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INSIDE



Dan the man

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Monsoon washes away Coral Reef Squadron

PHUKET'S 'Coral Reef Squadron', which was sunk off Bang Tao Bay last November, is 90 percent missing or destroyed, the Thai Dive Association admitted last week.

Rainer Gottwald, head of the Thai Dive Association (TDA) technical committee, said TDA divers visited the site on August 19 and were only able to find one of the 10 aircraft that originally formed the artificial reef.

Storms and heavy monsoon season currents were to blame, Mr Gottwald said.

He said failure to follow instructions by some members of the team who chained the aircraft to large concrete blocks, and subsequent damage by trawlers, may also have played a role.

The destruction of the site was 'very upsetting' given all the work and expense put into the project by the TDA and the numerous other agencies and organizations involved, he said.

The project was initiated by the Bangkok-based For Sea Foundation and funded to the tune of 4 million baht by the Cherng Talay Tambon Admin-

istration Organization, which hoped the reef would boost tourism in the area.

The project also received a great deal of private-sector sponsorship.

Mr Gottwald said the TDA would have to learn from its mistakes and would probably use train wagons instead of aircraft in future projects.

The 'Coral Reef Squadron' consisted of four Douglas C-47 Dakota Skytrain military transport aircraft and six Sikorsky S-58T helicopters.

The TDA divers were only

able to find one Dakota during the dive, which followed a series of heavy storms, he said.

TDA divers will survey the area to try and learn more about the fate of the aircraft when sea conditions improve, he said.

Mr Gottwald said he did not think currents would carry the aircraft to the shore, because if that were going to happen it probably would have done so already.

The missing aircraft were probably buried beneath the sand, he said.

-Stephen Fein

Cloth bags to fight garbage mountain

WITH the landfill at Saphan Hin continuing to pile up at the alarming rate of about 300 tonnes of waste per day, the provincial government hopes a new campaign promoting the use of cloth bags will help cut down the waste stream until a second incinerator is completed.

The new facility won't be completed until October 2010 at the earliest.

In the meantime, residents living near the ever-mounting garbage dump will have to put up with an almighty stench.

Last week Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop launched the campaign to encourage island residents to swap their plastic bags for reusable cloth carriers.

The project, run by Phuket Provincial Energy Office (PPEO), is being branded with

the name 'Phuket Green Island'.

PPEO director Jirasak Thommayet said the ambitious project aims to reduce the volume of plastic bags used in Phuket by 60 percent, equivalent to 5,000 tonnes per year.

"We need to take care of our island, starting by reducing the number of plastic bags we use and replacing them with cloth," he said.

Cloth bags will be promoted with posters showing the governor - one hand clutching a cloth bag, the other giving the 'thumbs up' - above the message: 'Let's use cloth bags together'.

The project will include asking local businesses to offer discounts to customers who use cloth bags rather than plastic.

"We're asking local government organizations to provide budgets to make cloth bags for Phuket villagers," Mr Jirasak said.

Thousands run for the hills in tsunami drill



A full-scale tsunami warning and evacuation drill saw thousands run for higher ground up Patong's Bangla Road last week. See page 3.

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Storms sink bulk-carrier

Crew survives – 1,200 teak logs lost



The Thai navy helps the crew of the Thai registered cargo ship *Chart 1* after their vessel carrying teak logs sank in the Andaman Sea.

A THAI bulk-carrier transporting millions of baht's worth of teak wood from Burma sank in the Andaman Sea off Phang Nga province last Sunday.

The entire crew on board *Chart 1* managed to escape the stricken vessel on life rafts.

The Third Naval Area Command in Phang Nga received a distress call from the crew of *Chart 1*, just after 7am on August 23.

Vice Admiral Narong Tesvisarn, Commander of the Third Naval Area Command, said the distress call was a call for rescue from the sinking ship.

The Thai Navy vessel *Tor 214* responded and located the sinking vessel in rough seas, approximately five nautical miles from the Phang Nga Naval Base.

The *Chart 1* was transporting 1,200 teak logs in its 3,200-

tonne hold from Burma to its final destination in Vietnam.

The 30-year-old ship was on a well-known nautical route from Burma, heading across the Andaman Sea and through the Straits of Malacca to Vietnam.

However, the bulk-carrier encountered problems not far from Thailand's coast, where rough seas and severe weather conditions battered the ship, causing multiple leaks in its hull.

Sea water also leaked into the engine room and lower decks. Fearing the ship would sink, the captain alerted the Thai navy.

By 9.30am, all the ship's crew members were safely transported via life rafts from their sinking ship onto the Thai navy rescue boat.

The crew comprised seven Thai nationals, including the captain, four Indonesians and five Burmese nationals.

After boarding the Thai navy vessel, the wet and weary *Chart 1* crew members watched their vessel sink.

All crew members were taken to Phang Nga Naval Hospital, most suffering from mild shock and early signs of hypothermia.

On the morning of August 23, the Southern Meteorological Center (west coast division) issued a weather warning for Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Trang and Satun as they were expecting 35-kilometer-per-hour winds and two-meter waves.

Following the incident, the Third Naval Area Command marked the site where the boat had sunk.

Navy divers have already visited the wreck site.

Vice Admiral Narong said recovery of the vessel would have to wait for confirmation of an insurance payout.

"We are worried about the environmental implications of the sunken ship and the prospect of oil and cargo being released into the sea," he said.

-Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

Thai Air Asia expands

THAI AirAsia will begin direct flight services to Phuket from several new major cities in the region.

Thai Air Asia will base five aircraft at Phuket International Airport as part of its plan to establish Phuket as an aviation hub, Thai Air Asia CEO Tassapon Bijleveld said at a press conference at the Royal Phuket City Hotel in August.

The new destinations include Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bali, Ho Chi Minh City and Chiang Mai.

The first of the new flights will begin in November.

Thai Air Asia expects the project to add an additional one million passengers per year.

Last year, 4.2 million people flew with the airline, 55 percent of which were Asian nationals.

"Some have questioned how we can expect such an increase with the state of the economy, but we have already reserved these planes so we will

have to rely on marketing to get more people traveling to Thailand," Mr Tassapon said.

Thai AirAsia opened a booking center in Patong in April this year and has plans to open another in Phuket City. There is also a ticket booth at Tesco-Lotus on the bypass road.

Bhuritt Maswongsa, vice president for marketing of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) said 'all incoming flights are full.'

"Phuket is doing better than Pattaya and Chiang Mai, which are still struggling with the number of tourists," he said.

On the domestic front, Mr Bhuritt said he was trying to convince Thai AirAsia to offer flights from Phuket to Haad Yai.

The last in a long list of carriers who have tried and failed to operate flights between the two cities was Nok Air, which abandoned the route after a six-month trial period in November 2007.

Cocaine mules nabbed

TWO Thai women were arrested at Phuket International Airport after attempting to smuggle more than a kilogram of cocaine.

Jarunan Janthot, 33, from Phuket and 36-year old Nantika Janthrod from Saraburi province were apprehended by airport Immigration officials earlier this month after they arrived in Phuket from Buenos Aires, Argentina, via Kuala Lumpur.

The two had swallowed a total of 93 packets of cocaine rolled inside plastic cylinders.

Ms Jarunan had swallowed 43 packets weighing a total of 496 grams and Ms Nantika had consumed 49 packets weighing 565 grams.

After being held in police custody for 24 hours, both women excreted the packets from their bodies.

The women confessed to drug trafficking charges and were sent to Bangkok where they are



The suspected drug smugglers being led away for interrogation.

being held by the Royal Thai Police Narcotics Bureau.

Investigations continue as police try to piece together information about an international drug smuggling cartel which they believe operates out of Argentina and uses Thailand as a hub for their Southeast Asian operation.

-Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

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Governor responds to explosive land claim

Phuket governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop responded on Tuesday to explosive claims by a Thai research body that foreigners own 90 percent of the island's beach-front land.

The Thailand Research Foundation announced the results of its research into land ownership at a seminar attended by economics and law scholars last week.

The *Bangkok Post* quoted Siriporn Sajjanont, a member of the research team from the economics faculty at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, as saying foreigners controlled 90 percent of land along the coastline of Phuket through Thai nominees.

The claims have caused a furore in the Thai media, following reports that businessmen in the Middle East were snapping up rice farms in other parts of Thailand using local proxy companies.

Questioned by the media at a ceremony to give out scholarships to students at Phuket City Municipality offices, Gov Wichai refused to confirm or deny the 90 percent claim.

The governor nevertheless conceded that foreigners were exploiting legal loopholes in order to

gain control of Phuket's land.

"One way to own property is through a business registered as a juristic person," Governor Wichai said.

"As long as Thai people own 51 percent or more of the company and foreigners 49 percent or less, it's legally permissible.

"The Thais are then transferring their shares to the foreigners after the transaction is complete, so the foreigners get one hundred percent control of the land."

Governor Wichai said the government was drafting new laws to prevent this from happening.

Foreigners were also marrying Thais in order to own businesses to purchase property, Governor Wichai said.

"The law doesn't allow foreigners to own land and property, except for condos, so they're finding Thai spouses," he said.

The governor said the Phuket authorities were carrying out stringent checks to find out whether the money to buy land was coming from Thais or foreigners.

- Atchaa Khamlo



'Nichipa', the Burmese infant born with 'mermaid syndrome' in Phuket earlier this month, was still fighting for her life in Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Hospital in Haad Yai this week. Doctors said they did not expect her to survive much longer. Her kidneys remained underdeveloped and her body had stopped expelling waste through the artificial waste orifice created for her, doctors said.

Sea gypsies clean up in bid to pay off debt

MANY sea gypsies living in a village close to Rawai Beach are still heavily in debt to violent loan sharks, despite the actions of a community organization which has already paid off more than half a million baht of the debts.

Now, the villagers have agreed to strict new rules aimed at helping them pay off the debt.

"The villagers have had to agree to stop gambling and drinking and to keep their village clean," Preeda Kongman, a community organizer, told the *Gazette*.

Cutting out gambling and drinking would make it easier for them to save money, while keeping the village clean would keep them healthy enough to work off their debts, she explained.

Although the 'Poor's Right to Develop Phuket Network' (PRDPN) paid off debts worth

more than half a million baht for 162 of the village's residents, debts of more than two million baht – backed up by threats of beatings and electrocution – still hang over many of the villagers.

"154 sea gypsies still face repaying debts totalling more than two million baht at very high interest rates because they can't borrow money through official channels," Ms Preeda said.

"But during the monsoon season they need the money to survive," she added.

Ms Preeda said a savings scheme had been set up in which villagers were asked to pay in five baht every day.

In addition to the money still owed to loan sharks, the villagers will have to pay back the half a million baht paid by the PRDPN, though at the significantly more manageable interest rate of six percent per year.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Thousands take part in tsunami drills

PHUKET'S tsunami warning towers sounded the alert last Friday, sending crowds of people running up Soi Bangla towards the higher ground further inshore.

The exercise was all part of a full-scale tsunami warning and evacuation drill, which Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban pronounced a resounding success.

"This will help tourists trust our tsunami warning system and encourage them to return to Phuket," he said.

Drills were conducted at 19 locations around Phuket, including Mai Khao, Nai Yang, Bangtao, Kamala, Patong, Kata, Karon, Kata Noi, Nai Harn, Rawai, Ao Por, Laem Tuk-kae, Saphan Hin, Chalong Bay, Ao Yon, Koh Lon and Koh Racha.

The exercise took place simultaneously across the Andaman region in Phuket,

Phang Nga, Ranong, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

The exercise was based on the hypothetical scenario that a massive earthquake of magnitude 8.8 struck near the Andaman Islands at 10.20am, sending out tremors that could be felt in several Thai provinces.

The National Disaster Warning Center issued a warning that a tsunami might strike the six Andaman coast provinces and warned residents and tourists to immediately evacuate to safe areas within 20 minutes.

At Patong Beach, more than 2,000 residents and tourists took part in the exercise.

Volunteers pretending to be frightened tourists climbed coconut trees and electricity posts, while others climbed up to get them down and send them to higher ground.

Other volunteers swimming in the sea were picked up by Royal Thai Navy helicopters and

safely dropped off on the shore.

One Canadian tourist said he was impressed with the professionalism of all those involved.

"A tsunami could hit Phuket again, but Thailand seems well prepared with the warning system and evacuation plan," he said.

Mr Suthep said public involvement in the drills was impressive.

"Lots of people took an interest and joined in the drill. It was just like a real situation," he said.

"It wasn't just government employees who took part. Everyone took the practice seriously."

Everything went perfectly today," he said.

- Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn



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Navy ready for the war on drugs

By Fraser Morton and
Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

AS part of a multinational training operation, Thai Navy SEALs stormed an American naval vessel in the Andaman Sea last week, just off Phuket, and seized 100kg of cocaine along with an arsenal of automatic machine guns.

The successful interception of the American ship was part of a series of controlled training operations carried out under the wing of the South East Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism (SEACAT) 2009 program, which was held from August 13 to 20.

Naval ships from America, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Singapore took part in the SEACAT 2009 training, which took place in international and territorial waters off the coast of the five Asian member countries.

The SEACAT body was established in 2002 and promotes the exchange of maritime warfare techniques and ship interception methods between member states.

This year's series of training operations was co-ordinated



SEACAT SUCCESS: Thai navy seals seized drugs and arms from the *USS Crommelin* in a training operation in the Andaman Sea.



from Singapore, where the American dock landing ship the *USS Harpers Ferry* served as the command center for the duration of the at-sea training exercises.

Liaison officers and law enforcement agents representing all six countries boarded the *USS Harpers Ferry* on August 12, to co-ordinate the ships involved in the week's operations.

In the Thai leg of training exercises, Thai navy ship the *HTMS Bangpakong* was tasked with finding and intercepting the American vessel the *USS*

Crommelin, a guided missile frigate.

In the scenario the American ship was referred to as a 'simulated vessel of interest'.

The crew of the *USS Crommelin* adopted the role of hostile drug and arms traffickers aboard an unidentified ship which crossed into Thai territorial waters.

The report of the suspicious vessel entering Thai waters, approximately 5km south of Koh Racha, was raised just after dawn on August 19.

The 211-strong crew of *HTMS Bangpakong*, docked at

Phuket's deep sea port at Ao Makham, responded to the call.

Under the direction of their commanding officer, Captain Chalermchai Suankaew, the crew were tasked with tracking and intercepting the vessel of interest.

Out at sea and using radar, the *HTMS Bangpakong* located the ship not far from the location given in the initial report, heading closer to the mainland at speed.

HTMS Bangpakong made radio contact with the ship, demanding the crew identify themselves: they did not.

Following 'live' rules of engagement protocol, the Thai navy issued a warning to the suspicious vessel's crew to cut its engines.

There was no response.

HTMS Bangpakong then circled the vessel of interest three times in a bid to slow the ship.

Failure to comply resulted in *HTMS Bangpakong* gunners given the order to open fire.

The guns were fully manned by the Thai navy, but red flares were fired into the air to simulate live ammunition instead.

At this stage the crew of the vessel of interest turned from non-compliant to compliant.

The next play for the Thai navy was to send in their SEALs.

After getting the 'green light' from command center, Navy SEALs stationed on Phuket arrived at the scene via helicopter.

Their orders were to intercept the ship's crew within 30 minutes.

Eight Thai Navy SEALs fast-roped onto the deck of the *USS Crommelin*, while another team of 10 used a RHIB

launched from the *HTMS Bangpakong* for a water-entry assault on the ship.

All Navy SEALs were carrying automatic machine guns, fitted with blanks.

Amusingly, when the SEALs fast-roped on to the *USS Crommelin*, they were searched by American navy personnel – who at the time were supposed to be hostile drug traffickers.

After a momentary break in character for the safety search, the Navy SEALs headed into the belly of the ship, in search of the captain and remainder of the drug smuggling crew on board.

Within 30 minutes, 10 of the drug trafficking crew had been killed by the SEALs, and all remaining crew detained.

They also recovered 100kg of cocaine and a small arsenal of AK47s and M16 machine guns.

Captain Chalermchai Suankaew said the training operation was a success and education for both navies.

"Our execution of protocol and procedures was perfect.

"All the crew did a great job," he said.

The at-sea SEACAT training operations which took place off the coasts of Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand were hailed as a huge success by the navies involved.

Captain Richard L Clemmons Jr, the SEACAT Task Group commander, said the simulated vessel interceptions were valuable in order to show how "other navies approach not only maritime security but also the sharing of information as well."

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BOUT'S OUT: Alleged Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout after the Criminal Court in Bangkok denied a US request for his extradition earlier this month. Photo: AFP/Pornchai Kittiwongsakul

Fake cop a good dancer

PHATTHALUNG: A traditional dancer tried to swindle 70,000 baht from a temple abbot by dressing as a high ranking cop.

Pramoj Maniroj, 54, was picked up by the real police last Monday dressed in the uniform of a police colonel, complete with side-arm.

The arrest followed a complaint by Wilawarom Nunun that Mr Pramoj had told her father, deputy abbot at a local temple, he was a police colonel who could help Mrs Wilawarom's younger sister pass police entrance exams – for 70,000 baht.

Mrs Wilawarom agreed to meet the colonel to discuss the offer.

As they were talking, however, she noticed the phoney policeman's name badge read 'Mr' rather than 'Colonel'.

Suspicious, she called Pa Bon Police to check if the man was really a police officer. Police rushed to the scene and arrested Mr Pramoj.

Police said Mr Pramoj admitted he was really a dancer who performed the traditional manora dance in shows.

He said he decided to supplement his earnings as a dancer by dressing as a policeman and extorting money from villagers.

He admitted to scamming many victims before being caught.

Mr Pramoj will be charged with impersonating a police officer, firearms offenses and fraud.

Source: Khao Sod

Queer News

Man caught red-handed

CHONBURI: A Cambodian worker resorted to desperate measures after his girlfriend caught him in bed with another woman last Sunday.

In a bid to prove his continuing devotion to his lover, he sliced off his pinky with a cleaver.

The unlucky worker, 27-year-old Ping, told rescue workers that when his girlfriend Nual, 32, who is also Cambodian, came home from work early that morning, he was in bed with her friend Narin, also 32.

After Narin fled the scene, a fierce argument broke out between Nual and Ping.

Ping said he soon realized it was he who was at fault and begged Nual for forgiveness.

When Nual refused to forgive him, Ping grabbed a cleaver from the kitchen and chopped off his pinky.

Ping told rescue workers he hoped this act would make his girlfriend sympathize with him and forgive him for what he had done.

On seeing the blood, however, Nual fled their flat and drove off on her motorbike, leaving Ping screaming for help from the neighbors.

Rescue workers took him to Queen Sirikit Hospital where doctors will try to reattach the digit.

Nual was unavailable to comment on her boyfriend's actions.

Source: Siam Rath

Dogs saved from dinner plate fate

CHAIYAPHUM: Police stopped a pick-up truck full of dogs destined for the restaurants of Sakhon Nakhon province on Sunday.

Around 40 dogs were crammed into the back and many were in poor condition.

The driver confessed he had rounded up the hounds in Chaiyaphum to sell in nearby Sakhon Nakhon, where the natives are known for their taste for dog meat.

He has been charged with trading in animals without a license.

In an unrelated incident, two days earlier traders from Si Mum Muang market in Pathum Thani complained that around 40 dogs from the market had been caught and sent for sale in Sakhon Nakhon.

The manager of the market, Suphoj Jenprasert, said traders had been warned to keep their pets locked up as strays would be collected by security guards and sent to the Northeastern province.

Source: MCOT

Christmas Day killer caught

BANGKOK: A man has confessed to the killing of Canadian Mark Jay Keffer, who was shot dead in his brother-in-law's condominium on Christmas Day, 2006.

Suphoj 'Kla' Saelim, 40, was arrested last Tuesday for Mr Keffer's murder, as well as a recent robbery on another condo.

He confessed to the killing and a string of other crimes, police said.

Mr Keffer was celebrating Christmas with his wife and six other friends in a 10th-floor condo when a gunman burst in and demanded valuables.

When his wife Mona Keffer hit the intruder with her handbag, the man became angry and opened fire on the revelers, killing Mr Keffer and injuring Mrs Keffer and two other guests.

Mr Keffer was enjoying a six-week trip touring Southeast Asia with his wife and two sons at the time of the murder.

Police tracked down Mr Suphoj after he pawned property belonging to Sarinya Pheung-

sombun, whose Sukhumvit condo was robbed earlier this year.

Police searched Mr Suphoj's Bangkok home and seized a large quantity of gold jewelry and pawnshop tickets as well as a 9mm pistol, a shotgun and more than 100 rounds of ammunition.

Police suspected Mr Suphoj of Mr Keffer's killing as there were similarities between the two crimes, which were carried out in the same area of Bangkok.

Tests on the gun found at Mr Suphoj's house proved it fired the shot that killed Mr Keffer, police said.

Police Assistant Commissioner General Asawin Kwanmuang said Mr Suphoj confessed he had killed Mr Keffer after party guests refused to follow his instructions.

Mr Suphoj also confessed to robbing units in at least five other luxury condominium developments in the Sukhumvit area, Lt Gen Asawin said.

Source: Siam Rath

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Southern-style shake up

Southern Thailand's wannabe Brian Flanagans – Tom Cruise's character in the movie *Cocktail* – gathered at Homeworks Phuket to compete in the Southern Bartender Contest from August 22 to 23.

A total of 37 participants entered the competition, which was split into three categories: best amateur, best classic bartender and best flair bartender.

Gone are the days when a cocktail was made simply by pouring the ingredients over ice into a cocktail shaker and giving a quick shake to mix things up.

Today's cocktails are all about style *and* substance, with bartenders using a huge range of ingredients to create unique tasting drinks.

The competing bartenders also use a fair amount of panache to blend them together, creating a spectacle by juggling bottles, setting things on fire and giving each drink some extra special finishing touches to ensure they look as good as they taste.

Day one was open to the amateur contestants, and the event was won by Panupong Kulsittawiweat who served up the 'Miracle Drink' to beat Jane Kawyod and Lukana Dongsong into second and third place respectively.

On Sunday 23, it was time for the classic and flair bartender contests. First prize was awarded to Prasit Chompoosri from La Flora Resort, Patong, in the classic bartender event. Rattanakee Luang-Aram from the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket took the crown in the flair division with his 'Siam Heritage' cocktail.



The competing bartenders also use a fair amount of panache when blending their cocktails, creating a spectacle by juggling bottles, setting things on fire and giving each drink some extra special finishing touches to ensure they look as good as they taste.

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The amateur event was won by Panupong Kulsittawiweat (left) with his 'Miracle Drink'. Jane Kawyod (right) and Lukana Dongsong (second left) were awarded second and third place respectively.



Just two of the mouthwatering cocktails created during the two-day event.

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The yucca-slinger showdown

On the menu

WITH
Fraser Morton &
Sarah Foster-Gross

It was a Monday night draped in black and blanketed in heavy rains when we set out looking for the Ecuadorian yucca-slinger.

Rumors of a man known as Juan Carlos who had opened a Latino restaurant three months prior had been spreading like wildfire across the island.

A man said to serve tequila as appetizers, a master in the kitchen when it came to Central and South American dishes, and the only man in Phuket Town to know the secret to cooking yucca – aka the cassava root.

Those who sampled his dishes spoke of their power to melt patron's livers with liquor-laced dishes.

It was easier to track down the yucca-slinger than first expected.

We found him sheltering from the rain at his joint named Cha, Cha, Cha on Yaowarat Road, in Phuket Town, right next to the *Gazette's* office, to be exact.

He stood behind his bar with his leggy drink dispenser, who stood armed with a tequila bottle and shot glasses in a leather holster slung around her slender figure.

She wore a black hat, matching dress and cowboy boots.

Clocking the two soaked visitors entering his place, Juan Carlos swaggered over and planted a double-cheek Latino kiss on my partner and a firm handshake, pat-on-the-back combo for me.

He wore a bandanna and spoke battered English through a heavy Spanish accent.

"*Bebidas* (drinks)?" he asked us.

Mojitos and margaritas lined with strong liqueur and tanked with the zest and sour kick you'd expect from a Latino who knows his measures were served fast and downed just as quick.

Firing us menus, it was clear the yucca-slinger was a Central and South American master.

Ecuadorian, Brazilian, Argentinian, Columbian, Peruvian, Honduran and Venezuelan dishes fought for attention on the menu.

Then out came his big guns. The yucca-slinger slung his yucca down on the table five minutes later.

There they were, the reason to brave the night's storms, the reason to hunt down our Ecuadorian chef.

For yucca virgins, the cassava root is a Latin American delicacy.

Resembling the potato in color, texture and to a certain extent taste, the yucca is a staple food for many Latin Americans.

The dish can be eaten with coffee or a beer, can be a snack or appetizer, but most of the time is served as an accompaniment to meat.

But alcohol is the best friend of the yucca.

Juan Carlos slings his yucca with another well known South American dish: chimichurri sauce.

Like butter on bread, Argentinian chimichurri sauce longs to be splashed all over yucca.

Chimichurri is concocted from finely chopped parsley, minced garlic, vinegar, olive oil, red pepper, oregano and a few more secret ingredients.

Sublime and divine, and the yucca-slinger knew it, the night could have ended there, but it didn't. Juan Carlos was back in the kitchen.

Sizzling erupted as we heard him yelling for his staff to bring more rum.

My partner and I scanned the surroundings of yucca-slinger's domain.

Yards away on Yaowarat road, rain fell hard and fast and kept the streets deserted, but inside the Latino living room of a restaurant, the splashes of yellow, red, lime and pink smothering the walls kept us warm.

Reggaeton Latin pop music blasted from TVs, threatening to dislodge the yucca-slinger's pride and joy – a gargantuan painting of a matador and raging bull hanging on one wall.

Juan Carlos was back from the kitchen and propped down two giant prawn dishes, *ensalada de mariscos*; a massacre ensued.



LEFT: The yucca with Chimichurri sauce. RIGHT: Just watching Juan Carlos in action, it was clear the yucca-slinger is a Central and South American master.



Ripping off the heads of the giant prawns, cracking their torsos open with greasy fingers, the prawns oozed with mayonnaise, tomato, yogurt, red pepper and coriander.

A few slurps and burps later and our main was on our table.

The yucca-slinger placed rum-soaked pan-fried prawns in front of my partner and the pork a la Argentinian for myself with – god bless him – chimichurri sauce on the side.

My partner set about devouring more shrimp.

I carved up my pork chop which was marinated in salt and pepper, garlic, coriander and beer.

Chimichurri sauce was splashed all over the pork chop and baby-jacket potato hugging the side of my plate.

Our plates were a mess of carcasses, bones and splashed sauce within minutes.

Our bellies ached, but Juan Carlos was not finished with us, as more mojitos and margaritas were served and again they were polished off in no time.

Then the tequila mistress of the bar fired us shots of Mexico's finest. "*Tomalo* (Take it)", the yucca-slinger ordered.

We did. We drank, we gagged, we loved it.

As we paid, my partner and I looked at each other in shock at the tab, a mere pittance for the food, hospitality and warmth the yucca-slinger showed us that night.

The night ended with an Ecuadorian belch as we bid Juan Carlos and his damsel farewell.

It was still raining, but we didn't care, we'd had our showdown at the yucca-slinger's joint and it was worth it. T: 084-8484 590.

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Revered talisman of kings

Part two of a look at Thailand's elephants

Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

The elephant is revered in Thailand. It is the talisman of kings, a focal point in traditional Thai ceremonies, a familiar presence in street pageants, house blessings and processions, a central presence in Buddhist and Brahmin iconography.

If you go to Phuket FantaSea, an extravaganza which styles itself as 'the ultimate cultural theme park' and 'a living tapestry of Thai history

and culture', the elephant – or rather elephants, for there are many – will, quite literally, dominate many aspects of the proceedings.

Hardly surprising, when one considers the elephant's imposing bulk – the largest of all land mammals and second in height only to the giraffe.

In Thailand, paradoxically 'tamed' and revered for centuries, it has been a familiar presence almost everywhere, but respect is not only a consequence of its gargantuan proportions. The elephant is, as Aristotle noted more than 2,000 years ago, a remarkably savvy creature. As we all know, 'an elephant never forgets', and can be readily trained to perform skills, skills that made it indispensable in the era before huge mechanical dinosaurs were sentenced to hard labor.

In Thailand to be called a 'kwai' (buffalo) is an insult, since these animals are considered stupid, but nobody would dream

of using the word 'chang' as a personal slur and besides, elephants are remarkable in other ways.

In the jungle, they live in organized matriarchal groups of up to 15 members, with the oldest female as leader. The males stay with the group as youngsters, but gradually separate themselves from the herd and finally go off to lead independent lives. They will only return as mature bulls once they have established their dominance over other competing males, something that will take many years.

For such huge creatures, they display extraordinary sensitivity as well as intelligence. The trunk is, for instance, a marvel of sophistication. It has been variously estimated that this proboscis, an evolutionary modification of upper lip and nose, and not as Kipling's story suggests, the result of an encounter with a crocodile, contains 40,000 to 100,000 muscles.

It is sensitive enough to be



In Thailand to be called a 'kwai' (buffalo) is an insult, since these animals are considered stupid, but nobody would dream of using the word 'chang' as a personal slur.

able to pick up a pin, but strong enough to rip off huge branches from forest trees. Amazingly adaptable, this multi-purpose, prehensile extension is also used for breathing, smelling, and trumpeting, for drinking and squirting water, as well as for grabbing and holding. Without its trunk the elephant cannot survive.

It can survive without its tusks – in fact the female Asian elephant may not possess any – but ironically, they are the part of an elephant's anatomy which created the ivory trade and led to the animal's serious decline in parts of Africa and Indochina. Used for digging up roots and stripping juicy bark from trees, they are occasionally employed as weapons by rutting males in musth.

If elephants have not been conspicuously killed for their tusks in Thailand, there is mounting concern for Vietnam's chang population. Because of a law which permits the sale of antique ivory, newly carved ivory masquerading as old, is being openly sold there.

Ivory fetches the world's highest prices in Vietnam's markets – up to US\$1,500 a kilo. When you consider that a tusk can weigh anything up to 100kg, it is hardly surprising that they have been hunted so ruthlessly. There are probably fewer than

100 elephants in Vietnam today and it remains the lamentable case that most of the African poached ivory continues to find its way to Asia, and especially to China.

The second-largest purchaser of ivory in Southeast Asia is – wait for it – Thailand. There are recent horror stories emanating from Chad and Sudan about elephant massacres. In one recent afternoon, it was reported, the Sudanese Janjaweed militia killed 100 elephants with rocket launchers to help finance their policy of systematic genocide.

So what does the future hold for Thailand's elephant population?

At least nothing so ghastly. While there are disturbing tales of young elephants still being taken from the wild to cater to the demands of zoos, theme parks and trekking camps, at least there is a growing awareness that even this destiny may be the lesser of the evils facing so-called 'domesticated' animals. Infinitely better than tramping up and down the streets of downtown Bangkok.

Nonetheless the best-case scenario would include a strict embargo on the sale and importation of ivory, concerted action to better protect their remaining habitats, and most important of all, strictly enforced laws to ensure that Thailand's remaining wild elephants can still roam free.



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Living a life less ordinary



BENEATH THE WAVES

By Diver Dan

It is early morning and as the sun rises in the East, you find it hard to stifle a yawn because the caffeine is wearing off and you realize you are up before the crack of dawn.

But the seemingly ridiculous hour of the day doesn't concern you because you are going diving, and to make things even better, you're getting paid to do it.

The routine of setting up your equipment is completed on automatic pilot because you have repeated it time after time.

You arrive at your destination as the sun begins to burn brightly and you turn and face the assembled divers to brief them before entering the water, the anticipation and excitement evident in their faces as they cling to your every word.

Entering the water and the world changes.

Vivid-colored fish dart past your mask, while hard and soft corals play host to a myriad of aquatic creatures, hiding them from predators.

A lazy turtle ambles past, keeping a beady eye on proceedings.

Turning to face your divers once more, a quick check reveals that everyone is okay, and you slowly descend to the depths to

truly commence the dive.

Upon surfacing, the air is filled with excited chatter: people discussing what they saw, how good the visibility was and how good a dive they just had.

The break between dives gives you the opportunity to enjoy a relaxed chat with your divers on the beach or while lazing on the boat before it's time to gear up and do it all over again.

Welcome to the world of the professional diver.

Naturally, this is a romanticized version of a day in the life of a professional diver because, as with everything in life, nothing is always perfect, but if you ask many people who have trained as divemasters or instructors, they will have had days just like the one described above.

Scuba diving is a highly addictive pastime and one that leads many people to make the decision to pursue it as a career.

I fell in love with diving the moment I took my first breaths underwater, but the thought of becoming an instructor initially never crossed my mind.

That came when I was sitting on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with the majesty of the Great Barrier Reef sitting just a few meters below me.

Our guide was an Englishman who, unlike many other Englishmen, looked tanned, healthy and happy – like anyone would if they were being paid to do a job they loved under the bright Australian sunshine.

It was at that point that I decided I wanted that lifestyle, and to become a professional diver.

I was aware the money would never be great, and that it wasn't the type of job you would think of doing for your entire life, but the lifestyle was one that

anybody in their early twenties would find hard to resist.

So, what steps have to be taken to become a certified dive professional?

I was already a PADI diver, so it made sense to continue, and the first rung on the professional ladder is the divemaster certification.

To begin a divemaster course, a candidate must be a certified rescue diver with a valid first aid certification, have 20 logged dives and be over 18 years old.

The course teaches a variety of skills and increases diver knowledge significantly, preparing for life in the industry as a divemaster or higher.

As the first step on the professional path, the divemaster course ensures divers are well prepared for the journey towards becoming an instructor.

Within the course, trainees will be tested on a range of academic subjects, including physics, physiology, decompression theory and equipment.

They must demonstrate exemplary rescue skills and suitable levels of physical fitness, be able to demonstrate the 20 basic open water skills to instructor standard, assist an instructor on a range of different courses and learn how to guide other certified divers, among other things.

To complete the course, the candidate must complete all the required tasks and have a minimum of 60 logged dives.

The minimum number of dives required for certification can be achieved in just a few weeks, but to truly get the most out of the course, it is worth taking your time, for a number of reasons.



It's a tough life, but someone has to do it. Being a professional diver can take you to some of the most beautiful places on earth.

Not rushing through the course gives you the chance to familiarize yourself with the inner workings of a dive shop.

This is hugely important, for once you graduate and are actively working, it is the divemasters who are responsible for ensuring the whole operation runs like a well-oiled machine.

The longer the course, the greater the opportunity to assist with courses and to work with a

variety of different instructors.

This gives the candidate the chance to witness how different instructors conduct their courses and the opportunity to extract each of their best aspects.

Stretching out the course will also ensure that you get good value for money, but above all else, the course is immensely enjoyable, giving you the opportunity to form friendships that last a lifetime.

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House music's great innovator

In the past 12 months, the house music scene in Phuket has taken some giant strides. Early in the year, Phuket saw repeat visits from stars such as Judge Jules, Louis Vega and Nakadia, but unlike previous years, the excitement and momentum their performances generated was built upon rather than left to fade away.

Phuket seemed the destination of choice for a number of DJs, handed an appreciative crowd to whom they could demonstrate their skills.

On July 17 this year, Phuket announced its arrival on the club scene with two huge events – the grand opening of Sound Phuket by the owners of the Bed Supperclub in Bangkok and Surin Beach's Stereo Lab which hosted the Phuket leg of British mega-label Hed Kandi's Thailand tour. Phuket had arrived.

Following the opening night, Sound Phuket has worked hard to bring a succession of first-rate DJs to Phuket under the banner of 'the ultimate clubbing experience'.

On August 13, DJ Dan made his first ever appearance in Thailand.

Born in Olympia, Washington, DJ Dan – A.K.A Daniel Wherrett – has been part of the DJ circuit for the past 20 years and was one of the original break beat pioneers,

championing the sound in San Francisco in the 1990s.

His success in the industry, coupled with the ability to change his sound over the years, has taken him around the globe to many of the biggest venues and also led to him being named 'House DJ of the year' in 2006.

Before taking to the decks at Sound, the *Gazette's* Dan Ogunshakin caught up with Dan to chat about his two decades in the industry, what influenced him in the past, where house music is headed and what the future holds for him.

The gig at Sound gave Dan the opportunity to experience Thailand for the first time, something he had wanted to do for 10 years.

"I always wanted to come to Thailand. The first thing I heard about in Thailand was the Full Moon Party on Koh Phangan [laughs] – that was 10 years ago.

"First impressions? Everyone always tells you how beautiful the place is and when we pulled up to the hotel, my first thought was, 'wow'. It was unlike any other place I'd been too. The restaurants have been fantastic and all the people have been very kind and very sweet – really amazing," he said.

Seattle, where Dan was raised, has produced a number of famous artists over the years

including legendary grunge bands Nirvana and Pearl Jam.

It was also the city where guitar legend Jimmy Hendrix took his first tentative steps in the music world and at one stage the 'Rainy City' was home to a thriving disco, funk, soul and jazz scene, something which influenced Dan from a young age.

"Growing up in Seattle, I was pretty lucky as my family was into disco and anything funk oriented. My mum encouraged me to buy lots of records when I was growing up so I was always collecting them.

"The fascination started because I had actual records in my hands all the time and I tried to figure out how to mix them together. Disco takes you into house eventually," he said.

Although Dan was raised in Seattle, it wasn't until he moved to Los Angeles to study before he started to make a name for himself as a DJ during the LA rave revolution in 1991, which he admits, "Is like a blur now".

"There were times when I tried to get out of it, thinking to myself, 'What am I doing, I've gotta get out of this', but I guess it was meant to be," he said.

Having ridden out those early days, Dan moved back to San Francisco at a time when music in the city was heavily centered around deep house and hip hop.

It was at this time that he began to pioneer break beat, combining the two styles.

"In San Francisco in the mid 90s it was very house and deep house oriented and I had come from LA at that time of the big rave techno revolution.

"So I thought why don't we change this up a bit, make it a bit more psychedelic and play breaks because the bass was so hip hop and funk oriented. So we started going back and forth between acid house and breaks and it really did start a big trend," he said.

This type of innovation has allowed Dan to stay at the top for so long, during which time he has witnessed many changes in house music.

"The biggest change is definitely the commercial aspect



DJ Dan – A.K.A Daniel Wherrett – has been part of the DJ circuit for the past 20 years and was one of the original break beat pioneers, championing the sound in San Francisco in the 1990s. Photo by Madeby Tommy.

– the music being commercially viable and being taken more seriously within the mainstream. Parts of that are great – the clubs will take the music seriously, we have great sound systems and we have great clubs.

"The negative aspect is that it sometimes promotes mainstream music to crowds that might otherwise be able to hear underground stuff. That's one part that has changed that I don't really prefer. It seems that there's a lot more mainstream dance music," he said.

"I see house music heading in two different directions. I see it going extremely mainstream and, as a result of going so mainstream, going underground again which I'm

very excited about."

Having spent so long at the top, it would be easy for Dan to call it quits, but he plans to go on, forever evolving to ensure he never loses his love for what he does.

"I'm really trying to keep pushing my label 'InStereo'. I'm really proud of all the artists I have on the label and I'm gonna try and get more serious in the studio, working with more vocals and getting a bit deeper with what I do.

"I've mainly done tracks throughout my career, but I have discovered this new love for vocals and just try to do something that keeps me interested in the music," he said.

-Daniel Ogunshakin

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EXPAT GALLERY

Don Battles

Don Battles is well known and admired as the popular host and entrepreneur who built Don's Mall in 2002 in the middle of a rice field on Saiyuan Road, on the way to Nai Harn Beach. While there's been a lot of development all around him since then, Don's Mall remains the center of great food events for local expats and lots of Thais living in the south of the island.

"I had no thoughts of becoming a restaurateur when I moved to Phuket. I had been in the steel business for many years, but during the 1997 Asian financial crisis many steel mills closed so I brought my staff to Phuket where I opened a small mini-mart with a barbecue outside. The ribs I cooked brought customers from all over the island, and the next thing I knew, I was running a restaurant."

Don has had several careers and he shows no sign of slowing down. He was born into a modest working class family in the southern United States. He remembers that during the Great Depression of the 1930s his entire family worked in the vegetable fields at night with miner's lamps attached to their heads. They had to work at night as his father was employed in the nearby steel mill by day while his children attended school. The

only way they could supplement his income was to farm at night and sell the produce off their truck to local workers.

He joined the Air Force in 1951 and took courses in advanced math and science. In 1958, he graduated from Auburn University in Alabama with a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

"The whole space exploration program was in the beginning stages and we didn't even have textbooks as they hadn't been written yet."

His first job was with North American Aviation as a rocket engine launch control officer. Based at Cape Canaveral, Florida, Don worked through all the manned space flight programs until he took early retirement in 1981. During his time in the space industry, he experimented with new methods to improve steel making by using rocket engine technology. After introducing his innovations in North America, he decided to tackle the East Asia markets.

"From 1984 to 1997, I was Director of Dontec, an engineering consulting firm to the steel industry. I had clients from Korea to New Zealand. I chose Thailand as my base of operations as it was a central location and I liked working with the Thai people."

After Don moved to Phuket

in 1997, he turned his native ingenuity and work ethic into producing food supplies for Thailand's hospitality industry. Starting with one small shop, he eventually developed a processing center that has created 50 proprietary food products, including 12 different varieties of gourmet sausage, using his father's recipes.

"I've been working with the Royal Agricultural College for years to develop better grades of beef. This has involved breeding local Thai cows with a French strain to improve the taste."

Don's spare ribs are still the popular draw to his Saturday night barbecues, which have been attracting both Thai and Western guests for at least a decade.

In 2005, he bought a farm in Chiang Rai province and entered a joint development agreement with the King's Agricultural Projects. Don grows chilies in greenhouses and makes 15 different sauces that he sells throughout the country. More recently, he started growing chili peppers outside Kunming, China, where the weather and growing conditions are better. When not looking after his 10,000 pepper plants, he is studying Chinese at the University of Yunan.

Don has no plans to retire. "You're never too old to learn. My mother graduated from college when she was 86, so I have many more new projects and challenges to undertake before then." — **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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The PIA Sports & Wellness Centre (PIASWC), now partly completed, provides a wide range of sports, wellness and recreational facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of the school's pupils, their families, the local Phuket community as well as visiting professional and non professional athletes from around the world to train and compete.



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY MIND CENTRE

The PIA Mind Centre (PIAMC), currently under construction, will offer training that integrates cutting-edge theories and methods from contemporary psychology and neuroscience with the ancient wisdom of the great contemplative traditions of Asia, resulting in exceptional mental health and wellbeing.

For more information on our three centres please visit our website

WWW.PHUKETINTERNATIONALACADEMY.COM



AWARDED FOR HONESTY: Phuket taxi driver Peerasuwat Khaitat (center) was recognized for his honesty during an awards presentation at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort last week. Mr Peerasuwat returned a wallet to the hotel that had been left in his taxi cab by a guest. The wallet contained 1,000 US dollars and credit cards. Also pictured are the resort's General Manager Rudolf Borgesius (2nd left), Director of Rooms Patrick Ilstam (left) and Mr Peerasuwat's wife and children.



SCHOOL'S IN: Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) President Sue Arnulphy hands over a scholarship worth 25,000 baht to Ms Natnicha Jinasaena at Satree Phuket School last Wednesday. The PIWC gives scholarships to deserving students annually. This year, more than 100 students were awarded scholarships at a number of schools in the region.



FEELING CHARITABLE: Miss Piyanooch Ananpakdee (front row, second left), Corporate Social Responsibility Project Manager at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, visited Baan Homehug in Yasothorn province earlier this month with donations including rice cookers, typewriters, calculators, learning materials and 11,000 baht. Miss Piyanooch presented the gifts to Ms Suthasinee Noi-in, the Founder of Baan Homehug foundation.




ENDORPHIN RUSH: Popular Thai singer Da Endorphine entertained the crowd at the Phuket Brewery last weekend. Concert goers were treated to hits such as *Parb Luang Tah* (Illusion) and *Dai Yin Mai?* (Can you hear me?).



SPELL CHECK: Finalists in the southern region heats of the NJ Spelling Bee contest face the judges at the Convention Hall at Prince of Songkla University in Phuket last Saturday. The annual contest is organized for high school students by *Nation Junior Magazine*. Regional finalists will compete in the national finals in Bangkok in November. The winner will win a trip to New Zealand where they will spend time at the Kiwi English Academy.



SKALLYWAGS: Centara Karon Resort hosted the latest SKAL event in the gardens of the resort last week. Guests were treated to a gourmet dinner from the resort's kitchens, wine from Wine Connection and entertainment from Sound Phuket's DJ Mikey Mike and the Boom Boom dancers. Pictured are SKAL President Ms Blandine Cressard (center) and Centara Karon Resort Resident Manager Jonas Sjostedt (front center) along with SKAL committee members.



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Take the fear out of flying

Last month we painted a somewhat scary picture of the sudden spike in fatal air accidents in 2009.

This month we investigate a phenomenon which has grown in recent years because of increased security measures: the fear of flying.

Maybe a million or more of the almost six million people who flew into Phuket in 2008 experienced some form of anxiety when flying.

As many as one third of the flying population suffer from this phobia to some degree.

Surprisingly, fear of flying and airline safety are not necessarily directly related.

Other factors come into play.

Getting on a plane does not have to be an experience like that of Barry Sonnenfeld, the director of films such as *Men in Black*, *Men in Black II* and *Wild, Wild West*, all action-packed movies full of brave men doing courageous things.

Sonnenfeld said he had a near death escape from an executive jet in 1999.

"I hate to fly. I view it as a failed suicide attempt," he said.

Now, even allowing for a bit of Hollywood hyperbole, that is a bit of a stretch.

What Sonnenfeld has is an anxiety disorder which he shares with millions of other people.

Fear of flying can occur during a flight or well before the flight starts.

Often, the fear has more to do with the elements of the flying experience and little, or nothing, to do with the risks associated with the flight.

It depends on the person.

For example they might also have a fear of heights, fear of being over water, fear of the dark, fear

of the unknown, fear of being in an enclosed, crowded space, concerns about accidents, concerns about being idle for long periods of time, concerns about the security screening process, concerns about turbulence and other weather conditions and, finally, not understand the activities associated with a normal flight.

In other words, fear of flying is a complex psychological issue

Talking Planes



by Alistair Carthew



Fear of flying has become more complex following the September 11 hijackings. Photo: AFP/Seth Mcallister

which has probably been made more complex in recent years by the September 11, 2001 hijackings and subsequent 'near miss' terrorist attempts to blow up planes.

The resulting heightened security measures only add to the anxiety of those already troubled by any one, or several, of the above fears.

There is not much research on the fear of flying, but a study by two Boeing Aircraft researchers in the 1980s found that 18 percent of adults in the US were afraid to fly and another 12.6 percent of adults experienced anxiety when they flew.

If you add these figures together, it means one in three adult Americans 30 years ago were afraid to fly.

The figure will be much higher now because of the greater security measures being taken to prevent terrorist attacks.

The interesting thing is that the anxiety people experience is not necessarily associated with the risk of flight.

In other words, there is confidence in the aircraft and its crew, and fearful passengers are more concerned about whether

their flight is going to be 'the one' which ends in disaster.

There are courses available to help people overcome their flying anxieties, but if you want to make your own assessment about the risks of flying, here are some facts that may, or may not, alleviate your concerns.

Firstly, there is no 'safest seat' on an airplane.

People can die from smoke inhalation or fire, rather than be safe sitting down the back away from the engine and cockpit.

Aircraft certified by a country's civil aviation authority are the safest, along with large commercial jets.

There are dozens of things that could happen to an aircraft, but the most likely is an evacuation using the emergency slides or using an emergency oxygen mask.

In most cases, deployment of masks does not mean imminent danger. They are more often than not a precautionary measure.

If this should occur, simply follow the pre-flight emergency drill and, in the case of an emergency, follow the instructions of the crew.

If you have concerns about

flying, there are a few things you can do.

Flying on non-stop routes helps because you are less exposed to takeoff, climb, descent and landings, where most accidents occur; fly on larger aircraft which are certified; pay attention to the pre-flight briefing; keep the overhead storage bin free of heavy articles; keep your seatbelt fastened when seated; listen to the flight attendants; don't carry any hazardous materials on board; let the flight attendant pour your hot drinks; don't drink too much; and keep your wits about you.

It's all pretty much commonsense, but it is surprising how many ignore such suggestions.

If you need more help to ease your fear of flying, there is some helpful advice available at www.flyingfear.net.

Alastair Carthew is a freelance writer and PR consultant living on Phuket who previously worked in the airline industry and now focuses on the hospitality, property, airline and media industries.
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series – Island Crown – September 4 – 6



The Island Crown competition is the final round of the three-part 2009 Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series (TSS). Under the rules of the International Surfing Association, the TSS will become part of the Asian Surfing Championship ranking system, offering a platform for Thai surfers to compete with other Asian surfers in meets around the region. The events expect to have participants from 15 countries and will feature four divisions: short board, long board, groms (kids), and women. The TSS is organized by the Phuket Boardriders Club and sponsored by the Phuket government and local businesses. From 7am to 6pm at Kata Beach. For further information contact Phuket Boardriders Club. T: 081-956 5854. E: joob@phuketboardriders.com. W: www.thaisurfseries.com.

August 29. Banana Adventure Camps' Family Fun Day

You are welcome to join us for the launch of Banana Adventure Camps at our 'Family Fun Day' at the Land and House Park in Chalong. The day will include a BBQ, swimming pool competitions, sports activities for kids, fitness testing sessions as well as a buffet, music, bar, restaurant, competitions and much more. All this is free for kids under 16 and 100 baht for adults. We look forward to seeing you there. Directions available at: www.lhphuket.com/map.pdf. Please show this invitation at the security gate. From 9am to 5pm at Land and House Park. For further information contact Banana Adventure Camps. T: 084-308 0827. E: info@1800phuket.com.

August 30. Columbia Crest Two Vines BBQ at SALA

Make the drive to SALA Phuket and spend the afternoon lounging, listening to beach tunes, enjoying our barbecue and drinking Columbia Crest's Two Vines wine. Columbia Crest's Two Vines 2005; Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon will be on pour all afternoon. Just 1,200 baht ++ per person. Alternatively, stay the night with SALA and enjoy our special Thai residents' rates: from 4,500 baht net for two, including Columbia Crest barbecue as well as à la carte breakfast. Bookings are limited to 50 people. From 4pm – 8pm at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa. For further information contact SALA Phuket. T: 076-338 888. E: info@salaphuket.com. W: www.salaphuket.com.

September 2. DJ Cash Money @ SOUND

Winning the new music seminar DJ championship in New York, the DMC American mixing championship in Los Angeles and the DMC world supremacy DJ championship in London throughout the late '80s, Philadelphia's DJ Cash Money took the hip-hop world by storm. Formerly of the group PM Dawn, he's made multiple appearances on MTV, played in more than 100 cities worldwide and is currently on a tour of Asia, stopping in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, Singapore, Beijing, Cambodia, Phuket and Bangkok. Cash Money is a true hip-hop innovator and will be making his Phuket debut at

Sound Phuket. From 10pm to 2am at Sound Phuket. For further information contact Dave (English) or Art (Thai). T: 076-366 163. E: info@soundphuket.com. W: www.soundphuket.com.

September 11 – 13. 8th Annual Doubles Smash at Dusit

Inviting all tennis instructors and staff of Laguna Hotels and other hotels in Phuket to participate in this year's Doubles Smash tennis competition. The charity tennis tournament is open to men and women of all ages. A portion of the proceeds from the day will be donated to the Handicapped Children's School in Pa Khlok. The money will be used to buy essentials for the school, such as rice, cooking oil and cleaning supplies. From 8.30am – 8pm at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Application fee: 1,000 baht per team. For further information or to apply to take part in the competition, contact Ms Vachira Thitalohakul. T: 076-362 999 ext 7631 E: dtlpgsamgr@dusit.com. W: www.dusit.com.

September 19 – 20. International Cleanup Day

Scuba Cat Diving and KonTiki are organizing events for International Cleanup Day on September 19, 2009. Lots of activities will take place in different locations:

- Underwater cleanup at Koh Racha Yai, staying overnight onboard MV Scuba Cat.
- Patong Beach cleanup
- Naiharn Beach cleanup

Please come join us in the effort to preserve the beauty of Thailand. Invite all your friends and members of your family. These events are for divers and non-divers. From 7.30am – 8pm at Racha Yai, Patong, Naiharn. For further information contact Kath at Scuba Cat. T: 076-293 120 or Michael at Kontiki T: 076-280 366. E: info@scubacat.com. W: www.scubacat.com.

October 4. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Ork Pansa)

On this day, the three-month rain retreat for Buddhist Lent (Khao Pansa) is over for the monks.

COMPUTER CLINICS

Free Computer Clinics. Join Woody Leonhard and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning Computer Clinics, which are co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

Woody also writes computer books, including the "Windows For Dummies" series.

The Computer Clinics are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free.

Remember, there's no such thing as a dumb question - only easy answers.

Come early to make sure you get a seat: several recent events have been standing room only.

For further information contact Woody.

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

W: www.KhunWoody.com.

Driving instructions at www.Woody.info.

August 30. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

September 6. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Patong.

September 13. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

September 20. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

September 27. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

October 4. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Patong.

October 11. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

October 18. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

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"The Green Golf Residence Project", the name of condominium is "Phuket Golf Resort Condominium". The owner of condominium units of the project is Tamarind Bay Co., Ltd., registered capital 20,000,000 Baht, paid up. The office is located at 11 Shantree Road, Tard Yai, Muang, Phuket, Phuket. The President is: Vireecharit Sudhahat. The condominium registration number is 3/2116. The Condominium is located on the land title deed no. 2116 and 2117, covering approximately 3.64 1/2 Rong 78 Square Meter. The total of sale units of the Project is 61, the condominium has 2 stories, with total of 31 units. The sale units are under the title of the Project Owner and have been mortgaged to Kiat Pim Bank, P.L.C. The sale units will be transferred promptly when the buyers pay the sale price completely. The common property of the condominium is as the current condition and has been registered under condominium registration. The unit owners must pay common property expenses at the rate as stipulated in accordance with the Regulation of The Condominium Act, 1971.

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ON THE MOVE

Mr Mark Hehir has been appointed as the new General Manager of the Anantara Phuket Resort and Spa. Born in Melbourne, Australia, Mark began as an apprentice chef at home before establishing himself at the exclusive Michelin-starred Twenty One restaurant at the Hilton, Tokyo. Before joining Anantara, Mark honed his hotel management skills at five-star properties in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, lifting them to award-winning levels.



Mr Stephane Duvacher has been assigned as the new Food and Beverage Director at Indigo Pearl resort in Nai Yang. Trained as a chef, Stephane initially worked in various renowned restaurants in his native France, including the famous Le Beauharnais in Fontainebleau, which was once home to Napoleon Bonaparte. Before joining Indigo Pearl, he served as the food and beverage director at Rosewood Little Dix Bay in the British Virgin Islands.



Mrs Rosita Lek Rios has assumed the position of Senior Accounts Manager of the sales and marketing team at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa. Rosita formerly worked as the corporate sales manager at the New Orleans Boutique Hotel and as the corporate and travel industry sales manager at The Royal Sonesta in Los Angeles, USA. before moving to Phuket, she was a cluster accounts manager at Marriott International Bangkok.



Light at the end of the tunnel



MONEY TALKS

Richard G. Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years' experience in the field of finance.

T: 076-381997, 081-0814611.
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www.global-portfolios.com.

Germany and France's virtually simultaneous release of their second quarter gross domestic product (GDP) figures on August 13 gave the markets a surprise.

As the numbers came through, to most people's surprise, they turned out to be very pleasant.

A broad poll of economists conducted by Reuters had predicted declines of -0.3 percent for the second quarter for both countries – the reality was a gain of 0.3 percent.

More factors have to be considered with these numbers.

If these had been reported in the US, it would have meant Germany and France's economies were growing by 0.3 percent at

an annualized rate, but in European reporting it means both economies grew by 0.3 percent in the second quarter, producing an annualized growth rate of 1.2 percent; four times as fast.

Now, this is not straight into 'boom' territory but it does imply something that few expected so early – both Germany and France have moved out of recession.

Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, has to face a general election in a matter of weeks.

This will certainly add strength to her campaign, while President Nicholas Sarkozy of France must now have extra spring in his jogging shoes.

This does not mean that these core eurozone countries have suddenly shed all their problems, but it does mean that the 'great recession' appears to have lost its grip.

German banks know they still have 'toxic debt' on their books and plain old bad debt from emerging Eastern Europe.

There is now at least light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

Readers might wonder how so many economists got it wrong in the Reuters opinion poll.

Well, they certainly are in exalted company.

In November last year, Queen Elizabeth II visited the London School of Economics.

While there she effectively posed the question, why did economists not forecast the economic catastrophe that was then taking place?

It seems all the gathered economists suddenly found the surrounding walls, ceiling and floors of great interest and, almost certainly, she never received a proper answer.

It was no mere academic and obscure question, as the Queen had found her personal investment portfolio severely mauled.

After the recession circa 2001, economists kept a low profile.

One, who I shall not name as I believe he is much better than average, was acting as a guest host of business television channel CNBC Europe and was asked by the program's anchor if he was an economist.

After looking extremely uncomfortable, he described himself as a strategist, but added he had a degree in economics.

Economics is not an exact science, and whenever economists go out on a limb and predict actual market movements, their predictions are likely to be as accurate as those made by casual observers.

When visiting any country, I have usually found a chat with locals about the economy and related matters yields much more useful information than the same chat with economists.

Nevertheless, economic data is very important.

It is more reliable if viewed in a historical context to see where economies have been, rather than where they are heading, but in this recession, the various stimulus packages have



For a number of countries, the 'great recession' appears to have lost its grip. There is some light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

made it difficult for economists to estimate the fallout.

Governments, knowing they faced a deeper and more difficult recession than has been the norm, included packages such as 'cash for clunkers'.

These are cash handouts for old cars when traded for new ones.

These 'packages' make it even more difficult to know how economies are going to perform when conditions return to normal.

Should governments continue to stimulate economies for too long there is a real risk of inflation and even more asset bubbles developing.

On the other hand, if they remove stimulus measures too early they risk deflation and a return to recession.

It might not be so easy to

bring economies back to life a second time.

In Asia, Hong Kong later reported growth at an annualized rate of 3.3 percent, while Japan, the world's second-largest economy, recorded 3.7 percent for the second quarter.

Like France and Germany, this takes both of these economies from the clutches of recession.

It seems likely that the economies with the least debt will be the fastest to recover.

Stockmarkets are usually referred to as discounting mechanisms which, if viewed in terms of daily price movements, will simply confuse the observer.

Markets are supposed follow what is expected to transpire in six to nine months time.

Art Cashin, the veteran director of operations at the New York Stock Exchange for Swiss banking giant UBS, recently commented that he had to wonder what future stockmarkets were discounting when they reached record highs in October of 2007.

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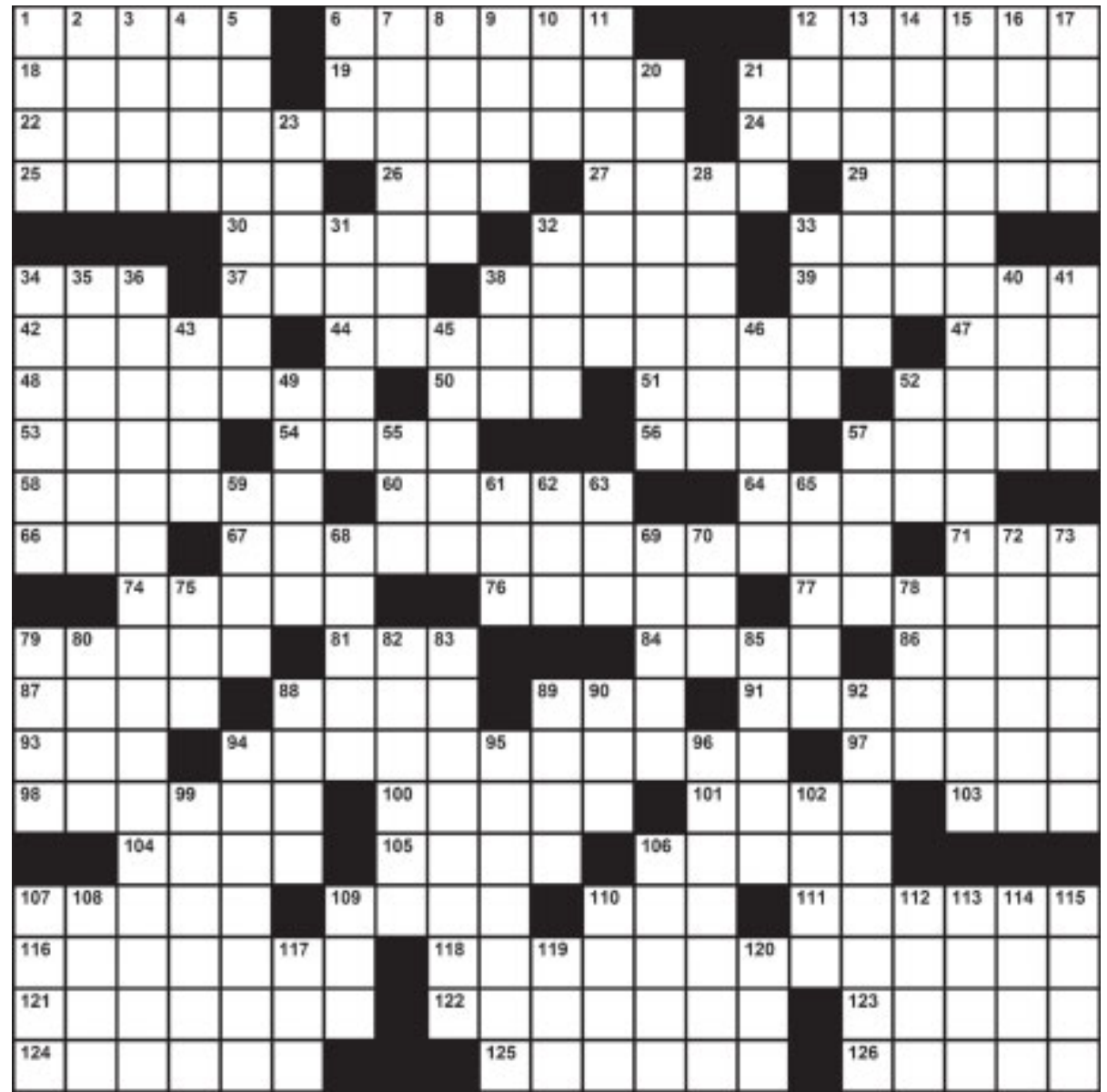
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



ACROSS

- 1 How easy things might be
- 6 Double-platinum Genesis album of 1981
- 12 Service station accessory
- 18 Alice's cat in "Alice in Wonderland"
- 19 Flavored with sour orange peel (Var.)
- 21 Coffee-Mate competitor
- 22 Tom Cruise's movie studio
- 24 Put in place, as flowers
- 25 "Good Times" actress Rolle
- 26 "Anchors Aweigh" branch, briefly
- 27 "... three men in "
- 29 Voices above tenors
- 30 Like some dispositions
- 32 Tree protuberance
- 33 Mythical king of the Huns
- 34 Cheesecake ingredient?
- 37 Word of mock horror
- 38 "... minute, Mr. Postman"
- 39 Attack suddenly
- 42 Bean-based dish
- 44 Town hall's cousin
- 47 Where M.D.s and R.N.s stay busy
- 48 Cigarette ad claim, perhaps
- 50 Wiggler in the water
- 51 Unreliable witness
- 52 Break under strain
- 53 Direction of the sunrise
- 54 Back of the pack
- 56 "Fargo" affirmative
- 57 Kind of acid
- 58 Bay Area city, familiarly
- 60 Its area code is 208
- 64 Symbol of resistance?

- 66 Ave. crossers
- 67 For some it includes a white picket fence
- 71 When doubled, a Teletubby
- 74 Culinary school course?
- 76 Milking the cows, e.g.
- 77 Candy subject to a 2002 vote
- 79 Ticket to the Big House
- 81 "... how you play the game"
- 84 Word with "gossip" or "chatter"
- 86 Islands off Ireland
- 87 "Clumsy me!"
- 88 "Can you hear me?... hear me?... hear me?"
- 89 Before, at the fore
- 91 Catalog
- 93 "The Amazing Race" need
- 94 Natural conduit
- 97 Ironically, word never used in "The Godfather"
- 98 Introductory book
- 100 Coin of the ___
- 101 Bar mitzvah dance
- 103 Wrecking ball alternative
- 104 They can be full of wolves
- 105 Word before a discounted price
- 106 Leader buried in Red Square
- 107 Floral feature
- 109 "A ___ lama, he's a priest ..."
- 110 Use your scull
- 111 The San Diego Chicken, e.g.
- 116 Spilled the beans
- 118 Like some winds
- 121 Reporter's purchase
- 122 Guitar amp effect
- 123 Arab chieftain (Var.)
- 124 One-fourth of a deck
- 125 Treats as worthless
- 126 1941 Leningrad event

DOWN

- 1 In unison, on scores

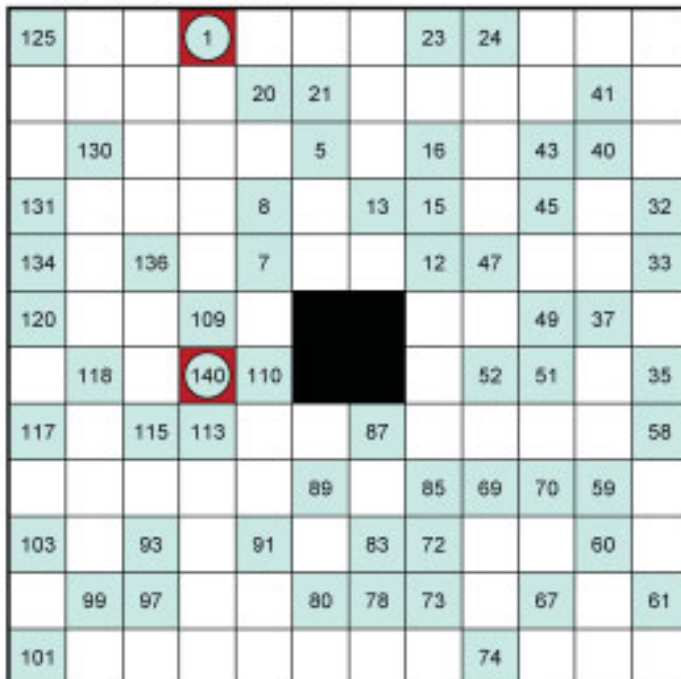
- 2 Confessional admissions
- 3 Have ___ to pick
- 4 Cleaning solution?
- 5 "Let's get outta here!" in old slang
- 6 Here, in Spain
- 7 Landlocked republic in east-central Africa
- 8 ___-craftsy
- 9 "Am I my brother's keeper?" speaker
- 10 Alts. to fans
- 11 Related to plant life
- 12 "Stay away from my bone!"
- 13 Aquarium bubbler
- 14 Inverted "n"
- 15 An earthquake cause
- 16 Craft that located the Titanic in 1985
- 17 Aberdeen brush-offs
- 20 Cleverly
- 21 Finding one takes a hail of an effort
- 23 Pharmaceutical
- 28 Astronomer's Muse
- 31 Abalone production
- 32 Frasier's Seattle radio station
- 33 "Me too" sort
- 34 Scoring leaders?
- 35 "If I only had ___" (The Tin Man's lament)
- 36 Where quite a deposit was made
- 38 Golf prodigy
- 40 Auto attachment?
- 41 Catch sight of
- 43 D-Day vessels
- 45 "La Traviata" composer
- 46 Giuseppe California resort lake
- 49 A bouquet has one
- 52 Be in need of a lift
- 55 Land alternative
- 57 Org. under fire after Katrina
- 59 Four-time Daytona 500 winner
- 61 Duke plays in it

- 62 "A likely story!"
- 63 Mrs. Lennon
- 65 "Glengarry Glen Ross" playwright
- 68 A famous one was issued at Nantes
- 69 Less dank
- 70 "Curse you, ___ Baron!"
- 72 Like the '69 Mets, on posters
- 73 Comparable to a pin
- 75 Pro-___ (tournaments)
- 78 Member of Khoikhoi people of Africa
- 79 Give free, for short
- 80 Niagara Falls sound
- 82 "Monster" Oscar-winner Charlize
- 83 Cause for a massage
- 85 Rest atop
- 88 Headset, to hams
- 89 "Roly" follower
- 90 "Demon" beverage
- 92 Issues forth
- 94 Blew a gasket
- 95 Coldhearted
- 96 Williams' partner on the house?
- 99 Made good as new
- 102 Custom auto accessories
- 106 Volcanic mudslide
- 107 Amtrak stops (Abbr.)
- 108 Abode with multiple layers?
- 109 Done to death
- 110 One of the Ringling Brothers
- 112 Biographical opening?
- 113 Algonquian Indian
- 114 Kennedy-era designer Cassini
- 115 Ancient Phoenician seaport
- 117 "Deck the Halls" syllables
- 119 George Lucas' alma mater
- 120 Sonnet's middle part?

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FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 140 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



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Difficulty ★★★★★

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Solution on next page

www.whatzit.com August 17, 2009
WHATZIT?
 Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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THINK

SEX SHUNX

FLAMCNE

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. Barry Allen was the alter ego of which DC Comic superhero?
2. In 1901, which brand of car was seen for the first time?
3. Brisbane is the capital of which Australian state?
4. In Norse mythology, what name is given to the ultimate battle?
5. In 1890, the first electric what opened in London?
6. Who wrote the 1930s children's novel *Swallows and Amazons*?
7. Oil seed rape belongs to which plant family?
8. Which Norwegian politician's name became synonymous with 'traitor'?
9. What is the capitol of Morocco?
10. What shape were the sailors' plates in Horatio Nelson's navy?
11. What religion links Weasak, Dharmmaca and Bhodi day?
12. Linus Torwalds was the inventor and writer of what?
13. The bander macaque is more commonly known by which name?
14. Zambia and Zimbabwe used to be referred to by which name?
15. What is the staple food of one third of the world's population?
16. Paul Robeson, the singer of *Old Man River*, was what by profession?
17. In 1810, Rene Laennec invented which important piece of equipment for doctors?
18. Jagger, Richards, Wyman, Jones, Watts and Stewart are members of which band?
19. What number does not exist in Roman numerals?
20. Who was nicknamed 'The Desert Fox'?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

WHATZIT? solutions

1. Think things through. 2. Cross section. 3. Square dance.

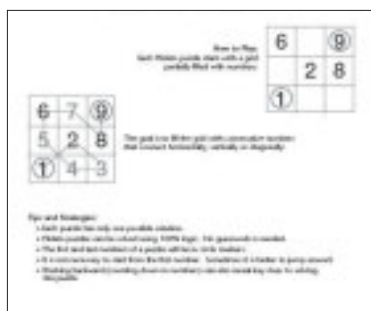
Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Flash; 2. Mercedes Benz; 3. Queensland; 4. Ragnarok; 5. Underground railway; 6. Arthur Ransome; 7. Mustard; 8. Vidkun Quisling; 9. Rabat; 10. Square (Thus Square meal); 11. Buddhism; 12. Linux computer operating system; 13. Rhesus Monkey; 14. Rhodesia; 15. Rice; 16. Lawyer; 17. The Stethoscope; 18. The Rolling Stones; 19. Zero; 20. Erwin Rommel.

Hidato: How to play and this week's puzzle solution.



Blessed are the damned



Off the SHELF

By Patrick Campbell

Few football fans under 30 will remember Brian Clough's remarkable career as a manager, but they will recall his trenchant comments on television as an analyst of the 'beautiful game', ready to castigate anyone who questioned his pronouncements.

Books about football are ten a penny. Most are ghosted autobiographies, but a few offer something less formulaic.

David Peace's *The Damned United* (Faber and Faber, 2006) falls into the second category.

Nobody commissioned David Peace to write this book – in fact some people were upset by it.

That he did publish it reflects his utter fascination with 'old big 'ead', one of the genuine enigmas of the modern game.

Particularly preoccupied with Clough's short tenure as manager of Leeds United in 1974 – all 44 days of it – he offers a blow by blow account of every confrontation, thought process and expletive.

Written in an episodic style, the events of each 'Leeds day' alternate with flashbacks to events at Hartlepool United, Brighton and Hove Albion and Derby County, the latter the venue of Clough's previous, and highly successful, managerial incumbency.

The tone of this first person narrative – more diary than novel – is established early on.

On his first day, Clough takes over the office and staff of his predecessor and bitter rival, Don Revie, who has just left Leeds United to become the England manager.

Meeting his new secretary for the first time, he demands:

“Whose was this desk?”

‘Mr Revie’s.’

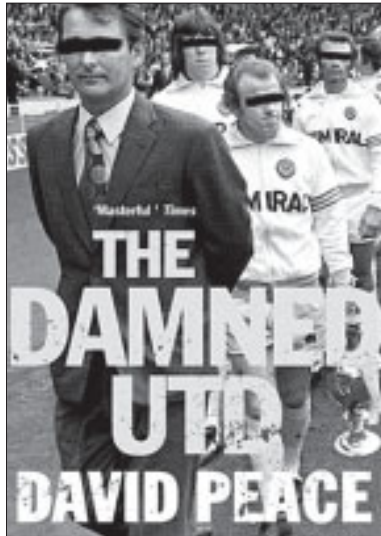
‘I want it burnt. The chairs and all. The whole bloody lot.’

‘But...’

‘Whose secretary are you?’

‘Yours now, Mr Clough.’

He hates me and I hate him, but I hate him more, more, more.”



He is as good as his threat. Taking an axe to Revie's office, he reduces everything – desk, chairs, photographs, every evidence of Revie – to splintered wood and shattered memories in the club car park.

Things don't get any better. When he meets the team – all household names, just as the players of Man United are today – Clough doesn't mince his words:

“Gentlemen, I might as well tell you now. You lot may have won all the domestic honors there are and some of

the European ones, but, as far as I am concerned, the first thing you can do for me is to chuck all your medals and all your caps and all your pots and all your pans into the biggest dustbin you can find, because you never won any of them fairly. You've done it all by bloody cheating.”

This theme of dirty play runs like a motif through the weft of the narrative and maybe explains why Cloughie never gains the respect of most of his players.

When Terry Cooper, a Leeds United and England legend, requests a testimonial, Clough dismisses the idea:

“That was then, I tell him. ‘This is 1974.’”

His relations with the board are equally strained and to make matters worse, Leeds United, the champions of England, begin to lose games.

While his sacking from Derby the previous year had provoked a series of strikes and demonstrations – so much was Clough adored by players and public alike – here his demise has a tragic inevitability.

The Damned United was published in 2006 to critical

acclaim, with several reviewers pronouncing it the best book written about football.

While the author had access to a number of publications about Clough, his story has an immediacy all of its own.

The device of employing twin narratives – the Derby County flashbacks are italicized for clarity – creates mid-novel longueurs, but the mounting tension leading to both climactic confrontations is so palpable you could cut it with Clough's sharp tongue.

Peace has researched his material with enormous dedication, but above all, he has an infallible ear for the spoken utterance.

If Clough comes vividly alive, it is less through his private reflections than through his unstoppable one-liners and verbal ripostes.

At root, his was an unnatural existence, played out in bars and hotels, board rooms and television studios. He rarely got to see his wife and kids, whom he adored.

Perhaps that's why a bottle of brandy was his constant companion. Humankind was all too disappointing.

Horoscopes



Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans are in danger of going overboard this week. Someone's offer of new employment or an investment opportunity comes at a time when you are hungry for change, but be wary as disappointment is strongly indicated. More realistic opportunities are forecast to come your way later in September. Wear the color avocado to curb your enthusiasm.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): An overdue winning streak is predicted to cheer Librans up this week. Those who have been caught up in a legal battle should see a successful outcome. Where love is concerned, an earth sign is charmed by your flirtation this weekend. The number nine can bring good luck this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your hopes of taking a trip during September could be dashed by last minute family commitments. Scorpios who feel they are being taken advantage of should avoid getting into a heated discussion this weekend. The skies will clear towards the middle of September, but you should encourage others to take more responsibility.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians are forecast to have an easier time in September, with a lighter mood prevailing. This week, you will be busy tying up loose ends. An ongoing business problem should be solved towards the end of the week and your handling of this

matter will impress an influential water sign contact.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): An atmosphere of change continues to affect many Capricorns until the middle of September. This week you realize where your priorities lie, and this should help to calm down someone close to you. Those who are single learn that Taurus is becoming interested in a romantic relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are advised to plan their schedules more carefully during the first working week of September. Where finances are concerned, this is an auspicious time to embark on a new savings scheme. Domestic harmony is challenged when your partner wants to help a friend – it would be wise to distance yourselves from this situation.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your mind wanders in different directions this week – an idea that was previously out of the question now begins to appear feasible. Pisceans are advised to seek support from fire sign colleagues. Where romance is concerned, Libra helps to make your weekend one to remember.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your outlook becomes brighter in September. Mistakes at work are highlighted to cause friction with an earth sign colleague on Monday. This weekend, a sudden social whirl allows you to shake off some cobwebs. Wear the color caramel to encourage a mellow mood.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The stars suggest that many Taureans will be learning new and possibly unusual skills in September. Another earth sign friend will influence which subjects you choose to explore. Midweek, you have reason to believe that a romantic partner is harboring a secret. Wear silver to encourage your creativity to flow more freely.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): During September many Geminis will invest more in family

relationships. Your tendency to focus on your own needs falls under the spotlight this month and stronger bonds are about to be forged. Those who are single and searching discover that a Sagittarian friend has hidden depths. The number four is lucky on Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): September should prove to be a healthier month where finances are concerned as the stars indicate that your debts are due to be lessened. Your luck in love is also forecast to

improve – a fire sign who has been playing hard to get has a change of heart. Wear the color purple to encourage a livelier mood.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The chance to move house may be tempting during the first week of September, but this is not an auspicious time to uproot. The stars suggest that this offer is not as transparent as first appears. Your efforts to encourage a family member to change their ways are about to pay off.

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The Phuket Gazette

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No time for xenophobia

A recent front page story in the *Bangkok Post* claiming foreigners control 90 percent of Phuket's beach land through Thai nominees stopped many expats in their tracks.

The truth of the claim – by the authors of a new study into foreign land ownership in Thailand – is difficult to verify.

The authors of the research, a team from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, gathered their evidence from the private sector, local government, the Board of Investment, the Land Office, the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Council and Immigration among others.

This is not the kind of research that can be readily repeated by a newspaper interested in getting to the truth of the matter.

But many of those who read the *Post*'s story will have perceived – rightly or wrongly – a tone of xenophobia.

A nuanced 43-page report on foreign ownership of land in Thailand was boiled down to an explosive headline that was bound to put expat residents here on the defensive.

In fact, similar claims are made in the Thai press regularly.

The debate over foreign ownership of land in Thailand is one that has raged for years, and now more so than ever.

Recently, rumors that foreign businessmen from the Middle East were buying up Thai rice paddies received widespread coverage.

The Foreign Business Act forbids foreigners from owning farming businesses, making such purchases, if real, illegal.

The Department of Special Investigations is reported to be investigating the claims, while the Agriculture and Co-operatives Ministry is said to be drafting a bill to prevent such land grabs.

Of course, this is not to say Thailand does not have the right to protect its most vital resources from foreign control.

Food security is likely to become an increasingly pressing issue in a world most experts agree is getting warmer, and everyone agrees is getting crowded.

But so far, rumors of these illegal buyouts have remained just that.

Meanwhile, the authors of the Thailand Research Fund study admitted foreign investment capital was essential for developing Phuket and other tourist resorts in Thailand.

This investment has turned Phuket into the most affluent province in the Kingdom.

Despite reports that Thailand is no longer in recession, the island's property market – responsible for so much of that affluence – is still suffering.

Thailand is now more divided than at any time since the seventies.

The country needs unity, but stoking xenophobia is not the right way to bring Thais together.

It's the right way to drive away the investment that Thailand, and Phuket in particular, needs.

– *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.

Ban jet-skis

The First Person article in last week's *Gazette* [Aug 15] by Marnix van Hesteren detailing his family's experiences when they rented jet-skis in Patong sums up the need for a total ban on jet-skis across Phuket.

They are presently operated by countless rip-off artists who seem to have the support of those who should be stopping them.

I am glad the problem has now been brought to the attention of diplomats. It's a start, at least.

**Michael Finn
Phuket**

This is nothing new

The controversy over jet-skis is nothing new. It has been an issue on Phuket for decades.

I remember when the jet-ski operators were told they had six months to stop operations forever, but that was extended to six years.

Those six years have passed and still nothing's been done.

It's the same story with the tuk-tuk mafia and the absurd prices they charge for their services.

These operators have been a black eye on the face of Phuket for years.

**Ray Vaillancourt
Phuket**

Tsunami drill a dud

I don't see how the tsunami drill could be termed a success for Mai Khao.

We were notified in the newspaper and by the U.S. embassy to expect the drill but there was no warning signal sounded or drill at all in our village of Thachatchai.

We waited from 9am until noon for the alarm systems to sound so we could evacuate to the check point but none came.

Why not?

**Dana Bratton
Mai Khao**

Rip-off eye witness

I've been living in Patong for two years and I walk the beach nearly every day.

Time after time I've witnessed these jet-ski owners ripping off tourists left, right and center, saying they have damaged the jet-ski.

Two days ago, I saw a guy in floods of tears because the jet-ski renters were demanding 90,000 baht for a scuff mark which they said would keep the jet-ski out of the water for one week.

I desperately wanted to help him, but there were about eight Thais surrounding him.

Another time, I saw five big Aussie guys refuse to pay.

The police were called and they, of course, sided with the Thais on the issue.

Something needs to be done to stop this before it destroys Phuket.

**Carl Smith
Patong**

Another jet-ski tale

I have watched tourists getting ripped off by jet-ski operators on Patong Beach many, many times.

I have sad memories of one incident in particular which happened while I was sitting on a sunbed in the middle of the beach.

A nice family were enjoying their holiday and one of the family members hired a jet-ski.

Unfortunately he fell off and

the jet-ski overturned, but didn't crash into anything whatsoever.

When the jet-ski was turned upright, a large group of Thai operators crowded around the family and harassed them for money, saying it was damaged.

I can honestly say that the jet-ski wasn't damaged in any way, however the group continued to argue and threaten the family.

The mother got upset and began crying. The father was fair, trying to say his son had not damaged the jet-ski.

This continued for 20 minutes and they were like a pack of dogs surrounding the family.

It was unpleasant watching this and very upsetting for the family and other tourists watching. In the end, the family handed over a large amount of baht and the operators all went off laughing and smiling. It's not fair, and it paints a bad image of Phuket.

**Tom Dermac
Scotland**

I shan't return

I recently returned to Phuket for a brief stopover after an absence of a year and after just three days and ready to leave.

Many of the hotels remained over-priced and therefore empty because they failed to offer tourists any incentive to make up for hard times.

The tuk-tuk drivers were more aggressive and less willing to negotiate than ever before.

How they continue to get away with this practice is still beyond me.

From now on, I think I will stay in Isarn.

**Khunandy
Gazette/Thai Visa
Phuket Forum**

The Phuket Gazette

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

Getting our priorities right



The Governor's Letter

In this month's Governor's Letter, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop defends his decision to give the go-ahead for construction of a new road between Chalong and Patong and outlines what he sees as priorities for continuing to develop Phuket as an international destination.

Governor Wichai also explains why Phuket has not yet achieved special administrative zone status and what needs to be done to attain it.

The new road between Chalong and Patong is an essential addition to the island's infrastructure. Some people worry that building more roads is bad for the environment, but if we don't build more roads or improve the existing ones, then Phuket will just become more and more clogged with traffic in the future.

The new road, and more like it, is a necessity for the future and will save time and money in the long run. The decision to go ahead with the Chalong-Patong road is one that was made for the benefit of the majority of the public.

Yes, there is a minority group that is protesting against the construction of the road because they see it as having a negative impact on them – and they complain bitterly about it. But the road will be a plus for the island as a whole, for now and in the future.

We have to plan ahead and do things now that will be of benefit to future generations.

No matter what projects I launch, there will always be some people who want to protest or

think it's not fair, but whatever decisions I make about the island's infrastructure are made for the greater good of the community – because of any personal agenda.

We have to consider what the province's real problems are and solve them, preferably before they occur.

Preventative measures are much more effective than trying to fix things after they are broken. It's better to act now on certain improvements rather than waiting until it's too late.

People approach me all the time with requests for help with financing various projects. Each project has its own value, and is especially valued by the people involved, but with a limited budget, improving the island's infrastructure, especially the roads, is a priority if Phuket is to continue to be recognized as an international destination.

How can we call ourselves and international destination with only one major road leading from the airport into central Phuket?

Imagine the chaos that would occur if Thepkasatri Road was blocked because of

an accident. People would miss their flights.

Ideally, we should have three or four roads leading to the airport to ensure that when people arrive at the airport, they can travel through Phuket relatively easily.

Twenty seven million baht was spent on the welcome gate at Sarasin Bridge and it's a shame the grass there has been left to grow long, but in the meantime, I have to welcome the five million people that arrive at the airport each year.

People say they like seeing the roads lined with trees, but why wasn't that ever done before?

Beautifying the island is good, but currently, there are also more important things to take care of. We don't worry about the spots on our face when our stomachs need filling.

Among current priorities, improving the island's tourism infrastructure is top of the list. Beautification is of lesser importance at the moment.

My job is not only to do the things I want to do but, to do the things requested by the provincial authorities and the public. I have to set priorities.



Governor Wichai hosts a meeting at Provincial Hall earlier this month with Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana and members of a civic group who aim to preserve Phuket's heritage.

Special Administrative Zone

Becoming a special administrative zone is the ultimate goal for Phuket. It would mean more income for the island.

However, we can't keep going to the central government, cap in hand, asking for Phuket to become a special economy while we're still running around fixing problem after problem as they occur.

We have to work at stabilizing everything for the long term.

We have to build

confidence in others, foster a community spirit and we have to set priorities.

Phuket has the potential to become independent from Bangkok in terms of being a special administrative zone, but the fact is, we have to prove that the island is able to operate independently, and that will only happen when the infrastructure has improved and the island is better developed.

That development is achieved by radical change, injecting new blood to draw up a blueprint for change.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

What mental health services are available here in Phuket?

I would like to know what mental health services are available for Thais and foreigners in Phuket

Does anyone offer addiction treatment and what are the costs of these services?

Ross James Rawai

Representatives of Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Vachira Phuket Hospital reply:

There are mental health services at Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Vachira Hospital.

To make an appointment at Bangkok Hospital Phuket you should call 1719.

The price is determined by the services required.

For Vachira Phuket Hospital you should contact Dr Tuppana who heads the mental health practice.

To make an appointment call 076-361 234. Ext: 1266.

There are also weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings across the island in both English and Scandinavian.

Vachira Phuket Hospital: 353 Yaowarat Road, Taladyai, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-361 234.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket: 2/1 Hongyok Utis Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 07-625 4425. F: 076-254 430.

Alcoholics Anonymous: T: 081-9564 031, 081-8192 895. E: phuketaa@yahoo.com.

How can we stop aggressive dogs making our life hell?

On our Soi there are four aggressive stray dogs which are fed by some Thai neighbors.

They have bitten several people and give chase to anyone on a motorbike.

They have killed at least two cats and incite fear in residents and visitors alike.

Having lived in Thailand for several years, I know that if I, as a foreigner, walk up to these people feeding the dogs, asking them not to do so, it will only result in conflict and bad sentiment.

Can someone please give me advice on how to solve this without causing conflict with my neighbors.

Jack Doe Phuket

An officer from the Rawai Municipality office replies:

If these problems continue, please go to the Health and Environment section of your local municipal office where you can fill out a complaint form.

The staff in your municipality will come and check your area and if they find out that the dogs are not owned by anyone, they will take them to the Mid-Road Dog Shelter.

For more information contact Rawai Municipality, Health and Environmental section, Moo 6, Viset Road, T. Rawai, A. Muang, Phuket 83130. T: 076-613 801. Ext 114. F: 076-289 055. E: info@rawai.go.th.



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8855506009129 / 8855506009123
8855506009135

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Phuket FC must aim to improve in 2010



Phuket FC players celebrate a goal at Surakul Stadium, a sight that was too rare last season. The Sea Dragons will have to drastically improve if they are to challenge in 2010.

Second-placed Satun cruised to a 3-0 win over Phuket FC on Saturday in the final round of league fixtures.

The result came as a disappointment for both clubs as Phuket FC failed to extend their unbeaten run and Satun were narrowly pipped to the Division Two title by Narathiwat on goal difference.

The Sea Dragons end their maiden season in seventh on nine points, having won two, drawn three and lost nine.

As the dust settles on Phuket FC's inaugural season it provides the chance to reflect on the impact the return of professional football has had on the island and the improvements that must be made for the team to capture Phuket's imagination.

The team was formed after the fantastic response to the 2008 King's Cup which was moved to Phuket following the airport closures in the capital, last year.

The competition attracted huge crowds and the stadium was packed to the rafters for the final match between Thailand and Denmark.

For Phuket FC's opening fixture, reports of a sell out crowd were well wide of the mark as only a handful of people turned out to watch.

The low turn out was understandable given the game took place at 3pm on a Friday afternoon – the hottest time of day and when the majority of people are at work.

The Friday afternoon kick off was scheduled to meet the demands of NBT.

Subsequent home games kicked off at the more fan-friendly times of either 5pm or 7pm on a Saturday or Sunday.

There was a small increase in the number of supporters, fueled by the publicity matches received in the *Gazette* and a belated poster advertising campaign by the club itself, but the overall turn out was poor.

Even in the Thai Premier League, attendances aren't high,

so to expect a Thailand vs Denmark-style attendance at a third tier domestic football match would be unrealistic.

However, given the number of football fans on the island, greater numbers were expected.

Peter Reid, in Phuket with the national side for the King's Cup, made his feelings clear.

"I think the national league has got to improve. The top countries in the world have the top leagues – England, Italy and Spain. The Thai national league has got to improve to give the Thai national team a chance to improve," he said.

He was at pains to point out the domestic league in Thailand could not compete for attention with the English Premier League, a point underlined by reports that Reid is on the verge of walking out on Thailand to take a job at Stoke City.

In Thailand, the Premiership rules the roost and Phuket FC should not even try to compete with televised games.

Given it was possible to move a home game forward 24 hours to accommodate the television cameras, it should be possible to adjust kick off times for home games so they finish before the first premiership game of the day kicks off.

The Phuket FC side received a dramatic overhaul after a disappointing start to the season, replacing virtually the entire squad during the mid-season break.

This was encouraging because it showed that the supporters' disappointment at Phuket FC's poor start was shared by the management.

Now those behind the club know what is required, they must get a suitable squad in place before the season starts.

The selection criteria for the next manager is also crucial, and it is clear that Phuket FC requires a manager with experience at a professional level.

Being a successful manager of a club within Phuket, or even a successful politician, does not qualify you to manage Phuket FC.

There are some positives to be drawn, especially games at Surakul Stadium which had plenty going for them.

In the Premiership, high ticket prices and strict regulations have effectively sterilized the atmosphere at most stadiums.

At Surakul, entry is a mere 50 baht and, unlike in the premiership, you are allowed to bring alcohol into the stadium.

Surakul, in Phuket Town, is easily accessible from anywhere on the island and you can virtually park your motorcycle by the pitch and don't have to worry about getting stuck in traffic for hours when arriving or leaving.

The small band of supporters who have turned out have always enjoyed the occasion, often more than the football itself.

Regardless of the other issues which need addressing, first and foremost Phuket FC must get things right on the pitch.

A solitary point at home for the entire season is a dismal return and if Phuket FC are to attract the level of support a team representing an area the size of Phuket deserves, there is much work to be done before next season.

-James Goyder

Irishman Kerr finishes creditable sixth in China



Given the quality of the field, Willy's performance was hugely impressive and he could have finished even higher, barring his misfortune.

Phuket resident Willy Kerr was just outside the medals at an international kitesurfing event in Binhai, China, finishing an impressive sixth place out of a total field of 50. At one stage in the event, Kerr was as high as third and on course for a podium finish, but a collision with another competitor's kite cost him valuable time and he slipped back down the field.

The event was won by a Thai national known as Yo, who works for Willy at his kitesurfing school in Pranburi.

Binhai is home to an international kite festival, and this year they incorporated the sport of kitesurfing into the festival for the first time.

Over 5,000 people attended the event and for Willy it was quite an experience.

"We had police escorts everywhere we went and were really treated like celebrities," he said.

Of the 50 competitors, 14 were professional kitesurfers competing on the international circuit.

Given the quality of the field, Willy's performance was hugely impressive and he could have finished even higher, barring his misfortune.

"I was in third place until the final turn when I collided with another kite and got tangled.

"I lost third place, but I managed to unhook the bar and throw my lines over the other rider's kite and head off again," he said.

"It was a mad dash to the finish and I ended up in sixth place, not bad considering I had a crash just prior to the finish."

Aside from his own performance, Willy was delighted at the success of his friend and colleague Yo, who lifted the title.

"I have been watching him for two years now on the beaches and he is really quite amazing," he said.

"He won the event which led to him getting offered sponsorship by Ozone, the worlds leaders in parasails, foil kites, snow kites and now kitesurfing kites. This will allow him to travel the five-stop Asian tour (Kiteboard Tour Asia) which I have organized."

He will be joined on the tour by Willy whose experience in China has given him a real taste for competitive kiteboarding.

"I have really got the bug for competition. I was going to sit back on the KTA tour and do the organizer's jobs, but now I'm going to compete at every event and hopefully I can get a podium place and some sponsorship myself," he said.

For more information about the KTA tour visit: www.kiteboardtour.asia.

-James Goyder

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Like most Bangkok residents, my wife and I never drink the tap water. Instead we buy our drinking water in big 10-liter bottles from a local vendor and then transfer it to smaller bottles for use in our fridge.

My wife used to use one of those squeeze-bulb handled siphons to pump the water from the large bottles into the small ones, but I thought 'gravity-powered' siphoning would be both easier and faster.

The problem, though, was that we lacked a suitable platform on which to set the large bottles.

It would have to be wide enough for three bottles (our usual weekly purchase), strong enough to support their considerable weight (20kg each), and high enough to enable good flow – yet not so tall that lifting the bottles onto it would be a problem.

It would also need a shelf to store some empty fridge-sized bottles.

This is what I built, in action (see photo).

It's not pretty, but it's functional and quite durable.

I mentioned diagonal cross-bracing a few columns ago.

This stand uses it on the front, back and sides, for strength and rigidity.

Like my other creations, it's built of recycled lumber, and again, the sizes of the pieces I had on hand dictated the dimensions of some parts.

Construction is quite simple, so I'll just take you through the highlights.

The dimensions are 30" high, 29" wide, and 11" deep.

The top and bottom front-to-back crosspieces are on the outside of the legs for maximum strength, glued

and screwed into the legs' edges.

The front and rear diagonal braces run from about a third of the way in from each side down to the inner edges of the legs, slightly above mid-height.

Notice they are mounted on the outside of the long, wide crosspiece but are on the inside of the legs' edges, because I wanted the whole front to be 'flush', with no protruding pieces.

Though photographed outside (for light), this unit stands in a narrow hallway, so every inch is important.

The braces appear thin, but their purpose is to transfer weight/stress diagonally, not bear it transversely.

To illustrate, compare how much weight a pencil could hold suspended across its middle to how much it could hold stacked on its top if it were standing upright.

The lower shelf's bottom and back pieces are the same size.

They were two matching pieces left over from another project – a set of bookshelves – so they were used, although ideally the bottom shelf-piece

should have been an inch deeper (I filled in the extra space with another odd piece of scrap).

The shelf back could have been on the inside, but I wanted it as deep as possible inside (for the empties).

Notice the two screws holding the back piece in place on each side.

Again, one piece having two attachment points per side perpendicular to any sideways line of travel serves the same purpose as a diagonal brace, but I installed two braces above it, whose positioning matches the front ones, for added strength.

The side braces are not of equal length because I wanted the lower one to be close enough to the shelf to keep the empties from falling out the sides.

They were held in the desired position, the screw holes drilled, then a vertical line (along the edge of the legs) was etched on their sides.

Their ends were then cut to that angle, glue was applied, and they were re-installed. I added a small front railing to keep the empties from falling forwards as well.

To build something like this, decide on your particulars first.

Work out the overall weight, width and depth and decide how high from the bottom you want the lower shelf to sit.

As always, build the wide sides first.

Glue and screw together all your joints.

Decide where you want the lower shelf, and install the crosspieces so that they support it at the correct height.

Hold the crosspieces in position, drill the holes, then remove, add glue, reposition and install the screws.



The completed water bottle stand in action.

Make the edges of the crosspieces flush with the sides of the legs, then attach your short-side crosspieces so that they are screwed into both the sides of the legs as well as the ends of the crosspieces.

Then install the shelf piece. Diagonal braces are installed last.

Notice the tops of the legs are flush with the top shelf, so that the bottles may be placed easily, rather than trying to 'fit' them between any protruding ends.

Before assembling the wide-sides, measure the thickness of the top shelf piece, draw lines that distance down from the legs' top edges, and install your wide-side crosspieces so that their upper edges just touch these lines.

If your stock of wood includes more plywood pieces than long thin ones, you can substitute those for the side braces.

Just remember to use at least two mounting screws on each side.

Sand all pieces before assembly, and then finish with a coat of varnish.

That's it! Have a beer while you fill those water bottles! See you next time!

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Construction Update

Kathu

Good facilities par for the course

Located in Kathu, the 61-unit Green Golf Residence Condominiums are situated in the heart of Phuket and complemented by a full array of facilities, providing easy access to Phuket's international schools, shopping centers and hospitals. The complex is a 15-minute drive from Patong.

Developed by Tamarind Bay Co., Ltd, construction of the project began in December last year and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

The Green Golf project will feature a choice of three options: studio apartments, one-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom apartments. Prices range from 2.3 million baht to 9 million baht.

The studios range in size from 48 to 60sqm and feature spacious balconies, while the one-bedroom apartments cover 78-140sqm and come with two terraces – one adjacent to the main bedroom and another extending from the living area.

The two-bedroom units are essentially two one-bedroom units merged into a spacious 96-162sqm apartment large enough for families.

The clever use of built-in cupboards, shelves, wardrobes



Available in two color palettes, bright and bold or cool and calm, both designs produce a contemporary rustic appearance.

and kitchen surfaces makes the interior appear larger and perfect for comfortable living.

Available in two color palettes, bright and bold or cool and calm, both designs produce a contemporary rustic appearance, while furniture packages are available to add stylish pieces to the unit.

A number of energy-saving measures have been incorporated. Exhaust from the air-

conditioning units will be recycled for water heating, saving owners up to 40 percent on this utility.

Given the Green Golf Condominium's height, all the apartments enjoy constant breezes, reducing the need for air-conditioning.

All units have spacious balconies and impressive views of the natural lake bordering one of the golf courses or the rolling greens and fairways of the course itself.



All units have spacious balconies and impressive views of the natural lake bordering one of the golf courses or the rolling greens and fairways.

The focal point of the condominium is the large angular swimming pool surrounded by tropical gardens and a sun deck.

Fitness enthusiasts will appreciate the mile-long jogging track through the condominium and will have access to the air-conditioned fitness room and sauna located in the basement of the building.

The Green Golf also

features access cards, 24-hour security system and CCTV for peace of mind, a laundry center, fire alarm system, and high-speed internet.

Golfers will be spoiled for choice, as Phuket Country Club offers both nine-and 18-hole courses as well as putting greens for practice and a convenient club storage room near the lobby.

-Thanasorn Chookate



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

No man is an island



PROPERTY WATCH

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

It's been said that the human species neither thrives nor flourishes when living an isolated or secluded existence. This concept is a particularly strong Buddhist belief, but it's also a popular notion within other religions – the popular quote, “no man is an island” is attributed to John Donne, a Christian.

That said, many foreigners living in Phuket might require a reality check from time to time to remind them of Mr Donne's sentiments, because although they might forget it, we are not alone.

I recently read an issue of this newspaper and, flicking through to the always entertaining ‘letters to the editor’ section, found my name connected to some scheme by some developers wishing to deforest the island in the name of progress.

Writing this column, along with one in *The Nation* and

thephuketinsider.com blog, I don't think I'd be able to make it through one day if I hadn't developed an outer skin like an overgrown, weather-worn iguana. The phrase, “you gotta be able take it, if you want to dish it out” always lingers somewhere in the dark, murky corners of my psyche.

Over the years, I've learned that you have to accept opinions which differ from your own and celebrate the diversity and often seemingly impassable divide between your own beliefs and those of the people around you. Unless you fancy engaging in nightly Muhammed Ali v Joe Frazier-esque bar room brawls, you learn to use seemingly harsh words as a stimulant, provoking thought on a subject. It's what keeps us going and the quickening pulse is a tell tale sign that we are indeed alive.

This past week, in one of the *Gazette's* daily flashes online, I came across a quotation by a local business leader in Thalang, claiming foreigners owned 60 percent of the land on the island and soon locals would be renting land and homes from foreigners. My initial reaction was to disregard his statement, but as I mulled the idea over in my head, it became clear that, like it or not, these are the thoughts shared by more than a few of our hosts.

My ‘inner logic guy’ stands at the ready for situations like this, and came off the bench to tell me that this statement made no sense whatsoever. How could it be true? Phuket covers approximately 570 square miles – comparable in size to the entire nation of Singapore – and, with the exception of Board of Investment (BOI) projects such as hotels with considerable



CASTAWAY: It is often remarked that no man is an island and a number of foreigners residing in Phuket would be well served to remember that, because although they might forget it, we are not alone.

investment, of which there are very few, foreigners cannot own land in Thailand.

Aside from that, I knew that only 49 percent of the gross floor space of condominium projects can be owned by foreigners. It was at this point that my ‘inner math guy’ started counting these types of developments and came to a very abrupt halt.

More confusion reigned when another voice in my head piped up, this time my ‘inner Thai guy’. Fighting his nation's corner, he insisted that all I had to do was drive around Phuket and look at all the hotels, spas, restaurants, shops and businesses that are owned by farangs who drive around in new Fortuners, acting as if they own the place.

Shouting ensued as ‘logic guy’ started arguing that the majority of these people lease their shops from Thais, pay rent,

employ local people and pay VAT and taxes which go back into the local economy. Sure, there is the occasional abuse of land ownership but for the majority the rules of engagement are clear.

Fearing violence, I went down to the beach and stuck my head in the ocean, hoping for a moment of clarity, sanity or, at the very least, that my inner people would find some common ground. Unfortunately, I found none of them. Looking around at foreigners and locals alike, I understood that this debate over land ownership is emotionally charged, highlighting the growing divide between rich and poor, Thai and foreigner.

While I could lambaste Thais for being anti-foreigner, that would be about as successful as resurrecting my golf game, which I'm happy to say has been firmly placed on an indefinite hiatus, much to the appreciation

of those who have witnessed my errant shot making.

Land rights are, and most probably always will be, a subject of contention that ranks alongside national pride and sovereignty. I always appreciate the raft of ill-advised optimism from my real estate cohorts, who believe that foreign ownership of land is just around the corner. Yes guys, and Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny just drove past my office in a Honda Civic.

My inner guys finally calmed, and it was nice going down to the beach, taking a walk along the sand and hearing the soothing rhythm of the breaking waves. Hey, we didn't really resolve anything, but it's good to celebrate the diversity of thought and the freedom to speak out, no matter how wacky or off course it takes us. Tomorrow is always another day here on the island.



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Cape resort aims for all suites

The first phase of renovation is underway at the Sino-Portuguese styled Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa to turn the hilltop resort into an all-suites hotel by October 2010.

General Manager Claude Sauter said the hotel had enjoyed a solid customer base of repeat guests since opening more than 20 years ago in 1987 but it was time to increase the options available to the resort's guests.

In those two decades, the resort has welcomed a number of famous guests, including American actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who stayed at the resort when filming *The Beach*, and British-born actresses Catherine Zeta Jones and Dame Elizabeth Taylor.

"The hotel has been very successful over the years offering Superior and Family rooms plus our three-bedroom pool villas, but we must progress with the current standards and demand," said Mr Sauter.

An existing five-story section of the four-star resort is currently being renovated by knocking adjacent rooms together to create larger suites.

Each suite has a broad sea-facing balcony with an outdoor

whirlpool and daybed for two.

Inside, each suite is decorated in a contemporary style and has a large, modern bathroom with his and hers sinks, a rain shower and a deep bath tub.

"The rooms used to have carpets but they have all been taken out and replaced with cool floor tiles," said Mr Sauter.

State-of-the-art additions to cater to today's more sophisticated holidaymakers include Wi-Fi internet access, iPod speakers and large flat-screen digital TVs," added Mr Sauter.

"The suites will give guests twice as much space as before and the décor is more contemporary," he said.

The first phase of renovation began in May and is set to be completed in October.

"The resort will then have 200 'Cape Suites' and 'Junior Suites' ready for guests by November 1," Mr Sauter said.

Mr Sauter added that the resort remains open while the renovations take place.

"Noise from the renovation is kept to a minimum and work stops in the evenings to ensure guests are not disturbed.

We are converting the



The first of the new suites at the Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa are expected to be complete by October. The large suites have been constructed by renovating an existing five-story section of the resort and joining smaller adjacent rooms.

rooms in phases and will start on the second phase in May 2010," he said.

By the end of October 2010, the Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa will

be an all-suites hotel.

"However, we aim to continue catering to our long-term repeat guests, some of whom have been coming every year

since we opened. The current style and character of the property will remain intact and we will continue to offer value for money to our guests," he said.

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Property Gazette

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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.

FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



27sqm or 54sqm. 200 meters from the pier. Each 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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

2 STORY HOUSE CENTER RAWAI

Sale or lease. 160sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, close to beach. 1.8 million baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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.

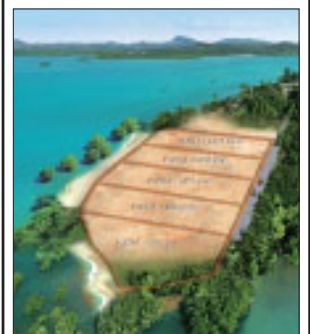
ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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

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.

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.

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Property Gazette

B.B GUESTHOUSE RAWAI



night life. Sale: 10 million baht. Lease: 1 million baht per year. 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, fully booked. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

THE ROYAL PLACE

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

KARON VACANT LAND

Great land for hotel. 200sqm, can build 5-floor seaview hotel. Discounted price offer. Tel: 081-446 0215.

IN LAND & HOUSE

For sale or rent: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-367 8539.

3 BEDROOM HOUSE - DOWROONG

Detached house for sale. Phuket villa Dowroong, Wichit. Quiet village, very central, 3 bedrooms with aircon & fans, two bathrooms, large Western-style kitchen, living room, dining room, store room, garden, car port. 63sq.wah. Price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: Kik: 081-893 4355 (Thai); Steve: 084-846 3887. Fax: 076-245736. Email: stefuena@hotmail.com for photos.

MUST SELL MOVING 12.5 MTB



5 mins to Kamala Beach, 4 bed, 5 bath plus 2 car garage. Studio apt above large pool. Western kitchen, furnished, UBC, WiFi. 370 m² home on 700 m² of land. Quality build inside-out. 12.5 million Thai baht. Tel: 084-850 0568. Email: boomer kamala@hotmail.com

386SQM SOI NAYA, NAI HARN

Concrete road, water, surrounding walls. 2.5 million baht or best offer. Can be split. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

NAI YANG BEACH HOUSE

3 bedroom, 3 bath, kitchen, furnished, 5 mins to airport and Nai Yang Beach. Sale: 6,400,000 baht. Rent: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-652 1751. Email: pietankam@yahoo.co.th

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

LAND SALE IN THALANG

366sq wah, 1.6 million baht. 500m to Thalang market. Good view. Tel: 081-396 5752.

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.

LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Different size land plots, very natural and quiet location, with natural waterfall, very good water supply, a wide concrete access road and underground utility. Good price. Contact Andy. Tel: 076-296160, 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

THE ROYAL PLACE

7th and 5th floor 1 bedroom condo units for sale. Fully furnished, ready for occupancy. Secured complex with pool, gym, restaurant etc. Very central location. Tel: 087-273 0786. Email: napi-at-fifty@hotmail.co.uk

CHEAP LAND

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

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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com.

240SQM RAWAI BEACH

Only 925,000 baht. Walking distance to beach. 200sqm Soi Naya, Nai Harn beach. 1.25 million baht. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

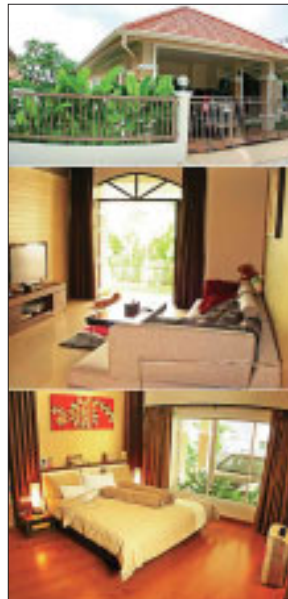
POOL VILLA RAWAI

4 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms downstairs. Full Western kitchen, spacious living/dining and sea view upstairs. Popular location. Priced to sell at 9.5 million baht, including company. Tel: 081-693 3406. Email: jdjanenz@gmail.com

QUICK I MAY CHANGE MY MIND!

Daughter getting married. Lovely open-plan 2 bed, 2 bath house in Chalong, 5 minutes from the ocean. Reluctant sale for cash. 1.6 million baht or 1.8 million baht with payment over 2 years. Tel: 083-650 9236 (Thai), 080-718-0983 (English). Email: cvard@eircom.net

VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

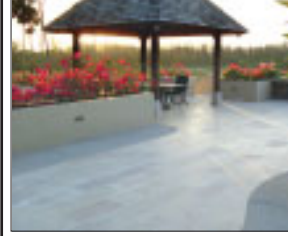


312 sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 24-hour protection. 5 minutes to Chalong Bay, 10 minutes to Nai Ham Beach, 20 minutes to Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Price: sale: 7 million baht. Rent: 65,000 baht per month. Pls contact Khun Sam (English/Thai). Tel: 085-110 6449. Email: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

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

A LUXURY POOL VILLA LAGUNA



2 bed, 2 bath + separate media room, rooftop sala, smart sound+ lighting. Walking distance to Bang Tao Beach, spa gym, and cafe beach club. 13.5 million baht. Tel: 089-730 4543 (English). Email: paul-knight@live.com

LAKESHORE VILLAS

Fabulous 2 story (3 bed/bath) townhome on this superb development in the heart of Laguna. Reduced by 2.5 million baht to 14.45 million baht. Must sell. Tel: 089-873 7075. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuket-lakeshore-villa.com>

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



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

BEAUTIFUL HOME IN CHALONG

Fully furnished, modern tropical style, 2 storey, 3 bed, 3 bath, ensuite, outdoor jacuzzi, 2 living rooms, fully equipped Western kitchen, landscaped garden, top quality materials. 350sqm living area, total land area 86.4sq.wah. Located in secure housing estate in Chalong. Was 15.5 million baht, now reduced to 13.9 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 081-537 5544, 083-201 4621. Email: info@spabasiks.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.tropicalhomephuket.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

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

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.

BEST DEAL IN BOAT LAGOON

4 bedroom pool villa. Plot size: 630sqm, house size: 330sqm. Only 19 million baht for sale or 75,000 baht per month to rent. Tel: 076-238948, 081-968 9046 (English & Thai). Email: webmaster@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com/download/Villa_Presentation.pdf

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

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

CHEAP PATONG CONDO

Very, very cheap unit on the 14th floor. Tel: 087-031 2154 (English). Email: kellyshotel@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpalaceowners.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



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

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

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

Property Gazette

2 NEW LUXURY VILLAS



for sale. Thai-Balinese Style 2 bed, 2 bath en-suite & tropical garden. Available now in a gated and peaceful village with pool. Located by BIS & Phuket Marinas. Superior quality & design at an affordable price - ONLY 4.3 million baht. Call NOW. Sean Tel: 086-272 5125, Por (Thai) Tel: 084-293 7923. Email: seansapstead@hotmail.com

LAYAN GARDENS

Greatly reduced for immediate sale. Beautiful 3 bed, 3 bath stunning apartment on one of the finest developments in Phuket. Brand new. Reduced by 4 million baht to sell at 16.75 million baht. Tel: 089-873 7075. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.layangardens.com>

WEST COAST LUNA PHUKET

Beautiful 3 bed, 3 bath villa with private pool and lots more. Brand new. Reduced by 3 million baht to sell at 15.25 million baht. A real bargain. Tel: 089-873 7075. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.lunaphuket.com>

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.

RAWAI 5 BED POOL GUESTHOUSE



for sale: 6.5 million baht. Lease, cheap rent and financing available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW LAND



Yamu Hill, Pa Khlok, 2 rai, Chanote, panoramic seaview, quiet area. Very good location for business. Price 10 million baht only. Tel: 089-724 6995. Email: paveena61@hotmail.com

LAND NEXT TO MISSION HILL

716sqm corner plot with road and electricity, ready to build. Price 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097 (English & Thai). Email: colan007@hotmail.com

HILLSIDE SEAVIEW

16 rai, chanote, 15 minutes from town, quiet area, 4.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-291 6687.

CHANOTE 7 RAI

for sale. Mai Khao, 200m from the beach. Connecting condominiums projects a possibility. Can purchase just one or two rai. Tel: 080-719 8627.

SEAVIEW PATONG

Hill side, 200 meter from the beach. Chanote and Nor Sor Sam Kor. 4 rai, 1 ngan. Tel: 081-891 8085. Email: sawasdee51@hotmail.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5 bedroom Thai style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang-Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are en-suite with seaview. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8 sqm. construction area approx. 573 sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 24.9 million baht. Tel: 089-474 2234.

NEW HOUSE

for sale. Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, front+rear terrace. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-537 3450, 084-447 5997.

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLARAWAI

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.

LAND IN RAWAI

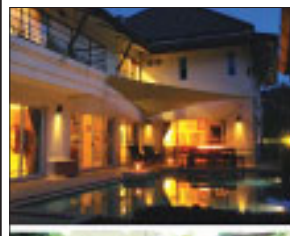
for sale. 240sqm. Walk to Rawai Beach, 925,000 baht. 300sqm: 1.15 million baht. 480sqm: 1.85 million baht. 960sqm: 4.5 million baht. Soi Naya, Nai Harn Beach 500sqm: 3.2 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sainam-naya.com

350,000 BAHT CONDO



center Rawai. Sale, lease or rent 5,000 baht per month, furnished, WiFi, pool. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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. 535sqm 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

DEVELOPMENT LAND PATONG

10 Rai, hillside, perfect seaview, paved road, all services. Will sell and sub-divide 1 rai plots and build to suit. Call Real Pro Co Ltd. +66 76 345238. Frank +66 84 078 2753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.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

KOH YAO YAI

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

LAND ON BYPASS ROAD



Area: 16 rai or 6 acre, hillside (Phan Thu Rat Mountain) with fantastic view over Phuket Town and Sapam Bay. About 700 m to Tesco Lotus and short drive to Big C, Central Festival Phuket and Premium Outlet. 10 million baht per rai. No agents. Tel: 089-890 3161.

VILLAS/LAND FOR SALE OR RENT



1. Fabulous villa for urgent sale/rent. Sale: 35 million baht. Rental min 1 month. Panoramic seaview in a beautiful estate, promising total privacy sitting on 1 rai. Usable area: 480sqm. Perfect location, 3 mins to Karon Beach, 2 mins to Patong Beach, Jungceylon. 2. 2 rai for sale. Ideal for small project. Spectacular view. At least triple your investment. Owner retiring back to Canada. Tel: 081-930 2212 (Eng), 089-973 1447 (Thai). Fax: 076-292980. Email: canport@gmail.com or meherwan@ceapparel.net

LAND ON KOH YAO NOI



Area: 2,076sqm, seafront (mangrove), Chanote Title. Concrete road front. Next to Koh Yao Municipality Office. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-890 3161.

PENTHOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful penthouse (210 sqm) with infinity pool and deck. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, storeroom, built-in modern kitchen. Very quiet, surrounded by nature. 1km to beach. 12 million baht. Tel: 089-137 5325 (English). Email: mbdettmann@yahoo.com

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, 081-5365846 (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>

SEAVIEW LAND IN PATONG

2 rai on Sirirat Rd for sale @ 35 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-724 1505 (Thai). Email: rachneeuomo@hotmail.com

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.amphiseabreeze.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

5 minutes from Heroines monument, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1.9 million baht or 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3.7 million baht. Contact Kris. Tel: 081-082 2288. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertyplus.com

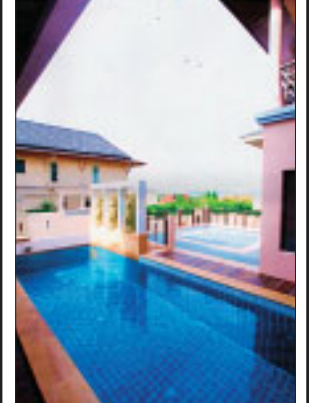
KATA POOL VILLA

New, 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 550sqm. 14 million baht or offers. Tel: 081-091 8908. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

1 RAI IN PASAK

Pasak Soi 8. One rai with Chanote title. Pls contact me for exact location and details. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.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

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

DELUXE PATONG CONDO

Beautiful, modern, view, furnished, quiet, walk to everything. Long term rent at 19,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-970 1479 (English). Email: caltiroi@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE



for rent at Pa Khlok. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, TV, internet. Quiet area, 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Duluxe, 1 bed, 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-847 3304. See www.selectphuket.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280 degree panoramic views of the sea, hills and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available from August 14th, 2009. Tel: (86) 1381634 4147. Please see our website www.Patong TowerRental.com

7,000 BAHT APARTMENT PATONG
Furnished, good location. Tel: 086-686 5468. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.villa.co.th>

CHALONG NEW HOME
2 bedroom home with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English).

BRAND NEW PENTHOUSE

for rent in Kamala. 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, aircon, rooftop, sauna and jacuzzi, gym and pool, fantastic views. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-886-3056. Or email: warick43@yahoo.com

BIG HOUSE IN KAMALA

Big living room with a/c, 3 bedrooms, 2 with a/c, big veranda, terrace, kitchen, 2 toilets and garden. 25,000 baht per month, or 20,000 per month on a one-year lease. Please contact me, as above, for more pics and information. Tel: 076-385448, 086-941-8593 (English & Thai). Email: t.tausz@vwz-bl.ch

NEW POOL VILLA RAWAI

for rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, full kitchen, aircon, big garden and private pool. Great location. Tel: 085-783 1890.

MANSION FOR RENT OR SALE

Rawai. 4 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, full aircon, beautiful decor and furniture, big garden with great private pool. Tel: 085-783-1890.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

near Palai for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Contact more details. Tel: 089-728-8311.

2 BED BUNGALOW

Quiet location in Rawai. ADSL, TV, aircon, washing machine. 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-273 0837.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSES

1-3 airconditioned bedrooms, hot shower, cable TV, free internet. Start from 9,000 baht per month. Near Chalong Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311.

BUSINESS RAWAI BEACH



8 pool apartments. Lease or rent: 120,000 baht per room each year. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

B.B. GUESTHOUSE RAWAI BEACH



8 bedroom, 8 bathroom, WiFi. Each 3,500 baht a week or low monthly rate. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

CHALONG HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen, furnished 3 aircon units, Internet. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai), 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH

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

RAWAI STUDIO

for rent. 1 room, bathroom, terrace, fully furnished, pool, ADSL, long-term. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 7410.

FAMILY HOUSE WITH POOL



A great 3 bedroom family house with lounge, kitchen, and car port. Furnished and ready to move in. Quiet area with good neighbors and access to Surin and Bang tao Beaches in only 5 minutes. Ideal for expat with children. Aircon in 2 master bedrooms, lounge, and dining room. Must be seen; you'll love it. Long term rental preferred. Contact me by email or call Khun Gai on 081-734 4324. Email: ian.taylor.woodward@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT OR SALE

at Paklok. 4 bedrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, UBC, Telephone line, internet. For further details Tel: 081-895 7310. Please see our website at: www.horizonresidenceandspa.com

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS



Fully furnished 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Large Western kitchen and bathrooms, A/C. Large seaview terraces, pool, parking, quiet location. Monthly but long-term preferred. Starting at 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-284570, 084-840 1262. Email: gordy240@hotmail.com

BRAND NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Mid-town, Royal Place project. Studio condo, fully furnished, restaurant, car park, shared pool and gym. Tel: 081-691 2526, 086-476 9612.

POOL VILLA NAI HARN



Ban Saiyuan, Nai Harn. Quiet location, fully furnished, 3 beds. TV, UBC, ADSL. 17-meter swimming pool. 50,000 baht per month includes pool cleaning and garden maintenance. Tel: 085-795 4665. Email: tom.scarff@gmail.com

BUNGALOWS FOR RENT

Lovely place to stay, Rawai/Nai harn. 1 bed, fully furnished, cable TV, hot shower, fridge, garden & maid. Only 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-691-3029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

LOCH PALM LARGE PLOT HOUSE

Golf view, 300 sqw single detached house with pool and many car parks. 7 mins from BIS. Suitable for restaurant or other business. 120,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-869 9686 (English & Thai). Email: supot mail@yahoo.com

PATONG APARTMENT

300m to beach. Clean, modern, aircon, fridge, TV, king bed, pool, parking. For further details please Tel: 081-082 5707. www.phuket-accommodation.info

HOUSE NEAR PATONG



and Country Club Golf residence. Quiet area, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Fully furnished, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry area, 2 car parks, 340,000 baht per year. Tel: 081-370 9557. Email: khaopun@hotmail.com

KARON OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Delux 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 balcony, furnished, kitchen. Exceptional 270 degree view. Beach access just 2 minutes walk. Short- or long-term. Tel: 076-486624, 086-281 9311. Please no agent. Email: rick.muller@ymail.com

B.L. APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

STUDIO IN PHUKET TOWN

for rent. Fully furnished, kitchen, internet, pool, 5 minutes to Big C. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015.

Live in Cherng Talay?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
41 Minimart

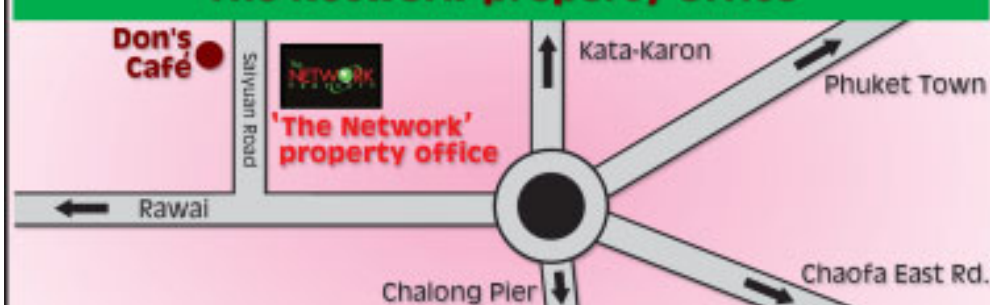


Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Kung (076-324312).

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
'The Network' property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Anna (089-729 1391)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Boats & Marine

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP



LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

- Princess 65 (2004)
 - MAN 1050 HP engines with low hrs
 - Water maker
 - Large tender and out board
 - Base sound system
 - Fully optioned galley
 - Air Conditioning
 - Bow thruster
 - 17kw genset
- Beneteau Cyclades 50.4 (2006) 225,000 Euro
- Oceans 14 (1998) \$220,000 AUD
- Image 48 (2007) 535,000 Euro
- Sunseeker 40 Comanche (1994) 5,500,000 THB

leemarine.com

Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 8033
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062
email: mark@leemarine.net

2009 NEW 11.9 METER YACHT

2X225 hp Honda 4-strokes. Price 3.9 million baht exVAT. LOA: 11.9m. Beam: 3.6m. Material: fiberglass. Max speed 45 knots. Cabin: living space, kitchen with microwave oven, bedroom (king size bed) with 38" flatscreen TV, toilet, shower and small generator. Excludes 50 mile rathyoan radar. Agent welcome. We will also build your fiberglass sports yacht to your specifications. Tel: 086-885 6885. Email: phu ketyachtsales@gmail.com

1997 BAYLINER 28 CABIN BOAT

28 feet. 300 hp V8 with only 300 hours. Sleeps 4. Perfect for fishing and sleeping overnight. Only 1,500,000 baht! Tel: 089-932 5175. Email: wojdickowbengt@hotmail.com

SPORTS CRUISER

Mustang 2800. 4 berth, a/c, dvd, surround sound system, fridge, shower etc. Immaculate finish. 3.1 million baht. Will consider P/X for RIB. Tel: 084-778 5652.

BENETEAU CYCLADES 393

Enjoy sailing from Phuket and learn a little. 3 cabins, 2 toilets. Layout excellently maintained and loaded with extras. Thai registered and under maintenance contract with advance bookings. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8916953. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

32FT CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

TROLLING MOTOR

Brand new in "Motorguide" Mercury model, 46FB, 12 volts, 5-speed. Dealer price 500USD. Task only 400USD. Contact more details. Tel: 083-633 1054.

ONAN GENSETS

2 units in good working condition. 7.2kVA, 220V: 90,000 baht. 11kVA, 220V: 150,000 baht. Tel: 081-536 8188. Contact more details at. Email: tom.fekete@gmail.com

WELLCRAFT 302 SPORT

American powerboat, 30 feet, twin Yamaha 250hp 4-stroke engines, only 60 hours. Mail for pics and more info. Email: mangelsson@hotmail.com

YACHT CHARTER COMPANY

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. Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com or please see at <http://www.sailing-thailand-phuket.com>

YAMAHA 2HP OUTBOARD

Good condition 2hp Yamaha for sale. Recently serviced. 7,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-894 1530 (English). Or email: andrew@leemarine.net

DEEP V FIBER SPEED BOAT

Private speedboat in very good condition for fishing and diving. Also built for private tours. For sale at 1,200,000 baht. For more information, please contact Mr Roman. Tel: 076-485610, 087-881 0031. Fax: 076-485145. website at <http://www.similan.net>

BOAT FOR SALE



3.4m rigid single hull. 25cc Tohatsu outboard engines and cover for rigid hull inflatable boat. One seat removable. Call Mr Dydi. Price: 175,700 baht. Tel: 087-161 6984.

PHUKET CHARTER

Fishing charters, NEW boat, safe & solid returns. Co Ltd established for 10 years. Email for full details. Tel: 083-392 7150. Email: wunchart-thanna wat@hotmail.com

SAIL BOAT WANTED

30 to 40 feet. Racer/cruiser to charter for King's cup. Email: air2cure@yahoo.com

WELLCRAFT SCARAB 31

2 x 250 hp Mercs, 390 hours, fully serviced. Speeds to 60 knots, bow cabin, portable toilet, GPS, VHF, Sunbrella, all new interior, red and white. Come and see! Offers invited around 1.8 million baht. Tel: 083-646 7282, 083-636 9327. Or sent to email par.emanuel@xwipers.com

ZODIAC 40HP

Includes all equipment, trailer, steering, console, anchor, vest etc. Tel: 087-265 6089.

LUXURY MOTOR YACHT

75 ft Technomarine (Italy). Caterpillar engines, 2 x 1,250hp. 680 hours each. Asking US\$ 1,280,000. Berthed Hong Kong. Exceptional opportunity. For details. Tel: 076-200730, 084-839 4868. Send email to: luxuryyacht75@gmail.com

DOUBLE KAYAK

Feel-free kayak. 18,000 baht. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-000 0200. Email: tonygbr@hotmail.com

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

MAXUM 2,300 - DAYCRUISER

23 foot cabin boat, 260 hp. Perfect day and overnight boat! Sleeps 3 in cabin. Top condition! Only 1,500,000 baht! Tel: 089-932 5175. Or email: wojdickowbengt@hotmail.com

FIBERGLASS BOAT

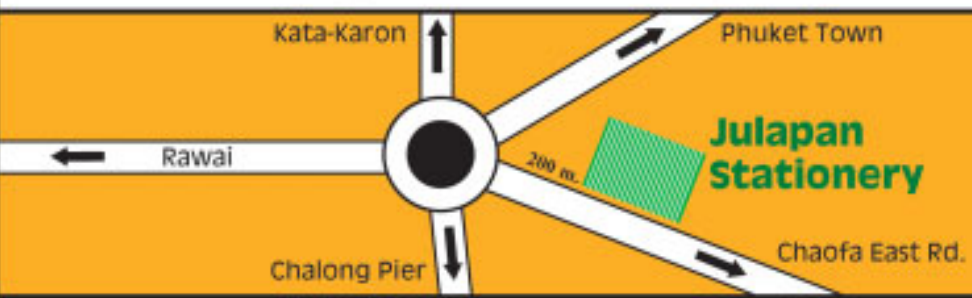
Brand new 36 foot flybridge boat for sale. Contact more details at email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

SHARKCAT 23

Refurbished 2007/8. Twin Yamaha 200hp with low hours. Cabin with dbl berth & toilet. Versatile: cruising, fishing, water skiing. Thai registered. Price: 985,000 baht. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891- 9653. Fax: 076-348118. Or sent to email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

Live in Chalong?

Place your **CLASSIFIED ADS** at **Julapan Stationery**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Chanok (076-282254)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - Hundreds of new ads every week!

Let us take your ad to the top of Google!

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

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) _____ Given name(s) (as on card) _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____



To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

Island Job Mart



THE PARADISE KOH YAO

island hideaway near phuket

www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70 rooms boutique resort, is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60 minutes boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourists spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking outstanding personalities to join our motivated team, committed to personalized and superior customer service.

Cost Controller

- At least 3-5 years experience in similar position
- Leadership skills
- Good command of the English language

Comprehensive remuneration / incentive package will be offered to the right candidate. Send your resume with recent photo, reference and salary expectation to gm@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao – Boutique Beach Resort & Spa (Phuket Office)
125/369 Rock Garden Village, Moo 5, T. Ratsada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-528919-20 Website : www.theparadise.biz

Thavorn Hotels & Resorts (THR), Phuket

Owner and operator of Thavorn Beach Village & Spa on Nakalay Bay near Patong Beach, Thavorn Palm Beach Resort on Karon Beach and Thavorn Grand Plaza in Phuket Town are currently looking for:

Sales & Marketing

- **Web Programmers / E-Marketing**
Must be good at: SEO, PHP, MySQL, XML and Web Service
- **Director of Sales / Sales Managers – Expats or Thais**
For Japanese, Chinese, Russian and European Markets
- **Marketing Communications Asst. Managers / Managers**
Native English speakers preferred
- **Marketing Admin. Asst. Managers / Managers**
- **Executive Secretaries / Office Admin. Managers**
Native English speakers preferred

Hotel Management

- **Assistant Front Office Managers / Managers**
- **Guest Relations Managers / Officers – Expats**
For Japanese, Korean & Russian
- **Executive Chef / Sous Chef / Chef de Partie**
For Japanese, Italian, Thai & Main kitchens
- **Many junior and middle management positions**

*The ideal candidates for professional positions MUST possess several years experience in a similar capacity with 4-5 star hotels and resorts, and MUST be willing to live in Phuket.

*First time candidates for the hotel industry are most welcome to apply if you possess a degree, preferably a masters degree, from a recognized university.

*We offer a good salary and excellent benefits to the right candidates.

Thavorn Group is looking for young, energetic, committed and result-oriented Thais and expats to join our team. All applications will be treated with the strictest of confidence. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for an interview.

Interested candidates should send applications with CV's and two recent photos to:

Group Human Resources Director
Thavorn Hotels & Resorts (THR), Phuket
40/5 Chana-Chaen Road
Muang, Phuket, 83000

Email: recruitment@thavorngroup.com
www.thavorngroup.com

British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months-18 years) offering quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. For August or as soon as possible, we require the following:

Senior Accountant - A/R (Urgently)

- Age 25 - 35 years old
- Bachelor degree in Finance /Accounting / Business Administration or related field
- Experience in A/R area is preferable.
- Good command of both spoken & written English
- Computer literacy: Microsoft Office and excellent with excel spreadsheet
- Strong communication and negotiation skills, positive attitude and customer service orientated
- Able to work under pressure and to meet deadlines
- Knowledge in AccPac operate would be an advantage

A/R Accountant

- Male or female, age over 25 yrs
- BA in Accounting or Finance
- Good command of English
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Familiar with accounting software with knowledge of MS-office, especially Ms-Excel, and Thailand taxation systems

Primary Secretary Assistant / Teacher Assistant

- Thai national
- Bachelor degree in related field
- Excellent English, computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department in academic function
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Loves to take care with children

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



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111 Fax: 076-238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: panchurakom@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th

Director of Sales - Phuket

Company Description

One of the largest owned and managed hotel groups with more than 120 hotels worldwide is looking for a dynamic and self-motivated individual for the following position:

• Director of Sales

Reporting to the director of sales and marketing, you will be responsible for the development and performance of the Phuket sales team, helping them to achieve the revenue target and achieve maximum profitability and growth in the assigned market, in line with the hotel's business objectives. In this role, you need to maintain contact with all clients in the market area in order to achieve a high level of client satisfaction with accountability and follow up.

You should have a proven track record of at least two to three years of work experience in a similar capacity in the hotel industry with both MICE and leisure experience. You need to be energetic, proactive, self-driven, highly motivated and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills. You should also be adaptable, determined and be someone who wants to be part of a fast-paced environment that promotes change and drive for achievements. You will possess superior negotiation skills and a Will-to-Win mindset. Knowledge of Fidelio and Delphi Systems would be added advantage.

Interested applicants are requested to send in their resume along with a recent photograph and their current and expected salaries, to:

Mr William King

E-mail address: wwilliamking4@gmail.com

We apologize but only short listed candidates will be notified

INBRED DP CO LTD

1. Secretary Executive
 2. Marketing Executive
- Good written and spoken English. Relevant experience with established organization preferred. For more information tel: 076-261857, 081-3674696. Fax: 076-261859. Email: acs@inbredp.com Please visit our website at: www.inbredp.com

LADY WANTED FOR SURVEYS

Full time, must be taller than 1.65m and weigh more than 75kg. English and Thai speaking is a must. Not older than 35 years. Drivers licence. Tel: 081-5376866.

3D RENDERER

for architecture office required. 3D Studio Max, Sketchup, Photoshop required. Tel: 076-385964, 080-6965104. Fax: 076-385965. Or send email: info@modern-zen.com Please send CV to: info@modern-zen.com

MANAGER / SOUS / BAKERY CHEF

I'm looking for a job in Phuket. I have a good CV. Please email me for more info. Tel: +960-0960-7763889. Email: andersfo@ofir.dk

PROPERTY COMPANY

Looking for sales and marketing staff 10am.- 4pm. Tel: 076-527882.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Leading audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai with good computer skills. Experience in administration and accounts an advantage. Interested applicants please send full CV with current salary to cv@enhanceav.com. Tel: 076-527640 for further information.

AEROBIC INSTRUCTOR

Personal trainer wanted. Preferably Thai female, basic English skills, best club in Phuket. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 084-8491810.

MASSAGER WANTED

Body scrub for 1.5 hour, 5 times per month at home in Kathu. 300 baht per time. For more information. Tel: 081-4326587.

TECHNICIAN WANTED

Leading audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in spoken English and Thai with experience in electrical, lighting and audio installation. Valid driving license essential, own vehicle an advantage. Applicants should send full CV including current salary to cv@enhanceav.com. Tel: 076-527640 for further information.

SALES EXPERIENCE

Exciting new company in architecture and property development is looking for sales staff. Please contact. Tel: 076-385964, 080-6965104 (English). Fax: 076-385965. Email: info@modern-zen.com

MAGAZINE SALES

Dynamic and funky magazine needs competent and energetic people to sell magazine advertising space. Please contact. Tel: 076-385964, 080-6965104. Fax: 076-385965. Email: info@modern-zen.com

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

Island Job Mart

Dual TEFL/TESOL

Certificates
150 hours

Accredited and externally moderated by The College of Teachers at the Institute of Education, University of London.

- Meets British Council requirements.
- Internationally accepted
- International job placement assistance programme and ongoing support.
- Experience living and working in Thailand.
- Our objective is to ensure that you achieve your teaching goals and help you get started on your successful EFL teaching career.

Contact us now: teflbea@gmail.com

Personal Assistant/Secretary

International Law Firm (Phuket)

We are looking for Personal Assistant/Secretary – 2 Positions

Qualifications:-

- Female, Thai National
- Good computer skills (Microsoft Office, Internet, e-mail)
- Good command of English, both written and spoken
- Must be able to work under pressure

Please send your CV and a recent photograph to:
E-mail: admininterlaw@gmail.com or direct contact 086-9519198

Account Executive-Hotel supplies



Silkroad hotel supplies is aggressively expanding to Phuket, Krabi, and Samui. Wanted: an independent and highly motivated sales person to sell our large range of hotel items and gifts to hotels, spas, and restaurants in Phuket and surrounding provinces.

We offer salary + high commission + allowances and incentives + career growth

Qualification:

- Proven sales achievements
- Experience selling to hotels
- English and computer skills
- Must have own car to travel in Phuket/Krabi

Tel: 02-559-3339

job@silkroaddesign.com, www.silkroaddesign.com

TEFL/TESOL TRAINERS

* Trainer. Degree, diploma in TEFL/TESOL, 5 years experience.

* Trainer's assistant, degree certificate in TEFL/TESOL, 2 years experience.

Contact Michael. Send email to: michael.denigan@gmail.com

RESTAURANT LOUNGE BAR

in Rawai. Need 1 chef (European and Thai food), 1 pizza chef, 1 chef's assistant, 1 maid, 2 bartenders and 2 waitresses (ladies who can speak English). Need a band to play every night too. Contact Michael. Tel: 089-454 6584 or Valerie 086-781-1837. Or send email to: paul.phuket@gmail.com

SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Scuba Cat Diving Phuket Thailand is looking for an experienced instructor to join our team ASAP. Preferably German, French & English or Danish & English speakers but all are welcome to apply. If you are not able to sell, talk to people, are work shy or lazy, please don't apply because you can't make it with us. If you think that you are the right person, contact us. Tel: 076-293120, 089-872 2026. Fax: 076-293122. Email: info@scubacat.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.scubacat.com>

TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking full time English speaking and Asian (including Thai) teachers to teach Mathematics to 11 – 18-year-old students. 4 weeks paid holiday, government health plan. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. Asian and Thai teachers should be qualified with TOFEL score 550+. We can only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements. Please Email your CV with covering letter to ajam.charoon@satreephuket.ac.th, toptip4736@yahoo.com Tel: 084-666 3557.

PART TIME INCOME

Work from home, using the internet. Must be fluent in English. Call me (Rick) after 6:30pm. Tel: 085-473 1629. Email: rickray@hotmail.com

SALES AND MARKETING

Sales and Marketing Manager for food wholesaler based in Phuket. If you speak multiple languages, have experience in web-site maintenance, graphic design and have been working in the food service industry, we can offer an attractive salary, work permit, visa, private health insurance and company car. Please send email: simon@phuketfood.com

WEB PROGRAMMER

Thai national is wanted for website development. Must have strong skills with HTML and CSS-based websites using Dreamweaver and Photoshop. Some JavaScript (jQuery, Spry) and PHP would be a plus. College degree with good grades and good track record. We want someone reliable and hardworking. Salary: 15,000-20,000 baht plus bonus. For more additional details. Please send email to: recruitment@circumnave.net

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A++ Software, based in Thailand, requires a capable personal assistant to the directors. Thai national, must speak and write English well, computer literate, good organisational skills. Salary negotiable, accommodation available. Tel: 087-417 8860. Or email: carol@aplusplussoftware.com

DIVISION MANAGER

Small boutique villas resort seeks experienced property care and guests relations manager for full time position. Candidate must have bachelor degree in hotel and tourism management or related field, and strong organizational. Tel: 086-004 3008. Email: asiaca.sa@gmail.com

QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED

Home room teacher for mixed class (grades 4,5,6). Strong teaching skills in math and science required. Competitive salary. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-288923, 086-476 9066. Fax: 076-383201. Or send email to: admin@montessori-thailand.com

QUALIFIED THAI TEACHER PLUS

a native English teacher wanted for new nursery/preschool. Please send email CV to: ketinternation@asia.com

BOOKKEEP NEEDED

in fast-paced environment. Thai national. Some English required. Min 3 years exp. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

BAR MANAGER

The Role: bar manager at one of Patong Beach's leading bars, the 'Two Black Sheep'.

This is an exciting opening for an experienced Bar Manager.

The ideal candidate will have previous bar or hotel management experience and will be responsible for all facets of the business, including stock control, ordering, staff development and ensuring high levels of customer service at all times.

The successful candidate must be highly customer-focused and possess good communication skills and the ability to manage the team effectively.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking for an exciting and challenging role.

For further background info. Tel: 089-592 1735 (English). Email: niekeborst@hotmail.com Please see our Website at <http://www.twoblacksheep.net/>

WEB DESIGNER WANTED

Professional, experienced web designer wanted now by local e-commerce company. Must speak good English. Send resume and portfolio to email: support@thailove.com

RECEPTION & TOUR INFO STAFF

Needed in Patong. Must have experience of hotels, tours and computers. Must also speak and read English. These positions are for Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-340583, 081-827 8442. Or send email: wojickowbengt@hotmail.com

ENGLISH SPEAKERS WANTED

Easy work, easy money. 50,000 baht a month and up. Please contact for more information at tel: 085-573 0638.

TRAVEL AGENCY STAFF WANTED

We are currently looking for Thai staff that will support our full time personnel. We need 2 people who can write, read and speak fluent French and English, basic computer skills and knowledge about online booking. Good salary! Please contact Asia Sensations Travel by sending CV. Tel: 076-282906, 081-893 9925 (English). Fax: 076-282867. Email: info@phuket-excursions.com

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

CPA or CA Accountant, required with 3-5 years experience. MYOB is an advantage. Contact Khun Shan-non on 084-443 5983.

NEED GARDENER & MAID

Experience with hotels, Rawai area, Samia Villa, Soi Suksan (prefer couple) 2. Aged over 40. Tel: 081-797 7898.

NANNY IN NAI HARN

Looking for a full-time live-out nanny. English speaking and experience with children required. Please contact Lana. Tel: 089-5939155 (English). Email: maria.wilewski@gmail.com

SEO WEBMASTER

wanted. Link building, article writing, coding etc. Advanced knowledge of HTML, PHP, CSS, JS & Flash. Tel: 076-385964, 087-892 5557 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-385965. Or send CV to careers@modernzen.com.

SALES STAFF REQUIRED

Come and join a successful established holiday ownership company. We are offering the best commission rates in Thailand for professional sales reps: English, Scandinavian and German. The BEST training, the BEST commission and the BEST pay structure. Tel: 086-120 4282. Email: infosalesphuket@gmail.com

WAITRESS/WAITER

2 people needed for fun restaurant in Karon. Professional, experienced, mature people required, little English ok but must have great personality. Good working place and conditions. Start now. Tel: 084-842 0340.

BABYSITTER WANTED

Kamala, Phuket. Needed to take care two 1-year-old twins. Must speak English and have 5 years of experience with very young children, as well as lots of experience working in other people's homes. This is a full time job. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

KHAO SOK RECEPTIONIST

Small, fine jungle resort requires young Thai. Must have excellent English, computer skills, hotel experience. Must love nature. Salary up to 13,000 baht per month. Send email: eric_limbo@hotmail.com Please visit our website at www.khaosokaccommodation.com

RECEPTIONIST IN KATA

Thai female required for hotel in Kata. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-892 1621.

CHEF WANTED

Farang or Thai to work in English bar. Must be able to cook farang food especially English pub food. 6 days per week, hrs 12pm - 10pm. Bar in Laguna area. Tel: 089-474 0431.

CONDO-HOTEL RESORT

The Bang tao Tropical Residence Condo-minium Resort is currently under construction at Bang tao Beach on the west coast of Phuket. Construction is set for completion at the end of this year. We are currently outsourcing for staff and are looking for 40 to 50 energetic young individuals to join our team in the new CondoHotel.

Tel: 076-261772, 083-522 2089. Email: info@bangtaotropicalresidence.com For further details, please contact us and/or see our website at the link below. <http://www.bangtaotropicalresidence.com>

KINDERGARTEN EP TEACHING

Vacancy: ELT Phuket International is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher to start at Bann Maireab School in Kathu on 19 August 2009. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate such as TESOL/TEFL/CELTA. We offer: 38,000-40,000 baht per month plus other benefits. Please email a letter of application, CV, recent photograph & email contact details of three referees to: eltorborjor@gmail.com. Will not respond to non-native speaker application.

ENGLISH TEACHER

Wanted for nursery. Rawai. Tel: 081-787 5646. Email: proudly_nicha@yahoo.com

Employment Wanted

ENGLISMAN, 28 SEEKS WORK

Willing to work in various fields. Excellent command of the English language and enthusiastic personality. Tel: +44-128-269 1969, +44-752-503 2855 (English). Email: lownlazyuk@hotmail.co.uk

WANT TO INCREASE SALES?

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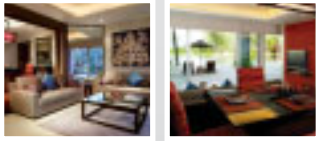
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laguna

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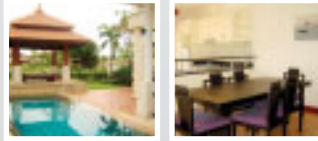
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- approx. 5% rental return
- sea view • golf membership

2 Laguna Village Townhome THB 21 M



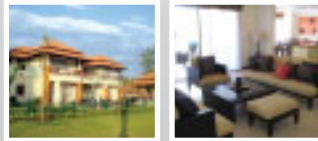
- 2-storey 4 beds 4 baths
- fully furnished
- rental programmed
- lagoon view

3 Laguna Townhome THB 22 M



- 2-storey 3 beds Townhome
- maids' quarter • on golf course
- 25 sqm private pool

4 Laguna Village Residence THB 38 M



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

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villas THB 38 M



- 3-storey Townhome
- 2 beds
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