket Gazette* and other major newspapers in Thailand since his arrival in the Kingdom more than 20 years ago.

Using the pen name S. Tsow, Bill uses humor to provide insights into his view of the world.

He tackles everything from global politics to the sex politics played out by the often naive Westerner attempting to find his place in Thai paradise.

While he has spent most of his professional life improving the English language skills of students in countries as diverse as Taiwan, Iran and Luxembourg, it wasn't until Bill arrived to work at Thammasat University in 1986 that he found his home.

"Why did it take 48 years for me to discover this place?", was his initial response to the new life he found in Thailand.

He has since contributed numerous humor and travel articles for the *Bangkok Post*, over 300 columns for *The Nation Weekend*, has been published in the *Phuket Gazette* as a feature columnist since 1998 and in the

meantime, has found the time to write three books.

The Nirvana Experiments and Other Tales of Asia was published in 1995 by White Lotus Press. This first book is a collection of stories based on Bill's travels around Asia.

The stories are moral metaphors about fate and the human condition.

He is not averse to using tales of magic and myth which often control the lives of the people Bill finds in remote mountain regions around Southern and Eastern Asia.

Asia Books published *Thai Lite* in 2000, a collection of his essays, with *Thai Lite 2* following in 2005.

"As a young man, I was interested in religion and the spiritual life of man. I think I might have a genetic disposition to religious eccentricity inherited from my ancestors who left England for America to practice their form of Christianity," Bill says.

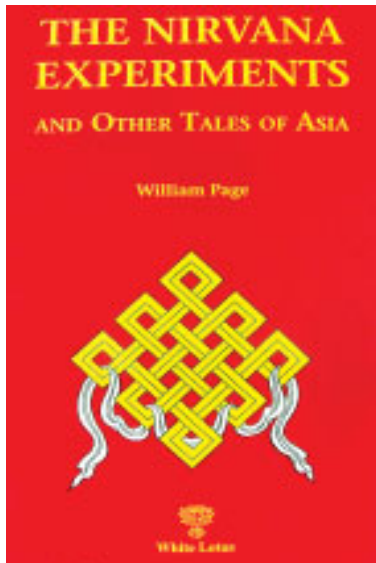
The young Bill graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine, USA, in 1960 after completing his studies of philosophy and English. At the time there was a draft for the US military and he decided to enlist so he could choose a course of study.

As he had a talent for languages, he was offered the choice of Russian, Arabic or Chinese for a US Army security program. He chose Chinese, which set him on his future path in Asia.

After an intensive 48-week course in Mandarin, Bill was posted to Taiwan where he spent much of the next 10 years, first with the US military and later teaching at the Taipei American School.

"During my early years in Asia, I pursued the study of the *Vedanta*, the core religion found in India. I spent decades reading various religious texts including the Upanishads, which has helped me to understand the nature of existence," Bill reveals.

In his pieces, Bill has taken



The Nirvana Experiments and Other Tales of Asia was published in 1995 by White Lotus Press. This first book is a collection of stories based on Bill's extensive travels around Asia.

his serious study and turned it to telling stories full of human compassion and humor.

The people in his stories are often those facing moral or physical dilemmas that they either overcome or transcend.

Bill spent a couple of years working in community development in a small village without electricity in northeastern Nepal during which time he learned to read and write Nepali.

A major change of direction came when he decided to work in Isfahan, the beautiful but religiously conservative heart of Islam in Iran.

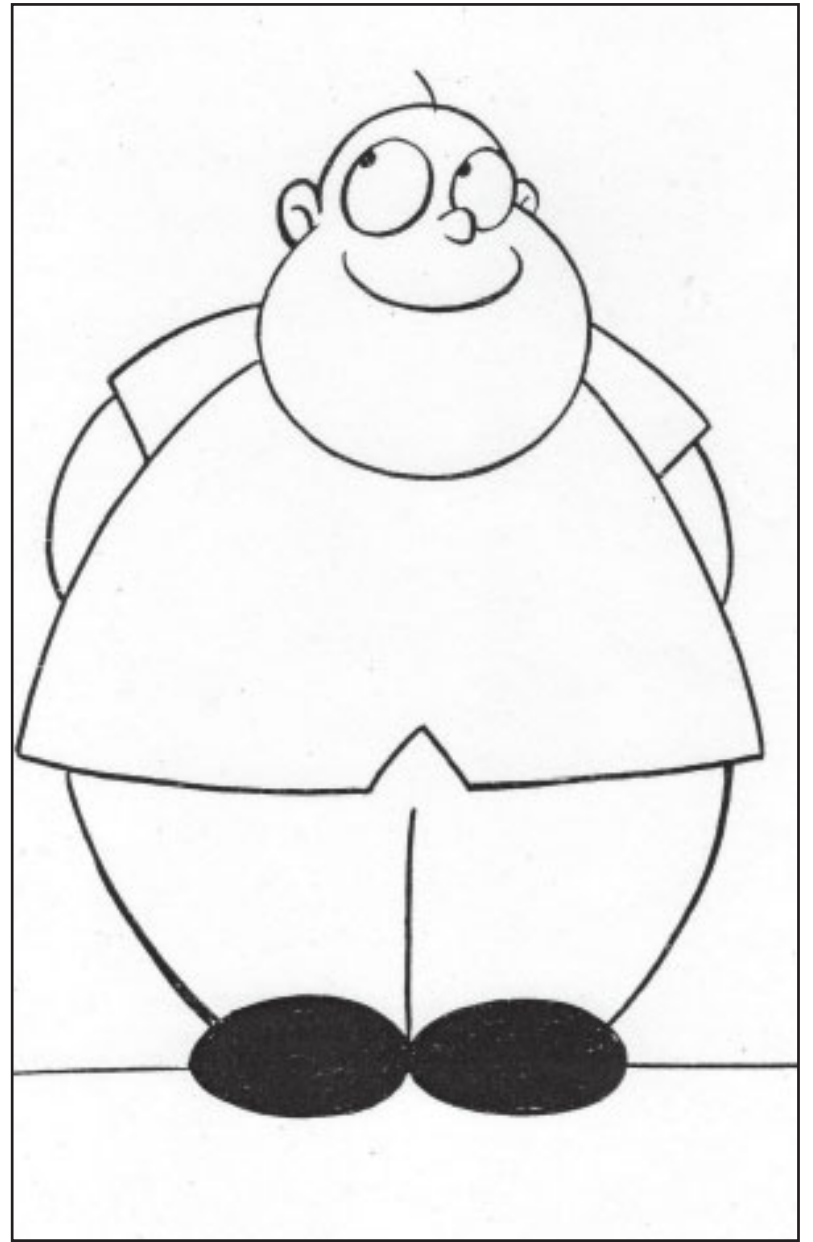
He went to work in Iran in 1975 and stayed until the Shah was deposed four years later when Bill was evacuated.

For the next few years, Bill taught in Luxembourg and then took a lucrative job in Saudi Arabia writing training programs.

The posting to Saudi Arabia gave him the opportunity to take travel breaks. By 1986, he was ready for life in Thailand.

"The two great passions of my life have been the study of religion and the pursuit of women," Bill smiles.

"After a few holidays in



Using the pen name S. Tsow, Bill uses humor to provide insights into his view of the world, tackling everything from global politics to the sex politics played out by the often naive Westerner attempting to find his place in Thai paradise.

Thailand, I decided to combine my two main interests and accepted a job at Thammasat University," he adds.

During the past 20 years, he has been able to pursue his study of religion by taking trips to Tibet, Afghanistan, China, India and Nepal.

His extensive studies and his travels have brought him to the conclusion that "anybody who takes anything seriously in this world does not understand the situation".

Bill will be reading a selection of works at a 'Writer's Night' on July 16 at the celebrated Mom Tri's Boathouse.

This will include his piece, *Cockroach*, about his experience of life, and the self-explanatory, *An Expatriate Lament*.

Following the readings there will be a question and answer session in which Bill will answer all questions about his writing and his experience of life both in Thailand and around Asia.

-Bruce Stanley

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EXPAT GALLERY

Alasdair Forbes

By the time Alasdair Forbes arrived to Phuket in 1999 to become managing editor of the *Phuket Gazette*, he had already worked in the international media for over 25 years.

"I believe I was the first career journalist hired by the *Gazette*, which I think gave me a more finely tuned sense of who the readers were and an ability to recognize stories that were useful, informative, educational and entertaining."

Back in 1999, the *Phuket Gazette* was published every two weeks. Under Alasdair's tenure, it expanded to a weekly community newspaper.

"The *Gazette* already had a well established identity when I arrived, but it was very much an expat paper, concentrating on the activities of the expat community. There was little focus on Thai society or how the local government functions.

"I pushed hard to educate readers about local politics, about immigration rules and procedures and other important issues, such as land ownership. I worked to give the readers a deeper insight into the stories behind the news."

Alasdair began his career in the media as a young reporter for the community newspaper *Cheshire Weekly*, in his hometown in England. He started as a

reporter and over the next six years moved to become the paper's district news editor. In 1977, he moved to the Chronicle Group, but a sense of adventure led him to accept a job in Saudi Arabia as sub-editor for the *Saudi Gazette*.

"I learned a tremendous amount working in Saudi Arabia as many of the staff came from major international newspapers like the *Daily Express*."

By 1980, Alasdair was appointed chief sub-editor of the *Gulf Mirror*, a weekly newspaper in Bahrain. Two years later he was hired as production editor by Al Hilal Publishing, which produced trade magazines for the shipping and construction industry. He was based first in Bahrain and then Cyprus.

In 1988, he moved to Hong Kong to work at *Asian Business*.

"I stayed at *Asian Business* magazine for eleven years, starting as production editor, and eventually became Associate Publisher. This is where I learned about keeping magazines afloat. I traveled around East Asia negotiating contracts with media companies. I loved living and working in Hong Kong on the edge of the New Territories."

But the 1997 financial crisis was traumatic for *Asian Business* magazine and eventually

Alasdair decided to look at Thailand as a new place to use his considerable media skills.

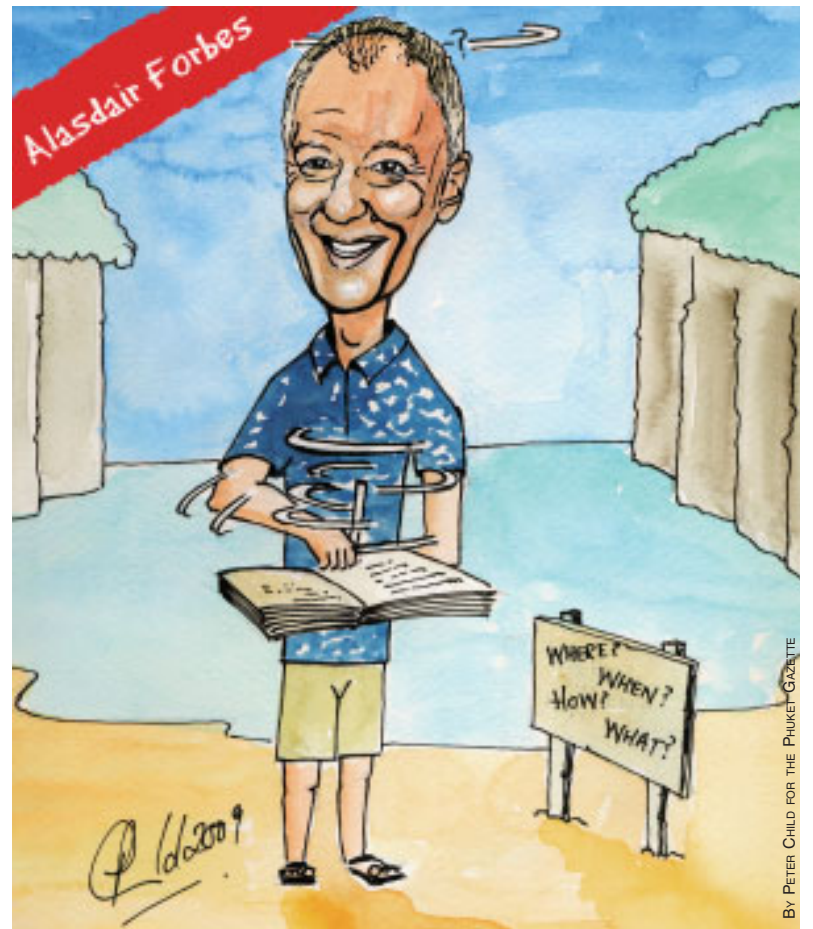
"Working in Thailand has been particularly delightful due to the openness of local Thai society and the willingness of most people, regardless of their position or status, to receive me and talk candidly. In the Middle East, it was very rare that one got to speak with the powerful and influential. In Hong Kong, people were generally less forthcoming with lots of 'no comment' answers to questions."

Alasdair stayed with the *Phuket Gazette* for seven years, guiding his reporters on how to find the facts behind a story. By 2006, he thought it time to diversify his interests. He bought a ten-rai fruit farm on the island and is now the general manager of Forbes Communications, a free-lance and editing agency which provides editorial services for the Internet and print media. This new lifestyle gives him more time to spend with his wife Pen and their dogs.

"Now that I have more control over what I can do with my time, I'm able to get more involved with the community. I'm a board member-elect of the Phuket Community Foundation which has developed a toy library program for local schools and a number of road safety programs."

"I'm delighted with my life. Some days I work twelve hours and other days I just go to the beach."

— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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

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NUTS ABOUT CLEANING: Staff at The Village resort on Coconut Island gave the environment a helping hand on July 2 with a special beach clean-up event held in conjunction with an island-wide clean-up effort.



PRIDE ON PARADE IN PATONG: Phuket's proudest dressed in their best to put on a vibrant display of daring drag during the annual Phuket Gay Festival in Patong last week. Photo by Christian Mouchet



WORKING THE BEACH: Thai-reggae band Job 2 Do put on a wild concert at the northern end of Rawai Beach last Saturday. The evening's entertainment also included fireworks and performances by Maori warriors from New Zealand.



TOY STORY: Jumras Pitikulsatit, owner of Chester's Grill (2nd from left), donated 100,000 baht to the Phuket Community Foundation (PCF) on June 27 in support the foundation's ongoing Toy Library Program. Also at the hand-over ceremony at the Royal Phuket City Hotel were (from left) Piyarat Kulvanich, PCF Treasurer; Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana, President of the PCF; and Cynthia Ratcliffe, PCF board member-elect.



PHUKET'S PERFECT PAST: Actors Janesuda Parnto and Arak Amornsupsiri at Central Festival during the Past Perfect festival held at the shopping complex on June 27. The festival was organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket to promote traditional foods and to ensure the island's heritage plays a role in modern-day Phuket life. Stalls selling traditional products were erected on the second floor of the shopping complex for the event.



SLAM DUNK: Satree Phuket School's basketball team defeated opponents from Thepmitsuksa school in Surat Thani with a 77-55 win on June 24. The result means the Satree team will now enter the later stages of the Sponsor Thailand Championship in August. The championship winners will receive a trophy from HM Queen Sirikit. Pictured with the team are Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (blue shirt) and the Director of Satree Phuket School Mr Keittisak Pinlawas.



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Kandi for the senses and soul

The bright azure come-to-bed eyes and sleek sensual curves cause passers by to do a double take and stop in their tracks.

Once hooked, they are hypnotically drawn to a pouting nymphet dressed to thrill in a bikini, cat suit or figure-hugging dress.

As they gaze upon the vision in front of them, a voice in the back of their head tells them to 'Look away. She's not real, she's just an illusion. Don't let her seduce you with her melodies and promises'.

But by then it's too late.

This modern-day siren has snared another victim, effortlessly luring them to the bar with her sexy, sensual and irresistible song, and the promise of a night to remember.

Resistance is futile.

Welcome to the seductive world of Hed Kandi.

Despite not being the destination of choice for young backpackers, but rather home to an older expat population, Phuket is slowly forging a reputation for providing top quality house music, thanks to a number of like-minded individuals.

Nowhere is this new-found love of funky beats and twisted grooves more evident than Stereo Lab on Surin Beach.

The beach bar plays host to big name DJs from home and abroad who grace the decks on Friday and Saturday nights and play to the ever-growing crowd of Phuket residents looking for the latest club sounds.

Next Friday, Stereo Lab will host the Phuket leg of the Hed Kandi Thailand World Series Tour which will also feature events at the new Nikki Beach on Koh Samui and the legendary Q Bar in Bangkok.

Established in 1999, the UK-based brand is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

During the past decade, Hed Kandi has developed from a small record label into one of the world's foremost lifestyle brands reaching audiences in six continents with its effervescent, upbeat disco house.

Founded by Mark Doyle 10 years ago, the label blossomed and was acquired by the world-renowned Ministry of Sound in 2006.

For the last seven years, Hed Kandi has been based in Ibiza, and the beach location of Stereo Lab will give the traveling DJs and performers a chance to replicate the White Isle experience.

Although Phuket will never emulate the famous Balearic destination, the arrival of Hed

Kandi is a step in the right direction for Stereo Lab owner Thomas Alexandre.

"I want to take the Phuket music scene to a new level," he said.

"I was surprised that Hed Kandi have never played here before. They've played in Bangkok but nowhere else in Thailand, not even Koh Samui.

"Phuket has the potential to be better than Samui," he said.

There is already a buzz of excitement and anticipation among Stereo Lab regulars'

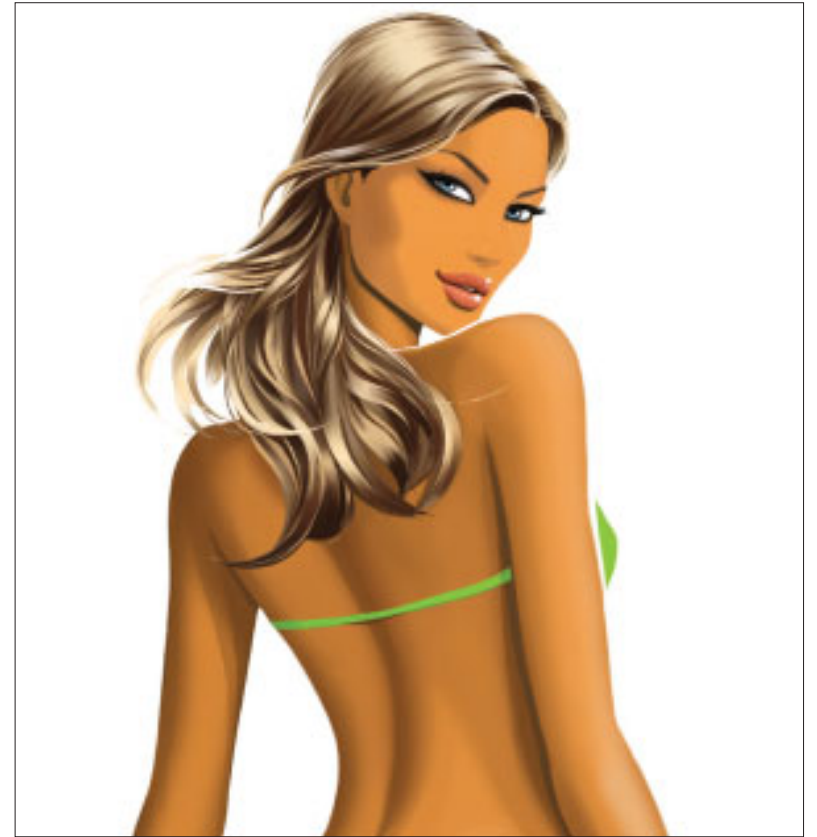
Resident DJ Joe-G will be joined by DJ Dean Rigg and percussionist Dean Oram, both Hed Kandi regulars from the UK.

Rigg joined the Hed Kandi DJ roster in 2006 after taking his unique blend of hip hop-style DJing to house around the world.

Since then, he has represented Hed Kandi in Japan, China, Egypt, South America, and the Caribbean along with producing music for himself and the Hed Kandi album collections.

Dean Oram, aka Deano On Percussion, joined the Hed Kandi family last year and will bring his renowned percussion skills to Stereo Lab.

Trained at London's prestigious Drumtech Academy, Oram first came to the attention of Jay



This modern-day siren has ensnared another victim with her sexy, sensual and irresistible song. Welcome to the seductive world of Hed Kandi. Resistance is futile.

Kay of Jamiroquai and since then has played across the globe, and he has recorded with a number of international artists at London's famous Abbey Road Studios.

The presence of these two internationally-renowned musi-

cians as part of the Hed Kandi brand should make it a night to remember and help further enhance Phuket's reputation as one of Southeast Asia's up-and-coming house music destinations.

-Dan Ogunshakin



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Pruerk-Amporn

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Pruerk-Pailin	80	5,630,000	100,000	2,715,000	2,815,000
Pruerk-Ampai	75	5,950,000	100,000	2,875,000	2,975,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
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The mystical Luang Por Cham from the memoirs of Prince Damrong

WAT Chaithararam, more commonly referred to as Chalong Temple, is one of the most important temples in Phuket.

Comprising beautiful chapels and elaborately decorated pagodas, Chalong Temple draws many visitors and Buddhist devotees every day who come to pay their respects.

The temple owes its popularity to a famous monk named Luang Por Cham, who served as its abbot during the late 19th Century.

Today Luang Por Cham is respected and revered not just in Phuket but throughout the region.

During the reign of HM King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), Prince Damrong Rajanuphab, the King's brother, was assigned to head the Ministry of Interior.

The prince, an expert Siamese historian, wrote many books during his lifetime, including his memoirs which recalled his first official visit to Phuket where he met the famous Phra-Kru Visut-Wongsajarn, Luang Por Cham.

King Chulalongkorn's reign saw the establishment of a new political system which greatly weakened the powerful nobles and centralized administrative power with the royal family.

After the reforms, most of the important positions once held by the old league of nobles were

assigned to royal princes, most of whom were the King's own brothers.

Prince Damrong was given control of the Mahathai, the Ministry of Interior, which was one of the most important posts in the Kingdom.

Six towns on the Andaman coast, including Phuket, were also placed under the jurisdiction of the Mahathai, which meant Prince Damrong directly supervised the governors of the six towns, including Phuket.

According to his memoirs, Prince Damrong visited Phuket several times when he was head of the Mahathai, and during his first official visit to the island in 1898, the prince heard stories about a revered monk who was the abbot of a temple near the village of Ban Chalong, and possessed mystical powers.

The prince visited Chalong Temple and met the abbot.

In his memoirs, Prince Damrong wrote that Phra Kru Cham was both wise and humble and estimated he must have been around 60 years old.

The prince noticed the monk's ankle was covered with gold leaves, something he found most peculiar.

The practice of sticking gold leaves on Buddha images and relics is an old tradition with Buddhist devotees, but to worship a living being in this manner was unheard of.



A worshipper places a gold leaf on the image of revered abbot Luang Por Cham at Chalong Temple, a custom that began when the abbot was still alive.

Curious, the prince asked Luang Por Cham about the gold leaves on his ankle, and the abbot smiled and explained that whenever he traveled through the town or villages to collect alms, people would pay their respects by attaching gold leaves to his body.

According to his accounts, the legend of Luang Por Cham started many years before when a fishing boat left port and headed out to sea where it encountered a powerful storm which mercilessly tossed the small vessel about violently, threatening to tear the boat apart.

The terrified fishermen were helpless, and they prayed to the gods and deities they worshiped, but to no avail.

When no amount of pleading seemed to help, one of the crew members remembered Luang Por Cham, who possessed supernatural powers.

He prayed that if the abbot could save his life and prevent him from drowning at sea, he would visit Chalong Temple when he returned to shore and pay his respects to the abbot by sticking a

gold leaf on the abbot's body.

The custom of asking a deity for help and promising to do some deed in return is not uncommon among Thai people, but praying and asking a living being for divine intervention is unusual.

But, legend has it, at that instant, the storm calmed and eventually died down, leaving the boat and its crew unharmed.

When the fisherman returned to port he kept his promise and went to Chalong Temple where he asked to see Luang Por Cham.

He told the abbot the entire story and asked for permission to place a gold leaf on his body.

At first the abbot was reluctant because he felt it was improper, but the grateful fisherman insisted, arguing that if he did not fulfill the promise he made, he might suffer the karmic consequences later as a result.

The abbot finally agreed.

After the seemingly miraculous event, word spread throughout the many large and small communities of Phuket Island about the holy powers of the abbot of Chalong Temple.

Many people came to pay their respects and prayed to the abbot for favors, promising to come back and stick a gold leaf on his body if their prayers were answered.

The sick would pray to him for health, while merchants would pray to him for success in their respective businesses.

Often the faithful townspeople had their wishes granted and they would return to place a gold leaf on Luang Por Cham's body.

Thus the rare custom of sticking gold leaves on a living being was practiced on the famous abbot throughout his lifetime.

Even today, visitors to Chalong Temple still continue the practice of placing gold leaves on an image of the abbot who is still held in the highest regard by the people of Phuket.

Luang Por Cham is not just respected and revered for his believed abilities to perform miracles. When he was abbot during the Chinese angyi rebellion against the Siamese authorities, Chalong Temple became a rallying point for the villagers to defend themselves against the rebels.

Find out what happened after that in the next Looking Back column.



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Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand may be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Six Senses Phuket Raceweek
July 22-26

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 South-east Asia. Check out our website, including the 'crew wanted' pages – someone is always short of crew. From 10am to 12pm daily at Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. For further information contact Grenville Forham. T: 076-264491.

E: raceweek@image-asia.com.
W: www.phuketraceweek.com.

July 10-16. Hopeful Beauty Fertility Exhibition Art Group

The exhibition is organized by a group of fine arts instructors from the Faculty of Architecture at Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya, Songkhla Province. Together, the creative ideas of the instructors, who are originally from each of the main regions of Thailand (North, Isarn, Central, and the South), reflect the specific characteristics, authentic local life, culture and beauty of a uniquely Thai environment. By means of such an art exhibition we are able to express and share aesthetic values with Thai society. From 9.30am to 5pm at 69 Yaowarat Rd. For further information contact Khun Kris. T: 084-051 7419 E: art.rdv@gmail.com W: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com/

July 11. Lady DJ Pioneer Battle

Five Pioneer Lady Pro DJs will battle it out on the decks in a four-hour tag team DJ set at Hung Fat's at Kalim Beach. Presented by Real Sound Thailand (RST) for one night only, the fun starts with a free Digital DJ Culture Workshop from 4pm to 7pm at Hung Fat's, where the latest Pioneer Pro DJ technology will be on show. The five female DJs will then fire it up from 9pm until late. Entry 300 baht. Includes welcome drink. After party at Sound Phuket from 1am until very late.

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-ever Surf Lifesaving Carnival at Loma Park, Patong Beach on July 12 from 8.30am to 5pm.

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. For further information contact Jayne MacDougall. T: 089-645 2576.

E: jayne.macdougall@lemeridien.com.
W: phuketlifeguard.com.

July 12. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

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

July 13 – 14. New Discotheque to Disco-ver in Nai Harn Beach

Everyone is welcome for the grand opening of the Ali Baba Club at Nai Harn Beach, back road behind the lake, on July 13. From 8pm until very late! Free punch, non-stop free snacks, free T-shirts (catch them!) and free lottery with six prizes!

Special guest: DJ Miss Caro from Paris! Disco, funk, dance, retro, house – all the best since the 1970s. From 8pm to 5am at Nai Harn Beach.

For further information contact Pi Jo or Pi Nong. T: 089-163 8166. E: marcduncan@hotmail.com

July 14. French National Day at Royal Phawadee Village

Celebrate French National Day with friends and family from 6.30pm to 11.30pm at Royal Phawadee Village, Patong Beach on Tuesday, July 14. Our one-star Michelin chef Mr Yvon Blandin of Mae Nam Restaurant and Chef Lugsanawan Panpwan of La Boucherie restaurant will be making authentic French cuisine for what will be a thoroughly enjoyable and unforgettable celebration. To join this exciting event, please book before July 10. For further information contact Claude de Crissey. T: 076-344614, 076-345576 or 081-893 6677.

E: claudede@crisseyco.com.
W: www.royal-phawadee-village.com.

July 15. Around the World Wine Dinner at Mom Tri's Kitchen

A fabulous five-course dinner featuring six wines and a menu by Maître Cuisinier de France Jean-Noël Lumineau. "Filet of roasted lamb, fine chanterelles mushrooms

and a spoon of Provençal caviar" will be served as the main course. The price is 1,400 baht ++ per person. For the full menu and more details, please visit www.momtriphuket.com/events.htm.

Mom Tri's Kitchen is an open-air restaurant set above the bay of Kata Noi and enjoys spectacular sea views. It has won the Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence three years in a row. From 7pm to 11pm. Mom Tri's Kitchen at Villa Royale, Kata Noi. For further information contact Khun Mongkol. T: 076-333569.

E: fb@villaroyalephuket.com.

W: www.momtriphuket.com.

July 16. Wine Tasting @ Wine Connection Bang Tao

West End Australia Winery is coming to Wine Connection Bang Tao for an evening of wine tasting from 6.30 pm to 9.30pm. Includes six glasses of wine, a tapas buffet and live music for 300 baht per person. For further information contact Pascal. T: 076-482411.

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

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 until noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard.

T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com.

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Preparing for life after death



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Expats are a very diverse community and the expat population is currently increasing at a rapid rate.

Many are on short-term contracts, intending to return to their country of origin or another 'high tax' jurisdiction.

When it comes to financial planning, things are completely different for the long-term expat. They tend to have loose links with their country of origin.

In many cases, expats are able to enjoy a higher standard of living than they would in their home country, due to being able to legally avoid much of the taxation applicable to others.

Problems can arise for the expat's financial plan in the event of death, which places family members in a difficult position.

Expats usually realize the importance of a good education for the next generation, combined with the need to maintain reasonable standard of living for loved ones. The simplest way to *rule from the grave* is to use a trust.

Those who have encountered trusts will probably have found them to be inflexible, rule-bound entities with little practical use. Most trusts are this way because of one factor: tax.

Revenue departments the world over are determined that trusts are not misused for tax evasion.

To ensure that trusts fit their accepted mould, anyone creating one must effectively part company with the trust's assets and – to a great degree – control of the investment management.

However, remove the tax authorities and trusts become altogether different entities. In this situation trusts become useful everyday vehicles.

Expats have the ability to choose what are commonly known as offshore trusts. To many, the words sound like entering dangerous waters, but the reality is quite the opposite.

Expats enjoy many advantages, trusts being just one. By being able to legally access the offshore world, they are able to use trusts in a totally different manner.

Take these two cases. One is a resident in a high-tax jurisdiction who creates a trust to look after the welfare and education of two minors in event of his death. The other is an expat who does exactly the same.

The difference is that if the resident does not die while his children are minors, the assets of the trust cannot be reverted to the resident without a substantial tax liability.

The expat is able to use an offshore trust which allows complete control of the funds inside. In addition, if the expat lives into his children's adulthood, it is possible to withdraw all the assets tax free.

What is a trust? A trust is a legal entity that can hold assets of any investable commodity – cash, bonds, shares, property; it can even own companies. In theory a trust can be used as a



Problems can arise for the expat's financial plan in the event of death. This can place family members in a difficult position. The simplest way to "rule from the grave" is to use a trust. Photo by Cornellrockey04.

trading vehicle. But most trustees will resist involvement in what are known as "trading trusts". The reason for this is simply because trustees do not want to be liable for losses in a trading environment.

Where it is necessary for a trading situation to be included in a trust, usually the trustees will simply place the trading area in a company, giving it limited liability which can be owned by the trust.

The person setting up a trust is known as a settlor. The trust usually comes into full operation following the death of the settlor. The trustees are guided after the death by a *letter of wishes*.

This document takes the place of a will in the trust and sets out the settlor's intentions, including any limitations. For example, the trustees might be asked to ensure that minors have their living expenses, school fees and medical expenses taken care of. Upon reaching adulthood they may have access to the capital.

Alternatively, a beneficiary may have a fixed date to inherit the capital, say, at age 30.

Not all beneficiaries of trusts are children – they can be elderly relatives or a surviving spouse.

Settlers of trusts can, and often do, take into account the behavioral patterns of a beneficiary. For example, a surviving spouse may be a spendthrift and the trustees will only release sufficient funds to provide a reasonable lifestyle, seeking to avoid overspending.

Where a spendthrift surviving spouse has minors, it may be necessary for school fees to be paid directly to the school. Minors in this case can include children who have reached adulthood but are attending university.

Offshore trusts used properly can ensure that a breadwinner's untimely death does not lead to ruin for the surviving family. All situations are different but most trust deeds are broad enough to encompass various scenarios.

It is the wording of the letter of wishes that is all-important.

Settlers of trusts that have been established offshore have another option. They can appoint a *protector*. The protector is someone the settlor knows well. Maybe an adviser, such as an accountant or lawyer, a

competent friend or family member. The key reason for including a protector is usually to guide the trustees.

It is important to remember that where a protector has been appointed, the trustees may not act without the consent of the protector.

The settlor can also be a protector. In the normal running of the trust, the settlor's powers automatically include those of the protector.

For various reasons, settlers may wish to disband an offshore trust. This is usually because the children have become adults. Removing assets from an offshore trust simply requires a request to do so.

The aforementioned relates to the most common of offshore trusts: the discretionary offshore trust. There are other types of trusts which, even when held offshore, are less flexible, but they are uncommon.

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

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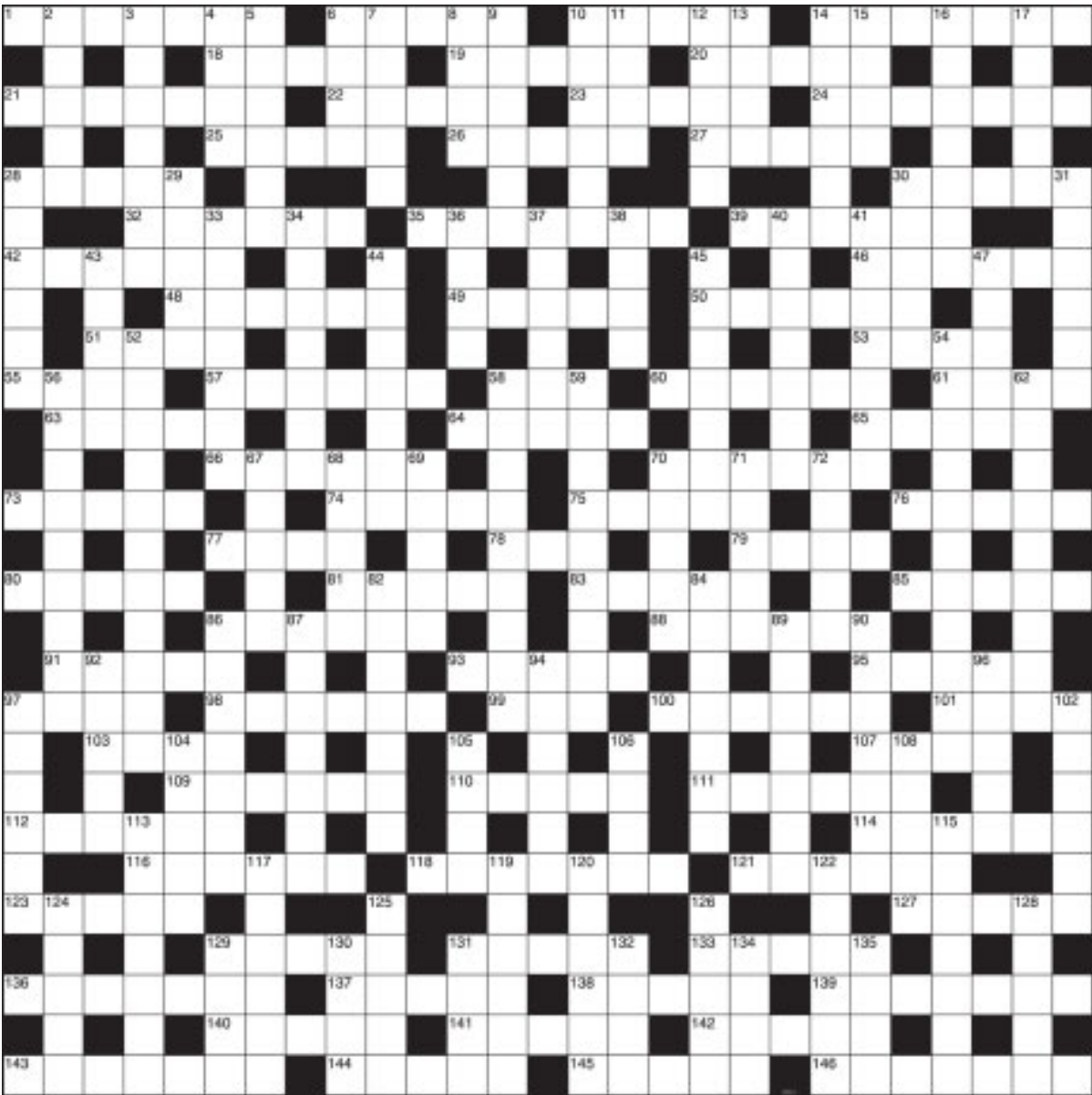
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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are the names of things you might find in a school. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.
Solution on the next page.

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



The BIG Crossword

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- Across
1. Cattle thief

6. Helpful

10. Aircraft

14. Permanently (3,4)

18. Puts together

19. Revived (music)

20. Church senior

21. Film star double (5-2)

22. Disgust

23. Pitchers

24. Relic

25. Chosen path

26. Adhesives

27. US city, Las...

28. India's Taj...

30. Walk in step

32. Basket-making fibre

35. Demureness

39. Munched

42. Famous actress,... Bullock

46. Standards

48. Tobacco rolls

49. Cook's smock

50. Yacht harbour

51. Writer, Roald...

53. Reveal secret

55. Furtive look

57. Foolishness

58. Companion animal

60. Senior &...

61. Facial twitches

63. White-faced

64. Composition

65. Document, Ma-gna...

66. Caught breath

70. Festoon

73. Synthetic fabric

74. Farewell

75. Fawning person

76. Skims swiftly

77. Amongst

78. Tint

79. Press (clothes)

80. Metal links

81. Relative sizes

83. Commit to memory

85. Coffee style

86. Cows' milk sacs

88. Beers

91. Local saying

93. Nomad

95. Baffling question

97. Zone

98. Shopping squares

99. Wife's title

100. African antelope

101. Circuits

103. Scram!

107. Ayes &...

109. Part of eye

110. Hot & moist

111. Observing

112. Damsel

114. Removed com-pletely

116. Deal with

118. Collides

121. Cherished

123. Blends

127. Had a meal

129. Cosa Nostra

131. Manservant

133. Firm

136. Dance

137. Rituals

138. Eighth,..., tenth

139. Thiamine or riboflavin

140. Glances quickly

141. Of kidneys

142. Propel

143. Seized (power) wrongfully

144. Belgrade natives

145. Chars (meat)

146. Move like snake

59. Lacking flavour

62. Dishonest poker player

67. Gave weapons to

68. Soldiers' chaplain

69. Slimming regimes

70. Trite

71. Perishing

72. Group of singers

82. Spanish fleets

84. Butting

86. Innumerable

87. Covering with cloth

89. Glorified

90. Nut fastener

92. Office tables

94. Applies undercoat to

96. Relieves

97. Sanctuary

102. Waterlogged

104. Opera solos

105. Norse thunder god

106. Border

108. Go along (with)

113. Metal extraction plant

115. Unrelenting

117. Died down

119. Belittles

120. 'Laughing' scaven-gers

122. Greek fruit

124. Teen heart-throbs

125. Hoist (flag)

126. On the move

128. Expulsion

129. Be gloomy

130. Aggravates

131. Doing word

132. Roof slate

134. On Her Majesty's Service (1,1,1,1)

135. Pickle flavouring
- Down
2. Excessively

3. Large pewter mug

4. Arabian prince

5. Absconded (3,3)

6. Qualifying race

7. Popular Colorado ski resort

8. Pull heavily

9. Screamed

10. Primps

11. Highs &...

12. Sense receptor

13. Threat, do it or...!

14. Feminine

15. Minerals

16. Bomb

17. Of sight

28. Make untidy (4,2)

29. Deciduous tree

30. Bravery badge

31. Boos &...

33. Not succeeding

34. Sloping type

36. Egg-shaped

37. Eagles' homes

38. Melody

40. Gland secretion

41. Regain (3,4)

43. Artist's naked mod-els

44. Mentally ready,... up

45. Hindered

47. Scope

52. Love potion

54. Shockingly

56. Comfortable uphol-stered seat (4,5)

58. Assumed name

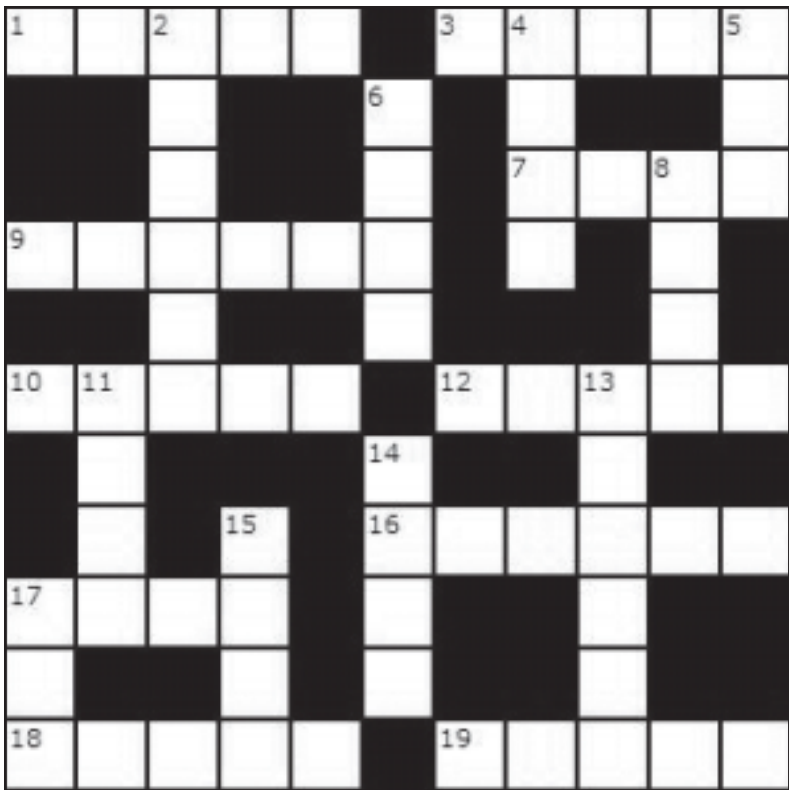
su | do | ku
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Solution, tips and
computer program
at www.sudoku.com

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

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

Solution on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

1. VHS
3. Prickly
7. Hire
9. For spreading
10. Measurement
12. No way
16. Reptile
17. Water
18. Finger
19. Rob

Down

2. Teeth
4. Not soft
5. For fishing
6. Certain
8. Naked
11. Country
13. Possible
14. Union Jack
15. Indo island
17. Tally

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is a Winston Churchill?
2. Who or what lives in a formicarium?
3. What type of acid is used in car batteries?
4. What's the collective noun for a group of owls?
5. What animal would you find in a 'form'?
6. Who was The Man of Bronze in the books and films of the same name?
7. Who was the partner of actor Stan Laurel?
8. What kind of food is Cullen Skink?
9. What is classified by the ABO system?
10. What does the Colorado beetle attack?
11. Where did the Pied Piper play?
12. To where in France do the sick make pilgrimages?
13. In which city was the famous Black Hole?
14. Christopher Cockerel invented what?
15. Ray Bolger played which character in *The Wizard of Oz*?
16. *Sabotage* is derived from the French word for what?
17. Which part of the human body contains the most gold?
18. If you had rubella what would you have caught?
19. What's the softest substance according to the Mohs Scale?
20. *La Giaconda* is better known as what?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

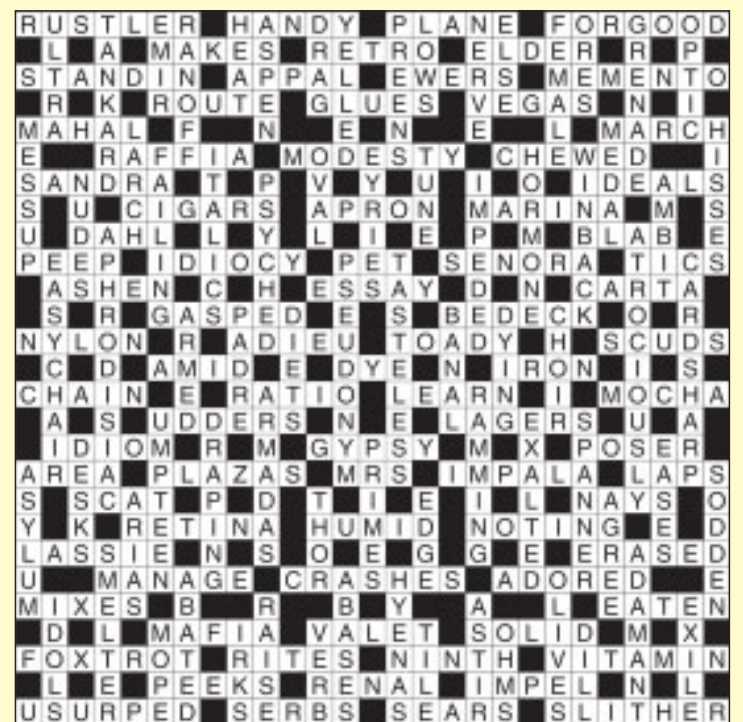
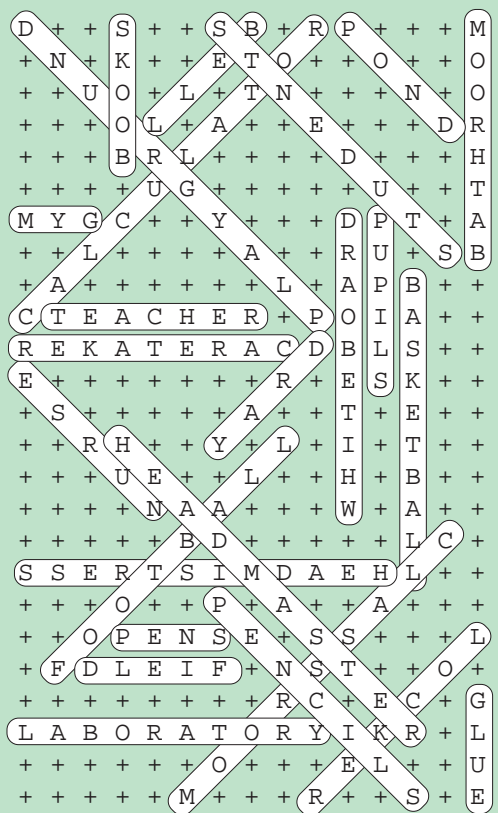
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Cigar; 2. Ants; 3. Sulphuric;
4. Parliament; 5. Hare; 6. Doc Savage;
7. Oliver Hardy; 8. Soup; 9. Blood Groups;
10. Potato; 11. Hamelin; 12. Lourdes;
13. Calcutta; 14. Hovercraft; 15. Scarecrow;
16. Shoes - sabot means shoe; 17. Toenails;
18. German Measles; 19. Talc; 20. Mona Lisa.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Horoscopes

Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Those Cancerians who are ready to reject unsatisfactory working conditions will meet an influential Arian this week. The stars suggest that your life is about to become far more stimulating, and this should also include the area of romance. Those who are single find that they can't get an earth sign out of their minds. If your birthday falls during the week ahead, expect to get a stronger grip on finances in the coming year.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Having taken a few wrong turns at the start of July, most Leos should now spot a shortcut to success. Someone born under the sign of Gemini has several creative ideas to share this weekend – your sensible side will dismiss those that are half-baked. Those with a partner are advised to listen more carefully to what this person is trying to say. Crossed wires are highlighted until the middle of the month.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your thoughts are likely to spin out of control this week and this could lead to certain Virgoans making unwise decisions. The atmosphere at work is forecast to remain stormy until after the middle of the month. Where romance is concerned, your suspicions are stirred when a close friend gives a watered down version of a recent event involving your partner. Wear the color cream to encourage a more mellow mood.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those Librans who are weary of looking out for others find the right moment to tactfully point this out on Sunday. An earth sign friend has been taking you for granted and this needs to stop before the relationship hits the rocks. The stars are on your side if you would like to make a romantic connection with Aquarius. The number seven can bring some good fortune next Wednesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You find it difficult to keep your opinions to yourself this week. Some Scorpios are in danger of adding fuel to the fire concerning a friend's dilemma. Silence is golden unless your assistance is requested. Romance remains meaningful and a spur of the moment gesture this weekend makes you appreciate a new partner even more. Your luckiest day for finances is Tuesday, and Thursday is the best day for putting forward proposals at work.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Cloudy skies above the area of personal relationships finally clear and Sagittarians should be feeling more secure during the second half of July. Work brings some surprises after your endeavors to be noticed by those in high places went pear shaped last month. The stars predict that promotion is more than possible during the coming weeks. The best day for dealing with a financial discrepancy is Tuesday, but caution is advisable.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns hoping to leave their familiar pastures are advised that this is not the right moment to make extravagant travel plans. The astrological atmosphere will be more supportive towards the end of this month. In the meantime, tread water by concentrating on boosting your finances. A water sign friend can be a likely source of inspiration to improve your earning power. The number five can bring good luck on Tuesday.

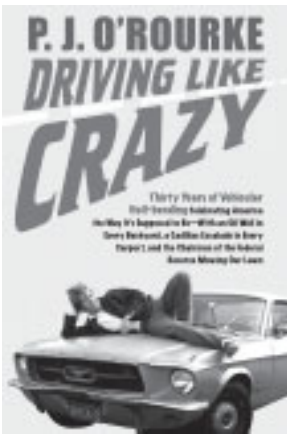
AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A lethargic atmosphere prevails at work this week. Aquarians who find this frustrating should use the time to develop ideas that began to brew earlier in the year. The stars indicate that your flair for creating new opportunities could bring success during the latter part of July. Romance could become a one way street, but your interest is about to be diverted. The number six brings good luck on Monday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Before you turn down a job offer because it would mean being out of your depth, try negotiating for a less responsible position. However, this may be an auspicious time to consider your future more seriously. The stars suggest that learning more skills will be on your agenda during the second part of the year. Those Pisceans not yet romantically committed learn that someone born under the sign of Virgo has become interested.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A chance meeting this weekend encourages Arians to adopt a more positive attitude towards a work project that turned sour recently. Your creative energy remains strong until the end of this month – Tuesday is an auspicious day to meet with someone who can influence your success. Romance with Gemini could become too hot to handle, but compatibility with Libra is well-starred.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A lively week is forecast for those born under the sign of Taurus. Where romance is concerned, those who are single could be spoiled for choice. Aquarius is worth getting to know better, even if your first impression was not a lasting one. If you are already committed, there are signs that your partner has a secret to share. Financial gain is indicated to come from out of the blue.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You could be prone to forgetfulness this week and the stars suggest that omitting important information will lead to delays in business. Those Geminis who are finding it difficult to leave their personal problems at home will find solutions where they least expect them to be. The second half of July is forecast to be less stressful – a visit from an old friend will remind you that you need more fun in your life.



By James Eckardt

Once had high hopes for P.J. O'Rourke. Tom Wolfe was the great New Journalist of the 1960s and Hunter S. Thompson took the Gonzo crown in the 1970s. They were succeeded by P.J. O'Rourke's great globe-trotting journalism of the 1980s in *Holidays in Hell* and *Republican Party Reptile*. Wolfe went on to write skinny polemics and fat novels, the last of which was nearly unreadable. Thompson drowned in his own fame and excesses and never wrote anything decent in the last two decades of his life.

O'Rourke took to comfortable political pontificating in books like *The CEO of the Sofa* and *On the Wealth of Nations*. But now, the bad boy is back.

His new book *Driving Like Crazy* (Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2009, 258pp) is a collection of old and new pieces of "automotive journalism", pieces he wrote over three decades for various car magazines. I've dipped my toe in this genre myself, road testing over various weekends a Triumph 900cc Thunderbird on Khao San and a Cherokee Jeep in the wilds of Kanchanaburi.

You get to have a great time, plus write a story and get paid for it. O'Rourke plied this trade with a vengeance, going off on racing and endurance jaunts in Baja California, the Pacific Northwest, cross country from Florida to California, across Pakistan and India on the Grand Trunk Road to Calcutta, and even over the mountains of Uzbekistan. All kinds of disasters happen to him which makes his stories, of course, all that more hilarious for the reader.

His introduction is a rousing diatribe against what he calls the "Fun-Suckers", people who don't want you to drink, smoke, drive fast, hunt, eat junk food and emit hydrocarbons.

"The Fun-Suckers go around saying how unsafe this fun thing is and how unhealthy that fun thing is and how unfair, unjust, uncaring, insensitive, divisive, contagious, and fattening every other thing that's fun is... The Fun-Suckers are a bit too careful, a bit too concerned, a bit too scrupulous. That's bullshit. They're evil and they hate us. The motive behind spoiling things for others and then throwing a wet blanket over the rained-on parade is a latter of neither caution nor morals. The Fun-Suckers suck the fun out of life in order to gain control."

His first chapter, appropriately enough, is a paean to the joys of drunk driving published in the *National Lampoon* in 1978.

"Even more important than being drunk, however, is having the right car. You have to get a car that handles really well. This is extremely important, and there's a lot of debate on this subject – about what kind of car handles best. Some say a front-engined car; some say a rear-engined car. I say a rented car. Nothing handles better than a rented car. You can go faster, turn corners sharper... You can also park without looking, and you can use the trunk as an ice chest. Another thing about a rented car is that it's an all-terrain vehicle. Mud, snow, water, woods – you can take a rented car anywhere. True, you can't always get it back, but that's not your problem, is it?"

Finally, he whips himself up into a paroxysm of patriotism in describing his first giddy exposure to NASCAR racing in Charlotte, North Carolina:

"The South is what we've had all along in this bizarre, slightly troubling, basically wonderful country – fun, danger, real friendliness, energy, enthusiasm, and brave, crazy, tough people. After all, America is where the toughest crazy people on the planet came to do anything they damn pleased... Put us all together and we're the biggest, baddest, best sons of bitches anywhere, and the hell with foreign countries because that's where all the sane wimps stayed."

An interesting opportunity!

Everyone is searching for that special deal during these "difficult times". We are no exception. Several years ago our Thai company (with Scandinavian investors) purchased a parcel of well located land in Phuket. The intention of the company was to develop the land, some investigation work commenced but with the slowdown in the global property market, the project was grounded.

WE can offer:

- A corporate structure
- A parcel of very well located land
- A good size Land plot suitable for condo or large villa resort, that is owned without debt or financing by one investor
- Some access to Nordic customer base
- Different masterplan idea for a starting point for future discussion
- Experience for development in the Nordic Market
- Well established corporate procedures

YOU should offer:

- Imagination and a desire to create a stunning development
- Assistance in developing the project concept, financial package/own money to invest in development of the project
- Experience in developing marketing materials
- Ability and expertise to develop a project from inception
- Marketing and contacts in other markets than the Nordic market

We are interested in hearing from people and organizations that believe that they have something to offer and are willing to go further. Only serious replies will be considered. Discretion is expected and your enquiry will be dealt with accordingly. Initial enquiries to our email address: hktopportunity@gmail.com

The Phuket Gazette

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Thieves give us a bad name

Just weeks after the furore in the Australian media over the Phuket authorities' treatment of Melbourne mother of four – and now convicted thief – Annice Smoel, the Western media is back on the offensive against Thai justice.

This time, it's the turn of the British.

The *Sunday Times* carried a report last week claiming a British couple were the victims of an extortion scam at Suvarnabhumi airport.

The article reported – as fact – that Stephen Ingram, 49, and Xi Lin, 45, 'were falsely accused of shoplifting in Bangkok airport and were forced to pay £8,000 in bribes to secure their release'.

The couple were accused of stealing a Givenchy wallet worth 6,800 baht from a King Power duty-free shop and arrested.

They deny any wrongdoing and are threatening legal action for compensation.

But King Power is fighting back. The duty free retailer has uploaded CCTV footage of the incident to its website which appears to show Xi Lin putting an item in her handbag and leaving the shop.

For those who have seen it, the conclusion that the Thai police were right to arrest her is hard to avoid.

What is of concern, is the *Sunday Times*' knee-jerk assumption that the couple had done nothing wrong, and that the Thai authorities were lying.

Was Xi Lin really 'falsely accused', as the paper claimed so confidently?

In this respect, the case is similar to that of Annice Smoel, the Australian 'bar mat bandit' who cried foul when she was arrested for theft in Phuket in May.

Shrill headlines in the Australian media denounced Thai justice, but when the facts of the case emerged, it was difficult to feel any sympathy for Mrs Smoel.

Witnesses watched her fold the heavy rubber 'Aussie Bar' mat into her bag, then when undercover police stopped her outside the bar, she tried to flee. When she was eventually caught, she abused the arresting officers.

Did she really deserve an apology from the governor of Phuket?

Or the reported 650,000 baht an Australian women's magazine paid for her 'story'?

It goes without saying that this kind of media coverage is damaging to Thailand's already-battered tourism industry, and more importantly, the lives of the people that industry supports.

Of course, nothing shifts papers in London and Melbourne like tales of upstanding tourists falling foul of corrupt Far Eastern law enforcement.

But an observer more sympathetic to Thailand and its people might wonder if the Western media is really fighting for justice – or pandering to prejudice.

– *The Editor*



Letters

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

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

How to stop an airborne menace

The *Gazette* has run a number of stories on the efforts of the Thai authorities to contain (A)H1N1 influenza.

The most recent showed several dozen soldiers all washing their hands in the same bucket of water – grossly unhygienic.

Spraying disinfectant on the streets was also touted as a remedy, as was scrubbing down airport and school surfaces.

I'd like to remind the public health officials, or whoever is making these decisions, that (A)H1N1 is an *airborne* virus.

It has to be breathed deeply into the lungs in order to take hold and multiply.

Sneezing and coughing into the air are the main ways it is spread, not by hand-to-surface contact.

May I suggest our citizens would be better served if, instead of being instructed to wash their hands while singing 'happy birthday' (and hands are recontaminated almost immediately by turning off the tap or touching the door knob), they learned to keep their hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth.

Picking the nose is oddly commonplace for a culture so obsessed with cleanliness, as is rubbing the eyes.

These are two of the best ways for an upper-respiratory (rhinovirus) infection to find its way into the warm, moist places it needs to take hold and replicate.

For a healthier citizenry, authorities should be teaching the public: Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Christy K. Sweet
Cherng Talay

Phuket needs food hygiene inspections

I was surprised to read that the public health department had visited Laguna ahead of the Asean meetings [*Gazette online*, July 4], given that I have never seen such an effort from the health department to ensure that tourists don't get food poisoning.

Why do they not conduct hygiene inspections en masse for all restaurants and stalls around the island?

Safe and controlled hygiene will certainly bring more tourists.

As usual the government has failed to demonstrate that the tourism industry is a priority on its agenda.

At least the delegates will get nicely polished crystal glasses when they arrive.

John
Phuket

Ten years and still complaining

I recently moved to another part of the island, but for the last 10 years I have lived in Karon Beach and I would like to give you my thoughts on living there.

I moved from Hawaii to Thailand with thoughts of diving, eating and traveling and decided Phuket was the ideal location.

Within six months I had met my Thai wife, who would change my life and make it even better than it already was.

We moved three different times within Karon and the moves were always for the same reasons: drunken farangs, loud noise, and Thai things that I would rather not get into.

I always wondered why

there were no playgrounds built for children.

Everything seems to be for the tourists, and I include adding resorts in areas, which have stripped the beauty from Karon, as an example.

Most of the magnificent hills and beaches around Phuket now have resorts being built on them and the road from Karon to Patong is dirty, overdeveloped and one of the worst roads for motorcycles to travel along, especially at night.

What's more, the drainage going into Patong is a joke.

This is not just my view, it's also the view of many, many of the Thais I have spoken to.

I love the beaches but have now had to move away from them in order to enjoy some peace and quiet with my wife.

Terrence
Phuket

Holiday drinking ban a drag for tourists

With due respect to the local culture, I suspect this alcohol ban [*Phuket Gazette*, July 4] will make the suffering of some businesses *even worse*.

Most tourists are not Buddhists, nor are they interested in local elections.

Locals who need a drink will always find a way, but tourists won't find it so easy.

It does highlight a fundamental problem in our society where people think they need to drink alcohol in order to have fun.

Something I have subscribed to for many years.

Valentine
Gazette / Thai Visa
Phuket Forum

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The low-down on chikungunya



FIRST PERSON

Since chikungunya first appeared on Phuket in May, with four confirmed cases, the number of sufferers has shot to over 2000 in the province. The vector for the disease is the *Aedes* mosquito, which also spreads misery in the form of yellow and dengue fevers. Although not fatal, there are, as yet, no antiviral drug treatments for chikungunya, nor is there a vaccine against it. Treatment is supportive, including bed rest and painkillers, especially paracetamol. The *Gazette's* Fraser Morton was the first reported case of a foreigner on Phuket being infected with the disease. Here's how it feels.

Bloody awful. But let's not stop there. It has been over a month and a half since I contracted chikungunya, and luckily, aside from occasional back pains and throbbing in my knees and wrists, I seem to have come away relatively unscathed by the disease.

To all those reading this now, if you are infected with chikungunya, I empathize wholly.

And as my doctor and girlfriend insisted, take plenty of rest, and under no circumstances over-exert yourself.

In my case, initial warning signs that something was awry started when I was in work (of all places) approximately four hours after I was bitten.

A pounding headache and nausea were my initial symptoms.

Labeling the symptoms a result of a crass, demanding and irate boss (at the time), I left work and headed to the IBAP meeting in Patong.

It was here I started to experience heightened symptoms, a raised temperature, sore throat, nausea and weakness.

Leaving early and now unable to drive home my girlfriend began to worry when we opened our front door and I promptly keeled over into the fetal position on our porch.

It was now 10pm, six hours

after my first symptoms bore their ugly heads.

Speaking of ugly heads, while shaking uncontrollably on our cold tiled floor, hugging my knees, writhing with shivers, my girlfriend noticed the spots on my neck.

Lifting my shirt, she discovered a widespread rash that covered my chest, stomach, back, legs and neck.

The spots seemed to be under the skin, and by that I mean there was no outbreak of whiteheads, but rather a more subtle and itchy rash, similar to the hundreds of poison ivy rashes I've had as a boy.

My girlfriend drove me to the Phuket International Hospital.

My temperature topped 40 degrees and my heart rate was unusually high.

A blood sample was taken, and the results came back within an hour.

My doctor told me he had ruled out dengue fever, but that further tests would be needed because he suspected I had 'chikungunya fever'.

I had heard rumors of the disease that had been sweeping southern Thailand at the time and a convention in Phuket Town was reporting cases, but I never thought my sickness could be accredited to the disease.

I was put onto a bed and wheeled upstairs to my hospital

ward for the night and I passed signs on the walls displaying information on the risks of chikungunya – a first at the time.

For the next few days, I couldn't keep down any water or food, so I was placed on a drip and given painkillers.

Two days later and 19,000 baht lighter in wallet, I finally left hospital but was told I should not return to work until I regained my strength.

It's strange to receive phone calls that start, "Hi, how are you, I hear you have the chika-what-do-you-call-it disease," or "How do you say the name of what you have again?"

But that's what all my friends said when they found out I had the disease.

My doctor put me on a regimented prescription of several drugs, mainly painkillers, some virus-related, some for the stomach and some for nausea.

Not an easy feat to swallow when you suffer from my own personal affliction called 'unable-to-swallow-pills syndrome'.

Joking aside, my experience with chikungunya was unpleasant to say the least.

It's a debilitating sickness that leaves you constantly tired for weeks after. I had severe aches and pain for two weeks.

Some are ongoing but have subsided in their intensity.

From recent cases it seems



The stripey-legged *Aedes* mosquito, which transmits the virus.

clear that hundreds of sufferers are slipping under the PPHO's radar due to people dealing with the cases independently or going to private clinics.

Despite reports, foreigners as well as locals and migrants have been seeking assistance from private clinics, which make it difficult for the PPHO to compile accurate statistics.

Some say private clinics can't help treat cases.

Of course they can.

It just means assessing the numbers and the rate of infection is proving difficult.

After speaking to other people who've been infected, it

is also apparent that although similar symptoms are experienced by everyone infected with chikungunya, the timing of the symptoms can vary.

For some, a rash may appear first, while for others the disease will begin with a fever.

Pains and aches vary too, and it appears evident the disease homes in on already weakened muscular pains in the body (hence my back pain from all the manual labor involved in writing for a living).

If you experience any of the symptoms I have mentioned then please, take precautions and consult a doctor.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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I want to bring my gold coin collection into Thailand

Years ago I inherited 33 gold Krugerrand coins, presently worth about \$US32,000. I plan to move to Phuket from the USA and will keep the coins in a safe box here. When entering the country, do I have to pay any customs fees, tariffs or other charges? What forms do I have to fill out?

Michael
Kata

An officer from the Customs Department in Phuket replies:

Gold and jewelery are products controlled by the Customs Department.

But if the gold coins are your personal possessions, you don't need advance permission from customs to bring them in, nor do you have to pay tax

because you will not be exchanging them for money.

However, you do have to notify customs you are bringing them in when you enter Thailand.

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You could do this, for example, by showing you are buying a house in Thailand, have a company here, or will work here.

For further information, contact the Customs Department, 454 Phuket Road, Muang Phuket 83000 T: 076-211105.

You may also wish to call customs at Suvarnabhumi Airport on 02-1340378-9.

10-man Phuket FC slump to yet another defeat at Surakul Stadium

Phuket FC slumped to their fifth straight home defeat following a disappointing 2-1 loss at Surakul Stadium last Sunday.

The new-look Sea Dragons took the lead midway through the first half, but two Narathiwat goals either side of half time consigned Phuket FC to their sixth defeat in eight matches.

Phuket FC finished the match with only 10 men following the second half sending off of Sama-ann Poedok on a miserable night for the home side.

It may be a new-look squad but for Phuket FC's long-suffering fans, the result was all too familiar.

Expectation was rife as a record crowd turned out for the match eager to see if a revamped Phuket squad could improve on a disappointing start to its inaugural campaign.

Only two players remained from the original squad, which has 15 new members, including a contingent of African players.

Center forward Peka, from Cameroon, gave the side a much-needed physical presence up front and was a constant threat from set pieces, while Sidibe Daouda, from the Ivory Coast, looks a

promising addition to the squad.

A quick and skillful right winger, Daouda has the potential to make a strong impression in the second half of the season.

Despite having the tallest player on the pitch leading the line, to their credit Phuket were reluctant to play the ball long, preferring to stick to a methodical passing game.

Unfortunately Phuket's defensive frailties appear not to have been addressed in the mid-season break, with the defenders seemingly reluctant to use their heads.

A series of hopeful long balls from the away team were not dealt with and at one stage the Narathiwat striker burst through only to be seemingly tripped in the box.

The referee, however, ignored the protests of the away team and waved play on.

Phuket captain Anurak Petluan stung the palms of the Narathiwat keeper with an ambitious long-range free kick and it appeared that Phuket's best chance of scoring would come from a set piece.

Sure enough, the opening goal came when Peka rose unmarked to meet a corner and nodded a header back across goal.

The keeper could only parry and the ball fell to Karanwatu Thongchim, who made no mistake, tapping in the opener from close range.

The Phuket supporters who had turned out in force for the game were in fine voice and the Sea Dragons appeared to be on course for a long-awaited home win.

However they were to be undone by some more inept refereeing when Narathiwat were awarded a free kick for an innocuous challenge on the edge of the Phuket box.

From the resulting kick Narathiwat equalized, possibly with the aid of a small deflection.

Worse was to come early in the second half when Phuket defender Sama-ann was sent off for a second bookable offense.

With the man advantage, Narathiwat were now in the ascendancy and a swift counter attack left the Phuket defense exposed and gifted the Narathiwat striker the simplest of finishes.

Playing with 10 men, Phuket FC had a mountain to climb. Sone spurned a late chance to salvage a first ever home point, and it was too little too late for the desperate home side who have accumulated four points



The new-look Sea Dragons took the lead midway through the first half, but two Narathiwat goals either side of half time consigned Phuket FC to their sixth defeat in eight matches.

from eight matches.

Speaking after the game Cameroonian striker Peka said, "We felt this was a game we should have won but we just didn't defend well enough. We

were disappointed at the free kick which led to their equalizer but we made too many defensive errors and were made to pay for a stupid sending off."

-James Goyder

Pescott's *Voodoo Child* avenges King's Cup defeat

Firefly designer Mark Pescott and *Voodoo Child* turned the tables on Peter Dyer's *SEA Properties* at the SEA Properties Multihull Regatta to gain revenge for last years' King's Cup defeat.

In other categories there were wins for Henry Kaye on *Thor* and David and Leslie Thomson on *Madame Cholet*.

The second SEA Properties Multihull Regatta took place in Chalong last weekend and the

fleet of boats off Phuket produced three-days of competitive racing.

The regatta is the first in Southeast Asia to be dedicated solely to the multihull class and was also the first regatta to be held at the brand new ACYC premises. This year the regatta was divided into three classes - Firefly 850s, Ocean multihulls and Cruising multihulls.

The Firefly 850 is the creation of local boat designer Mark Pescott of the Latitude 8 boatyard in Ao Chalong.

These catamarans have proved hugely popular and racing is always extremely competitive. As a result, the Fireflys now have their own dedicated class in the King's Cup.

The last time the Fireflys competed against one another in a regatta was during last years' King's Cup.

On that occasion, Peter Dyer took the honors on *SEA Properties*, forcing Mark Pescott into second place on *Voodoo Child*.

Since the King's Cup, *SEA Properties* has added to her list of achievements with the dubious honor of becoming the first ever Firefly to 'pitchpole' (somer-sault).

After three days hard sailing, the King's Cup placings were reversed as Pescott claimed victory on *Voodoo Child*, leaving a crestfallen Dyer on *SEA Properties* to settle for second place.

A jubilant Pescott said, "We have a large local fleet of multihulls here in Phuket. This regatta offers a great opportunity for monohull sailors to experience a new type of racing."

Elsewhere, Henry Kayes' *Thor*, a brand new Seacart 30, won her second consecutive regatta, claiming first place in the Ocean Multihulls Class.

Kayes' win on *Thor* came on the heels of the boat's maiden victory at the Sawadee.com Samui Regatta last month.

To complete the round-up, David and Leslie Thomson on *Madame Cholet* won the Cruising Multihull Class.

ACYC Commodore Mick Kealy is hoping the SEA Properties Multihull Regatta will become a regular fixture on the Phuket sailing calendar.

"It is good to have a dedicated multihull regatta. It's the only one of its kind in Asia so it attracts the interest of the international media," he said

"Because it takes place during the off-peak season, it can be hard to get experienced crews to fill the boats. We get a lot of participants who normally race keel boats. It's a great opportunity to introduce them to multihull racing," he added.

-James Goyder



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Phuket Lifeguard Club to host second Surf Lifesaving Carnival

The Phuket Lifeguard Club will host its second annual Lifesaving Carnival this Monday at Loma Park in Patong.

Carnival organizers are hoping to attract up to sixty international competitors and eighty local participants.

There are 80 lifesaving events taking place in six different categories and the carnival will culminate in a gala dinner at Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort.

Competitors are invited to attend and register on the day.

The event will be divided into the following age categories: Under-18s, 18-29s, Over-30s, Over-40s and Over-50s. Medals will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place finishers in each category.

Registration begins at 8.30am and the event is scheduled to finish at 5pm. Surf Lifesaving Club members from across Australia are expected to return to Phuket for the carnival following the success of last years' event.

The Phuket Lifeguard Club is a non-profit organization that was established in 2003. The aim of the carnival is to promote the importance of water safety and raise interest in lifesaving as a sport.

The timing of the carnival is pertinent given the danger of



Lifesaving Carnival competitors will compete in 80 grueling events. Photo by James Goyder

swimming on certain beaches in Phuket during the low season. A number of swimmers have drowned in recent weeks after choosing to ignore warning flags on the beaches.

A 'nipper's carnival' for children will also be held on Sunday at Patong Beach.

The club has previously organized five nipper's carnivals at various beaches on Phuket. This time there will be six events taking place, divided into three age categories – five to seven year olds, eight to 11 year olds and 12-15 year olds – with medals on offer for the top three places in each of the events.

The Phuket Lifeguard Club conducts regular training programs for local adults and children in water safety, rescue skills, first aid and beach management skills.

Club members are mainly Thai and are trained to Australian Surf Life Saving standards. Many work as lifeguards in Phuket's hotels and resorts.

The club also runs training courses for Thai people in CPR, first aid and rescue skills.

Those interested in sponsorship can contact Jayne Macdougall by email: jayne.macdougall@lemeridien.com, or visit www.phuketlifeguard.com.

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Keep your plug snug

Repairing a multiple-outlet extension cable



One thing I'm sure everyone uses here in Thailand are those extension cords with multiple-outlet boxes at the end. The problem is that their outlets often become "loose", requiring the plugs to be jiggled into position, or even held in place, rendering them practically useless. This is caused by several things, but mostly by the low-quality of brass used in the internal contacts, and the lack of precision forming when they are pressed into shape.

So, to create a more positive contact with any inserted plugs, one must re-form, or bend back into a tighter alignment, these internal contacts.

There are more than 20 different types of brass, an alloy composed of copper and zinc (and sometimes other metals) in varying proportions, depending upon the application. The brass used in electrical outlets in the West has a higher degree of 'springiness', created by adding manganese to the brass. The brass used here is noticeably different, and the brass doesn't spring back into shape as well. The result is that after some use, the contacts will be bent out of position from the constant insertion and removal of electrical plugs.

In the box [photos 1 and 2], the wires are soldered to the bottom of the removable contact strips. The box [photos 3 and 4] has them soldered directly onto one of the screws

that hold each contact strip in place. This means that this type is best worked on with the contacts in place, a little more challenging but not impossible.

Look at the difference between the brass contacts themselves. In [photo 2], the bottom of the brass strip is straight and flat, and the upright pieces have been bent precisely at the base, compared to the rounded bends on the other. Notice also the slightly different color of the better quality brass, with its denser, smoother surface. The box is overall of a better design. Tip: in [photo 4], the gray tape around the power cord is not a repair, it's a strain-relief. It's too large to go back out through the hole without opening the box, so if the cord is tugged it won't pull loose from the switch inside and ruin the box. Since you're opening the box anyway, you should try this.

First, open your outlet box (unplugged, of course). Depending upon the brand, either remove the back cover [photo 4] or unscrew the surface-mounted retaining screws from the contacts' 'containers', as in photo 1. Be careful when unscrewing these minute screws to avoid stripping the slots.

Properly re-shaping these contacts is all a matter of touch. Using your needlenose pliers, grip the upright part of the contact, very carefully, near the base. If you have the type in [photo 4], you'll have to maneuver the tips of the needlenose while holding the handles very close to the edge of the box. The fine-point needlenoses are good for this.

If you have the type in [photo 2] with removable con-

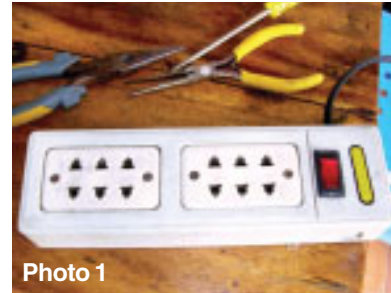


Photo 1



Photo 3



Photo 2

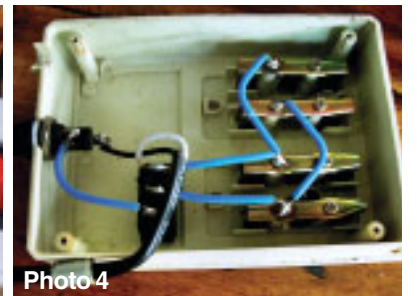


Photo 4

tacts, use a second pair of needlenose pliers to hold the base of the contact-strip. Try to keep the bottom edge of the jaws parallel to the base of the contact-strip. If not, you'll find the upright portion bending on an angle, out of line with its opposing side.

Grip the pliers tightly and bend slowly, gently, until the side you're working on moves to just the center portion of the space between the contacts' tips. Now do the other side. Bend them until they're almost, but not quite, touching.

Now, most of the outlet boxes sold here have holes that are designed to handle both rounded and flat-pronged plugs, so you have to place the center of the space between the contact tips directly beneath the point where the two shapes of the holes combine. That is, where the circular part of the hole joins the straight, rectangular portion. Basically, that's the whole job. Bend the contact strip uprights until the opening between them is

just beneath that point. Depending on the brand, this may not be straight above the center of the contact strip's base, it may be a little to one side.

Reassemble the box, inspect visually to be sure the tips of the contacts' uprights are in the right place and then check by carefully inserting a plug. The 'grip' should be firm but not too tight, and you shouldn't have to insert one side on an angle first to get the other to fit in.

If you do, it means the plug is hitting the tip of the upright, and they need to be realigned again. Because the 'fit' cannot be checked (except roughly by eye) while the box is apart, this can be a trial and error procedure.

Stay cool and adjust the contacts again. Ensure that the spaces between the uprights' tips, and not the tips themselves, are directly beneath the plug holes.

That should do it. Plug in your box, plug in the fan, sit back and have a beer. See you next time!

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Makham impressions

First impressions can make or break perceptions. With people, it only takes three seconds to make an indelible impression.

You may intrigue some and disenchant others. With places, it's only natural we pass these same judgments.

But what first impressions do the millions of tourists arriving on Phuket each year formulate?

Maybe the process starts when visitors scan the island's topography on the descent into Phuket International Airport. Or maybe it's the initial encounters with taxi hawkers at the airport or the well-appointed hotel staff who hand weary travelers a cold towel upon their arrival that starts the perceptual process for tourists.

Despite these first impressions, quite possibly it's the late-night tawdry exploits on Soi Bangla that tourists relay to friends and family back home.

But what first impressions were made on the 6000-plus men and women of the British and American navies who arrived on Phuket last month?

As their ships neared Phuket's deep sea port in Ao Makham maybe their preconceived notions of bustling nightlife, crowded beaches and a well developed tourist industry

evaporated as they neared the peaceful port on the Phuket's East coast.

Maybe they saw land and just craved a decent bed and some privacy from their bunkmates for a night.

Perhaps as the ship edged further into the bay, some breathed in and pondered Phuket's identity as an island in transition; architectural modesty and modernity, poverty and paradise – underdeveloped land being replaced by mass development.

All these assertions are credible during a first encounter with Phuket's East coast.

For most, the current impression of Ao Makham, is a corner of Phuket on the move.

Major world players in hospitality are honing in on Ao Makham.

The US-based hospitality giant The Carlson Group has arrived and two of its subsidiary companies have opened hotels. The Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, currently under construction, is set to follow the Radisson Plaza Phuket Panwa Beach, which opened on July 2.

Within two years, the group expects to have 1,500 rooms available under the Radisson Plaza brand nationwide. The Phuket-based Radisson Plaza

being the first of seven planned hotels.

Set on 10 acres of land, the 211-room resort includes 14 ocean villas and 15 pool villas as well as conference and banqueting facilities for up to 220 people – an attractive selling point for potential corporate clients.

The Radisson Plaza service philosophy is: 'Yes I can', reminiscent of a certain Presidential campaign message, 'Yes, we can.'

It worked for Obama, and with 405 locations in 68 countries, Radisson Hotels seem to be making the right impression too.

The Carlson-owned Regent Phuket Cape Panwa is just a stones throw along the beach from the Radisson Plaza. The Regent hugs the peninsula of Ao Makham, elevated above lapping waters that tickle the shoreline.

Idyllic adjectives aside, the arrival of the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa is the first Thailand venture for Regent Hotels, adding to the chain's Asian portfolio that has established properties in Beijing and Shanghai, both ranked in the top-500 hotels around the world. The 106-room resort will offer 48 terrace rooms, 22 deluxe villas, 35 pool villas and one Presidential villa. Later this year the Regent Bangkok will also open.



TOP: The Four Points by Sheraton will open January 2011. BELOW: The Radisson Plaza looks to the Regent Hotel currently under construction.

Less than five minutes drive from 'Carlson's Corner' in Makham Bay, The Sheraton brand is also flexing its metaphorical biceps with the initial stages of the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel underway.

The Four Points is expected to open in 2011.

With the already sought-after Cape Panwa Hotel and Spa setting the tone for luxury on Phuket's Southeast coast, Ao Makham and Cape Panwa seem to have made an impression on the major brands in hospitality worldwide.

- Fraser Morton



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Where there's a will, there's a home for your heirs

Death is one of the few things in life that you can guarantee will happen to you, but because it is not the most pleasant thing to think about, proper planning for the day we meet our maker is often overlooked.

Most people understand the importance of making a Last Will and Testament before they die.

People who have acquired property with considerable value in a foreign country should prepare a will specific to administering the estate in that country.

Although a will is not legally required in Thailand to pass on your assets to your heirs, they will surely be grateful if you have prepared legal documentation in advance which may help simplify the allocation of assets following your death.

For people who are considering buying property in Thailand, the drafting of a specific will is highly recommended.

A clear, detailed and accurate description of how assets are to be allocated when you are no longer around will help protect the interests of your beneficiaries.

Each country has its own laws and regulations describing the relevant formalities upon someone's death.

Your will needs to comply



A copy of Marilyn Monroe's will on display at the Hollywood Museum in California. Ms Monroe died on August 5, 47 years ago. Amanda Edwards/Getty Images/AFP

with the relevant regulations of that country.

A will drafted in compliance with the laws of your country of origin might conflict with the relevant laws in Thailand.

It is therefore advisable to prepare a separate will for each jurisdiction which governs each of your assets.

In other words, it is important to understand that your will,

which might be perfectly legal under the laws of your home country, may be deemed as null and void under the laws of your second home.

It also needs to be considered that a will drafted by a lawyer in your home country might include documentation written in your native language.

Because the official language of Thailand is Thai, those documents will have to be translated into Thai.

Those translations must be issued by official bodies, such as a notary public, an embassy or a government authority.

Leaving this to your heirs to do after your death could be troublesome, time consuming and expensive.

In the context of estate planning, it is also recommended that you verify whether your property and your beneficiaries' interests are sufficiently protected by and through a robust legal structure underlying the property to be passed on.

Whenever buying property, especially in a foreign country, you need to consider that certain rights or conditions may have to be adhered to in order to make your assets inheritable.

This is an important aspect and should be discussed with your

lawyer, ideally *before* choosing and buying a property, to ensure that it fulfils your requirements in this specific matter.

To summarise, whenever buying property, protecting your investment should be of the highest priority.

The preparation of a will can be a useful instrument in this context and will protect the interests of your heirs and minimize the risks.

Therefore, when investing a significant amount of capital, especially in a foreign country, it is wise to hire a professional consultant who is familiar with estate planning and inheritance in that country.

Securing your heirs' interests where there may be different or even unknown laws, regulations and formalities based on a different historical and cultural background, could help them to avoid some very unpleasant surprises.

This article was written by Phuket-based law firm, International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. For further inquiries, contact Michael Greth, Consultant. Email: michael@ilo-phuket.com. Tel: (+66-(0) 76-222 191-5).

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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 & Real Estate News in Greater Phuket.

There are only two things in life you can be absolutely sure of; death and taxes.

Despite a recent boom market for real estate on the island, there are many existing projects that are now between 10 and 15 years old, which is no more than a blip on the property market monitor.

There are two distinct groups within the existing Phuket purchasers pool; those who reside full- or part-term and those who bought as an investment for a return from capital appreciation and rental yields.

However, owners are now moving into both camps; shifting their investment strategies depending on their circumstances.

We now see hotel-managed products offering short-term rental guarantees. As the market softens, more and more pure residential projects have turned to offering this type of scheme. They install hotel management companies to differentiate their product and spur sales.

We are also seeing established condo-hotel projects being pushed aside by new hotels. There is shrinking demand for uncompetitive condo-hotels. Hotels are fundamentally capital intensive as an asset class.

While hotel management companies typically reserve 3% of revenue for replacement and capital work, the developer's total expenses typically range from 5-8% of total turnover in a 10-year period.

That capital has to be plowed back into the property to maintain it and keep it viable in the marketplace.

Take a typical condo-hotel in which a residential structure has been put together. One of the key points for owners is keeping maintenance and assessments at



Information technology is a key component in hotels, with front-office software being frequently updated. AFP Sajjad Hussain

a reasonable level.

Most projects have used the straight 'resico' (residential) market to compare these fees. In reality, estate management companies are continually under the gun to contain expenditure.

Many hotels put aside funds to cover the replacement of furniture, fixtures and equipment, but condo-hotel projects often put these expenses on the back burner, because most owners do not reside in the properties full time and they want the lowest possible out-of-pocket spend.

All in all, it's a recipe for disaster. The impact is now being felt at many condo and apart-

ment projects here. Hotel furniture packages in an under-supplied market are not applicable today. Capital infrastructure, which is expensive to upgrade, cannot be covered by maintenance fees or sinking funds.

Information technology is another key component in hotels with front- and back-office software being frequently updated. So where does the money come from?

The reality of condo-hotels is that hotel management acts as an agency. They take care of operations and employees on behalf of the owner. In most cases, the financial downside is limited.

Operators endeavor to perform through fees coming from a combination of revenue and bottom-line gross operating profit. So once a developer has sold off a project and exited, it's up to the unit owners to fund capital infusions and operate cashflow, including losses, and to continually upgrade the property.

We now see residential projects wanting to convert to hotel operations, but many lack the proper infrastructure and equipment to do so, such as computers, vehicles and service areas.

More importantly, inexperienced project owners often ex-

pect guests to simply start showing up when they open up as a hotel, but it takes time to gear up sales and marketing. Most new hotels have already invested a lot of time and money on marketing their new venue for about a year before they open the doors to guests.

For conversions, property owners need to dip into their pockets and retro-fit standard furniture packages and operating equipment. They also need to provide working capital along with money for sales and marketing.

It's not an investment in their units, it's a yield-based investment made to spur rental returns.

More interesting is when you try to marry the two different sets of owners in a project when they each come in with an entirely different objective.

Those who live or reside there part time want to contain ongoing fees or additional investment, while the second group, who look to returns, need to view rentals with growing significance.

We are aware of at least one project on the island that has been paralyzed by ongoing differences of opinion, causing their capital appreciation and resale market potential to decline.

None of these are issues are going to go anywhere soon. They'll continue to provide content for this column, without a doubt.

It's important to understand and work with estate management companies and hotel operators in order to ensure long-term capital budgets and forecasts are prepared.

Yardsticks of performance continue to be there, but it's impractical to think that if you buy into a lifestyle property, revenue will always cover costs.

Upside and downside risks are always present in any investment.

Capital appreciation growth is the best objective of any property owner.

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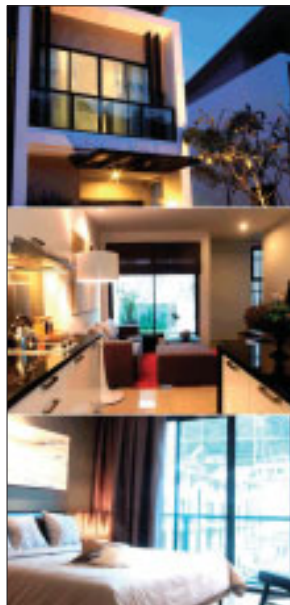
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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

BAAN BAI MAI



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

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

GOLF-VIEW CONDO

125sqm, 2 beds, 2 baths, very nice view at Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 3,700,000 baht. Email: pat.phongpan@gmail.com

Luxury Pool Villas Laguna/Layan



Baan Lawadee is a Luxury Pool Villa development located right next door to Laguna Phuket Homes. Great location, beautiful finishes, currently priced from 13.5 to 15.5 million baht.

For more information check our website at www.baanlawadee.com

LAND BEHIND LAYAN HILLS ESTATE



Manik-Bangjo area. 4M baht per rai with chanote. Selling half rai - 2 rai. Contact 081-5387050 or talayjan@yahoo.com

URGENT SALE KATHU HOUSE

Wonderful fully-furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house with air-conditioning and a small garden. Tel: 087-806 2407. Email: tse.goran@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE

Fantastic beachfront land for sale in Krabi/Ao Nang area. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 2 rai 1 Ngan. 48m beach access. Quiet beach next to Ao Nang. Price starting at 45 million baht incl the beach house. Tel: 085-045 4045 (English & Thai). Email: sbuerki@3dprojekt.ch

NAI HARN POOL VILLA SALE!

Nice pool villa on 1/2 rai of peaceful land. 6.5 million baht. No Brokers! Tel: 086-682 9709 (English). Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

18 ROOM GARDEN RESORT

Rawai on 2 rai landplot. Fully functional, only 25 million baht. Email: docucolumns@hotmail.com

INEXPENSIVE SEAVIEW PLOTS

1/3 rai, Chanote title near MH Golf Course, 700,000 to 900,000 baht. Contact Chris. Tel: 086-942 1930.

SHOPHOUSE - CHALONG

12 months old, 3-storey, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1 km south of Circle. Full kitchen, 1 aircon, hot water, all-glass front door, office furniture, beds, very clean. Valued at 3.7 million, you pay 3.6 million baht including additions. Bargain! Tel: 086-476 2093, 085-785 1597.

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.

THE ROYAL PLACE

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

LAND FOR SALE

near the main road to Baan Don, Chermg Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

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

NEW 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

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

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.

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

New 37sqm one bedroom condo for sale at Royal Place, near the Tesco Lotus intersection on the Bypass Road. Comes fully furnished including all electrical appliances. Ready to move in August. Complex has pool, gym, restaurant etc. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 083-982 3768. Email: drbearnshaw@gmail.com

80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqm, 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.

TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



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

NEW BRAND CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476-9612.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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Property Gazette

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.

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

renovated freehold. 2 room, terrace, nice view, pool, beach 200m, furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.4 million baht. Tel: 086-976 0809.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF ARAI

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.

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.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

RARE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



due to relocation. Luxury 5+1 bedroom villa conveniently located 800m from BIS and central to marinas, shopping, golf, airport and beaches. 500sqm of practical, contemporary living with indoor or outdoor entertaining, excellent bathrooms and spacious bedrooms. Functional kitchen with open plan dining. Safe and secure estate. Perfect for a young family. Excellent rental return for investors. Sale price 18.5 million baht. Tel: 084-442 1580. Email: tara@blythfamily.org

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

Fully furnished, aircon, kitchen, big garden with private pool incl cleaning lady. Low season bargain 45,000 baht per month without broker. Sale or rent. Tel: 085-783 1890.

FREEHOLD PATONG 28SQM

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

LAND NEAR YACHT HAVEN



for sale. Area: 511 square wah, 38,000 baht per square wah. Contact Mr Tachin Tel: 081-7871811, Miss Kob Tel: 081-273 3303.

LAND IN CAPE YAMU

Price 20 million baht. 2 rai, 3 ngan, 60 sq wah (4,640 sqm). Close to million-dollar developments the Yamu, The Bay and Baan Yamu. Perfect location for unique commercial plaza. Forecasted return of investment: 15% per year. Tel: 087-887 1162. Email: dohemi@gmail.com

CENTRAL PATONG

shop space: 90sqm. 2 floor multi-use bar, massage, cafe. Long lease no key money, relocation forces. Sale 400,000 baht. Email: businss@worrall.info

SINGLE HOUSE RAWAI

300m from the beach. New 200sqm, 2-storey house and guesthouse on 460sqm land with wonderful view. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, big living room and terraces. Easy to convert into two apartments. Furnished. Quick sale, reduced to only 5.5 million baht. Call David on 083-181 4418.

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@exemail.com.au

LAND FROM THE MANGOSTEEN

Beautiful sea- and mountain-view land adjacent to The Mangosteen Resort - approx 17 rai in yellow zone. Building up to 27 metres high is possible. Total price: 130 million baht. Freehold, Chanote. Several options available. Tel: 076-289399, 081-536 5846 (English), 081-539 5373 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://mangosteen-suites.com>

FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



27sqm or 54sqm. 2 studio apartments, 200 meters from the pier. Price 580, 000 baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@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

CONTEMPORARY VILLA FOR SALE

4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 4m x 12m pool w/Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate, CCTV & alarm system and nice tropical garden on a 1,606sqm plot with over 400sqm of living area. 16 million baht. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

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

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.

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

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).

ANDAMAN SEAVIEW LAND

1 to 6 rai, full seaview over Andaman Sea and airport. Close to Phuket Waterpark, West Sands, Mai Khao Dream and Piraya Resort. Perfect for villa, condos or resort. Tel: 076-319560, 084-441 3871 (English & Thai), 087-898 3570 (English & Thai). Email: sawasdeekhrap@hotmail.com

PHUKET RESORT FOR SALE

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

LAYAN LAND

for sale. 11 rai, flat land. Price 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447.

RAWAI HOUSE

Partly furnished, 2 bedrooms, 1 aircon, living room, bathroom, kitchen. Very convenient, peaceful location, 2 minute drive to the beach. Chanote. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 087-008 5970. Email: swaminito@hotmail.com

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.

CHALONG LAND

Half-rai plot on private estate, with adjacent lake and park, in residential area close to Chalong Circle and HomePro Village. Terrific location. All infrastructure in place and underground. 10-metre wide road. 6 mill baht, but land & villa package preferred. We can build for you. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: notley.peter@gmail.com

LAND IN CHERNG TALAY

for sale. 800sqm. Close to villas, with Chanote. 3.2 million baht. Must see. Please contact Bobby. Tel: 084-053 7690.

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

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Property Gazette

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



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

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2-3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 111sqm. Start 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com

LEELAVADEE POOL VILLA



Chao Fa East Road, Chalung. Modern Thai house, total area: 524sqm with swimming pool, terrace, tropical garden, covered carport and home security. 3 bedrooms, Western and Thai kitchen, living and dining rooms, and 4 bathrooms within air-conditioned surroundings. Tel: 087-689 9679, 089-772 7012. Email: a.tu2.corazon@gmail.com

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



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

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

1.9 MB. GOLF-VIEW FREEHOLD

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

RAWAI HOUSE

Partly furnished, 2 bedrooms, 1 aircon, living room, bathroom, kitchen. Very convenient, peaceful location, 2 minute drive to the beach. Chanote. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 087-008 5970. Email: swaminito@hotmail.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

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.

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

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.

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

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

UNIQUELY DESIGNED POOL VILLA

Functionable, 2 bed, 2 bath, kitchen and living room. Just 10 minutes to beach. Only 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0743. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

BANG TAO APARTMENTS FOR SALE

2 luxury apartments for sale. Both 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, with 2 pools and gym. One is a penthouse (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

KOH YAO YAI

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

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@gmail.com

FAIRWAY VIEW CONDO

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

80SQM CONDO

for sale at Allamanda Laguna. 80sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Golf view. 5.5 million baht ono. Tel: 081-821 3205. Email: banana.siripun@yahoo.com

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

PATONG STUDIO

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

BARGAIN

2 rai, teak villa guest bungalow. Pool, sala, tropical gardens. 16 million baht. Contact james. Tel: 081-082 6495. Email: albertjames1940@hotmail.com

NEW 4 STOREY BUILDING



for sale. 7.5 million baht. 5x20m, furnished, good for office or clinic. Tel: 086-524-4055. Email: yuwandabier@yahoo.com

TWO STOREY VILLA IN LAGUNA



3 bed, 3 bath, living room, quarter with bath, living room, dining, Euro kitchen, study area, pool, patio & deck area, garden, balcony, carpark, security, fully furnished, telephone line. Living area 506.25sqm, land area 349.73sqm. US\$1 million. Tel: 085-069 2800. Email: natalik555@mail.com

74 SQM CONDO, PHUKET TOWN

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 3 aircon units. Price: 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-416 4595. Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU for sale. 2 storey, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Call for more information. Tel: 076-322211, 089-288 8519, 087-885 1567.

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>

HOUSE IN KATHU



50sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. For sale 3.9 million baht. Tel: 081-691 3285. Email: yuwandabier@yahoo.com

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PATONG HILL CONDO

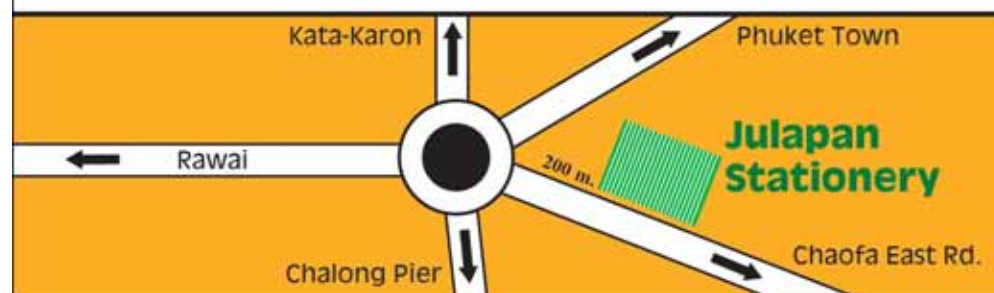
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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

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big rooms. 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-633 5967.

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B.B. GUESTHOUSE RAWAI BEACH



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

4 BEDROOM VILLA RAWAI

Beautifully furnished, fully airconditioned, immense living area, 2 kitchens, big garden with 10x4 private pool. For rent or sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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850,000 BAHT PER YEAR



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RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



1, 2, 3 or 4 bedroom, bathroom, ADSL, 500 baht per day. Monthly low rate. Tel: 086-940 8914. Or email: rawai1@yahoo.com

3 BDRM HOUSE FOR RENT

near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, ADSL, cable TV, A/C. 12,000 per month. Tel: 086-277-8461. Email: bruniviv@hotmail.com

LAND LONG LEASE

30 rai, flat land, nice location on main road. Phuket City near Downroong School. Tel: 081-691 2526.

HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 25,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 089-908 4873.

KAMALA BEACH VILLAGE

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Fully furnished, 58sqm, ADSL and True Visions. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-891 3740.

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Luxury apartment on the marina, 2 ensuite, King bedroom, etc. Large private deck directly on the 20m pool, fine gym, spa and top restaurant. Long-term: 100,000 baht per month. Short-term: up to 75,000 baht per month. Call Lotus 086-281 6299 or Luk 087-840 8163.

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PALAI GREEN

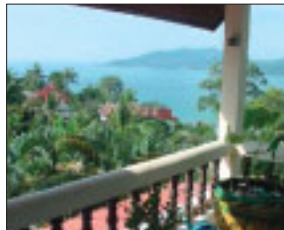
for rent. Fully furnished, 1-3 bedrooms, aircon, hot shower, free cable TV, ADSL internet. Start from 9,000 baht per month. Near Chalong Bay. Please call: 081-892 4311 (Eng speaking).

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Western-style house, 48,000 baht a month. Minimum 3 months lease. Available now. 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, ceiling fans throughout. Western kitchen amenities. 200 sqm including dining sala and large uppersundeck. Furnished home office. Price excludes utilities, UBC, ADSL. "No advanced bookings for high season" Contact Don. Tel: 081-894 3839. Or send email to: paddy99@yahoo.com

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

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

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, hot water, kitchen, fridge, TV, DVD. 15,000 baht month. Tel: 089-971 5664.

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2nd floor Kata Plaza, corner area, 365sqm. 500 baht per sqm. Contact Khun Worawit. Tel: 081-978 6700.

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Luxury apartment on the marina, 2 ensuite, King bedroom, etc. Large private deck directly on the 20m pool, fine gym, spa and top restaurant. Long-term: 100,000 baht per month. Short-term: up to 75,000 baht per month. Call Lotus 086-281 6299 or Luk 087-840 8163.

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450sqm. 3 BR, 5 bath, private pool. Long-term only. 65,000THB/mth. Please contact for more info. Tel: 083-503 3328. Fax: 076-261945. Email: samon08@hotmail.com

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3 BDRM HOUSE

near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, ADSL, cable TV, A/C. 12,000 per month. Tel: 086-277-8461. Email: bruniviv@hotmail.com

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
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Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
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Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office
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9 meters, 10 passengers. Day trip or night trip with full services including drink and food on board 15,000 baht per day. Tel: 082-815 3132.

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12-meter, ocean-going sailing boat with steel hull and Thai flag. Sale includes license, web sites, many parts and equipment. Call or mail for details. Tel: 076-283446, 081-892 7847 (English). Or fax: 076-283447. See link to website below, then call or mail for further details. <http://www.sailing-thailand-phuket.com>

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WANTED

Small dingy, about 3 or 4 meters, suitable for 3.5hp outboard motor for inshore pleasure. Tel: 076-388569, 085-794 6514. Email: hparkin@hotmail.com

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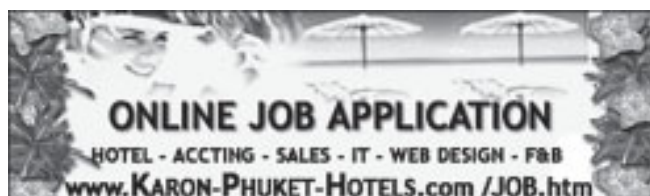
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selling everything. Most items are a year old, in excellent condition and priced at about 30% of what we paid. Contact us for pictures or more details.

- Index sofa, Trend Design coffee table & 2 Index chairs: 9,000 baht

- Custom Logica Office Furniture set (cost 200,000 baht new): 3 sets of modern interlinked desks, drawers & chairs: 70,000 baht

- Samsung TV 29" + DVD Player + Cabinet: 7,000 baht

- New Venetian Blinds: 4,500 baht

- 2 Modern Large Index Book Shelves: 2,000 baht each

- Kitchen Furniture (Dish sink + Cabinet) : 6,000 baht

- Stove, 3 burners & electric oven: 6,000 baht

- Hitachi Refrigerator: 4,000 baht

- Water Pump: 3,000 baht

- Table set with 3 Chairs: 2,000 baht

- Small Bed & Mattress: 3,000 baht

- Big Closet: 3,900 baht

- Medium Closet: 2,500 baht

- Book Shelves: 1,000 baht

Please contact Khun Kluay. Tel: 081-572 1409. Email: Kluay@thainamre.com

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Isuzu DMAX 3L 4X4 2003, 78,000 km. Price: 480,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 087-263 3285 (English). Email: lounissart2003@yahoo.fr

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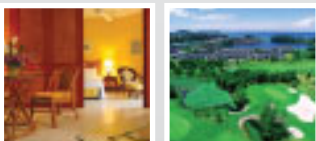
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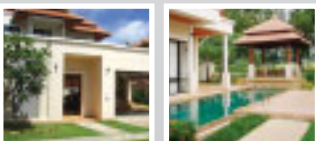
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1 Allamanda Studio THB 5.5 M



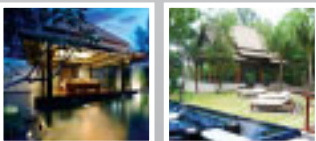
- 1 bed 1 bath Apartment
- rental pool
- golf course views

3 Laguna Townhome THB 23 M



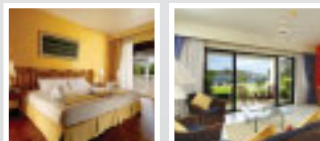
- 2-storey 3 beds Townhome
- maid's quarters
- 25 sqm private pool
- golf course views

5 Banyan Tree Presidential USD 4.15 M



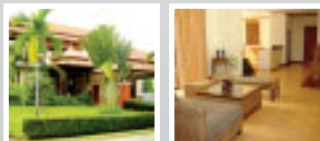
- 3 beds DoublePool Villa
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- fixed rental return

2 Allamanda 2 Bedroom THB 8.5 M



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- fully furnished
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