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King of football

The most powerful man in world football, Sepp Blatter, is set to open a new football center in Phuket this month.

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'World's oldest man' living here on Phuket

By Fraser Morton and Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

A BUDDHIST monk in Phuket who could be the world's oldest living man will celebrate his 113th birthday this month.

Luang Pu Supha lives at a temple named after him in Chalong, and according to his identification papers, he was born in Sakon Nakhon province on September 17, 1896.

Luang Pu Supha was born four days earlier than American Walter Breuning, who is claiming Guinness World Records' title of the 'Oldest Living Man'.

Breuning will celebrate his 113th birthday on September 21.

According to the Guinness World Records' official website, the title was to be awarded to Breuning following the death of British World War One veteran, Henry Allingham, who died on July 18 this year, aged 113.

Allingham, who was the last surviving British WW1 veteran, inherited the title, albeit briefly, from Tomoji Tanabe, a Japanese



Abbot Luang Pu Supha. Photo by Jeera Ekwuttipongchai

national who died on June 19.

Guinness World Records said in July a formal announcement would be made as soon as the record had been verified by a gerontology expert.

But that was before Luang Phu Supha's age was known.

His official identification

documents, including house registration and ID card, show that he is four days older than the American, making him the world's oldest living man.

Thanapong Korudom, President of the Wat Luang Pu Supha committee, said he would like to invite Guinness World

Records to come to Phuket and verify that Luang Pu Supha is the oldest living man in the world.

The secret to the aged monk's longevity is to "eat less, speak less and always speak the truth".

He said the revered monk was still happy and healthy despite his age, but ate only nine mouthfuls of food at each meal.

"We should all look within ourselves and question how Luang Pu Supha has managed to achieve his great age," he said.

Luang Pu Supha avoids spices and salts in his diet, but is said to have a sweet tooth – his favorite desert being *khao neaw kaew* (sticky rice with sugar).

Luang Pu Supha has lived through several historical events, including Siam changing its name to Thailand in 1939, the Japanese occupation of Thailand in 1942, Thailand becoming the 55th member of the United Nations in 1946, the coronation of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 1950 and the 2004 tsunami.

Continued on page 2

Sinkhole surprise for Patong mayor

A LARGE sinkhole which opened up on the route from Phuket City to Patong following torrential rains received quick attention thanks to the vigilance of one Patong Municipal official.

Patong mayor Pian Keesin was heading down Phra Baramee Road towards Patong about 5pm on Friday – just as the surface of the road was beginning to fall away, creating the giant hole.

After the back wheel of Mr Pian's car slipped into the hole,

the mayor phoned his officials.

Police and Patong Municipality workers had the lane closed by around 5.30pm, by which time the hole was three meters wide and about five meters deep.

The hole was caused by water flow underneath the road, which softened the earth until it could not support the road surface any longer.

It took until 4am the next day to fill the hole with earth.

-Atchaa Khamlo



Repairing the hole will cost an estimated two million baht and will take over a month to complete, according to Phuket Highways Department.

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AQUA LUNG

World's oldest man

From page 1

Nowadays, Luang Pu Supha lives quietly at his Chalong temple.

In his long lifetime, he has traveled the world in search of what Khun Thanapong says is 'a life dedicated to truth'.

In 1905, when he was nine years old, his father took him to study Buddhism at Pai Yai Temple in Ubon Ratchathani.

He would not see his family again until 1957.

In 1916, Luang Pu Supha embarked upon his official ordination pilgrimage, taking him into the mountains of Laos where he was ordained as a monk.

Six years later, he traveled to Burma where he met other Thai monks who were on a pilgrimage to India.

Joining the monks, the young Luang Pu Supha set off on a series of adventures which took him to China, then Europe, before embarking on a mammoth journey back to Thailand.

At age 61, Luang Pu Supha arrived back at his home province and visited his relatives for the first time since he was nine.

Piyawat Siihaveerachart, another committee member and close friend of Luang Pu Supha, said the revered monk came to Phuket when he was in his sixties because he wanted to help sea gypsy villagers in Koh Sireh.

"The villagers didn't follow a religion, but Luang Pu Supha stayed with them, taught them about Buddhism and also built a temple," he said.

Luang Pu Supha's birthday celebrations will begin on September 16 with a sermon by the head monk from Chonpratharn-rangsarit Temple at 4pm.

The next day, festivities will start at 6.09am and end at 2pm.

All members of the public are welcome to join the celebrations, which will be held at Wat Luang Pu Supha in Chalong.

Red and yellow shirts react to 'Da Torpedo' sentencing

PHUKET's red- and yellow-shirt factions have reacted to last week's sentencing of political activist Daranee Chancheonsilapakul, aka 'Da Torpedo', to 18 years in prison for insulting the monarchy.

The Criminal Court ruled that Ms Daranee, 51, made several remarks constituting lese majeste at three United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) rallies in Bangkok earlier this year.

She was sentenced to three consecutive six-year sentences, without parole.

Phuket People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) leader Aparat Chartchutikumjorn applauded the verdict.

"I completely agree with the judgment that she committed lese majeste on several occasions," she said.

However, Ms Aparat suggested it was possible that the sentence could be eventually reduced.

"Our King is so full of kindness, he might reduce the punishment in this case to just one or two years," said Ms Aparat.

"But I'm not sure if one or two years in

jail would be long enough to make her realize what she has done," she added.

Meanwhile Suntorn Toemarn, a Phuket UDD leader, was disappointed by the length of the sentence.

"It's very sad that they've given her such a harsh punishment, it's too much to give a little girl like her," Mr Suntorn said.

"We're going to talk to our leaders in Bangkok about what the UDD as a movement will do next, and we'll have a meeting in Phuket soon," he said.

-Atchaa Khamlo

Cops bust fish poacher

PHUKET Marine Police officers busted a tropical fish poaching ring last Tuesday, seizing hundreds of valuable aquarium fish and coral blooms from a house in Rawai.

Police said the owner of the house, Suthee Sirisaringkarn, hired local fishermen to illegally catch the fish, many of which were worth up to 2,000 baht each.

Around 200 living coral blooms and around 400 tropical fish and other creatures were found in tanks in the house, including butterflyfish, wrasses, parrotfish, damselfish, angelfish and giant clams.

Mr Suthee, 34, from Bangkok, told police he planned to send the creatures to Chiang Mai to sell to collectors.

He has been charged with possession of protected species and possession of tropical fish without permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

All of the creatures are being kept by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) at its center at Cape Panwa.

Prajuap Mokarat, a DMCR officer, said the fish ranged in value from 500 to 2,000 baht.

"They caught most of them at the coral reefs around Koh Racha and Koh Khai," he said.

Mr Prajuap said this kind of poaching ring had been uncovered many times before but arrests were rarely made because it was difficult to get the evidence required to get a search warrant issued by the court.

Another DMCR staff member said some of the fish were sick with cyanide poisoning.

"Some of them are dying because whoever caught them used cyanide to stun them so they'd float to the surface and be easy to catch," she said.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated case, a man was arrested last Wednesday night in Phang Nga province for attempting to smuggle coral blooms.

Takua Pa Police received a tip-off that the man had boarded a bus heading to Bangkok at Takua Pa bus station with a foam-wrapped crate containing the coral.

Police arrested the man and have charged him with illegal possession of protected species.

More than 180 coral blooms were recovered, including anchor coral and cup coral.

-Atchaa Khamlo

Gov dishes out advice



Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (2nd right) at the ceremony last Tuesday.

AFTER dishing out 156,000 baht in cash to some of the island's poorest families at a ceremony at the Phuket City Municipal Offices last week, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop dished out some advice.

Phuket's poor must work harder, stop gambling and not spend so much time watching bird singing contests, the governor told his audience.

Otherwise, he said, foreigners would take their jobs.

Gov Wichai and other officials handed 78 families 2,000 baht each on behalf of the Phuket Social Development and Human Security Office at the ceremony last Tuesday morning.

Then his speech began.

"There are around 80,000 aliens such as Rohingya and Burmese living in Phuket now," the governor said.

"Most of them work hard. More and more, they're taking local people's jobs, such as rubber tapping," he continued.

"They're improving their lives and earning money," he said.

Phuket people, however, were getting lazier and indulging themselves too much, Gov Wichai said.

"Don't spend all your time watching bulbul singing contests. Stop spending your money on the lottery."

"These activities will make you poor," the governor concluded.

-Atchaa Khamlo

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AIRPORT RIOT: About 1,300 police officers battled it out with 'protesters' near Phuket International Airport last Thursday in a mock riot. The simulated riot was a scripted scenario in which a mob of about 400 protesters aimed to force the closure of Phuket's airport, protesting against the construction of a casino in Phuket. When they came to within 500 meters of the airport, the protesters were greeted by police officers armed with shields, water cannons and tear gas.

Island's foreign investors coming under scrutiny

A FACT-finding effort is underway in Phuket to compile information about local businesses in which Thai people are hired by foreigners as their nominees – a practice which is generally illegal under Thailand's Foreign Business Act.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, who ordered the investigation, said he was not discriminating against foreign investors, but was guarding against the illegal use of Thais as nominee shareholders by foreigners.

Under Thai law, foreigners can own no more than 49 percent of any business venture with Thais.

An ongoing practice, local authorities say, is that foreigners eventually gain control over such companies illegally.

To scrutinize foreign businesses, the Phuket Provincial Revenue office is checking foreigners' tax payments, while the Treasury office is scrutinizing ownership of condominium space.

Immigration police are examining the visa and residence status of expatriates involved in Phuket-based businesses.

Local authorities and the Interior Ministry will look at all the information and decide on what to do if their fact-finding reveals illegal shareholdings, the governor said.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbhal dismissed reports which stated that most hotels on Phuket were owned by foreigners, saying most were operated as joint ventures, or under management staffed by foreign executives.

Meanwhile, Phuket's Provincial Business and Trade Office said a regulation requiring joint Thai-foreign businesses to produce bank accounts with a high minimum balance on deposit had been revoked because it could not effectively serve as proof of substantial business funding.

"In most cases, the money was withdrawn immediately from the bank accounts once account statements were presented to Thai authorities as proof," office head Weerachai Tantiwat-thanawallop said.

-Sarinee Prab/The Nation

'More will die' at Karon Beach, leader predicts

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

IN the wake of the drowning of a Russian man off Karon Beach, a local leader has warned that 'more will die in the days to come'.

Karon tambon chief Winai Chitchiew said beach guards were under-equipped, under-paid and couldn't guarantee tourists' safety.

So far during this year's monsoon season at least 10 people have drowned in Karon, he said.

On Wednesday morning, Russian tourist Alexander Lukin's decomposing body washed up on the popular west coast beach, recently named the world's fourth best for families by the *Lonely Planet* guide.

The 32-year-old disappeared in the surf on Sunday, swallowed up by two-meter-high waves before friends and beach guards could reach him.

In pouring rain, officials searched for Mr Lukin in a borrowed speedboat, but their efforts were in vain.

Beach guards had warned Mr Lukin and his friends not to swim in the sea, but they were ignored, Mr Winai said.

As is the case throughout monsoon season, red flags warning people not to swim were on display.

Earlier this year, LP Laikhun Co Ltd signed a contract with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) to provide beach guards and equipment at Phuket's most popular beaches, including Karon Beach.

Mr Winai said the equipment provided by the company was inadequate.



IGNORING THE SIGNS: Tourists enjoy the surf at Kata Beach, next to Karon, despite the red flag warning them to stay out of the sea.

"The PPAO have paid the company 10 million baht, but Thais and foreigners are still drowning," he said.

The PPAO contract did not require the beach guards to have jet-skis, yet these were the fastest way to get to tourists in trouble in the sea, he said.

"The guards are forced to borrow jet-skis from local operators," Mr Winai said.

Mr Winai said dinghies provided under the contract couldn't be used during monsoon season because of the size of the waves.

The beach guards had been supplied with large beginners' surfboards, rather than the professional surfboards needed to reach people quickly, Mr Winai said.

The beach guards have not been supplied with rescue reels, he added, referring to ropes which attach to the guard,

allowing them to be pulled back to shore if they get into trouble during a rescue.

Moreover, the people being paid to do such an important job were earning just 8,000 to 9,000 baht a month, Mr Winai said.

"This isn't enough," he said. The job is very dangerous. Most of these guys have families. They don't want to risk their lives when they have to rely on an inadequate set of life-saving equipment," he said.

Karon Municipality will set aside a budget to provide more beach guards with a full set of life-saving equipment – but not until next year, he said.

Until then, there will be more drownings on Karon Beach, he predicted.

"Phuket is a tourist destination. We shouldn't just be taking money from tourists – we have to keep them alive, too," Mr Winai said.

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Bureaucracy blamed for warning buoy debacle

Budget not an issue with Bt300m set aside for tsunami warning system operations

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn & Stephen Fein

THE tsunami detection buoy off Phuket will be replaced "as soon as possible", the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) has revealed.

NDWC Deputy Director Somsak Khawswan told the *Gazette* the maintenance mission will take place as soon as conditions at sea allow.

"We can't wait until the end of the monsoon season," he said.

Launched in December 2006, the buoy ceased transmitting data in mid-June this year when its battery finally ran out, the NDWC admitted in July.

But mysteriously, the US-built buoy powered up again last month and resumed transmitting on August 5, just five days before a large earthquake occurred north of the Andaman Islands.

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the buoy is now operating in 'emergency mode', using a back-up battery that will run out in September or October this year.



LEFT: The buoy is deployed off the deck of the Royal Thai Navy's *MV Seafdec* in December 2006. RIGHT: *Seafdec* may sail out of Laem Panwa deep sea port again in November to replace the Tsunami buoy. Photo: NOAA.

Mr Somsak said bureaucracy, not a lack of budgeting, had been the reason for the delay in replacing the battery and doing routine annual maintenance.

"We have to maintain the DART buoy every year. We received a fiscal budget in 2007, but we always have problems," Mr Somsak said.

The primary cause for

the delay has been bureaucratic changes introduced by a series of governments.

Established by then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the NDWC was subsequently placed under the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry's Meteorological Department, then shifted to the Prime Minister's Office, then



back to the ICT Ministry.

Backed by a 48-million-baht budget, the NDWC has ordered one new DART buoy from the US-based NOAA and has a designated contractor for the replacement mission.

Mr Somsak said "we are very lucky" that the existing DART buoy, located 600 nautical miles northwest of Phuket, is still transmitting data – almost two years after the expected one-year lifespan of its original power supply should have expired.

The long overdue battery change and maintenance mission would begin as soon as sea conditions permit, said Mr Somsak.

Under the plan, technical experts from the NOAA will help replace the existing buoy with a new unit.

The old unit will be brought ashore for maintenance and redeployed a year later, at which time the second unit will be brought ashore for maintenance.

Mr Somsak said the procedure will be conducted annually as part of a 'sustainable' maintenance regimen.

"Last time we used two ships from the Royal Thai Navy but if we don't have many people with us this year, we may use only one navy vessel," he said.

The 'last time' he referred to was the original deployment in December 2006, when a second navy ship took media personnel.

"It will take around 10 days in total. We may use the vessel *MV Seafdec* again, sailing from Phuket Deep Sea Port," he said.

"The trip will cost around 48 million baht and we are fully prepared."

In related developments, the NDWC has already received a 165-million-baht budget to deploy two more warning buoys 200 nautical miles off the Andaman coastline next year.

The new buoys should give the NDWC 30 minutes lead time before any future tsunami waves reach the coast.

Maintenance of the units will be subcontracted to a private firm by 'e-auction', said Mr Somsak.

The NDWC has also been given an 88-million-baht budget to improve its 144 disaster warning towers located around Thailand, 79 of which are in the six Andaman coast provinces.

The agency has budgeted 5 million baht annually to conduct evacuation drills.

The next drill, scheduled to take place in Chumphon on November 5, will be based on a scenario of a typhoon – one similar in size and power to Typhoon Gay that ravaged that province in 1989.

In fiscal 2010, the agency will receive an operation budget of 90 million baht, 10 percent less than requested, Mr Somsak said.

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Keigo Zato plays with baby panda Lin Ping during a visit to the Chiang Mai Zoo on Sunday. The boy came into the spotlight in May when his search for his Japanese father garnered media attention.

Queer News

Loan shark spooked by suicide cell spirit

BANGKOK: A loan shark found the police were the least of his worries after being detained in a haunted cell.

Last Tuesday, Crime Suppression Division (CSD) officers arrested Sombun Thongkham, 39, for extortion and unauthorized money lending, and placed him in custody at CSD headquarters on Phahonyothin Rd.

Around 3am the following morning, the duty sergeant heard Mr Sombun screaming for help from his cell.

He went to see what was wrong, and found Mr Sombun shaking and white as a sheet.

The prisoner told the officer that a ghost had tried to persuade him to kill himself in the cell.

Mr Sombun said he was awoken by someone tapping him on the leg.

He saw a man sitting on the end of his bed. The man was aged around 40 and wearing a red shirt.

The man told him to get showered and brush his teeth and come and live with him.

Mr Sombun said he was still half asleep and thought it was another prisoner, but as he was falling back to sleep he suddenly remembered he was the only prisoner in the cell.

When he looked around, however, the man had vanished.

Mr Sombun said he put the incident down to being a very vivid dream.

A little later, however, he

heard a voice whispering in his ear.

The voice told him to go and take a good look at the cell bars. It then told him to choose which one he wanted to hang himself from.

The voice said it would show him how to hang himself with a piece of clothing so he could escape punishment for his crimes, Mr Sombun said. At this point he screamed for the sergeant.

Mr Sombun asked the sergeant if he could go and sleep in another cell. He also asked the sergeant to call a friend to come and sleep outside the cell door as he was too scared to stay by himself.

The next morning, investigating officer Lt Col Sawai Chamlamjiak took the still-terrified Mr Sombun to be detained in another building.

CSD officers said Mr Sombun was not the first prisoner to be visited while in that particular cell.

Police had previously cut down three other prisoners who had tried to hang themselves.

One of the rescued men later hung himself at home.

Police said the incidents started after a man arrested for raping his niece hung himself in the cell.

Officers said they had performed a merit-making ceremony to try and make the spirit leave the cell, but it obviously hadn't worked.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Monkey duo outsmarting authorities

ANG THONG: A pair of vicious monkeys are attacking shoppers at Ang Thong fresh market.

The monkeys have been stealing food from stalls and attacking anyone who dares stand in their way.

Officials have been unable to find where the monkeys live and have been unsuccessful in attempts to drive them from the market.

Police officer Sen Sgt Maj Suwit Wachawong said he had tried to catch the monkeys a number of times, but the animals were too clever.

Officers shot them with tranquillizer darts, but the animals pulled out the darts and threw them away before the drugs had time to take effect.

Police also tried to drug them by putting tranquillizers in food, but the monkeys refused to eat it.

Volunteer rescue worker Na Yomthathian said the emergency services are regularly called out to catch the monkeys, but are always foiled by the intelligence of the simian pair, who remain at large.

Source: Khao Sod

Russki rescued on jet-ski jaunt

SURAT THANI: A Russian tourist was stranded in the open seas for more than seven hours after her jet-ski ran out of gas about 10 miles off Koh Samui.

She was finally rescued by a fishing boat shortly after midnight.

Police picked up 30-year-old Malina Sadikava from the fishing boat and brought her back to shore by speed boat.

Miss Sadikava said she rented a jet-ski from Cherng Mon beach around 1pm last Monday.

After riding approximately 10 miles out to sea, she saw the fuel gauge was approaching empty.

She tried to return to Samui, but ran out of fuel.

Miss Sadikava said she tried to swim to shore towing the jet-ski behind her, but soon got tired.

She floated for more than seven hours before she was finally spotted by the fishing boat.

Source: Khao Sod

Alcoholic rapes nun, 61

TRANG: Police have arrested a man for the rape of a 61-year-old nun at a temple in Huay Yod District.

Nikhom Omtaphan, 35, was caught after being chased into the temple toilets by monks woken by the nun's cries for help.

On Tuesday night, a drunk Mr Nikhom banged on the door to the nun's cell.

When she opened it, he

bundled her into the room and raped her, the victim told police.

He then tried to rape her again, but was interrupted by monks who heard the victim's cries.

Mr Nikhom fled and hid in a toilet. Monks guarded the door until police arrived to arrest him.

Police said Mr Nikhom, who is an alcoholic, confessed to the attack.

Source: Thai Rath

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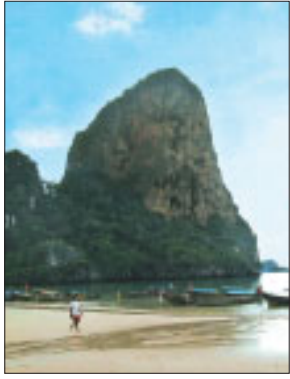
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ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Reports are abound in the international media that claim we are seeing the first 'green shoots' of recovery emerge on the slippery road to economic stabilization.

We are led to believe that consumer confidence is revitalized, the housing sales slump in the US has leveled off and the Gross Domestic Product has increased a little in a few European countries.

So what 'green shoots' are we seeing here in Thailand, and more specifically in Krabi?

The Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) have had a tough time keeping track of tourist arrival figures entering the Kingdom.

For 2009, the projected volume of tourists entering the country was set at 14 million.

This number was slashed to 13.1 million and then reduced again to 11 million.

However, in recent weeks, the TCT have bumped the figure back up to 13.1 million on the back of a 10 percent increase in arrivals forecast for the fourth quarter of 2009.

The projected figures and subse-quent optimism being categorized by the TCT may be

accredited to the following factors:

We have seen marked improvements in the domestic political climate and the stabilization of the international economic markets.

In addition, the A(H1N1) influenza pandemic is retreating, the Thai government has implemented a host of incentives to encourage business recovery and finally, tour operators have also capitalized on the slump by offering some slash-price deals to boost tourist arrivals for the end of the year.

While these are all positive factors, some are still in a fragile state.

The internal political situation could change at any time – a recent trip to Chiang Mai confirmed my suspicions that the red shirts are not going to simply go quietly, while the deceleration of the A(H1N1) pandemic can change at any time, especially as the northern hemisphere enters its traditional flu season.

Local Revival?

'Green shoots' also seem to be emerging on a local scale.

One specific to Krabi is the re-introduction of direct flights from Singapore to Krabi by Tiger Airways. Beginning on October 25, the airline will offer four flights a week at a special promotion price of 535 baht a flight.

Considering you are lucky to get a flight to from Krabi to Bangkok on Thai Air for less than 2,000 baht, this is a fantastic deal and should attract a large number of passengers to Krabi.

Another green shoot is the improvement in the local real estate market.

The market has picked up in the past few months after a long period of very slow sales.

Awasda Saengket, Director of Krabi Custom Homes, has seen



Tiger Airways is re-introducing direct flights to Krabi from Singapore. Beginning on October 25, the airline will offer four flights a week at a special promotion price of 535 baht a flight.

a substantial increase in housing rentals, followed by spiked demand for land purchases and business properties.

Prices have remained relatively firm, with the larger land owners not breaking price, although a number of financially distressed owners have sold smaller lots at discounted prices to raise capital.

Real estate 'vultures', who search for properties being sold at massively reduced prices or properties that have been repossessed by banks, have had meager success in the local market in Krabi.

With the market turning positive once more, many of these opportunities will most likely disappear.

Scams continue

Over the year, we have docu-

mented the numerous scam letters that flood the internet, the most common being the Nigerian who has inherited \$US10 million dollars and needs someone to help transfer the money.

The scam artists have spread out to other African countries, as well as the UK.

They have also expanded geographically, continually adding new twists to the letters.

Hotels are also victims to a variety of scams.

One popular scam is when a con artist makes a group booking and asks if the hotel can pay in advance for other transportation due to 'problems' paying from their home country.

Then, they use a stolen credit card and ask the hotel to send them cash via Western Union (non-returnable) for the other transportation charges to a tour agency.

Of course, it is the scam artist receiving the cash, and the next day the hotel gets the call from the bank revealing that the credit card is stolen and the charges are reversed.

The latest scam takes advantage of desperate real estate brokers who haven't seen any real business in many months. The scam artist pretends to make a large investment in a property or project and asks for the real estate agent to help with some up-front costs to transfer millions of dollars.

These letters are written to specific real estate brokers and are more sophisticated than the mass mailings seen in previous years.

So, a warning to all you real estate brokers: if it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.

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Haute cuisine meets country fare

Do you wax excited over Phuket restaurants that ought to be considered for at least one-star honors in, say, the Guide Michelin?

I do. In this category must fit the well-known La Gaetana in Phuket Town, and perhaps the new Finnish-owned bistro, Pore Bar and Kitchen, in Chalong.

The author of an encyclopedic tome might have had Jacek Piasecki's menu at Pore in mind when he observed that "modern Finnish cuisine combines haute cuisine and country fare with contemporary continental cooking".

Jack, as he's better known, is a culinary school graduate, trained chef and three-time champion cocktail mixer of Finland.

Together with partners Janne Ajanti and Tommi Sjoblom, he opened Pore (pronounced 'por-ray') last October.

Jack oversees the restaurant, Janne, a professional caterer from Helsinki, is developing Pore's catering business, while Tommi, an artist in wood, has created the open-air terrace restaurant's subtle blend of down-home ease and Egon Schiele-like sophistication.

Finns as a group are creative: their tertiary education ranks first in the world and they take out the largest number of patents, per capita, of all nations.

"Finns engage less in small talk and more in honest, straight-forward types of communication," notes the academic observer.

Thus Jack, author of *Tips From a Master Bartender*, can be introspective; Janne more so; Tommi, though, just likes to have fun.

"Are cocktails big in Finland?" my dinner companion wondered.

"Very. When we opened this restaurant I wanted something to reflect the place – the people, the culture, the hot climate – in a cocktail," he explained, setting before us two smoothies colored like sunset when Sumatran forests are aflame.

"I call it Junk Ceylon. What do you think?"



Tommi, an artist in wood, has created the open-air terrace restaurant's subtle blend of down-home ease and Egon Schiele-like sophistication.

"I think it's darn potent," I said. It felt twice as strong as any ice-laden, fruit-laced cocktail should. "What's in it?"

"Papaya, passion fruit liqueur and," he paused, brows knitted. "Chili."

I thought the mix brilliantly conceived and unique, capturing Phuket's essence in a drink. How do you follow that? With a barbecue. Finns are big on barbecues and barbecuing ranks as a national pastime.

What first attracted my attention to Pore was the flagship barbecue dish; a 120cm-long plank covered with spare-ribs and 'all the trimmings' (1,000 baht).

"A guy came in and ate one himself," said Jack. "But he was pretty big."

We, alas, were but two, so we had the combo plate (800 baht), which might be enough for four.

Dinner began with the aforementioned cocktails and two cold appetizers (both 80 baht): Tuna Ceviche, comprising chunks of raw yellow fin tuna, garlic, pepper, rosemary and lime juice with whole-grain toast; and *Riimiharka*, a Finnish dish of raw, pickled sirloin steak, thinly sliced, accompanied by superb home-made potato salad and pickled cucumbers.

Riimiharka takes twenty-four hours to assemble. The raw sirloin must be first 'aged' a day, then rolled in spices and frozen, indirectly tenderizing the beef.

The potato salad bears

mention. Jack dresses his still-firm wedges of potato with home-made mayonnaise, oil and onions. Pore's pickles are home-made and the sauces, too.

Between courses we drank in the mise en scene. Tommi's bamboo-based interior architecture; a group of Scandinavian babes attracted by Pore's famous cocktails; the soundtrack, including the Beatles and the Stones; the roomy furniture – all good.

"Here is our combo plate," announced Jack, setting down a flat, two-foot long trencher piled with spare-ribs, pepper steak, grilled lamb chops and 'Chicken a la Jack'.

The spare-ribs were impossibly tender.

Side dishes included grilled vegetables, both scalloped and creamy mashed potatoes – the latter laced with garlic – and grilled tomatoes.

The steak featured creamy pepper sauces, the lamb a wine sauce, while the chicken was stuffed with mushrooms and bacon – all savory, aromatic, excellent.

Needless to say we were sated, but Jack wanted to show off more of his bar-tending skill.

I'd noticed he'd filled two flasks, one with a pale blue-green colored substance, the other cream colored.

These he carefully poured together into stemmed cocktail glasses and they arrived divided vertically into two colors.

"There's the Finnish flag for you," said Jack. "Blue and white." He actually calls the



Pore's flagship barbecue dish is a 120cm-long plank covered with spare-ribs and 'all the trimmings'.

creation 'Swan Lake'.

"How do you get the two fluids to stay that way?" asked my companion.

"The temperature, and the amounts of alcohol, sugar and crushed ice must be about the same and you can't leave the first part too long while mixing the second, otherwise they don't remain separated. That's rather a hard drink to make," he said.

Impressively hard – it won him one of his International Bartenders Association championships of Finland titles.

As a finale, Jack poured us all a Blue Blazer, announcing: "I'm not Jesus; I can't walk on water. But I'll make water burn."

Forthwith he flamed a sauce pan, filled largely with water, but including a potent liquor. This he poured into another sauce pan,

back and forth, creating a blazing rainbow of fire, which spilled over two bottle-towers constructed for the purpose, then splashed into the waiting shot glasses. Everything blazed for a moment, growing hot. Finally, the fiery confection was handed out, and downed. "Woah! Potent," said someone. Jack smiled.

"Actually, it's just two centimeters of syrup and vodka: only the heat makes it seem stronger."

It's no wonder they used to call these mixologists 'professor' in the old days.

Pore Bar and Kitchen, 150m from Chalong Circle on the road to Chalong Pier. Bar open 2pm to 2am; kitchen 4pm - 10pm. T: 084-358 8301.

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Separating the wheat from chaff

By Marque A. Rome

Perhaps one night you have, like Byron, called for “hock and soda water” in your cups and then a pen wherewith to write; then writ and passed on to the parallel universe of sleep, dreaming of laurels to come.

Or, more likely, having sifted your own prose for meaning, you dismiss it as chaff and toss it to the termites.

If you fit either of these profiles, or any in between; if, in short, you like to write and are yet modest enough to think advice on your screed not unprofitable, and advice on marketing a positive boon you might join the Phuket Writer's Bloc.

The new club, brainchild of Bruce Stanley, whose penchant for wicked satire has been too often sublimated in reams of newsprint or chunks of virtual memory dedicated to detailing Phuket's seething Fashionistas, met for the first time recently at John Underwood's Art Factory, off the bypass road in tambon Rassada.

Roughly 20 persons of note and this writer showed up to schmooze, drink an excellent Chilean cab and listen to former Hollywood producer and director Edward Vaughn give pointers on the arcana of screen-writing – a subject more arcane than ever you imagined.

Underwood at his factory – more Colosseum than studio, more industrial than not – played host, throwing open the factory's new terrace restaurant, called The Works, to our party, who were all seated comfortably at a large, oblong table of four-inch teak.

Underwood's Works, I should add, his factory, and indeed its richly remunerative productions must be an inspiration to those who think nowhere is left on this, our universal Lego, for any but conforming sheep.

“I know it's the fashion among many to criticize, and find only fault,” said Vaughn.

“But if you want to write for the film industry, you have to love it,” which is not, in his opinion, synonymous with extolling mediocrity.

“Talent will always be found,” he said.

Vaughn's credentials, over a career spanning 32 years, include popular American TV series such as *Dagnet*, *Hunter*, *Vegas*, *The Waltons* and *Knots Landing*; he also worked on such films as *The Amityville Horror* and *Spitfire Grill*.

Many, I suppose, have heard the story of welfare-mother J.K. Rowling, whose *Harry Potter* series “came fully formed” into her mind while on a four-hour-delayed train trip from Manchester to London in 1990.

Over the next five years, and in the course of many travails – losing her mother to multiple sclerosis, her husband, her job and very nearly losing her mind, forced to subsist on state handouts while raising her daughter – Rowling wrote *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

When it was finished, her publisher advised her to find another job because “writing children's books doesn't pay”. Today, after a mere seven titles in the series, she is rich beyond the dreams of avarice – the first person to become a billionaire writing.

She has sold more books, faster, than anyone in history.

Except for an address at Harvard on “the importance of imagination”, she has published nothing unrelated to *Harry Potter* and precious little outside the series itself.

Her publisher was wrong, she's made a fortune on children's books, and children's books alone!

Rowling is a prodigy, an extraordinary writer with extraordinary luck.

For the rest of us, however, Vaughn counsels that seemingly



Hollywood film producer, Ed Vaughan (3rd left) with John Underwood (left) and Jim Newport (4th left) and friends at the Phuket Writers Bloc workshop at the Underwood Art Factory.

petty yet important hurdles must be over leapt or one's efforts will pass unnoticed.

Hollywood agents and directors are seemingly more fussy than school-marms, obsessed not only that every ‘t’ be crossed and every ‘i’ dotted, but that screenplays be written using the right ink, the right weight of paper and in a standardized ‘final draft’ form.

To ensure that Phuket's aspiring Hollywood screen-writers do not find themselves ripped-off before the joy of receiving a first rejection slip leaves its wrinkle upon their brows, Vaughn advised his audience to register scripts with the Writer's Guild of America (WGA) through the organization's website at www.wga.org.

“Some say you have to be ripped-off four or five times

before you can sell a script, but I don't think that's true,” Vaughn averred.

Some, who exorcise their demons within the compass of a flickering quadrilateral, write as if impelled by nature, as if, from time to time, a little volcano inside erupts, pouring its lava through their veins, causing ‘em to stab at the keys till another opus is finished or the eruption subsides.

They are ‘artists’ or ‘authors’ or anything you like so long as the ‘a’ is capitalized.

Others look at writing as an application merely of certain rules – economy of language, use of short sentences, simple tenses, common Anglo-Saxon derived words – to whatever topic flutters their editors' ganglia.

Such writers are rare, for the great mass has no more idea of what constitutes literary craftsmanship than your parrot.

The successful candidate will probably combine something of the former's seat-of-the-pants quality with the latter's practical cynicism.

Vaughn handed out a list of websites to his audience, each with tools useful to any Hollywood screenwriter, aspiring or veteran.

So, for example, imsdb.com has a database of scripts; its sister site imdb.com has full information on movies and movie people; inktip.com can help in marketing.

“Your average script is 125 pages long,” Vaughn lectured.

“The key to getting one accepted is dramatic structure.

Basically, we are talking here about a three-act play: the first act introduces the characters; the second introduces a conflict; the third provides resolution and an emotionally satisfying ending.

“Anyone who doesn't understand dramatic structure, may as well go home.”

But no one did; instead we watched a short European film. Finally the meeting broke up and we said our long goodbyes. Most in attendance found Vaughn's presentation enlightening.

“This is very practical,” said Karl Matsumoto, a writer of children's books. “Everything we covered tonight is something I've wanted to do for years. I'm actually going to do my homework.”

The next meeting is September 5 at Underwood Art Factory. For information, contact Ed Vaughn. T. 087-892 3266.

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The fantastic Ferrari 458 Italia



By Jeff Heselwood
jhc@netvigator.com

The arrival of a new Ferrari is a special occasion, but one that replaces the stunning 430 supercar must be something extremely special. The 458 Italia is the latest incarnation of the mid-rear engined *Berlinetta* and will be unveiled at the next Frankfurt Motor Show in September.

While it's true that every Ferrari is innovative by definition, it is equally true that throughout the famous car maker's history at Maranello, certain cars have marked a genuine departure from the current range at the time.

This is very much the case with the Ferrari 458 Italia, which is a massive leap forward from the company's previous mid-rear engined sports cars.

The latest Ferrari is a completely new car from every point of view: engine, design, aerodynamics, handling, instrumentation and ergonomics.

The two-seater Italia benefits hugely from Michael Schumacher's input – now standard for all of Ferrari's road cars – based on his Formula One experience. Indeed, the Ferrari and F1 legend has been involved with the 458 Italia project right from the start.

The Italia boasts an innovative driving environment, featuring a new kind of steering wheel and dashboard that are both the direct result of racing practise.

The Pininfarina design provides further evidence of the complete departure from the past this new car demonstrates. The Italia has a compact, aerodynamic shape, underscoring

the concepts of simplicity, efficiency and lightness that inspired the project.

The front features a single opening for the front grille and side air intakes, with aerodynamic sections and profiles designed to direct air to the radiators and the new flat 'underbody'.

The nose also sports small aero-elastic winglets which generate downforce, deforming to reduce the section of the radiator inlets and cut drag as the speed of the car increases.

The new 5-litre V8 is the first Ferrari direct injection engine to be mid-rear mounted. It has a very low piston compression height, typical of racing engines, which contributes to its compression ratio of 12.5:1.

Equipped with the traditional flat-plane crankshaft, the engine delivers 570bhp at 9,000rpm, which sets a new benchmark, not only for the whole Ferrari range and the history of company, but also for the entire market segment.

Maximum torque is 540Nm at 6,000rpm, over 80 percent of which is available from 3,250rpm. This is all accompanied by a powerful growl that emerges from the three rear tailpipes.

The 458 Italia is equipped with a seven-speed, dual-clutch transmission, which increases performance while providing smooth shifts, even at full throttle.

The engineers have developed specific, 'sportier' gear ratios to match the power and torque curves of the new V8, guaranteeing high torque even at lower engine speeds and allowing the car to reach its maximum speed in top gear.

The Italia performs exceptionally, going from 0-100 km/h in just 3.4 seconds, with a top speed in excess of 325 km/h.

This new Ferrari is also a major leap forward when it comes to cutting emissions. Despite the fact that the new engine is significantly more powerful than the previous V8s, the 458 Italia produces just 320g/km of CO₂.



The latest Ferrari is a completely new car from every point of view: engine, design, aerodynamics, handling, instrumentation and ergonomics.

An engine control unit governs the high-performance ABS, providing even more precise control over the logic threshold and greater efficiency.

The brakes also feature a pre-fill function, whereby the pistons in the callipers move the

pads into contact with the discs on lift off to minimize delay in the brakes being applied.

That, combined with the ABS, has cut the 100-0 km/h braking distance to a mere 32.5 meters.

The Ferrari 458 Italia will no

doubt have a queue of customers putting down deposits even before the Frankfurt unveiling, despite the fact that prices have yet to be announced.

Whatever it costs, though, it is a very welcome addition to the ranks of serious supercars.

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The Andaman's lost tsunamis

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

The 2004 tsunami came as a terrible shock for local islanders and tourists alike. In the aftermath, Phuket hit the headlines across the globe and news agencies reported on the disaster for weeks as the event became one of the grimmest natural disasters in recent memory.

The high death toll throughout the region was partly blamed on a lack of knowledge and awareness about the initial warning signs of an impending tidal wave.

Unlike natural disasters such as cyclones – regular visitors to the region – Siamese historical records tell us nothing of any previous tsunamis, nor is the idea of the tidal wave embedded in any regional legend or folklore. Tell tale warning signs of the water retreating into the ocean alerted very few people on that fateful day.

The oceanic region around Phuket neighbors a much larger area known as the 'Pacific Ring of Fire'. The Ring of Fire is a

horseshoe-shaped band stretching along the coastal areas of the Pacific Ocean. Some countries that lie on this band include the west coast of the United States, Japan and New Zealand.

Closer to home, the islands of Sumatra and Borneo are also located on the Ring of Fire. As much as 90 percent of the world's earthquakes and volcanic activity happens in that part of the world.

Whether we realized it or not, Phuket and other coastal areas along the Andaman had always been at risk of a disaster resulting from seismic activity.

Recent studies conducted by scientists from Chulalongkorn University have now revealed that the 2004 tsunami wasn't the first since humans first settled in the region.

According to Science Daily, the team working on Ko Phra Thong, an island 75 miles north of Phuket, discovered geological traces of previous tsunamis that have occurred on the Andaman coast.

The study showed that in the past 2,800 years, at least three tsunamis may have struck the area. Apart from the one in 2004, the most recent wave was thought to have hit this region around 550 to 700 years ago.

The team was able to create a rough timeline

documenting previous tsunamis thanks to an interesting geological method used on Ko Phra Thong. Working at different sites on the island, sub-teams dug holes and pits to study the sand deposits in the ground.

They found that the first layer was mostly white oceanic sand, which witnesses confirmed was deposited by the tsunami in 2004. Digging deeper, geologists reached another layer of wet, black soil. Digging past this second layer uncovered yet another layer of white oceanic sand. It was concluded that this layer was brought inshore by a previous tsunami prior to December 2004.

Carbon dating of tree bark found in the soil revealed this tsunami probably hit the region between 1300 and 1450 AD.

The findings show that although tsunamis have happened in the Andaman before prior to 2004, they are not frequent phenomena in this region, occurring perhaps once every millennium!

Perhaps this helps to explain why we don't witness any cultural awareness of tsunamis in the region. Compared to Japan and Hawaii where tsunami awareness is high because of their frequency, coastal societies in our Andaman region seemed completely oblivious to the idea of a tsunami,



The Great Wave off Kanagawa is a world-famous Japanese artwork painted around 1832. In Pacific islands such as Hawaii and Japan, where tsunamis occur much more frequently, the idea of the giant wave has been embedded in local culture and folklore.

at least on a cultural level.

There are no local legends about tsunamis and no known historical accounts have been found. If the estimations calculated by geologists on Ko Phra Thong are correct, it would mean the tsunami prior to 2004 would have struck a civilization that predated even the first Siamese Kingdom.

In a continually changing region where civilizations have risen and declined, and where cultures, languages, religions and people have been subject to continuous change, it's not surprising that records about such rare phenomenon haven't survived.

However, when a giant wave strikes, it wreaks unimaginable havoc. This is perhaps the reason why tsunamis have captured the imaginations of certain ancient aboriginal cultures and coastal tribesmen further afield.

The aboriginal sea tribes who inhabit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands nearly 500 miles west of Phuket have sustained a local myth about a 'giant wave that eats people' for centuries, passing it down verbally from generation to generation.

Yet within these folktales, there lies local wisdom about

heeding the warnings of an impending disaster. According to the myth, seven waves were brought by the angry spirits of their tribe's ancestors and their wrath could only be avoided by immediately fleeing to high ground if they noticed the ocean starting to retreat.

These ancient communities still exist today in relative isolation on the Andaman Islands. Days after the 2004 tsunami, Indian authorities were hovering over one of the Andaman Islands in a helicopter, assessing the damage, when they discovered about 500 aboriginal inhabitants of sea villages who had taken refuge in the hills. Apparently they had moved to higher ground minutes before the wave struck and survived.

The tribespeople had lived on the islands for centuries, almost untouched by time and development. When a tribesman was asked about the incident and how they knew of the impending disaster, he replied that their forefathers had warned, "When the earth shakes, the sea will rise up to the land". Because of this, they knew they had to run to higher ground if they wanted to survive.

Such aboriginal communities may have been widespread throughout the Andaman archipelago centuries ago, but most have long since disappeared. The tribes had no system of writing, therefore no written history can be passed down.

Their knowledge about tsunamis relied on myths communicated verbally as the medium to pass down such information, but when the tribal communities disappeared, so did their stories.

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

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EXPAT GALLERY

Franky Gun

Franky Gun is well known in Phuket for his many contributions to the tourism industry. He's lived in Thailand since 1991 and has worked in the dive industry and the graphic design business. He also contributed cartoons as well as a regular column to the *Phuket Gazette* for seven years.

And now he runs his own property management business in Khao Lak, about an hour's drive north of Phuket.

He grew up in Bochum, near Cologne in the western region of Germany, and after completing his secondary education took an apprenticeship to learn the skills of a goldsmith. Except for four years spent in the German army as a tank commander, Franky worked repairing gold jewelry until he came to Thailand.

By 1991, the 26-year-old Franky had a wife, two young children and a promising career. Then a sudden and traumatic divorce struck him, causing a friend at work to insist that he take a holiday to Thailand to get some peace of mind.

"I had never been to Asia. After a short stay in Thailand, I knew that I needed to make a new life as my life in Germany had changed, and as happens to so many visiting foreigners, Thailand seemed very open and free [to me], so I decided to move here."

With a contact from a friend, Franky moved to nearby Trang province and got a job as a jungle guide, taking visitors to explore the province's many caves. He also got his PADI certification and became an underwater dive instructor.

"One day I was taking some guests to Koh Ngai and our boat capsized. I was trapped underwater, but after a lot of struggle I was able to reach the surface. Fortunately, we were all saved after swimming for some hours to a nearby island."

It would not be the last time that Franky would be trapped underwater.

He then moved to Koh Lanta where he opened that island's first dive center. But the remote isolation proved unsuitable for him so he moved to Phuket where he worked for Santana Divers and then Dive Asia.

In his free time, Franky experimented with painting. He opened his own art gallery at Kata Center, a business which subsequently grew into the popular Voodoo Pub.

In 1994, with his partner Stephan Fischer, Franky launched Calypso Divers, named after Jacques Cousteau's boat.

At about this time, he created *Arthur's Wildest Years*, a very popular series of cartoons

in the *Phuket Gazette* in which he portrayed the dire mishaps and follies of a rather basic 'older' *farrang* trying to succeed as an aspiring expat resident of the Phuket of 15 years ago.

He continued to develop his artistic talents by learning computer programs which allowed him to create graphics and marketing materials, primarily for Phuket's dive industry.

By 2000, Franky was looking for new horizons. A friend introduced him to the beauty of the beaches at Khao Lak.

"I love the idea of pioneering new places where things are still evolving and where there are new possibilities," he says.

He bought a piece of land on the beach and built a house. But in 2004 the tsunami swept him out of that home and pushed the entire structure underwater and into a nearby bungalow. He survived in the fight for his life, but his parents, who were visiting from Germany at the time, both perished.

"Even though I lost everything, I was lucky that my pregnant wife was not at home. The birth of our new son, Martin, helped me to get a new grip on life."

Today, Franky is happy running his property development company, Land House Pool, which handles all aspects of construction, from design to sales.

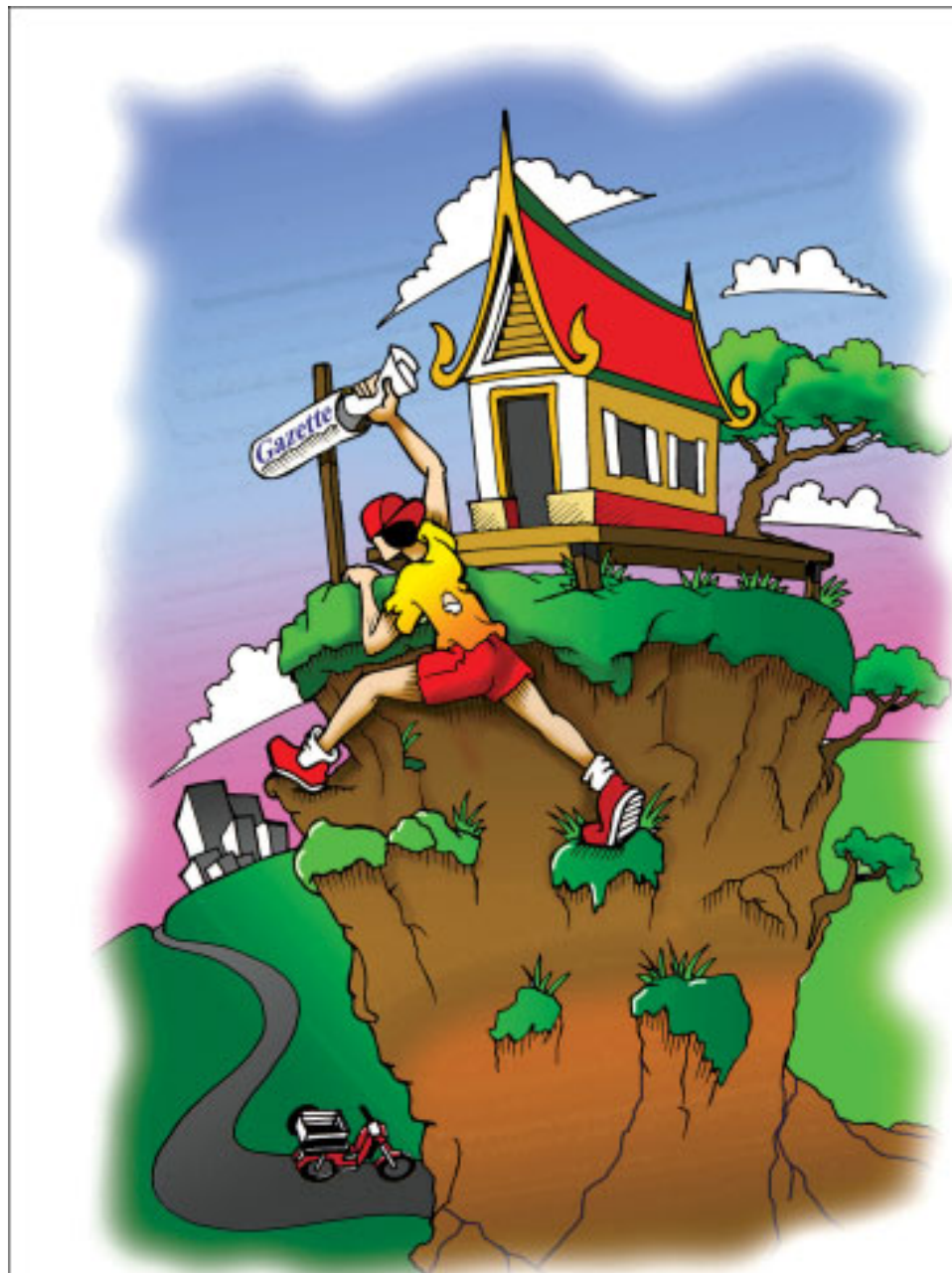
Despite enduring the tragedy at Khao Lak, he now considers it his permanent home.

- Bruce Stanley



ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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I'M BACK: Former Phuket Governor Dr Preecha Ruangjan, now governor of Pitsanulok, returned to the island to represent his province's products during the opening ceremony of the 'All Thailand OTOP/OPOP Festival' held at Central Festival Phuket last weekend.



SUPERMOM: Respected Phuketian Khun Yaowaluck Hongyok (2nd left) has been named 'Mom of the Year 2009' by The National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand. Pictured with her husband Narong Hongyok (left) at Phuket Country Club in Kathu, Mrs Yaowaluck received her award from Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (right) and his wife Thaisika.



SMILES ALL ROUND: Parents accompany their children on the first day of a new term at Phuket International Academy Day School on Wednesday. The new school is aspiring to become a three-program international baccalaureate world school. It currently offers a nursery program and is implementing its primary years program for grades one through five and middle years program for grades six through eight.



A PLANETONIC RELATIONSHIP: Penny Murray (2nd left) of Aziende Agricole Planeta brought a selection of wines to the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa last week to introduce the Italian winery's organic produce to Phuket. Evason's general manager Frank Grassmann (left); sommelier Monika Bielka-Vescobi; executive chef Thomas Jacob (center) and Gian Carlo De Cesare (right) of Italasia Group-Thailand, served up a blindfold tasting concept for the dinner guests, which included salmon treats and massages.



HOWZAT: Maurice Devaney (left) and John Young (right) of O'Tool's Irish pub in Kata present a check for 40,000 baht to Seemant Raju, treasurer of the Phuket Cricket Union. The money will go towards the cricket union's youth development program.



SINGING LINGUIST: Alongkorn Sirimahawero, a fourth year student at Prince of Songkla University, Phuket, was awarded first prize in the 'Chinese Song for College Students' singing contest, held at the PSU Phuket campus last weekend.



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Central Festival Phuket 5th Anniversary Celebration

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Special activities

Grand Hall, 1st Floor



tattoo colour



6 Sep (4 pm)

Don't miss! Free concert by Tattoo Colour

5 Sep (4pm) Join Central Festival Phuket 5th Anniversary Celebration party and the fashion show with many Superstars and Models

7-16 Sep Hot Price Hot Item, An auction for many qualities selected products

Auction : Mon - Fri 17.00-18.00 Sat - Sun 14.30-15.30 and 17.00-18.00

Hot price hours : 14.00 and 19.00

Promotion area, 1st Floor Central Phuket

12 Sep (3.30 pm) Meet Archarn Tossaporn Sritula, Fashion Show Beauty Trend from many stars and models, and Live Demonstration by EVITA PERONI

13 Sep (2.30pm) Live Demonstration by EVITA PERONI, Healthy food recipe from Ploy Chidjan and Mini Concert by Rut "The Star"

"CFP Convention Hall " and Lanlom, 1st Floor

5-14 Sep First time in Phuket, Niche Cars - Luxury Supercar Show



4 Sep - 18 Oct 2009



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Tops





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Frank Grassmann, General Manager, Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa

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The Show combines a *Trade Exhibition* featuring suppliers from all areas of hospitality and various industry-specific seminars at *The Hospitality Series* including Customer Service, Environment, Organics, Sales & Marketing, Spa, Technology and Tourism.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

A Slice of Heaven - Featuring DJ Pan (Narcissus Bkk) – September 5-6



DJ Pan is one of Thailand's most respected men behind the decks. He has been the Music Manager of Narcissus Bangkok, the home of house and trance in the City of Angels for almost 17 years. In 2002, he won the Heineken DJ Spin Competition with his distinctive style of vocal house tracks and uplifting trance, layering the beats one by one to great heights of heavenly sounds.

Experience DJ Pan at Club Lime this Saturday (September 5) for his Phuket debut! From 9pm until 2am at Clublime. For further information contact Tom Somsanuk. T: 081-908 9724 E: tom.somsanuk@gmail.com. W: clublime.info.

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

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 the Phuket Boardriders Club. T: 081-956 5854.

E: joob@phuketboardriders.com. W: thaisurfseries.com.

September 11-13. 8th Annual Doubles Smash at Dusit Laguna

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 to 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: dusit.com.

September 12. ABBASTASTIC!

Les Angeles, the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation and 91.5 FM present Abbatastic! on Saturday, September 12. Includes a fantastic smorgasbord buffet, free flowing wine and beer from 7pm to 10pm and amazing entertainment all for 2,500 baht. Great auction and raffle prizes, including: two seats for *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and *Mama Mia* in London's West End and three nights at Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, England; a weekend in a Sheraton Grande Laguna Private Pool Villa with private BBQ; a night in a Banyan Tree Double Pool

Villa for two, with breakfast and 'Dinner of the Senses'; signed Coldplay and Elton John CDs. From 7pm to 12am at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Tina Hall, Director. T: 076-278146. E: tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org. W: phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

September 19-20. Aussie Chef Ben O'Donoghue @ Dusit Thani Laguna

On September 19, we will host a modern wine dinner titled 'Penfolds vs Ben' hosted by the world-famous chef Ben O'Donoghue at the Dusit Thani's award-winning Italian restaurant La Trattoria. The fine dining experience from 7pm to 10.30pm costs 2,500++ baht.

On September 20, don't miss 'Surfing with Chef Ben', a trendy BBQ brunch by the beach with free-flowing Australian Lindemans red and white wines at the breezy Casuarina Beach Restaurant. 1,400++ baht. From 11.30am until 3pm. For reservations contact Ms Pathama Jangjai. T: 076-362999. Ext 7303.

E: dtlpgfb@dusit.com W: dusit.com.

September 19-20. International Cleanup Day

Scuba Cat Diving and KonTiki are organizing events for this year's International Cleanup Day on September 19. Lots of activities will take place in different locations, including an underwater cleanup at Koh Racha Yai, staying overnight onboard MV Scuba Cat; a Patong Beach cleanup and a Nai Harn Beach cleanup. Please come join us in the effort to preserve the beauty of Thailand. Invite all your friends and family. These events are for divers and non-divers alike. From 7.30am to 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: scubacat.com.

September 24-26. Phuket International Hospitality Show

This is the first international hospitality exhibition for Phuket and the nearby provinces of Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani. The show

will feature the best food and drink, hotel, bakery, restaurant and food service equipment, supplies and services for the hospitality industry. The three-day show combines a trade exhibition featuring suppliers from all areas of hospitality, a demonstration forum – the Phuket Culinary Fair – and various industry-specific seminars. From 11am to 8pm daily at Royal Phuket Marina International Exhibition and Conference Center. For more information contact Jennifer Drew. T: 080-146 2673.

E: jennifer.drew@informayachtgroup.com.

W: phukethospitalityshow.com.

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*. The Computer Clinics are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. For more information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468.

E: woody@KhunWoody.com.

W: KhunWoody.com.

Driving instructions at www.Woody.info.

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.

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The long road to recovery



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Shoppers walk past a Royal Bank of Scotland branch in central London. In April this year, RBS announced they expected 9,000 employees will be axed over the next two years. AFP PHOTO/Shawn Curry

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) became somewhat infamous during the 'credit crunch' for becoming a disaster when it was once a stellar performer.

It also achieved the dubious distinction of recording the worst annual loss by any company in British history.

However, not all the staff at RBS are noted for 'bad timing'.

One such noted exception is RBS chief credit strategist Bob Janjuah who is highly regarded in financial circles.

He correctly predicted the outcome of the dangerous excesses of the credit bubble and was in a decided minority when he predicted the possibility of a global crash in mid-2008.

His predictions included a warning, forecasting 'a very nasty period will soon be upon us.'

History shows he hit the proverbial nail on the head when Lehman Brothers collapsed and was shortly followed by a wave of others that threatened the global financial system.

Well, Mr Janjuah is at it again, predicting we are going to see a nasty second round of selling.

This, he states, will take the Standard & Poors 500 index in the US to the mid 500s – even lower than when it bottomed out in early March this year.

Should this be correct,

analysts have commented that the 'Footsie' in the UK will fall to around 2,500.

Mr Janjuah poses the question, "Who bails out the governments after they have bailed out everyone else?"

In particular, he is referring to the governments of the US and the UK.

He believes these governments may be able to postpone a wipe out this year with the aid of more major stimuli, but then sees the 'day of reckoning' only being postponed until middle of 2010.

His recommendation: buy 10-year German government bonds.

Certainly, there are others who see doom and gloom for markets ahead including technical analysts who note the sharp rise in markets since early March 2009.

Apparently, the markets have risen at the fastest pace since the great depression of the 1930s, but this doesn't mean this rise is anything but a major 'bear market' rally that will end in tears.

The rise in market prices in the period since March has been welcomed as a huge 'relief rally', given the fact that the end of the world, financially speaking, has not occurred.

By mid-August, there were growing concerns that perhaps

the US was not showing sufficient signs of economic recovery to justify any continuation of the rally.

Huge stimulus packages around the world have enabled the economic situation to appear more positive than it really is and as governments cannot continue to pump money into the system indefinitely, what happens thereafter?

We are really in uncharted territory as never before have governments around the world simultaneously poured such huge sums of money into their respective economies.

In addition, inventories were at very low levels by March and a significant portion of demand has been generated simply by restocking at something approaching normal levels.

Some observers will comment that history does have one example of multi-government stimuli on a massive scale – World War Two.

A number of economists and analysts described it as the 'largest public works program in history.'

However, this is peace time and a different situation exists.

Mr Janjuah's theory could prove to be true but if it does, the investment of choice might not be 10-year German government bonds, but futures funds.

When a trend is clearly on the slide, a lot of money

can be made in futures markets.

In 2008 when markets were crashing, many futures funds made large profits.

Hedge funds can also profit in that type of environment, but it requires rigorous analysis to pick the right type of hedge fund.

In spite of the doom-mongers, many market participants have a more positive outlook.

One is Teun Draaisma, an equity specialist at Morgan Stanley, who believes we have seen the worst.

"We were on course for a great depression in February, but Armageddon was avoided. Governments did not repeat the policy errors of the 1930s," he said.

Mr Draaisma correctly predicted the peak of equity prices in 2007 and his timing was impeccable.

Now he believes this is a genuine rebound rally that has much further to go and although he also predicts a nasty correction, it won't be in the near future.

He believes the danger point will be when conditions are improving and central banks start talking in a hawkish manner – typically about two months before actually raising interest rates.

Another equity bull is Rupert Watson, asset allocation strategist at Royal Skandia, who

commented, "To understand why it's such a good time to increase exposure to equities, it's important to understand why the last 10 years have been so poor."

There were two main reasons for this.

Firstly, equities were overpriced at the end of the 1990s. The price-to-earnings ratio (P/E ratio) on the major stock indices reached an all time high in the late '90s, over twice the historical average.

Thus, the price investors were paying to buy into the equity market was the highest it had ever been.

Secondly, the financial crisis and subsequent global recession led to sharp falls in equity markets in 2008 as earnings, confidence and risk appetite nosedived.

"From a multi-year perspective, now is a good time to be buying equities as they are cheap. US and UK equities are at their lowest P/E ratio in almost 20 years and lower than their long-term average," Watson added.

Certainly, equities are cheap in relation to bonds – cash is yielding minimal returns and there are huge amounts of cash sitting on the sidelines.

It is a fact that most institutional and retail investors missed the rally that started in March.

The technique of cost averaging – investing on a regular basis – is still going to be the safest approach to markets.

Equities are relatively cheap, but there is still the risk they will become cheaper still.

Investors are faced with the old dilemma of 'greed versus fear of loss'.

There is still bad news lurking in the background but if markets start to produce some optimism, bad news will be ignored, although the reverse is true if pessimism rules.

Unfortunately, saying 'the glass is half full' or 'the glass is half empty' does not mean a change in amount, only a change in perception.



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PUZZLES

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By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAY I HELP YOU?

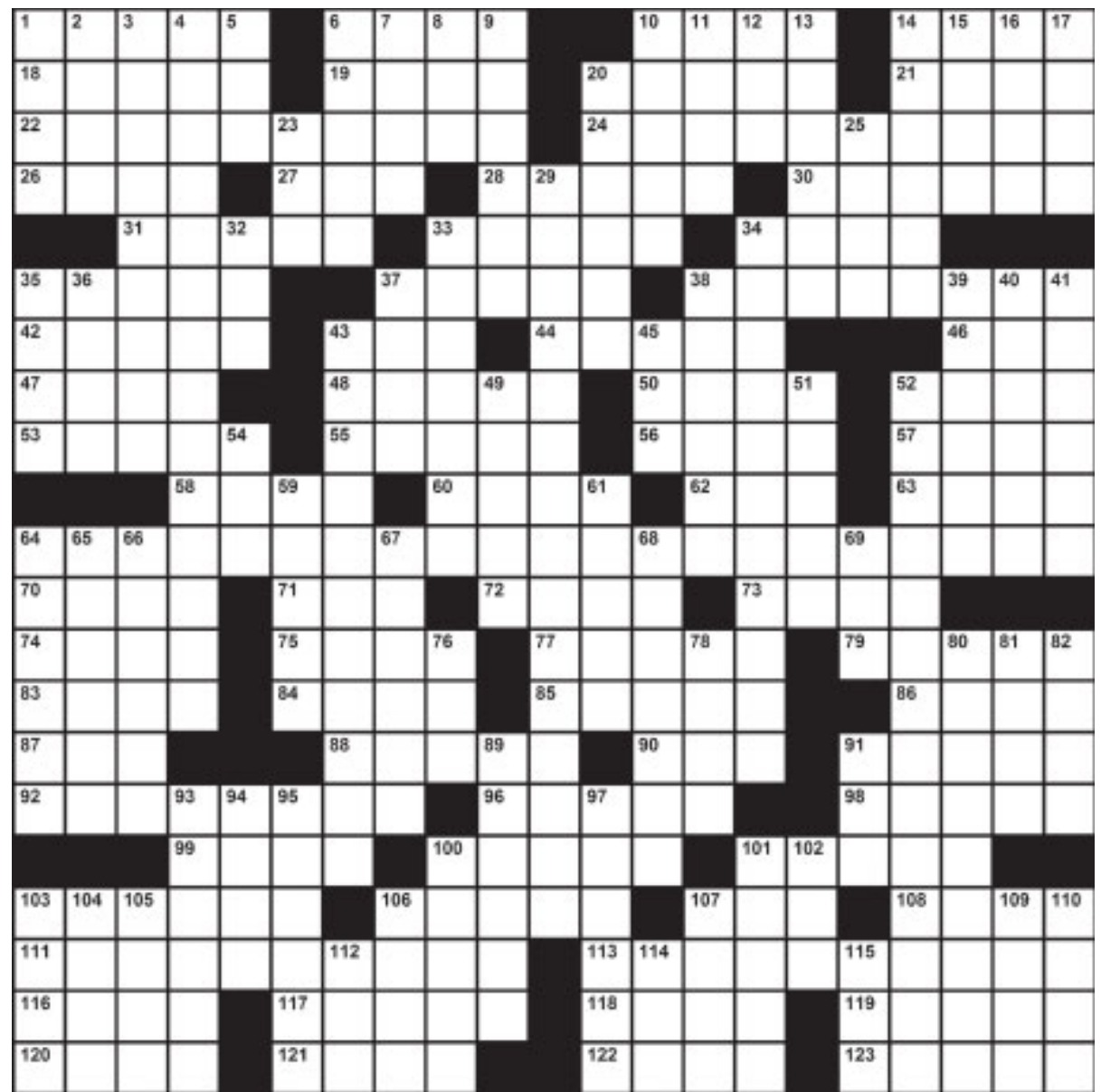
Solution: 10 letters

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

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8/19

Access, Airline, Attendant, Bank, Booth, Call, Career, Caregiver, Chat, Child, Church, Clerk, Corporation, Cost, Desk, Doctor, Expert, Free, Guide, Help, Hold, Hotel, Identification, Information, Inquiry, Knowledge, Live, Lost, Maps, Nurse, Online, Operator, Opinion, Phone, Please, Polite, Receptionist, Reference, Skills, Store, Talk, Teacher, Thank



ACROSS

- 1 Go on the campaign trail
- 6 Flashlight's projection
- 10 "___ a Lady" (Tom Jones hit)
- 14 Do that takes a while to do
- 18 Vietnam capital
- 19 "Not to mention ..."
- 20 Present, as a grievance
- 21 Slangy suffix with "switch"
- 22 Not yet decided
- 24 Riskily situated
- 26 Latvian native
- 27 Ashes repository
- 28 Pledged
- 30 Possible response to "How are you?"
- 31 Burnoose wearers
- 33 City near Manchester
- 34 Torero's accolades
- 35 Is concerned
- 37 "Anybody in there?"
- 38 Dark times?
- 42 Andrea Bocelli deliveries
- 43 "The Crow" actress Ling
- 44 Peter of "Casablanca"
- 46 It makes Dan more formal
- 47 True and actual
- 48 "Dallas" matriarch Miss ___
- 50 Suffixes with "cloth" and "cash"
- 52 Cafe reading material
- 53 Punto ___ (baccarat)
- 55 Sorrowful drops
- 56 Straight-arrow link
- 57 "___ you not!"
- 58 "There ought to be ___!"
- 60 Actress Talbot or Naldi
- 62 Abbr. in an unfilled time slot

- 63 Rugged rock formation
- 64 What a preschooler may try to force?
- 70 ___ Major
- 71 "___ blu dipinto di blu" (1958 hit)
- 72 Common rhyme scheme
- 73 Singer McEntire
- 74 Turned to the right
- 75 1961 space chimp
- 77 Printer type
- 79 Abzug of politics
- 83 Lovely Beatles gal
- 84 Shy of being shut
- 85 Concave belly button
- 86 Fertile soil
- 87 1969 Nabokov work
- 88 American Indians
- 90 Blow up, like photos (Abbr.)
- 91 Can't take ___ (humorless)
- 92 Hotel waiters?
- 96 Big birds that can't fly
- 98 Brew lovers' buys
- 99 Indian honorifics
- 100 Rest period
- 101 Unit of advice
- 103 It rolls on a rollaway
- 106 Washing machine units
- 107 Hunk's physique
- 108 Sack opening?
- 111 Not drinking
- 113 "Never!"
- 116 ___ Day vitamins
- 117 "This is only ___" (radio announcement)
- 118 Word on Irish coins
- 119 Dodgers skipper Joe
- 120 Paving block
- 121 Charles of the U.N. or baseballer Eddie
- 122 Units of 100 ergs per gram
- 123 Early stages

DOWN

- 1 Shabbat service site

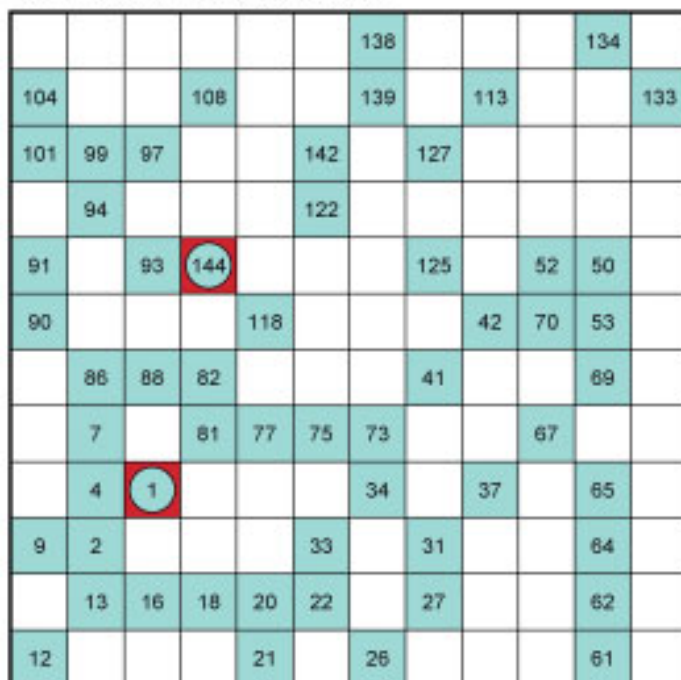
- 2 Bureaucratic red stuff
- 3 Believer in the oneness of God
- 4 Seaport in Quebec
- 5 "The ___ and the Pendulum"
- 6 Max Jr. and Sr.
- 7 Stylish elegance
- 8 "___ live and breathe!"
- 9 Food tidbit
- 10 Whiskey concoctions
- 11 Sex researcher Shere
- 12 Green prefix
- 13 Added by age
- 14 Speaker of the House Nancy
- 15 "CHiPs" star Estrada
- 16 "Arrivederci ___"
- 17 Whale of a name
- 20 Witchcraft
- 23 Center of activity
- 25 Word shouted at church
- 29 Unshakable
- 32 Backpack beast
- 33 "Sweet" Oscar-winning song
- 34 At someone's mercy
- 35 Lo-___ (like many modern diets)
- 36 Apartment listing datum
- 37 Clearly in good health
- 38 1974 Top 10 hit with a Spanish title
- 39 Knuckleballer Phil
- 40 Cheerful and pleasant
- 41 Crankcase sediment
- 43 Currently unemployed
- 45 Fjord cousin
- 49 One of Chekhov's three sisters
- 51 Type of drum
- 52 The King of Pop
- 54 Done to death
- 59 Snorer's affliction

- 61 "... good ___ be expected"
- 64 Nickelodeon's Tommy or Dil Pickles
- 65 Big name in French fries
- 66 Amount paid on some out-of-state purchases
- 67 Is a bad winner
- 68 NFL goal line play, sometimes
- 69 Move away from shore
- 76 "No seats available" letters
- 78 No. 1 in Bonn?
- 80 Wrenches, at times
- 81 View from a cabin, perhaps
- 82 "Rag Mop" brothers
- 89 Straying from the right course
- 91 Well-placed serve
- 93 "___ your final answer?"
- 94 Manitoba tribesman
- 95 Windpipe
- 97 Less complicated
- 100 Inept climber's need
- 101 John, Paul and John Paul
- 102 Amin of Uganda
- 103 Dovish murmurs
- 104 "The Diary of ___ Frank"
- 105 "Don't change," to a printer
- 106 Some T-shirt sizes (Abbr.)
- 107 Epithet for Shakespeare (with "the")
- 109 Point of ___ (British lighthouse site)
- 110 Amanda of "The Whole Nine Yards"
- 112 From ___ Z (the gamut)
- 114 "Big Momma's House" actress Long
- 115 Bygone Pontiac muscle car

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Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 144 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



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Difficulty ★★★★★

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August 17, 2009

WHATZIT?TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. Made in 196 BC, which ancient artifact was discovered in Egypt in 1799?
2. Which famous annual sporting event between two teams first took place in 1829?
3. Who was the jeweller to the Russian Court famous for creating priceless Easter eggs?
4. What type of food is Taramasalata?
5. What links Samuel Delaney, Fredrick Pohl, Harlan Ellison?
6. Randolph Crane became famous as which cowboy actor?
7. The loss of which sense is known as Ageusia?
8. Which Irish political party's name translates as 'We ourselves'?
9. Henry Ford used an assembly line for the first time in 1908, but who used the first in 1901?
10. Who performed the first heart transplant in South Africa?
11. What is the common name for the star Sirius?
12. What calculating aid was invented by William Oughtred in 1662?
13. Which Athenian philosopher was immortalised by Plato?
14. Who designed the Camel WW1 plane and co-designed Hurricane?
15. Famous native American Indians Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull were born in which US state?
16. In 1666, Jesuit Bark was used by many to prevent them from catching which disease?
17. In 1971, which USA space probe was first to orbit another planet?
18. What links Catalonia, Andalusia, Cantabria and Galicia?
19. Jan Ingemar Stenmark from Sweden won record 85 World Cup races in which sport?
20. Who wrote the music for ballets *Firebird* and *Rites of Spring*?

Answers below

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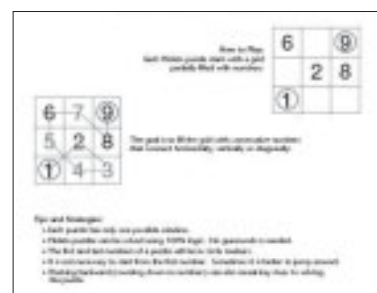
Puzzle Solutions

Wonderword Solution: Assistance
Solution to this week's crossword:

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

Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Rosetta Stone;
2. The University Boat Race;
3. Faberge;
4. Cured/moked cod roe;
5. Science Fiction;
6. Randolph Scott;
7. Taste;
8. Sein Fein;
9. Ransome Olds;
10. Christian Barnard;
11. The Dog Star;
12. Slide Rule;
13. Socrates;
14. Thomas Sopwith;
15. South Dakota;
16. Malaria;
17. Mariner 9;
18. Regions of Spain;
19. Skiing;
20. Igor Stravinsky.

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

Hidato Puzzle Solution

4/19

103	105	106	107	109	140	138	137	136	135	134	132
104	102	98	108	141	110	139	112	113	130	131	133
101	99	97	96	121	142	111	127	114	129	46	47
100	94	95	120	143	122	126	115	128	45	51	48
91	92	93	144	119	123	116	125	44	52	50	49
90	89	85	84	118	117	124	43	42	70	53	54
6	86	88	82	83	76	74	41	71	68	69	55
5	7	87	81	77	75	73	72	40	67	66	56
8	4	1	80	79	78	34	35	37	39	65	57
9	2	3	17	19	33	32	31	36	38	64	58
10	13	16	18	20	22	24	27	30	63	62	59
12	11	14	15	21	23	26	25	28	29	61	60

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More adventures in English



The other day I encountered my friend Fardley Nerdwell in our favorite bistro, weeping into his beer.

"Something wrong, Fard?" I inquired solicitously, ordering a round.

"'Wrong' does not begin to describe the catastrophe that has engulfed me," Fardley moaned. "As you know, I've spent the past two years teaching English to my girlfriend Noy. She thinks I've done such a great job that she's brought her little cousin Oy down from Buriram so I can teach her."

"Uh-oh," I murmured. "Yes," Fardley groaned. "A whole new program of linguistic disasters now awaits me. Oy doesn't just speak 'Tinglish' –

aka. Thai English. She speaks a unique dialect of Tinglish which I call Oyglish. I bet you don't know who Thurma Uman is?"

"Er, no, I don't," I said. "Oh, wait, Thurma Uman? That's got to be Uma Thurman."

"Yes," Fardley said. "Thurma Uman is one of Oy's favorite actresses. And I bet you don't know who Kinnet Patto is."

I scratched my head. "That's a tough one," I admitted.

"Gwyneth Paltrow," Fardley said. "Another favorite actress. And how about Kameladee Esch?"

I shook my head. "No idea." "Cameron Diaz. Now, how about a famous singer from ancient times, Enwit Pettalee?"

"You've got me there," I said.

"Elvis Presley, a lock and loan icon."

"Lock and loan?"

"That's Oyglish for 'rock and roll,'" Fardley explained. "But you can probably guess what a motato is."

"That's easy," I said.

"A tomato."

"Right. And a holly keptor?"

"That sounds like a kind of cyborg," I ventured.

"No. A helicopter. And an umbran?"

I shook my head. "You've got me there. A membrane?"

"Ambulance," Fardley said.

"How about a high-bird car?"

"Hybrid," I guessed.

"Right," Fardley said. "And kam char?"

I was stuck, and shook my head. "No idea."

"I'll give you a hint," Fardley said. "It's a kind of soup."

"Maybe a Chinese soup?" I hazarded.

"Nope. Clam chowder. How about banana speak?"

"Er, that must be the language bananas use when they talk to each other," I said. "Or maybe it's the name of a rapper. Banana Speak would be a fine name for a rapper. Especially if he's a banana."

"Banana split," Fardley said.

"Sounds to me like you've got to work on Oy's pronunciation," I said. "How about some sprightly pronunciation drills, like 'Isabella Rossellini's thirty-three thimbles thrilled the children'? Or the ultimate one-word tongue-twister for Thai students: 'parallelogram'?"

"That would do it, all right," Fardley agreed. "Now, here's an anecdote that will amuse you. My buddy John is married to a girl from Oy's village, and he's coming down to Bangkok. When I told Oy, she asked, 'Why come?'"

"I said, 'Well, he's coming down to sign in at the Immigration Bureau on Soi Suan Phlu. He has to do that every 90 days.'"

"Oy said, 'No, no! Why come?'"

"I just told you, Oy," I said. "He's coming to sign in at Immigration."

"Oy was really getting upset now. 'No! Why! Why! Why come two?'"

"By now I was baffled. What the hell was she talking about? 'Why come two?' – it sounds like one of those Zen koans, and Oy was getting madder and madder. 'Why! Why!' she screamed, and finally burst out in Thai, 'Phanraya ja maa duay reu plao?' – Is his wife coming too?"

"Ah," I breathed, enlightened. "'Why' means wife! She was saying, 'Wife come too?'"

"Indeed," Fardley sighed,

taking another sip of beer. "Another triumph of miscommunication, thanks to the Thai habit of dropping the final consonant sounds."

"But pronunciation isn't the only problem. Oy used to say 'Open the light' and 'Close the TV.' So I embarked on a lesson designed to rectify this error. I taught her to say 'turn on' and 'turn off.' Turn on the light, turn off the TV; turn on the fan, turn off the air conditioner. I drilled her mercilessly till she had it down pat."

"That was a smart thing to do," I remarked. "So what's the problem?"

Fardley stared sadly into his beer. "Now she says 'Turn on the door' and 'Turn off the window.' And Noy won't let her go back to Buriram until she passes the TOEFL test."

"I guess you'll just have to take this as one of life's little challenges," I said.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's busy compiling the world's first Oyglish dictionary.

Horoscopes



Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your recent decision not to rush into change proves to be correct. Many Virgoans are forecast to be promoted at work by the middle of this month and this should involve a salary increase that will put a spring in your step. Those celebrating a birthday during the week ahead will enjoy closer family relationships in the coming year.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans are affected by good luck this week, so take advantage of these positive astral conditions by going for gold. Where business is concerned, someone's loss will be your gain early next week. Moving closer towards someone you've been admiring from afar can produce a happy romantic result this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those born under the sign of Scorpio should find a more successful way to stand up for themselves this week. A friendship with Capricorn could become more than platonic, but chasing Pisces will lead to rejection. Wear a piece of lapis lazuli to encourage luck to flow towards you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians are advised to watch their words this weekend. A casual comment could be taken to heart by an earth sign friend, causing an unnecessary rift in the relationship. Love could turn sour when a new partner asks for a loan that would stretch you to the limit. Your lucky number this week is five.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Answers to questions relating to personal problems should reassure Capricorns that their troubles are mostly in their head. This will leave you free to take care of business and your chances of sealing a deal are red hot early next week. The number seven is lucky on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): More physical activity will help Aquarians shed stress – try asking a Leo friend to suggest sports that would suit your needs. This week, your love life is affected by calm astral conditions and an issue that caused friction last week now appears to have been a storm in a teacup. Those who are single are forecast to meet an Arian who could steal their heart.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans could be skating on thin ice early next week when an awkward situation develops at work. Your loyalty to a colleague whose personal problems have prevented them pulling their weight is about to be compromised. Your subtle charms encourage a fledgling romance to take flight, but there are signs an ex-partner is becoming jealous.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): This is not the week to force your ideas on others. A closer inspection of personal finances causes you to take a second look at your spending habits. This is the ideal time to work on a more realistic budget, but be sure to include all family members in discussions.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans should already be sensing that September is a different kind of month to those already passed this year. You are unusually willing to divert from your regular day to day routine and almost anything appears possible. Romance with Virgo is tempting, but a new Gemini acquaintance is starting to look more interesting.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Personal relationships fall under the spotlight this week. Geminis

disappointed at being let down by a water sign friend recently, find out the real reason for this happening. Your understanding of the situation will be appreciated by the person concerned. Wear gold to encourage better luck with finances.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who are still wondering if they did the right thing in rejecting an investment opportunity late last month receive confirmation that their instincts were good. A Scorpio

friend appreciates your advice regarding finances this weekend, but avoid being too specific. Love with Leo is well-starred, but Pisces has other fish to fry.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your energy knows no limits this week, but some of those born under the sign of Leo may not have enough outlets. To avoid feeling like a cat on a hot tin roof, make a list of overdue tasks this weekend. Wear the color sky blue to encourage a quieter mood.

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Nature punishing man's folly

Developments in recent weeks underscore the need for better engineering design when planning construction projects on the island.

Phuket was able to withstand centuries of tin mining with enough of its natural beauty intact to subsequently develop into a world-class tourist destination.

Yet as destructive as tin mining was, its legacy has been no match for the environmental destruction that has resulted from the poorly regulated development of the island as a tourist destination.

Man may appear to have emerged the 'winner' following the island's last great clash with nature: the earthquake that caused the 2004 tsunami disaster.

Areas that celebrated a somber and dumbstruck New Year's Eve 2004 with no electricity after unthinkable losses in human life and property are now back to their 'former glory'.

Tailor shops, trinket stalls and massage parlors once again occupy every square meter of available space in popular tourist areas, with only the odd arson attack or shootout to put pause to commerce.

The tsunami that flattened Patong less than five years ago is now only marked by the presence of commemorative tsunami videos and magazines which compete for space on vendors' stalls with pirated DVDs.

The forces of nature have not given up the fight, however.

We recently saw monsoon-season currents obliterate – or at least bury – much of the Coral Reef Squadron artificial reef project in Bang Tao Bay.

Back on dry land, a large sinkhole suddenly appeared on the Patong side of hilly Phra Barami Road last week, nearly gobbling up Patong Mayor Pian Keesin as he passed in his car.

The fate of the Coral Reef Squadron and Patong Hill road, both predicted in this space, are just two examples of the kind of inadequate engineering design found all over the island.

In the case of the artificial reef, it is hard not to feel sorry for the many groups that made the project happen, as it was an experimental project driven largely by unselfish motives.

Still, from an engineering standpoint, the idea of dropping objects designed for lift in a light fluid (air) into a much denser fluid (water) should have prompted better testing prior to deployment.

Less sympathy can be felt for those responsible for the Patong Hill sinkhole, which was a disaster waiting to happen.

Ironically, Mr Pian is an outspoken proponent of building a tunnel under the same said hill and relaxing the provincial statute that forbids development of land over 80 meters.

It will be interesting to see how his recent experience and the recent flooding in Patong shifts his perspective on these policies, if at all.

– The Editor

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Letters

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

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

Phuket losing out from nasty taxi touts

Last month, I went with my Thai family to eat at a restaurant near Karon Beach.

We parked on the beach road because there was not enough space to park in the soi near the restaurant, as all the free space was taken up by motorcycles, mostly for rent.

As soon as we had parked, some thug on the opposite side of the road yelled at us, telling us that we could not park in the yellow squares, as they were reserved for taxis only.

There were cars parked there, but none of them had a taxi sign on them and there was nothing to indicate that the squares were for taxis.

One bossy guy came over and told us to 'get lost', otherwise he would deflate my tires, so we called the police and five policemen promptly arrived.

The taxi thugs were unmoved by the officers' negotiations and kept on verbally abusing my wife in front of the police while tourists walked by.

I told the taxi drivers they were the main reason why so few tourists holiday in Phuket these days and all they said was "mai son, mai son (I don't care)", and carried on shouting abuse at my wife and the police.

Is Karon following Patong Beach down the drain, where this abuse of tourists has gone on for too long without any action taken?

It scares the tourists away but this does not seem to worry the taxi drivers. As long as they can get your last baht, they don't care if you never return.

**Edgar Hoskins
Phuket**

Yes please to trees

I often drive through Kathu and I think that the tree planting initiative by Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop along the main road is a worthwhile project.

I hope, though, that the awful piles of litter along the road sides may also be cleared.

If that is done, then the road could really be labeled 'lovely'.

**John Speed
Kata**

I'm not flying scared

After reading Alistair Carthew's recent 'Talking Planes' column [*Phuket Gazette*, August 8], I can only assume that he's trying to put people off flying.

I can assure people that flying is, without doubt, the safest form of transport.

Having worked for Rolls Royce Aero Engine company as a design engineer until I retired, I can also assure people that the jet engine is 100 percent reliable.

I don't believe Mr Carthew has ever seen the tests that a jet engine goes through on the test beds.

We can simulate bird strikes and know they have no effect on the engine whatsoever.

The engines are also tested for many hours in a 'cold room' test bed where the temperature can be dropped to almost any degree and still perform as they should.

**J.T. Cook
Thalang**

Bored of bashing

I have lived in Phuket for 14 years. My wife owns the house I live in, but I both love and trust my wife.

When I first came to Phuket, I looked for land with a sea view.

When I found a piece I liked, I tried to buy it, but was told that Thai doctors, consultants and government officials had bought the sea-front land 20 years beforehand.

Bearing this in mind, it seems unlikely that farangs could own 90 percent of Phuket's beach front land.

There are lots of retired farangs who got married in Phuket and are getting really sick of all the farang-bashing that goes on.

I for one am thinking of leaving Phuket forever and heading to Malaysia where I can get a ten-year visa and won't be subjected to constant farang-bashing.

**James Deakin
Rawai**

Don't know the drill

I bet the recent tsunami warning drills scared the hell out of most people, but it's good to see people actually being put through their paces and hopefully this will help minimize the loss of human life if, god forbid, another tsunami should strike.

I think the sirens are amazing, but I think whoever was responsible for publicizing this drill did a terrible job.

I kept looking for news about it but I couldn't find it anywhere, so how on earth would those who weren't looking for it know about it?

The blame must fall at the feet of the newspapers and government planners.

**suprachief
Gazette/Thai Visa
Phuket Forum**

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.

Whose bell is it anyway?

In the weeks leading up to the submission of the redshirts' petition on behalf of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, some surprising things were said and written.

We were told repeatedly by political figures, academics and media contributors that the petition was illegal and improper, that those signing it might be liable to prosecution for lese majeste or contempt of court (one general suggested the death penalty), and that the whole exercise was counter to law, tradition, convention and proper 'Thai' behavior.

But Section 59 of the current constitution states:

"A person shall have the right to present a petition and to be informed about the result of its consideration within the appropriate time."

And Section 187 states:

"The King has the prerogative to grant a pardon."

It does not matter what the criminal code says about the proper procedure for petitions on specific issues. The right to submit a petition is an absolute right governed by the constitution.

The 1997 constitution stated:

"A person shall have the right to present a petition and to be informed of the result of its consideration within the appropriate time, as provided by law."

The final clause in this 1997 version did make it appear that this right was conditional on other laws. But the drafters of the 2007 constitution, appointed by the coup generals, removed this trailing clause for greater clarity.

In the 2007 version, the right to present a petition is an absolute

right, without qualification. And the royal prerogative is totally unconditional.

Could it be that most journalists and broadcasters, several permanent secretaries, the rectors of major universities, almost the entire academic staff of Chulalongkorn University, and the prime minister are unaware of these provisions in the constitution? Probably not.

Could it be that several of those who claimed the Thaksin petition is illegal, immoral, improper, distasteful and devious have forgotten that they signed a petition three years ago calling on the monarch to remove Thaksin from office under Section 7 of the constitution? Probably not.

Yet the distinguished political scientist who led the delegation that hand-delivered that petition to the palace in March 2006 has been among those decrying the latest pro-Thaksin petition.

Make no mistake. Chang Noi thinks that Thaksin does not deserve a pardon, and indeed should be punished for his major crimes. But the opposition to the petition raised issues of principle, history and practical politics.

More interestingly, many of those who felt moved to publicly oppose the Thaksin petition are precisely those people who regularly point to the right of petition as one proof that Thailand is a better democracy as a result of being a democracy with a constitutional monarchy.

The fundamental text for this argument is 'Inscription One', claimed to have been authored by King Ramkhamhaeng of Sukhothai in the 13th century. The inscription lists several claims for Ramkhamhaeng's enlightened rule, including:



ANTI-THAKSIN BRIGADE: Could it be that several of those who claimed the Thaksin petition is illegal and immoral have forgotten that they signed a petition three years ago calling to remove Thaksin from office under Section 7 of the constitution? Probably not.

"He has hung a bell in the opening of the gate over there; if any commoner in the land has a grievance which sickens his belly and gripes his heart, and which he wants to make known to his ruler and lord, it is easy; he goes and strikes the bell which the King has hung there. King Ramkhamhaeng, the ruler of the kingdom, hears the call; he goes and questions the man, examines the case, and decides justly for him. So the people of this city of Sukhothai praise him."

For over 60 years, this excerpt from the inscription has been repeatedly quoted to support the idea that there has been a unique 'Thai system of government' down through the ages.

In 1946, Prince Dhani Nivat argued that the bell proved the Thai monarch was always "accessible to the people", and this method of calling for redress "survived with slight modifications all through the centuries down to the change of regime in 1932".

A few years later, Kukrit Pramroj cited the bell as central to

his argument that "this Thai system of government is good," and has always been good. He repeated the quotation time and again through his long career as politician and publicist, eventually claiming the bell and the right of petition were proof that liberalism, democracy and monarchy were bound together in Thai tradition for 700 years.

Countless others have followed suit in using Ramkhamhaeng's bell as symbol and proof of the specialness and value of this tradition.

What is fascinating is that many of the people opposing the Thaksin petition were exactly the sort of people who normally love to cite the example of the bell. Of course, in opposing the petition, they tried to add some conditional arguments.

They said that in this case the bell was being used in the wrong way; the bell was being used with bad intentions; the bell was being used illegally. They seem to have forgotten that the key point of the original line in the inscription is that the bell is totally without conditions:

"If any commoner in the land has a grievance ... he goes and strikes the bell."

They seem to have forgotten that it was the simplicity and universality of the bell that made it so attractive to Prince Dhani, Kukrit and others of similar mind as proof that "this Thai system of government is good."

Over the last two years, we have got used to seeing the pillars of Thai democracy undermined for short-term reasons, but it is still surprising to see one of the foundations of the conservative tradition treated in the same way.

But the most important point concerns the political consequences of this outcry against the petition in the context of today's delicate political tensions.

Because supporters of Thaksin who remember the simple old argument of the bell and who cannot follow the subtle conditionalities introduced by political scientists, leader writers, university rectors and permanent secretaries, will probably assume that what they are really being told is: the bell is for us, not for you.

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

Can I get the meds I need here in Phuket?

I'm arriving in Phuket in September for a holiday and am unsure if I will need to bring medication with me from Norway.

Can anyone please tell me if, and where, I can get Wellbutrin XL300 in Phuket?

If so, how much it is for a box of 30 (one month's supply)?

If I can't get it in Phuket, I will need to get my medication in advance to be on the safe side.

Nicky Vermeulen
Norway

A pharmacist at Phuket International Hospital replies:

Unfortunately we do not

have Wellbutrin XL 300g available in Thailand, but we do have Quomen 150mg.

Should you need to acquire Quomen 150mg you will need a valid prescription from a registered doctor.

A single tablet costs 64 baht and they are available both individually or in boxes of 60.

We recommend that you bring medication with you, just in case you have any problems while you are on your holiday.

For more information contact Phuket International Hospital, 44 Chalermprakiat Ror 9 Road, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: +66 (0)76-249 400.

Where can kids play safely in Kata-Karon?

Why aren't there any playgrounds built for local children in the Kata-Karon area?

It seems a shame that despite all the development taking place on the island there is nowhere for kids to play.

Tom Notaro
Karon

Miss Pakanan Samutamnouysuk, head of the Child Development Center, replies:

There is a kids' playground at the Child Development Center at Wat Kittisangkaram School in Kata.

Children who don't attend the school can still use the playground

during school opening hours.

For more information contact the Child Development Center, Wat Kittisangkaram School, Moo 2, Baan Kata, Phuket 83100.

An officer at Karon Municipality replies:

At this time, the Karon Municipality office does not have any plans to build a playground in the area.

For more information contact Karon Municipality, 1 Kata Road, T. Karon, A. Muang, Phuket 83100. T: 076-330186.

E: info@karoncity.go.th
W: karoncity.go.th

The toughest teacher in town

Sophie Cox is a P.E. teacher at the recently opened Phuket International Academy but the path she has taken to teach Phuket's youngsters is an unorthodox one.

As a former British judo champion, Sophie competed at the highest level, representing Great Britain at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Sophie, from Rochdale, first started judo at the age of seven because her parents thought it would keep her out of trouble.

A talented *judoka*, she would go on to become British Champion at >57kgs, a title she would hold for six years before walking away from the sport after the Athens Olympics.

Sophie also competed in several European Championships, winning three silver medals and one bronze.

Sophie, who had a reputation for being a gritty competitor, narrowly missed out on a gold medal at the 2004 European Championships when she was defeated by reigning Olympic Champion Isabel Fernandez, despite dominating the majority of the bout.

Two years later, Sophie decided to end her judo career.

"The center I was at folded

and it was another two years until the next Olympics which would have been a major commitment," she said.

However, years of competing overseas had given her a taste for travel.

"When I was training full time we used to travel all over Europe. I also went to Japan and competed at the World University Games where our team won the silver medal," she said.

Soon after retiring, Sophie ended up in Phuket and decided she didn't want to leave.

"I started teaching English just as a means to be able to stay in Thailand," she said.

"I was working at the British International School and then I got a job at Chalerm Prakiat teaching Physical Education and English."

This gave Sophie the opportunity to start teaching judo and she is keen to share some of her vast experience with people in Phuket.

"I'd like to start introducing judo to the local community. It's not that big in Thailand, but they do compete in judo at the Southeast Asian Games," Sophie said.

"The International Academy is going to have elite academies for swimming and tennis and I am

hoping to add judo."

Sophie, who got her black belt aged 15, believes judo is a great sport to learn, regardless of age.

"It keeps you fit and healthy and teaches you discipline. It also teaches you to handle yourself and makes you more aware of what you can and can't do," she said.

"I know people who have been attacked and successfully defended themselves with judo and a lot of bouncers learn it for that reason."

Judo isn't Sophie's only claim to fame. She holds a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the first ever woman to play rugby league at Wembley when her school team played an exhibition match before the rugby league final in 1993.

Despite having such an impressive career behind her, Sophie is still only 27 and admits to missing competing.

"I don't do any competitive sport at the moment, only teaching and training. I do miss the competition, but it would be difficult to get back into," she said.

"I don't know how my body would feel about me training full time again, but I would like to get into mixed martial arts."

Sophie is not quite ready to walk away from the sport which



As a former British judo champion, Sophie competed at the highest level, representing Great Britain at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

took her to the Olympics, and with her passion for judo still instilled within, has set her sights on inspiring the next generation of Phuket-based judo enthusiasts.

If you are interested in learning judo, contact Sophie by phone (087-5438027) or by email: sophie.cox81@googlemail.com.

-James Goyder

Getting off Phuket's beaten track

Phuket is renowned for motorbikes, but bikes of the pedal-powered variety are noticeably a non-entity on Phuket.

With the island boasting beach-front roads, hidden jungle routes and a host of hilltop vantage points to explore, you would think the island would have a reputation as a cyclists' haven.

James Hembrow of Amazing Bike Tours believes there are many advantages to exploring Phuket on a mountain bike.

"Most visitors to Phuket

think it is too busy and there are too many vehicles on the road for safe mountain biking.

"While this may be true in many areas of Phuket, you don't have to look far to find great biking. The north east of Phuket offers some nice trails and roads with much less traffic.

"If you go inland where there is less development because of the terrain, it is very mountainous and there are some fantastic trails, but they can be difficult to find," he said.

James was working for a dive company but was impressed by the potential of Phuket as a mountain biking destination.

Quitting his job, James formed his own company offering mountain bike tours of Phuket and the surrounding areas.

He has the following recommendations for getting off the beaten track in Phuket.

"The north east of Phuket is great for quiet, casual cycling and the interior of Phuket has some challenging off road trails," he said.

"Between Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West there are also some dirt trails and jumps used by the local mountain bikers to practice their skills and riding techniques."

One thing which probably puts a lot of people off mountain biking is the lack of road safety in Phuket. Something James is quick to acknowledge.

"People do need to be cautious about cycling on the roads in Phuket because there is a lot of traffic.



You don't have to look far to find great biking in Phuket. The north east part of the island offers some nice trails and roads with much less traffic.

"People used to biking in busy cities in their own countries might not be so bothered, but for people who aren't used to riding in traffic, caution is essential to make sure their ride is a safe one," he said.

"A helmet is always a good idea, regardless of whether you are biking off road or on road, or in heavy or light traffic. Accidents can happen when you least expect them, so being prepared and wearing a helmet just makes good sense.

"If biking after dark, a front and rear light, are essential to make sure other road users can see you," he said.

Mountain bikes provide an

eco-friendly form of transport, but according to James the environment isn't the only winner when you choose to make your journey by bike.

"It's really good exercise. It's good for people that have problems with their knees. Biking is a great alternative to running as there is much less impact on the knee joints.

"Personally I find exercising outdoors much more rewarding than doing it in a gym, especially with the great sea views Phuket has to offer," he said.

For more information about mountain biking in Phuket visit www.amazingbiketours.asia.

-James Goyder

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The search for sailing's next star

As part of a concerted effort to get more Thai youngsters involved in sailing in Phuket, a group of children from the Verasatri Anvsorn School in Pa Khlok took part in a three-day sailing course last week.

The course took place at the Sailing of Phuket Club at the Sarasin Bridge under the watchful eye of Commodore Pomprom Sakuthern and the Royal Thai Navy.

This was the first sailing experience for the children who took part in the crash course hosted by Thai navy sailors.

For CdrePomprom it was an opportunity to teach the children much more than just the art of sailing.

"Sailing teaches you the importance of patience, team work, responsibility and how to work with nature and the environment," he said.

"It is not just about learning to sail. These children are also getting some life skills."

By exposing more Thai youngsters to the sport of sailing, Cdre Pomprom is also hoping he might discover the next generation of top-class sailors in the country.

"If the children show an aptitude for sailing, maybe they can compete in some competitions and hopefully go on to represent the national team in the future," he said.

Cdre Pomprom is a member of the Royal Thai navy sailing team that entered two boats in the King's Cup last year, finishing first and second in the IRC 2 class.

Several members of Cdre Pomprom's crew from the King's Cup were on hand to share their experience with the youngsters and Cdre Pomprom is hoping that Thailand will have more representatives in future regattas.

"I think a lot of Thai people would like to learn to sail, but they are put off because they think it is expensive," he said.

"I hope by offering the chance to learn for free we can get more Thai people into sailing."

-James Goyder



By exposing more Thai youngsters to the sport of sailing, Commodore Pomprom is also hoping he might discover the next generation of top-class sailors in the country.

Phuket ready to send 155 athletes to Trang Games

The Sports Authority Thailand Phuket will send a 155-strong team of athletes to compete in the Trang Games, which commence later this month.

This year will mark the 38th staging of the games. The multi-sport event is being contested under the theme of 'Spirit and Friendship', which organizers hope will produce a competitive atmosphere, but with a sense of camaraderie and fair play among the participants.

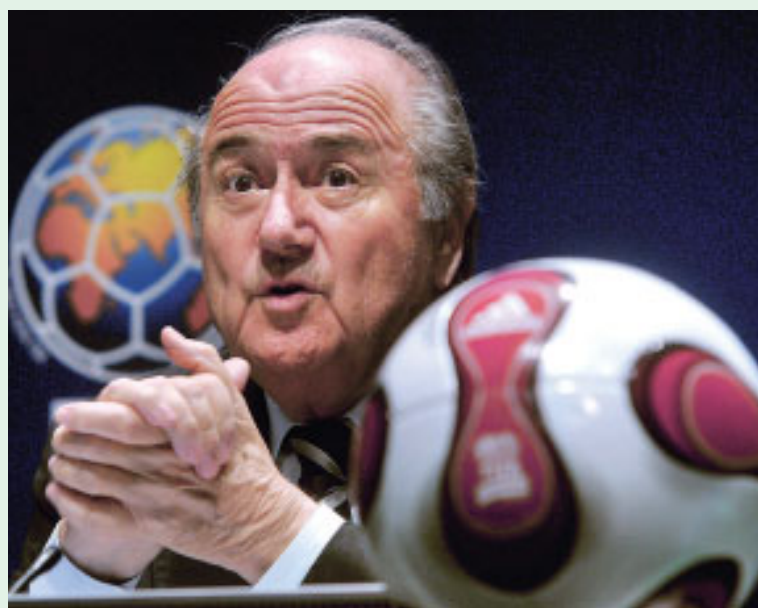
Over the course of the 11-day event, the Phuket team will compete in a total of 19 different sports, including track and field, badminton, futsal, *takraw*, taekwando, swimming and indoor volleyball. Most of the Phuket competitors are confident of finishing in the medals.

Comprising 18 athletes, the track and field team is the largest of the squad. However, the boxing team consists of a single competitor.

The Phuket team is being led by Mr Virat Phatee, Director of the Sports Authority Thailand Phuket. Another 35 officials will also accompany the team to help with organizing and co-ordinating the athletes.

The team will leave Phuket for Trang on September 7, giving the athletes a chance to finalize their preparations before the event gets underway two days later on September 9.

FIFA president to open memorial football center



Joseph 'Sepp' Blatter is the eighth president of FIFA.

FIFA President Joseph 'Sepp' Blatter is set to visit Phuket next month as part of a whistlestop three-day visit to Thailand. Mr Blatter will arrive in Phuket on September 15 to participate in the grand opening ceremony of the Tsunami Memorial Football Center with Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisangnop before heading to Bangkok.

Mr Blatter's arrival on Phuket will mark the culmination of a project that began in 2005.

Built at the Baan Ao Nam Bor School near Ao Makham, the center, which consists of two football pitches and three buildings, cost 35 million baht.

The sum was donated by FIFA's Tsunami Task Force, which was established in the wake of the December 2004 disaster.

Following his stopover in Phuket, Mr Blatter will head to Bangkok, where he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva for dinner.

On September 16, Mr Blatter will attend the grand opening of an Astroturf pitch in the capital, before visiting the new Thai Football Association headquarters.

Members of the Thai FA will hold a farewell party for Mr Blatter before he flies back to Switzerland later that night.

Mr Blatter is the eighth president of FIFA having succeeded Brazilian Dr Joao Havelange in 1998.

-Daniel Ogunshakin

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Going back to your roots

Spicing things up part two: roots

Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

Recently I went in search of spice seeds to photograph. I needed them for pictures that could accompany my scribbles about herbs and spices, and, in addition, to try out in the garden.

I found more than I had bargained for, including such exotic stuff as dried butterfly pea flowers (*clitoria ternata*), liquorice root, star anise and fenugreek. Not the everyday flavorings I am writing about today, but it reinforces the point I have made before: there is no end to the cornucopia of flavors we are lucky enough to savor in Thailand.

Today, however, I'm rooting for roots. The most powerfully pungent bulbs in Southeast Asia, as in most corners of the globe, belong to the lily (*liliaceae*) family and of all these – onions, shallots, chives and garlic – the latter (*allium sativum*) is the most commonly used.

A daily task, as any Thai 'restaurateur' will confirm, is to peel all those pesky 'kratiem' bulbs. More than one type of garlic grows here. The small

purple-skinned cloves are considered superior to the white ones on account of their greater intensity of flavor. Packed with oil, they will surely let your taste buds know if you are bold enough to chomp them up raw as so many Thais do...

More commonly, the cloves are macerated into a spicy paste along with other seasonings, or chopped and added to stir-fry dishes, soups and stews, or sliced and fried to a brown crisp with fish.

I went through an entire childhood without ever tasting garlic. Hard to imagine, especially in this day and age when garlic has become one of those 'magical' natural ingredients, supposedly capable of thinning the blood, of reducing 'bad' cholesterol and of lowering vascular pressure.

And if you do try putting some bulbs in the garden, they do have an inhibiting effect on many pests. They won't come within a mile. That much I know from growing garlic in Andalucia.

I hope we can pass quickly over the onion (*allium*) 'per se'. It is one of the oldest vegetables known to man, and while I love them as much as Chaucer's Summoner, whose fourteenth century breath was permanently be-fouled by onions, they are so cheap here – eight baht a kilo at the last count for the white variety – and their appearance and flavor so well known, that they don't need me to expatiate upon their merits.

The spring onion (*allium fistulosum* or *ton tom*) is a very important garnish in the Kingdom. It is not only found in those green platters of winged beans, Chinese kale and cashew leaves that grace the lunch tables of the

cheapest Thai eateries, but is often added, along with garlic, to the clear soups that accompany the main course.

Although shallots (*allium ascalonicum* or *hom daeng*) grow wild in parts of Thailand, they are a less visible presence because they are not used for decorative effect. But they are common ingredients in hot pastes, and are sometimes preferred to onions on account of their sweeter and less harsh flavor, plus they have a lower water content that allows for easier frying.

If you try growing them, remember that they don't grow singly like onions, but in small bunches. They are best cultivated in rich soil from 'sets' of small bulbs, rather than from seed. Remember to pare away the earth from the tops of the bulbs once they are well established.

The last member of the *allium* clan to warrant a mention is the chive (*allium tuberosum*), normally referred to in the plural form. Bunches of the local variety, flat or Chinese chives, are readily available in local markets.

They grow in long-leaved clusters and, because of their strong aroma, are sometimes known as 'garlic chives'. Often sold with the flowering tips (or culm) still attached, they are considered a delicacy in Chinese cuisine. Equally, ask any Thai about 'dok kuichai' and they will soon be singing its praises.

So what about spicy roots? Two, ginger and galangal, cannot be ignored, despite recent official attempts to curtail their use as pesticides and while both have both been briefly defended in these columns before, they deserve a proper mention.



A typical vegetable stall at a Thai market. Everything is brightly colored and fresh. The middle of the stall is packed with garlic, shallots and spring onions.



Tough and fibrous, galangal graces many Thai and Malay soups and stews. The sour, slightly citrus flavor of tom yam soup owes everything to its infusion of galangal.

Ginger (*zingiber officinale*) is, of course, better known abroad, since the mature, beige-colored root travels well and is available from any European greengrocer. Known as 'khing' in Thailand, where it grows wild – what doesn't? – it is normally sold in markets as a freshly dug young root. In this form, it has thin, creamy skin and pink shoots which terminate in green stalks. You can easily pop a couple in some moist soil to start your own crop.

Popular as a marinade with Chinese chefs or as an accompaniment to fried fish, the tender young roots can be grated or crushed to release the intense flavor before cooking.

Ginger has a reputation in Asia as a medicinal herb, useful for counteracting indigestion and even nausea. It also makes a delectable hot drink which I often buy – in a plastic bag of course – at the local market. Good for hangovers...

Galangal (*alpinia galanga*) comes from the same family and the rhizome looks quite similar, if less knobbly.

But the flavor is distinctively different and, sliced into thin chunks, the tough fibrous root graces many Thai and Malay soups and stews. The sour, slightly citrus flavor of tom yam soup owes everything to its infusion of galangal.

Like ginger, it is an attractive addition to the kitchen garden. Plant a rhizome and it will sprout sword-like leaves and, whisper it softly, some Thais believe galangal has aphrodisiacal powers...

Dr Patrick Campbell taught English Literature at a London University, and as Visiting Professor at the Universities of British Columbia and Colorado. He led the first MA in Performing Arts in the UK. Author of five academic books and numerous published articles, he recently completed a novel.

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The low-down on rental agreements

More and more foreigners are making the leap and purchasing property in Thailand.

This can be for various reason, including buying a holiday home, having a place in which to live once retired or simply as an investment.

In order to attract the attention of potential buyers, many developers offer different rental schemes such as rental pools or guaranteed rental returns.

Guaranteed rental return programs are the hot favorite in Thailand today and are used as a marketing tool in order to grab the buyer's attention.

Many buyers feel safer investing in properties if it comes with a guarantee of receiving a fixed income for an agreed period of time. It offers a hassle-free opportunity to generate income with the added bonus that responsibilities can be left with the developer or its management company.

Whenever a buyer considers investing in such property, it is vitally important to carefully review the entire sales documentation provided by the developer, including the legal agreements to be executed.

Don't be duped by glossy marketing materials and bro-



RENTAL AGREEMENTS: The legal structure of a guaranteed rental return scheme needs to be carefully examined, with particular attention given to the terms and conditions details.

chures that create a great first impression of the property, but won't suffice in detailing the intricacies of the rental agreement.

A comprehensive description of the applicable terms and conditions, including rental guarantee is required.

In regard to guaranteed rental returns, a buyer may consider the following major points.

Firstly, the legal structure of a guaranteed rental return scheme needs to be carefully examined in order to determine if such a guarantee is subject to certain terms and conditions and details 'if, when, and how' such rental payments shall be paid.

In addition, it should be verified under what conditions a buyer may occupy the property for private use during the guaranteed rental period.

At this point, the 'opt-out' scenario should be factored into your thoughts.

You should also consider whether the guarantee is assignable in case of a property resale, what solutions are available in the event the guarantee is breached and what tax liabilities are imposed on rental income.

Furthermore, as a buyer you should verify the financial stability of the contractual party who

promises guaranteed rental payments. A guarantee is only as stable as your contractual party is. In this context, a developer's financial background and proven record in rental management should be examined.

The second major point to consider is that a rental guarantee might not be genuine. It might be nothing more than a partial repayment in instalments of an overpriced property from the developer to the purchaser.

In other words, the payments under the guaranteed scheme are simply written into the price of the property. Therefore, it is advisable to

compare the purchase price of your property with properties of a similar design, construction quality and location in order to determine whether the price of your property reflects the true market value.

If such guaranteed rental return is not of interest, then a developer could be approached to request a price reduction equaling the amount received under the rental program.

It is also important to remember that as a buyer, every guarantee has a price. If the risks are lower, the return will be lower.

A developer will only agree to provide guaranteed rental return if the promised return is low enough to allow them to rent out the property for a higher amount and keep the balance.

Considering these points, rental schemes, guaranteed rental programs or rental pools might be an interesting investment but exercise due diligence in your choice.

This article was written by Phuket based law firm International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd. For enquiries, contact Michael Greth, consultant. T: 66-(0)76-222 191-5. E: michael@ilo-phuket.com.



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Keeping sand wash ship shape



I often get asked about how to maintain sand wash. There are many things to consider if you want to keep it in good shape for long time.

After proper installation, you will be left with a lovely surface, but you should be aware that cement is an open, porous surface and will absorb all kinds of liquids.

Sand wash is typically laid before the development is finished, which means that there are many more jobs to be completed before your property is finished.

After construction is completed, there is every chance that your dream surface has the appearance of a kid's play area and is covered in cement spills, timber acids, paint spots and thinner among other things, and you might ask why nobody has applied a sealant on the surface.

A sand wash might cost

you around 350 baht per square meter and a sealant can be a costly addition.

Starting at 50 baht for a short-term silicone sealant, the higher quality sealants might cost the same as the sand wash itself.

It could end up costing twice the price of the sand wash because you might need to use a professional cleaning service before applying the sealant.

If you think about using sand wash for your home, you should factor in a the cost of a quality sealant into your budget.

The biggest disadvantage of sand wash is its uneven surface structure.

It will give you grip when applied around the swimming pool, but when the wet season starts you will always get a 'bio-film' on the surface, resulting in a layer of mold and algae growing out of the microscopic capillaries in the cement structure.

After a while, all you will be left with is an ugly, dark green surface.

The local way to get rid of this mess is to give it a chlorine or acid wash to destroy the bio mass and then use a high-



BEFORE AND AFTER: A sand wash REFIT can restore old and corroded sand wash, remove traces of oxidation and bring back the natural color of the pebbles. The middle section has been treated to a sand wash REFIT.

pressure washer to get rid of the accumulation on the surface.

This is the beginning of the end of your nice sand wash.

Using a high-powered

water spray will break up the surface of the sand wash even more, resulting in more pores and the return of the mold and algae even sooner.

The chlorine and acid is harmful to the cement, and with each pressure wash you remove layer upon layer of the cement until the little stones lose adhesion in the cement bed and simply fall out.

The death of your sand wash is now inevitable.

With ongoing acid washing you will also destroy the surrounding environment, this is why reducing maintenance for sand wash was one of our main areas of research in advanced cleaning technologies.

The most advanced coating technology in mold prevention is the Photocoat TiO₂, which was discussed in the last *Homeworks* column.

Optionally, there is a wide range of sealants available in local hardware stores if you want to do it yourself or there are the services offered by many sand wash or stone care companies.

Here is a short overview:

Silicone sealants are the cheapest sealants and will put a film-like water-repellent coating on the surface, protecting the surface from water penetration.

The silicone often contains some chemicals added to slow down mold growth, but the coating is affected by the sun's UV rays and will eventually break down.

Pressure washing can be reduced, but it must still be done from time to time to get rid of the algae and dirt. Again, this will remove the coating over time.

The silicone coating needs to be reapplied at least every two years. Prices range from 50 to 100 baht per square meter.

Resin or acrylic coatings are medium-price coatings, producing a lacquered-like finish which can often make the surface

slippery. They are also affected by UV rays and will be removed by pressure washing, but will last a bit longer than silicone. Price range: 100-150 baht per square meter.

Polysiloxan or similar concrete crystallization solutions permanently close the tiny capillaries in the cement.

This is beneficial to the cement substrate as water can not pass through the surface layer and the reinforced steel will be protected from corrosion.

In addition, the cement structure is much harder and high-pressure washing cannot destroy the cement. Price range: 100-200 baht per square meter, depending on the features.

Sand wash REFIT can restore old and corroded sand wash, remove traces of oxidation and bring back the natural color of the pebbles.

If you already have a sealed surface, I recommend spraying a mold inhibitor on the surface occasionally, keeping damage from pressure washing to a minimum.


An application of vinegar mixed with water will do a good job of preventing corrosion as well, while replacing the chlorine or acid wash with a combination of Oxy bleach and water is highly recommended.

Simply spray it on the sand wash and wait 15 minutes before brushing and rinsing.

The mold will be destroyed and it is not detrimental to the environment.

Andreas Ruthe is the managing director of TCM Asia Co Ltd. He has been living in Phuket since 2007, consulting and providing high-end surface protection technologies to the hotel and development industry. He can be contacted directly at ruthe@tcm-asia.com.

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Bt3.5bn in Phuket villa sales



An Andara Resort Residences penthouse, located on 'Millionaires' Mile' in Kamala would certainly qualify as one of Phuket's luxury villas.

Transactions in Phuket's luxury villa market topped 3.5 billion baht in the first half of 2009, according to figures recently released by Phuket-based property and hospitality consulting firm c9 Hotelworks.

The report, 'Luxury Villa Market Update Mid-year Edition', defines luxury villas in Phuket as those with price tags of 65 million baht (approx US\$ 1.9 million) and above.

It also puts the value of the island's

current inventory of such villas at 10 billion baht – with 19 of the top-end properties having been sold between January and June, and 92 units currently for sale.

According to the report, resales of luxury villas are becoming a significant segment, with over 1 billion baht in transactions by mid year.

High-end products are outperforming the broader market, despite recovery prospects for the overall property market having been set back to 2011.

New HQ for Tourist Police



Work on the new 12-million-baht tourist police headquarters on Yaowarat Road is scheduled to be completed by October 9.

Construction of the new 12 million baht tourist police headquarters in Phuket Town began in October last year and is scheduled to be finished by October 9 this year. Officials decided to switch the location of the tourist police HQ because the lease on their former premises on Chalmprakiat Ror IX Road was due to expire.

The new building, located on Yaowarat Road, is just a stone's throw from the Phuket Provincial Police Station.

The 240-square meter, three-story structure sits on a total of 720 square meters of land.

The inside of the new HQ features nine rooms, three of which are reserved for the superintendent, and also includes an administration office and a large meeting room.

There is also a sizable parking area outside.

-Thanasorn Chookate



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Many will regrets, one of the last chances to live in unobtrusive Tropical-Aqua Conception in the last prime location on Phuket's most famous Millionaire's Miles. This is an opportunity remain that is rapidly disappeared.

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Coming Up

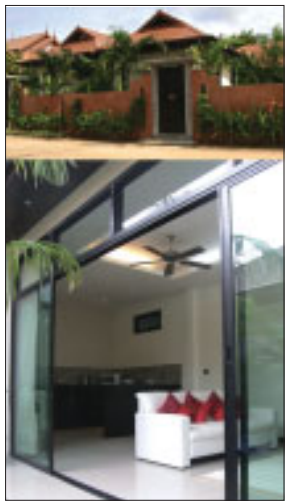


Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

WWW.PHUKETBUYRENT.COM

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1 story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at T. Taimuang, Phang Nga 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: pookie.lovely@gmail.com

SURIN BEACH

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

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.

NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



Manik area, 4.7 million baht. Chanote title, good for pool villas. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com or 081-538 7050.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

for sale. 62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

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.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrungs School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

PERFECT LAND

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

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

NEW BRAND CONDO

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

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

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

HOUSES IN KATHU

for sale in Anuphas Golf Ville, Kathu. Both houses have 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, small swimming pool. One house has an added pool room with pool table. Fully furnished to a high standard. Cost furnished 8.5 million baht, unfurnished 8 million baht. Tel: 081-273 3975, 081-854 0061.

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.

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

INEXPENSIVE LOTS

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

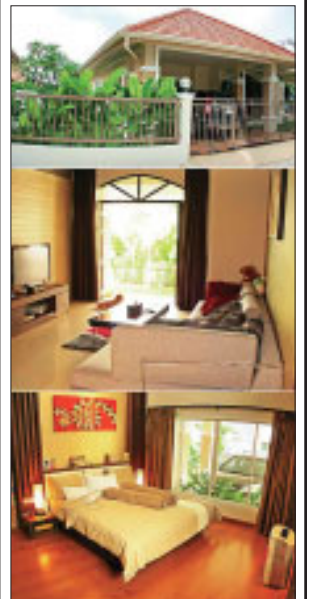
ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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: drbeamshaw@gmail.com

LAND PLOTS IN KATHU

15 rai of land with electricity and blue book. 650,000 baht per rai. Be the first to get the best piece. Call our office for more information. Tel: 076-381303. Fax: 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.com

VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT



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

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Property Gazette

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

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 PLOTS IN KATHU

15 rai of land with electricity and blue book. 650,000 baht per rai. Be the first to get the best piece. Call our office for more information. Tel: 076-381303. Fax: 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.com

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

LEELAVADEE POOL VILLA



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

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

SEAVIEW PATONG

Hillside, 200m from the beach. Chanote and Nor Sor Sam Kor. 4 rai, 1 ngan. Tel: 081-891-8085. Email: sawasdee51@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

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. Areal bargain. Tel: 089-873 7075. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.lunaphuket.com>

IN LAND & HOUSE

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

POOLSIDE APARTMENT

One- and two-bedroom poolside apartments. Quality construction and finish. Quiet and natural location at the north end of Patong Beach. You will not find better quality - guaranteed. Contact Andy. Tel: 076-296160, 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE IN KAMALA

for sale. 2 houses on land. 2 ngan, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, Nor Sor Sam Kor title, good location, 5km from the beach. Price: 10 million baht. Direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: pookie.lovely@gmail.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>

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

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.

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

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

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.

FREEHOLD PATONG 28SQM

Studio fully renovated and furnished. 1.95 million baht. Brand new. Tel: 089-971 5664.

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

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

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

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

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

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.

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

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 Ham Beach 500sqm: 3.2 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



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

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

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

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

BAAN BAI MAI



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

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Property Gazette

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA 10.8M BAHT



Surin and Bang Tao Beaches only 2.6km away. New development with all utilities, fantastic views. Home area 341sqm, land area 540sqm, Chanote title. Tel: 084-744-2240, Email: ross@funboatcruises.com

MODERN HOME FOR SALE/RENT



for rent: 65,000 baht per month no charge for electricity. For sale: 15 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 1 kitchen, 6 air conditioners, 5 TVs, 1 refrigerator, fully furnished. In Chalong. Tel: 083-690 8080, 084-336 8080.

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.

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

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.layanggardens.com>

HALF RAI SEAVIEW



land for sale. Top of Soi Phrabaramee 3, Patong, Phuket. Stunning sea and mountain views. Plot size 60m x 1.5m Plot area 900sqm. Title, freehold, Nor Sor Sam Kor, concrete road access, 3 phase electricity, water by supplier or own well, elevation. Slope: 75m above sea level. Price 7.5 million baht. Contact Mr Ronald A. Crane. Tel: 0044 7885 488091. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In Moobaan Tinawut, Samkong, close to Yada Dental Clinic. 2 connected buildings, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. For rent: 12,000 baht per month, sale: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-597 6302, 081-597 9441.

HOUSE IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, loft conversion, aircon. 2.5 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 7671. Email: marczoenoi@gmail.com

KARON VACANT LAND

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

LAND SALE IN THALANG

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

CHEAP LAND

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

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

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

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

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



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

THE ROYAL PLACE

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

KOH YAO YAI

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

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

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

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.

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

HILLSIDE SEAVIEW

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

KATA POOL VILLA

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

LAND IN KATA BEACH

700m from Kata center, great location, 600 sqm, title deed. Please buy me. Tel: 081-271 9340. Email: brandyblackcherry@gmail.com

PHANG NHA LAND

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

LAND UP HILL KARON 7 M

Old lady wants to share her money with kids. Asking for 7 million baht. Land: 2 ngan, 10 6/10sqw. Tel: 076-282182, 081-476 3242. Fax: 076-282182. Email: nat@phuket-festival.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

BANGLA SUITES PATONG

Snap up this new freehold condo. 31sqm, situated in the center of the action on Bangla Rd. Great investment! 6% rental return guarantee. Priced to sell at 4.8 million baht. Call Frank at Real Pro Co Ltd. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English). E: info.realpro@gmail.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

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

LAND AND HOUSE



Detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, Western style kitchen, partly furnished. Chalong area. Price 3.7 million baht ono. No agents. Tel: 087-386 8751. Email: andyinhphuket@hotmail.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>

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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Boats & Marine

55 FOOT CATAMARAN

New! 6 double cabins, 20sqm, cockpit, new sails, composite. Tel: 087-461 8089.

WANT NICE FAST BOAT

One engine, max 200hp, rubber (rib) or fiberglass. Max price: 300,000 baht. Tel: 082-8029125 (English). Email: s.enghamre@telia.com

7M RIB 225HP NEW!

2009, never used, Merc 225, galvanized dual axle trailer, all equipment, Bimini. 12 pax, CE, 60 knots. Two available in Kamala. Super price at 890,000 baht. More info by phone. Tel: 084-699 2618. Email: emanuel.par@gmail.com

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

SAVAGE Scorpion 500 16ft speedboat. 75 HP Mercury (2-stroke). 2 yrs old, < 50 hrs use. Very fast (30+ knots). Great for fishing, water skiing etc. Includes VHF, fish-finder / depth, anchor, covers etc. Comes on a good trailer. Viewing by appointment. Tel: 076-273329, 081-882 7917, 089-634 3721. Email: p_brunning@yahoo.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

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

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>

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

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.

FULLY EQUIPPED



Fishing boat 1, 200, 000 baht negotiable. Measures: 15 metres long x 3.4 metres wide. Tel: 080-519 3546, 087-282 5008.

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 rathyoona radar. Agent welcome. We will also build your fiberglass sports yacht to your specifications. Tel: 086-885 6885. Email: phuketketchsales@gmail.com

NEW 37FT YACHT CHARTER



The newest, state of the art, first fiberglass yacht in Phuket. Charter it for very affordable price. The cost is 90,000 baht per day (9am to 5pm with 5 hours cruising per day). Additional 60,000 baht for an overnight charter returning in the afternoon the next day. The above costs include National Park fees, dinner, breakfast, simple lunch and crew. Alcoholic drinks are provided at extra cost. Our VIP 37 ft fiberglass boat has two Honda 225 4-stroke engines, a small kitchen with microwave, living space, a cabin with 38 inch flatscreen TV, toilet with shower and a generator. If you want book a charter, please send email to: info@queenmarines.com or call 086-885 6885.

2004 HONDA 20 4-STROKE

20" leg. Engine in very good condition. A few scuffs on the cowling. View on M.Y. Amnesia at Yacht Haven Marina. Tel: 085-690 2641. Contact for more details at email: rhys.casley@gmail.com

DOUBLE 'SIT-ON' CANOE

Feel Free double 'sit-on' canoe with paddles. Hardly used. 20,000 baht. Call or mail for further details. Tel: 089-000 0200. Email: tonygbr@hotmail.com

OWN 100% 5.5M OR 3 X 1/4 SHARE 1.65M



Luxury 2008 Gulfcraft. Replacement cost: 6.8m baht. A perfect 40 footer for private & charter use. Safe long-range touring. Thai Marine Reg. & TAT Lic. 3 crew + 17 guests. 40 knots max (2 x 300 hp Suzuki). Large living space with lot of shade & full clears. The best Garmin Navionics. Fully loaded for entertaining. A must see!! Contact Ross. Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.funboatcruises.com>

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

30FT MOTOR YACHT

Beautiful Sea Ray Sundancer. Fully loaded. 300 hours. 2.3 million baht. Immediately available Tel: 076-317538, 085-111 1455. Please sent email to: uwed@avia-star.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

WELLCRAFT 302 SPORT

American powerboat, 30 feet, twin Yamaha 250hp 4-stroke engines, only 60 hours. Mail for pics and more info. Email: mangeolsson@hotmail.com

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

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>

SAIL BOAT WANTED

30 to 40 feet. Racer/cruiser to charter for King's cup. Email: air2cure@yahoo.com

DOUBLE KAYAK

Feel-free kayak. 18,000 baht. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-000 0200. Email: tonygbr@hotmail.com

32FT CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

ZODIAC 40HP

Includes all equipment, trailer, steering, console, anchor, vest etc. Tel: 087-265 6089.

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: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

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.

PHUKET CHARTER BOAT

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

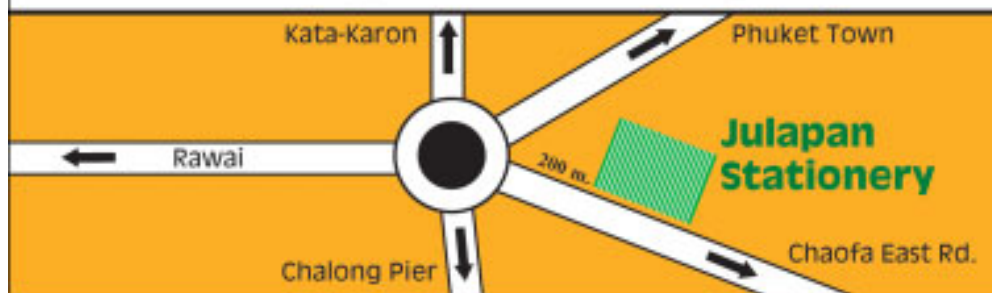
1997 BAYLINER 28 CABIN BOAT

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: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

FIBERGLASS BOAT

Brand new 36 foot flybridge boat for sale. Contact more details at email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it
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Island Job Mart

Photoshop Operator, Senior

Role: Organize the workflow & image management including: image manipulation, impagination, color retouching

Require Qualifications:

- ◆ Thai National, age 25-35 with good English
- ◆ Bachelor's Degree in Graphic or related fields
- ◆ At least 5 years experience in Adobe Photoshop (Mac)
- ◆ Knowledge of Adobe In Design, Quark X-Press (Mac)
- ◆ Creative, self-motivated, work under stress & Flexible time

Offers: Salary 20,000 – 30,000 THB/Month

Interested candidates are invited to submit English Resume to:
CLX Asia Co., Ltd (Phuket)

44 Moo 3, Palai Soi 2, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. 076-380650 Fax. 076-380655 Email: info@clxasia.com



PIA consists of three premier facilities: the PIA Day School, the PIA Sports & Wellness Centre and the PIA Mind Centre. Located within a natural environment, we are committed to developing a community where families can interact in a harmonious, caring and inspirational environment.

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We offer exciting careers to people passionate about building an organisation that strives for excellence in all its relationships. We are currently seeking people who share our dedication in the following roles:

**IT Manager
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All positions come with competitive packages and benefits

If you have the passion please contact
hr@phuketinternationalacademy.com
with a CV, photo and supporting documentation



ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

NEED HOUSE MAID

Thai female, good salary and social security, experience in hotel or farang's house, Rawai. Tel: 081-797 7898.

PROPERTY COMPANY

Looking for sales and marketing staff 10am.- 4pm. Call for more information. Tel: 076-527882.

MASSAGER WANTED

Busy shop in Patong. Looking for 5 staff for massages or for nails. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-303 2202.

MASSAGER WANTED

Body scrub for 1.5 hour, 5 times per month at home in Kathu. 300 baht per time. For more information. Tel: 081-432 6587.

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, 081-367 4696. Fax: 076-261859. Email: acs@inbreddp.com Please visit our website at: www.inbreddp.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: 081-537 6866.

3D RENDERER

for architecture office required. 3D Studio Max, Sketchup, Photoshop required. Tel: 076-385964, 080-696 5104. 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. Tel: +960-0960-776 3889. Email: andersfo@ofir.dk

AEROBIC INSTRUCTOR

Personal trainer wanted. Preferably Thai female, basic English skills, best club in Phuket. Tel: 084-849 1810.

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

Security Manager Required (Urgently)

With the following requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree in physical education or military background
2. Five years experience in loss prevention
3. Good spoken English
4. Total knowledge of primary criminal law
5. Good people skills & leadership

Please contact **K. Nattaya** - HR Manager
Phuket Square Ltd.- Jungceylon
Monday - Friday 09.00 - 18.00
Tel. 081-906-5253

Nattaya@jungceylon.com and ranattaya@hotmail.com

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.

SALES EXPERIENCE

Exciting new company in architecture and property development is looking for sales staff. Please contact. Tel: 076-385964, 080-696-5104 (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. Tel: 076-385964, 080-696-5104. Fax: 076-385965. Email: info@modern-zen.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

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>

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

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

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 Ajarn Charoon: ep@satreephuket.ac.th, toptip4736@yahoo.com Tel: 084-666 3557.

CHEF, S&M, FO, HK MANAGERS

Resort management vacancies for sales & marketing, front office, and housekeeping. We also require a chef. Tel: 081-676 8797 (English). Email: gavinugp@gmail.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Must be native English speaker with experience. Start October 1, Chalong. 40 hour week. Email: phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com

JIMS DINING ROOM

Looking for hosts that want to succeed in their chosen career. Offering great benefits: professional English classes, bonus systems, birthday bonus, public holidays and holidays, service charge and tips. Please do not call or reply if you do not want to look after our guests and my food. Happy fun people only please. Thank you. Jim, Chef/Owner Jims Dining Room. Tel: 089-692 8554. Email: chef@pacific-club-phuket.com

WANT TO BUILD A CAREER?

Restaurant manager wanted. Must be able to speak and write English. Starting salary 15,000 baht++. 2 hosts wanted. Must be able to work mornings and evenings. Starting salary 7,000 baht + English is a must. Only happy, fun people please. Tel: 089-692 8554. (English). Email: chef@pacific-club-phuket.com

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

required for established RE agency in Patong. Experience needed, good written and spoken English, good social skills & team player. Good remuneration for the right candidate. Thai nationals only. Reply to this or call. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

HANATOUR / DIRECTOR OF SALES

We are looking for a Director of Sales or Sales Manager. Thai national, male preferred, with fluent English to handle agency sales for Korean outbound business. Tel: 076-524621, 081-895 6629 (English), 083-5095173 (Thai). Fax: 076-524625. Email: jinkang@hanatour.com

AVANTIKA BOUTIQUE HOTEL

A small boutique beach front luxury hotel with 31 rooms at the South end of Patong Beach is looking for suitable candidates (Thai national only) for the following positions: reservations, reception (day & night shift), housekeeping and engineers. Contact: Please send a recent photo, resume, reference and expected salary to: Human Resource Department, Avantika Boutique Hotel, 4/1 Thaveewong Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-292801-5. Fax: 076-292809. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com or info@avantika-phuket.com. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.avantika-phuket.com>

TEFL INSTRUCTOR WANTED

Experienced TEFL Instructor wanted for four-week course in Phuket. Competitive remuneration. 2 years TEFL/TESOL instruction experience required. Send CV/resume by email or phone. Contact Christian. Tel: 087-885 8622. Email: info@teflphuket.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.

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

Island Job Mart

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.

RECEPTIONIST IN KATA

Thai female required for hotel in Kata. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-892 1621.

ENGLISH SPEAKERS WANTED

Easy work, easy money. 50,000 baht a month and up. Please contact for more information at tel: 085-573 0638.

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: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

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

BOOKKEEPER 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/>

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, 087-8925557 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-385965. Or send CV to careers@modernzen.com.

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

NEED GARDENER & MAID

Experience with hotels, Rawai area, Samia Villa, Soi Suksan (prefer couple) 2. Aged over 40. Tel: 081-797 7898.

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.

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

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

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

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: wkwilliamking4@gmail.com

We apologize but only short listed candidates will be notified

QUALIFIED THAI TEACHER PLUS

a native English teacher wanted for new nursery/preschool. Please send email CV to: phu ketinternation@asia.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

ENGLISH TEACHER

Wanted for nursery. Rawai. Tel: 081-787 5646. Email: proundly_nicha@yahoo.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.

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

Account Executive-Hotel supplies

silkroad

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

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.
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- 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.

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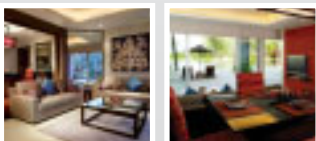
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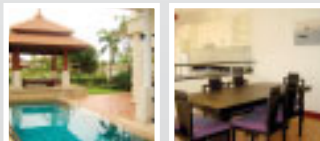
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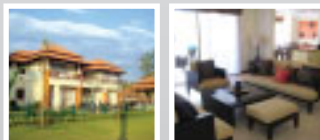
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3 Laguna Townhome THB 22 M



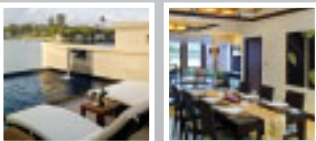
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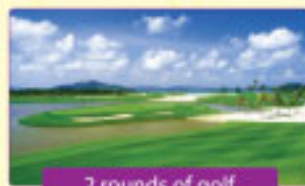
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