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Valium bust leaves Kiwi teen stranded on island

By Dan Waites and Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

A TEENAGE New Zealander is stranded in Phuket after being arrested for alleged possession of diazepam pills without a prescription.

The 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was set to fly back to his current home in Australia on December 11.

But four days before he was due to leave, he was allegedly caught by Kathu Police in possession of a package of diazepam, better known under the trade name 'Valium'.

The arrest meant he missed his flight – and the chance to spend Christmas with his family.

Now on bail, he is due to appear in court for the second time next week.

According to Thailand's Psychotropic Substances Act of 1974, possession of a 'schedule IV' drug such as diazepam without a prescription is illegal and punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of 20,000 baht, or both.

Despite the law, drugs such as diazepam and alprazolam (trade name Xanax) are widely available at pharmacies in tourist centers such as Patong – with the tacit acceptance of some local authorities.

A high-ranking source in the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) admitted his department permitted pharmacies to sell the

drugs, but only in small amounts.

"It is illegal to possess these drugs without a prescription, but in Phuket we're not very strict as this is a tourist destination," he said. "We grant permission to pharmacies to sell the drugs, but they need to report to the PPHO first."

There are around 250 pharmacies in Phuket, making it impossible for the PPHO to enforce regulations properly, he explained.

"We only have four or five staff members who work in this area," he said. "But they have other jobs too – they can't just run around chasing these people."

One long-term expat resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said he had been buying these and other

prescription medications in Thailand for over 20 years and had never had a problem finding them in Patong.

"I knew it was technically illegal, but I never thought it could get me in trouble," he said.

Asked about his force's attitude to the prescription drug trade in Patong, Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark was emphatic.

"If you have these drugs in your possession without a prescription, the police have the right to arrest you," he said.

"If you can show you have permission from a doctor to use the drugs, we'll let you go. Otherwise, we have to send you to a court to let them judge," he said.

Riddle of the Rawai hanged man drags on

By Atchaa Khamlo and Fraser Morton

POLICE and the German Honorary Consul for Phuket are still trying to piece together the identity of a Caucasian male found hanged in a wooded area of Rawai on January 6.

The deceased was discovered hanging from the neck by a long, blue nylon packing cord tied to a low branch. Police found no identification documents or possessions on the body.

At least three people have come forward giving authorities the same name of the deceased, but the man's homeless status and lack of known family members are making the identification process difficult.

A friend of the man visited Chalong Police Station a few days after the death, giving the



The beach-side shack where a 'once wealthy yachtie' is said to have sometimes lived in the months before his death.

man's name and telling them he was from Hamburg, Germany.

A Thai man who said he knew the deceased said he was once a wealthy expat who lived in Phuket for several years and owned a yacht. However, for several months before he died,

the man had been penniless and homeless, sometimes staying in a driftwood and corrugated-tin shack with another local Thai man named Richard Kongmuang in a secluded spot near Laem Ganoi Beach in Rawai.

Mr Richard said the deceased

was seen walking along the beach the morning of the day his body was found. Prior to that he hadn't seen the man for about three months.

Mr Richard said the man had been troubled for quite some time.

"I think he had been tricked out of all his money," said Mr Richard without giving details.

An official from Phuket's German Consular Office said that without a passport, driving license or other form of identification the Bangkok embassy cannot be officially alerted.

On January 13, German Honorary Consul for Phuket Dirk Naumann said his office "had no information from police".

"The body will be repatriated only upon a request by relatives or as directed in a will. If no relatives can be found, the body will be cremated in Thailand," he said.

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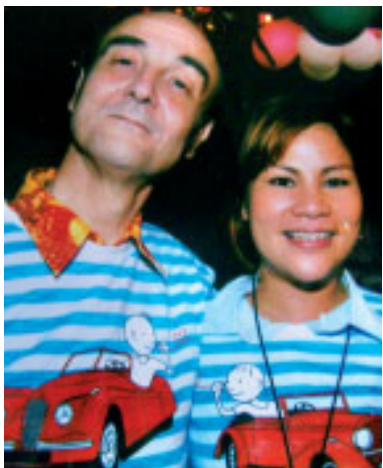
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Farewell Mel Purdue



Mel Purdue with his companion Rowena 'Vicky' Nonez.

FRIENDS and family are mourning the loss of Mel Purdue, who died at Phuket International Hospital on January 10 at the age of 55.

Mr Purdue died from organ failure after a year-long battle with Hepatitis C.

He is survived by his wife of over 20 years, Elizabeth Purdue, his girlfriend Rowena 'Vicky' Nonez and his brother Michael, who lives in the US.

Mrs Purdue and Miss Nonez together were joined by the late Mr Purdue's many Phuket friends at a memorial service held at Thavornkunnaram (Saensuk) Temple on Ong Sim Phai Road in Phuket Town on January 12. At 8:30pm friends and relatives gathered at Bohemian Rap Sawasdee Art Cafe in Phuket Town, where Mr Purdue was a joint owner.

Cremation services took place the next day at the temple.

Mrs Purdue, who was separated from her late husband, said she plans to take some of his remains back to Chiang Mai with

her. His girlfriend Miss Nonez of the Philippines will keep the remainder here in Phuket.

"He lived a fun-filled life, and will always be remembered for his sense of humor," Mrs Purdue said.

Born in Basingstoke England, Mr Purdue spent most of his life working in the oil industry in the UK and central Europe. Moving to Phuket six years ago to retire with his wife, the couple bought a small house close to Nai Harn Beach.

After a stint working in property development on the island, Mr Purdue pursued his love of music by opening the Jammin Bar on Bangkok Road in Phuket City. The venue was popular with both Phuket's Thai and expat communities, who flocked to the venue on Saturday nights to see live rock bands take to the stage.

After the venue closed about two years ago, Mr Purdue opened the Vertigo Bar in Patong, and then more recently the Bohemian Rap Sawasdee Art Cafe in Phuket Town with his friend and business partner Dean Noble.

Currently in England, Mr Noble said Mr Purdue was an English gentleman and a father figure for him.

"There was so much people could learn from him, one just had to take time to listen. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to know him," he said.

"He loved his music with Pink Floyd's *Comfortably Numb* being his favorite track. I will never forget him singing with his hair flying like the classic rockers. I will miss him greatly," he said.

-Fraser Morton

Kathu council member murdered in hotel room

POLICE arrested two people for the brutal stabbing murder of a Kathu town council member in a Phuket Town hotel on January 7.

Lt Col Pitakpon Sompong said staff at the Park Inn Hotel on Luang Phor Rd contacted police at 6:30pm to report a heated argument taking place inside Room 30.

Just as police were arriving they found a man and a woman on a motorbike acting suspiciously and hurriedly preparing to leave.

They stopped the couple,

later identified as Sutthika Saekhoy, 30, and Jeerawat Chainakin, 31.

Under questioning the couple confessed to murdering 42-year-old Wassana Chaiyarab, a member of Kathu Municipality.

Inside the hotel room, the police found Mr Wassana's body lying on the floor next to the bed with a deep knife wound to the left side of his chest. Blood stains covered the walls of the room as well as the bathroom.

A round length of iron found at the scene was also collected as evidence by police.

A hotel staff member who identified himself as 'Chumphon' told the *Gazette* the couple arrived at the hotel at about 5:30pm. Mr Wassana arrived about 15 minutes later.

"I heard an argument from inside the room that lasted about 10 minutes before suddenly turning quiet. I reported this to the hotel owner, who called the police," he said.

Under police questioning Ms Sutthika said she once had a relationship with Mr Wassana who had fathered her twin children before they broke up.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

British man dies home alone in Koh Keaw

A 65-YEAR-OLD Englishman was found dead in his rental home near Boat Lagoon on January 5.

The deceased, Barry Ronald Cutler, was found at about 4pm in his rented home in Phuket Inter Villa residential estate on Soi Bangkoo 1 in Koh Keaw.

Mr Cutler rented the house in October and lived alone.

A neighbor of Mr Cutler, Ms Mayarassamee, became suspicious after not hearing from Mr Cutler for several days. Mr Cutler visited Ms Mayarassamee's home on a regular basis to have lunch with her and her mother.

After many calls went unanswered, Ms Mayarassamee

decided to ring the bell at his house. There was still no answer, despite the fact that his motorcycle was parked in the garage.

She then asked a security guard to unlock the door, and discovered Mr Cutler's body.

The home owner was allegedly the first to be notified. She in turn contacted Phuket City Police and English Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter at around 4:30pm.

Police led by Lt Col Jumroon Playdoug and Kusoldharm Foundation workers arrived at the scene at around 5:30pm.

Police reportedly found a running laptop computer and

medication from a private hospital in Phuket City on the dining table.

Ms Mayarassamee said that Mr Cutler had told her that he was in a motorcycle accident in Patong last month that affected his brain and that he had a history of heart disease.

She commented that her neighbor was a nice guy and that she felt sorry to learn of his passing.

Mr Cutler was last seen alive by neighbors at about 9pm on New Year's Day.

At the time of writing funeral services were being postponed while Mr Cutler's family made their way to Phuket.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

High-end boat show arrives on the bypass

PREMIUM Outlet Phuket, located on Phuket's bypass road, will host the first 'Phuket Boat Show' from January 23 to February 7.

The event, to be co-hosted by the Mr Boatman company, will exhibit thousands of maritime, automotive and property-related products and services for sale. Organizers hope the event will attract a high-

end crowd and boost the local economy.

The event, expected to take place annually, has the backing of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Operations and Marketing Director Pinyaluck Mahaaariyachaisin said everything from kayaks, floating docks, imported speedboats, cars and home furniture products would be on sale.

Organizers are still inviting local businesses interested in renting display booths at the show to contact them as soon as possible.

A number of special promotional offers will be up for grabs at the event and people of all ages are urged to attend.

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Beauty and the boats



MODEL TOURIST: British supermodel Naomi Campbell was the special guest of Royal Phuket Marina chairman Gulu Lalvani (left) at the PIMEX International Boat Show last week. Campbell was vacationing on the island with billionaire boyfriend Vladislav Doronin (right). The couple were joined at a luxury resort (rumored to be the Amanpuri) by fellow Brit catwalk star Kate Moss and rockstar boyfriend Jamie Hince, much to the delight of the British tabloids. A number of UK redtops splashed pics of the couples sunning themselves on a Phuket beach – to the envy of the British public, no doubt, who are currently enduring the coldest winter in 30 years.

Top cop quells brawl

PROVING unafraid to get his hands dirty, Patong's top cop himself waded into a bar brawl in Patong last week.

Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark was one of the three officers first on the scene when a vicious fight broke out between two gangs on Soi Happy off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pii Road in the early hours of January 7.

The men, numbering at least ten, were all young and muscular and smashed wooden chairs and bottles over each other, said

Phuket Immigration Volunteer Mr Robin Lee.

"Col Grissak went straight into the midst of the brawl and brought the situation under control within seconds," he said.

"He commanded the men to 'stop fighting and sit down'.

"The brawlers were all handcuffed before being taken off to the police station," he said.

Many of the brawlers ended up with cuts and bruises, but none of them seemed to have any serious injuries, said Mr Lee.

- Gazette reporters

Fears for safety of abandoned infant

A YOUNG Burmese couple have disappeared after police reunited them with the baby daughter they allegedly twice abandoned, raising fears for the infant's safety.

The four-month-old child was found wrapped in a blanket, crying loudly outside a shophouse on Palian Road in Ban Kuku on the evening of January 6.

Two milk bottles were lying by the little girl's side.

The local resident who discovered the child alerted the police, who handed the baby over to the Phuket Shelter for Children and Families.

A security guard from the Supalai City Hill project, where the Burmese couple worked, saw a Thai media report and suspected them of being the parents.

The young couple had a baby about the same age that mysteriously disappeared around the same time.

The security guard contacted the project developers, who in turn alerted the shelter at around noon on January 7.

Later that day, the young Burmese couple were brought by their boss to the shelter to identify the baby.

The 23 year-old-man and 20-year-old woman identified the baby girl as their own, but denied abandoning the child.

They claimed they left their baby girl with the woman's sister, who had since vanished.

Jiranan Jiamjaroen, chief of the Phuket Shelter for Children and Families, said her staff didn't believe the couple's story.

"We are sure it was the



BABY COME BACK: The baby with her Burmese parents at the camp inside Supalai City Hill project in Ban Kuku.

parents who abandoned the child," he said.

"The couple told us the baby was born on the way to Vachira Hospital about four months ago. The couple delivered the baby themselves on the side of the road and never received a birth certificate," Mr Jiranan said.

Police said they would be keeping a close eye on the young family.

Officers escorted the family back to their work camp at 7pm on Thursday, and donated milk, diapers and a new baby mattress.

The couple told police they would not abandon the baby again, but that they had very little money to support their child.

By Sunday morning, the couple had fled the camp.

"Sae", a young girl living in a shack near to that of the troubled family, said the couple had lived at the camp for about three months.

The couple fought constantly and had abandoned their daughter once before, she said.

"Nobody liked it, and the camp boss wanted them to leave," she said.

Ms Jiranan said nine children were abandoned in Phuket between October 2008 and September 2009.

The Burmese baby is the first to be abandoned since then, she said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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Plans to end Patong Beach traffic chaos



MESSAGE UNDERSTOOD: A sign warning against parking on Phang Muang Road behind Jungceylon.

IN a bid to solve the ever-worsening traffic problem in Patong, police are considering establishing a vacant lot behind Jungceylon as a center for the local car hire industry.

Many car rental companies are presently based along the heavily congested beach road.

Col Jakkawat Boonthaweekulsawat, head of the Kathu Police traffic division, hopes that moving the businesses to the vacant lot off Phang Muang Road will reduce beach road traffic.

Col Jakkawat said he was planning to raise the idea at a meeting of car rental representatives early next month.

In a related development, Col Jakkawat said

Kathu Police have solved the problem of traffic congestion in the same area by erecting no parking signs along a 100-meter stretch of Phang Muang Road that runs behind Jungceylon.

Jungceylon has its own parking facilities, but many non-customers had been parking in the area. This caused traffic congestion, he said.

The signs, put up on Christmas Day, had helped traffic move much more smoothly through the area, he said.

People who ignore the signs will get warnings until January 15, after which time violators will find their vehicles immobilized by wheel clamps that won't be removed until the owner pays a

300-baht fine, he said.

Asked about the plan to establish a new center for car rental businesses, Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhabaan said his office was not yet aware of the plans.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop would have to be consulted before action to move car rental operators could go forward, he said.

Many tourists visiting Patong opt to rent cars or motorbikes rather than pay for tuk-tuk rides that start at 150 baht for even the shortest of journeys.

A motorbike can be hired for 150 baht a day, while cars start at about Bt1,500 per day.

- **Pimwara Choksakulpan**

Signatures sought in battle of the bags



PLASTIC WASTE OF SPACE: The landfill behind the incinerator continues to grow at a rate of about 300 tonnes daily. Most of the refuse arrives in plastic bags.

TESCO - LOTUS and 7-Eleven remain among the few major Phuket retailers yet to sign an agreement to begin charging customers a nominal fee for plastic bags, it was announced during a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on January 8.

The meeting, chaired by Phuket Vice Gov Teerayut Eimtrakul and three of the project leaders, was attended by representatives of island retailers that have already signed on.

Villa Market is the latest Phuket retailer to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to charge customers for plastic bags: two baht for plastic bags over five liters in volume and one baht for smaller ones.

Phuket Energy Office Director Jirasuk Tummawetch said he was pleased Villa Market signed on voluntarily, without a request from his office.

It is understood that Villa Market is also planning to start charging customers at its branches in Bangkok for plastic bags. Villa Market's addition to the MOU increases the number of retailers who have signed up thus far to 24: Big C; Robinson Ocean; Robinson Ocean Jungceylon; Robinson Ocean Central; Ocean Shopping Mall Phuket; Ocean Plaza Patong; Big One; Supercheap; Siam Family Mart; Phuket Grocery; Index Living Mall; SB Furniture; 108 Shops; CP Fresh Mart; Central Festival; Central

Department Store; Power Buy; Super Sport; B2S; Office Depot; Tops Supermarket; HomeWorks; Jungceylon; and Villa Market.

Meanwhile, HomePro and the Premium Outlet Mall are expected to sign soon. Tesco-Lotus, Carrefour and 7-Eleven have yet to sign on.

The *Gazette* understands that Carrefour is considering signing the MOU, but first wants to see what action Tesco-Lotus takes, if any.

Organizers attended a three-hour meeting on January 11 to discuss preparations for a three-day launch exhibit from February 13 to 15 at Central Festival Phuket. Some 40 to 50 organizations are expected to take part.

The project will get its formal launch on February 14 with a speech by Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop. The organizers hope that the plastic bag charge – the first of its kind in Thailand – will lead to a reduction in the number of plastic bags entering the waste stream and needing to be 'landfilled' behind the incinerator at Saphan Hin, where the pile of garbage continues to increase at a rate of about 300 tonnes daily.

They also hope it will be the first of a number of steps aimed at reducing the amount of solid waste at the source and promoting re-use and recycling.

- **Pimwara Choksakulpan and Stephen Fein**

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Thailand's treasured bloom faces grim future

By Bodhi Garrett

The Nakha Water Lily, (*Crinum Thaianum*) known locally as 'Yah Chong', is in critical danger of extinction. The lily is found only in the rivers of northern Phang-Nga and lower Ranong provinces.

This water lily's exceptionally long leaves are an important habitat for young shrimp and fish species, therefore making it an instrumental part of the area's ecosystem, and one that desperately needs to be preserved.

Recent surveys have confirmed a 70 percent decline in the flower's population in just one year and, in four out of five of the region's rivers, the water lily has disappeared completely.

The fate of this species now depends on a small section of Klong Nakha in Ranong and without swift action at the highest levels, the Nakha Water Lily will disappear forever.

In the last decade, commercial collection of the Nakha Water Lily for aquariums has caused a sharp decline in population and habitat range.

In 2009, an even more serious threat to its survival emerged when provincial authorities commenced mass-scale river dredging, changing the flow patterns in many rivers with disastrous consequences to nearby habitats.

Advocacy for this threatened flower is badly needed. On the national level, key Thai government institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, need to be made aware of the present practices which are ushering this flower into extinction.

A number of non-governmental and community-based organizations are now



lobbying provincial councils to halt river dredging and protect the remaining Nakha Water Lilies. However, these groups urgently require high-level support to influence local government agencies and commercial plantation owners.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recommends the following measures to be instituted immediately in order to prevent further habitat destruction, ergo the species demise:

If dredging activities in the Phang-Nga and lower Ranong provinces were overseen by the government, further destruction of fragile ecosystems could be avoided.

Communication between the local residents, who have collected large numbers of the flowers for commercial use, and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture could also help to form a long-term management plan to curtail over harvesting.



TOP: A young boy stands amid the endangered Nakha Water Lilies in full bloom. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The lily's elongated leaves and root systems provide an essential habitat for aquatic life. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mass dredging in the Phang Nga and lower Ranong provinces has had a detrimental effects on the flower and the area's ecosystem.



In the future, the Klong Na Ca river region could be established as an excellent teaching resource where local leaders, international conservationists and eco-educators could come together to discuss global conservancy and

species protection. Phuket's community support is vital in the conservation efforts to protect the remaining water lilies in Southern Thailand.

In saving the Nakha Water Lily, we preserve a special part of unique natural heritage.

Bodhi Garrett founded North Andaman Tsunami Relief, a grassroots disaster relief organization and Andaman Discoveries tours. For more information on the Nakha Water Lily contact Bodhi Garrett. T:081-7877 344. E:bodhi.garrett@gmail.com or Somsak Soonthornnawaphat T: 081-754454. E:somsak@iucnt.org.

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Huge black panther terrorizing village

CHUMPHON: A huge black panther has been attacking livestock in a village next to a national park in Muang District.

Local resident Sanguan Damsanit told reporters on January 6 that he saw the animal on New Year's Day in a field in Tambon Tha Yang.

Mr Sanguan, 55, said that when he went to round up his eight head of cattle for the night at around 6:30pm, he saw a black panther devouring one of his calves.

He estimated the animal's body length at around 1.3 meters and said it stood a full meter tall.

After running back to the village in fear, he and other villagers returned to the area armed with shotguns and machetes to try and catch the beast, but it had gone.

In his absence, the panther attacked another of his calves, but only wounded it.

The animal is also suspected of having eaten some village dogs.

Thawee Bunyakon, 50, a former chief from a neighboring village, said that judging from its footprint, the panther was a large adult.

Mr Thawee said panthers aren't usually fierce like tigers and that he had never heard of one in Chumphon before.

He said he believed the animal must have lived in the nearby Hua Kroot Hills and been forced down to the village by extreme hunger.

Alternatively, it could have been a wealthy person's pet that had been dumped in the national park when the owner got bored with it, he said.

Worried that the panther might attack village children, Mr Thawee called in the livestock department to hunt it down.

Source: Khao Sod

Fossil links earliest man to Thailand

KRABI: Anthropoidia primates, an order that includes humans, might have originated here in Thailand, the recent discovery of a 35-million-year old Siamese ape fossil has suggested.

Found in a Krabi coal mine, the fossil is even older than one formerly believed to be the ancestor of all primates, aged 32 million years and found in Africa.

Mineral Resources Dep-

artment director-general Adisak Thongkhamuk chose the department's 118th anniversary on January 6 to announce the discovery of the fossil's lower right-side jaw with teeth and a complete upper jaw attached to an eye socket.

He hailed it as not only the world's oldest anthropoidia fossil but also the best preserved.

A previous jaw piece in

inferior condition had been discovered in 1995 and published the following year in the respected science magazine *Nature*.

The article described a new species of anthropoidia ancestor, a 7kg gibbon-sized member of the Amphipithecidae family, Mr Adisak said.

The ape hunted at daytime and lived on hard food.

Source: The Nation

Queer News

Mother teaches naked intruder painful lesson

NAKHONSRITHAMMARAT: A would-be rapist got his comeuppance on January 7, when he climbed naked through the wrong window and met his intended victim's mother – meat cleaver in hand.

Twenty-eight-year-old villager Phongphetch Bunya-disak climbed through the window of a home in his village in Muang District, allegedly looking for the prize-winning teenage schoolgirl who lived there.

When he crawled under the mosquito net on the ground floor however, he found not the young girl he had hoped for but her 52-year-old mother, Phimphimon Phetchcharoen.

Mrs Phimphimon said she was awoken around 11:30pm to find a naked and extremely drunk Mr Phongphetch trying to fondle her. She managed to fight him off, get up and grab a cleaver. Mr Phongphetch made a wild dash for the window, but not before Mrs Phimphimon landed two blows on his back and head.

Mrs Phimphimon shouted for help from neighbors. The villagers called the police then

formed a posse to hunt down Mr Phongphetch. At first the villagers could find only Mr Phongphetch jeans, abandoned outside Mrs Phimphimon's window along with an empty bottle of *lao khao* (cheap clear spirits).

Police investigators noticed a trail of blood leading from the window into woods behind the house. At the end of the blood trail they found Mr Phongphetch, still naked and curled up in the fetal position.

Mrs Phimphimon said this was the third time Mr Phongphetch had tried to sneak into her house, but the previous times she had woken up and scared him off before he managed to enter.

Mr Phongphetch is an unemployed drug addict who is always stealing from other villagers, she said. He also has a bad temper and frequently assaults people, even monks, Mrs Phimphimon alleged.

He was recently released from prison after serving time for the attempted murder of his own mother, she added.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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With Dr Suchart Ngamlertkul

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As laser technologies have advanced, we can now work on more skin conditions with variety of skin types. For example, a system originally designed to get rid of broken veins and vascular birthmarks can now rejuvenate the skin and erase age spots.

Dermatologists can now permanently remove a majority of blemishes, such as birthmarks, tattoos, or excess hair using laser technologies.

When considering a skin rejuvenation or resurfacing laser treatment, generally, people with fair complexions make better candidates. In darker skin the outermost pigment will 'steal' laser light, hence preventing it from traveling to the lesions. Darker skin tones will benefit from laser treatments, but they may require more sessions.

Some laser treatments will need numbing medications or, at the very least, some hand holding. A numbing cream will usually be enough to dull any discomfort, but a few of the newer laser systems are equipped with built-in cooling devices, which are able to deliver painless results.

In the past, one of the major issues for laser treatment patients was the down-time (recovery period) required after every procedure. A long recovery time is now a thing of the past, most procedures require zero down time.

For pain-free procedures, my favorite is the V-Beam Laser, because of its low pain factor and effective results. When used in successive sessions, the V-Beam laser gives skin a youthful, healthy glow while effectively stimulating collagen and removing the visible signs of aging.

Dr Suchart Ngamlertkul is a dermatologist specializing in skin lasers, rejuvenation procedures and treatment of skin diseases. For more information contact Face2Face Skin and Aesthetic Centre, Med Spa, Boat Lagoon 20/64, Thepkasattri Road, Phuket 83000. E: suchart@dc-one.com. Tel: 076-239535.



In the last Golf Guru, I introduced my series of articles on improving your golf game by giving an overview of the game's basics.

I tried to emphasize how much of golf is a mental game, and how becoming a good golfer requires you to be able to identify your personal areas of need.

This mental aspect of the game is the subject of this week's article. I'm going to talk about improving your thinking on the course.

Ask yourself if the following scenarios sounds familiar:

Imagine you are on the golf course, hitting your next shot. The following thoughts are probably running through your head:

"Don't go in the bunker. Don't go in the trees. Don't go in the water."

Then you swing, the ball goes into the bunker, the trees, or the water.

Another common mishap occurs after giving yourself an excess of instructions on how to swing, "Keep my head down, keep my left arm straight, keep my eyes on the ball..." and still the shot doesn't play like you wanted it to.

How many times have you been playing well and your partner turns around and comments on how you're having the best round of your life, and then you go into self-destruct mode? What can we learn from all these self-defeating situations?

First and foremost, the last thing you tell your golf ball not to do tends to be the first thing it does. Add details and instruction into the mix, and it typically compounds the situation.

You have been trained from a very early age not to do certain things that you end up doing. Teenage warnings of dating the wrong boy or girl, the infamous 'I dare you' tales that culminate

The swing mentality



in hospital visits, and your mother's warnings not to spill that jug of water just before you make a big spill.

Golf is no exception, so we need to learn to re-program the mind to tell ourselves what we really want to do.

Read through the next two scenarios of successful shots, and see if you can pick up on the difference from the first two.

You step onto a hole that you love to play. It suits your eyes, and it's a perfect shape for the direction you hit. You hit the ball, and sure enough it's a good shot, exactly what you had planned.

Here's another one:

You step up to the tee of a hole, and remember the horrible shot from the last time you played it. Knowing it to be a difficult hole, you release all expectations of playing a good shot. You hit the ball just like last time, but the shot is incredibly accurate. Turning to your playing partners, you say, 'I knew I was going to do that.' Well done!

How can you fancy a shot

so much on one hole and hit it great, but then try so hard to plan the perfect shot, and mess up completely?

In simple terms, you are what you think you are. It all comes down to how you choose to think. So think good golf.

All of these situations come down to a simple choice of positive and negative thoughts. While a lot of the mental side of golf seems uncontrollable, you do make the choice to think on the positive or negative side of things.

Telling yourself to avoid a negative situation is, generally, not a positive thought. At the same time, having no expectations – as in the last example – is subconsciously having no fear of disappointment, which is a positive thought.

You can only hold one thought at a time, so before you consider all the fine details of stance and swing, just remember to think good golf.

In my next article, I'll start talking about how to choose the right club for the right shot.

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Kamala illuminated

by Elizabeth Branca

The normally quiet community of Kamala beach bustled last week-end when thousands came to celebrate Kamala Fest 2010.

On January 8, farang tourists and local families flooded the normally low-key beach front for three days of music, food and amusements.

The festival's opening day parade thrilled the crowds while Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop officially commenced the party weekend by ringing the ceremonial bell.

Dozens of food vendors occupied HM The King's Park, and the Tsunami Memorial sculpture was illuminated with colorful lanterns to provide an awesome centerpiece.

At sunset, local soccer teams showed off their fierce skills to the mass of beach spectators.

Revelers packed the stage area to hear the headlining bands Kangkeng, Hin Lek Fai and the Sharma Band as they jammed late into the night.

A spectacular firework display finished off the town fete which was sponsored by the Kamala Tambon Administration Organization.



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Urban dreams meet canvas in 'Ideal City'



The 'Ideal City' exhibition features finely detailed work that reflects the busy lives of modern society. Each work displays an overhead view of a modern cityscape, complete with elements of dreams and imagination.

The uncertainties of modern society have made their way through the talented hand of artist Kwanchai Lichaikul and are the subject of his Ideal City Art Exhibition, currently featured at the Phuket Galleria through the end of January.

The fine detail in each of Mr Kwanchai's works highlights the fleeting nature of today's society, created by the overwhelming mix of politics, religion, culture, and environment. He presents these themes in each work by displaying renditions of modern cities from a bird's-eye-view, intermixed with fantastical images of dreams and imagination.

Eleven art pictures are shown for sale, starting at 8,000 baht for small ones and up to 214,000 baht for the larger ones.

Commenting on his works,

Mr Kwanchai said that "the drawings are expected to give viewers the effect that they are in an environment in which their surroundings are constantly moving. The pictures reflect various aspects people's lives, such as addiction, happiness, and windfall.

"I don't start my drawings with any sketches. This allows me to explore some of the unexpected. I like not knowing what they're going to look like when they're finished.

"I have been an independent artist ever since I graduated because I love to be my own boss", he said.

The exhibition is open to everyone at the Phuket Galleria, located at 346 Phuket Road, near Bangneaw intersection.

-Atchaa Khamlo

The masters of mirth

With a combined six decades of stand-up experience, comedians John Moloney, Pete Johansson and Stewart Francis know how to deliver the big laughs. On February 10, The Punchline Comedy Club at Patong's Holiday Inn is bringing the trio together to kick off its 2010 season. The comedians' talent has been featured on many international tours, including the London Comedy Festival, as well as performances on various late-night talk shows, including *The Late Late Show* with Craig Ferguson and the BBC's *Mock the Week*.



John Moloney

Having been a professional comedian for over twenty years, John Moloney has delighted audiences across the globe with his brilliantly crafted, intelligent and original stand-up routines. Following a string of successful television performances in 2002, Moloney was the UK Representative on the *Just For Laughs* National Tour of Canada, playing to 75,000 people in 25 nights. For two years running, Moloney has also received the 'Best Live Performer' Award at the London Comedy Festival and has been nominated for the 'Best Live Stand-Up' at the influential British Comedy Awards. Edinburgh's *The List* describes John's comedy as "Good old fashioned stand up. He is acutely funny at his deadpan and beautifully bitchy best."



Pete Johansson

Catching Pete Johansson perform his irreverent stand-up is a trip; you can't guess where he is going, but you die with laughter when he gets there. He loves performing comedy. His down-home simplicity, bent perceptions, and brainy insights have led him to a unique point of view that engages the audience's attention, tweaks their curiosity, and satisfies their need to laugh. The *Hollywood Reporter* named Pete Johansson as "the one to watch", and the UK's *The Scotsman* declared his stand-up routine as "the funniest first hour I have ever seen from a comic... Johansson is assured, relaxed, open and gently hilarious on stage. This is observational, anecdotal, autobiographical comedy at its best."



Stewart Francis

An internationally acclaimed stand-up comedian, accomplished actor and writer, Stewart Francis is one multi-talented performer. As a stand-up, he has been nicknamed the 'King of the One-Liners' and is frequently described as one of the funniest comedians in the world. Stewart has performed his razor sharp brand of humor worldwide and made numerous television appearances on *The Late Late Show* with Craig Ferguson. He has hosted the Canadian game show *You Bet Your Ass*, and in Britain his TV appearances include *The Comedy Store*, the BBC's *Mock the Week*, ITV's *For One Night Only* and more. In addition to acting and stand-up, Stewart has also written for *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno.

Tickets for the Punchline Comedy Club show are available now at many Phuket outlets and will be available at the Holiday Inn Resort on Tuesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 10 between 5-7pm. Advance tickets are 960 baht and 1,200 baht the day of the performance. For more event details and ticket outlet locations call 089-646-9278 or visit www.phuketcomedy.com.

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EXPAT GALLERY

Andy Street

Andy Street is one of Phuket's most successful property developers, with an impressive collection of high value estates to his credit. He retired to the island with wife Julie and their two sons in 2000, from a career in Hong Kong providing IT and computer consultancy services to the banking and brokerage industries.

But after a couple years here, he decided he wanted the excitement of a new business and launched Mantawan, his first project, at Bang Tao Bay.

"I discovered that I really love the business of property development, everything from the planning with architects to the building and the selling of a project."

Andy was born in East London. After finishing school, he trained in housing management for the local authority and spent his first working years managing tenants in municipal housing.

He then moved to York in North England where he talked himself into a job with a bank. There, he was introduced into the early days of computer programming and technical support. It became the field that led to his future success.

From the mid-1970s till 1987, he worked in Sales and Marketing for International Computers Limited (ICL), where he developed training programs for large

corporations who wanted to take advantage of new computer technology. He then moved to work in the same field for an American company and in 1991 was posted to Hong Kong.

"It was fantastic working in Hong Kong. I enjoyed the excitement and how the work ethic was mixed with play. When not working, there was travel around Asia or sailing around local waters and joining my friends in watching rugby. There were also many business opportunities and I opened my own consultancy in 1994, providing technical services to banks and brokerage firms."

Andy's company, D&M Consultancy, supplied technical teams on a project basis. In 1998, he sold to a US-based software company; then, two years later, he decided to start his new life on Phuket.

Andy now works out of his large offices near the Heroines Monument where he is planning his newest offering, Tawan Views.

"This new project, on the desirable eastern side of Phuket, is very contemporary in concept and design, with eighteen apartments and six penthouses. We have started construction and interest has been very positive."

This is Andy's fourth major development. After the success of Mantawan, a fifteen villa and fif-

teen apartment project on fifteen rai of land, he went on to build Chomtawan nearby in 2005. This second development offered twelve villas and 38 apartments.

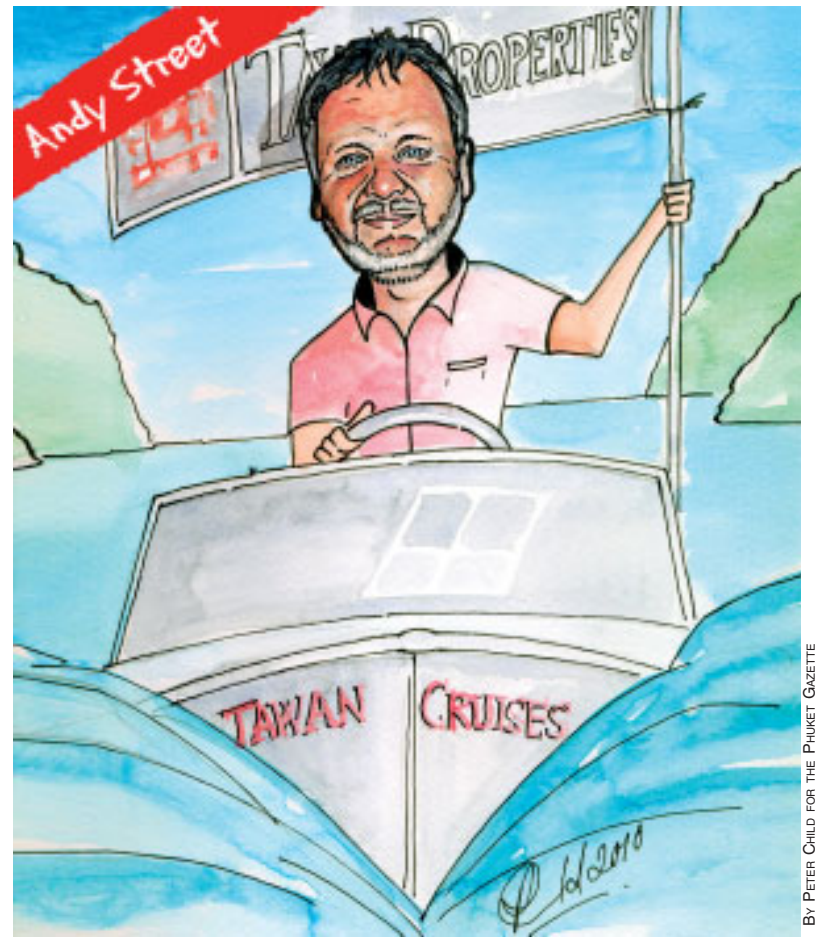
"I've had good results from these projects as our focus has been on building a residential community rather than holiday villas. We have designed and built with the family in mind."

After finishing Chomtawan, Andy decided to move up to the very high end villa market and acquired 16 plots of land directly on Bang Tao Beach. He calls this project Saisawan, and it's designed to attract the buyer determined to live on what little sea-front land remains available in Phuket.

Besides his property business, Andy also has Tawan Cruises, a boutique collection of Phuket's most luxurious Riviera and Azimut charter boats, allowing his guests and visitors to explore Phang Nga Bay and the Similan Islands in style. Andy has been a keen sailor since his days in Hong Kong and wants to offer the opportunity for residents and tourists to explore the beauty around Phuket.

When not working on his various business projects, Andy devotes his time as Chairman of the Parent-Teachers Association at the British International School.

"I still believe Phuket remains an unbeatable place to live, and that it will always be attractive to those who appreciate quality of life." — Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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NATIONAL PLAY TIME: Children gathered at Saphan Hin to participate in activities such as painting plaster dolls, coloring pictures and other games in honor of the national holiday. Gifts including bicycles, dolls and school supplies were distributed throughout the day.



PATONG THROG: Families turned out in large numbers to take photos with the big bear balloon, erected at the Jungceylon Fun Fair for Children's Day. The 'Balloon Man' spent the day making people smile with his wacky balloon creations.



CAPTAIN FANTASTIC: In the morning, Phuket International Airport celebrated Children's Day by giving kids a chance to explore the tarmac, emergency trucks and four airplanes. Happy Air opened its cockpits and let the children harness their inner aviators.



RECYCLED VOGUE: Five-year-old Noppamart Junmuang won Bangkok Hospital's recycled costumes fashion show with an outfit made from recycled milk bags. The hospital's Children's Day celebration promoted the eco-friendly principles of recycling and re-use.



SWEET CHARITY: Staff from the Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa, due to open April 20 2010, celebrated the day with nearby Koh Siray Primary School. Fun games were planned throughout the day and the kids were all eager to win prizes donated by the resort.



HAPPY FEET: Dancers from local primary schools performed on the main stage at Provincial Hall in Phuket Town. The celebrations included traditional Thai music, food and entertainment for a crowd of enthusiastic children.



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Luxury and the open sea meet at PIMEX

Royal Phuket Marina hosted some of the finest yachts in Southeast Asia from January 7-10 for PIMEX 2010, an annual boating event which this year welcomed more than 3,500 visitors.

Seventy exhibitors offered a range of marine-focused product and lifestyle brands in the marina's convention center, while outside the docks were packed with luxury yachts, over 35 of which were brought in specifically for the show.

Entrance was free and many visitors took advantage of the great weather to check out the luxury marine lifestyle, which is proving to be a fast-growing area for Phuket's tourism industry.

Each evening the yachts lit up in a picturesque display which lent a festive atmosphere to the boardwalk.

As representatives from as far away as Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam attend in increasing numbers, PIMEX is also becoming an important meeting place for those in the industry to conduct business. Brokers hinted that eight to ten boats were sold over the four days at an estimated value of US\$10 million. More accurate figures should be available in the coming weeks.

Show director Andy Dowling said, "We are very happy. The visitor rate and the feedback we have had since the show closed has convinced us that the we made the right decision about dates. We will build on this and make the show even more successful next year. It looks like the global economic woes of 2009 have not affected the marine industry here in Phuket, and the future looks bright."



From January 7 - 10, Pimex 2010 was home to Southeast Asia's luxury yachting community. Held at Royal Phuket Marina, the event welcomed 3,500 visitors to an exhibition of marine products, forums on maritime security, and a dock full of luxury yachts.



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Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

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Soaring over waves with Teiki 'Airlines' Ballian

French surfer Teiki Ballian goes by many aliases. Some friends call him 'Teiki Airlines', while his thousands of internet fans know him as 'Spiderman' or 'Michael Jackson', but to his family and Phuket pals his name means 'the little prince that goes to the ocean', or Teiki-éetai in a Polynesian dialect of the Marquesas islands.

Teiki, 24, is a professional free surfer and veteran sailor with two circumnavigations of the world accredited to his many names. He has lived his whole life at sea, never attending school or living in a house, continuously exploring the world's oceans aboard his family's yacht *Scame*.

Today, Teiki spends his time sailing and surfing off the coasts of Phuket and Indonesia. When the high season rolls around on Phuket, his family skip out to the Mentawai Islands off the Sumatran Coast, where Teiki spends his days slicing through lipping waves with some of the world's best surfers.

But when Phuket's low sea-



son rears its head on the back of Thai New Year (*Songkran*) Teiki and his family head back to the island to make some money chartering yacht day trips and for Teiki to refine his surfing craft at Nai Harn and Kata beaches.

If you're quizzical about his aliases, then his ability to execute four foot airs off the crest of waves, his passion for donning a pink Spiderman suit or Michael Jackson outfit whilst surfing may provide some answers.

When he was 10-days-old,

Teiki was whisked away from a hospital in La Ciotat, France and bundled aboard his parents 72-foot yacht *Scame* to set off on his first transatlantic crossing bound for the Caribbean.

This was the start of a life bound to the world's oceans.

Today, Teiki doesn't have a 9 to 5, doesn't have a gym membership – although he looks like he does – and refrains from haircuts, wearing too many clothes and staying on land for too long.

Teiki is a free surfer, which basically means he travels the world surfing, raising cash by dropping a few sponsors' names here and there and occasionally posing for the odd glossy surf mag to answer a few questions about how bodacious he is.

"Surfing is my passion, sailing is my life, family is my love, women and sugar are my weakness and the ocean is my number one friend," he said.

Teiki never went to school, but instead was 'boat-schooled' as a child on the world's oceans. His father taught him math and his mother, languages and history.

He first came ashore to Thailand when he was six-years-old and lived in northern Bangkok while the family's yacht was being refitted. There he attended the local temple school, where he studied Thai, eventually obtaining fluency.

But a year on, and the yacht refitted, the family left Thailand to



A SURF CHARACTER: Teiki Ballian at a Nai Harn Beach photo shoot (left) and (above) Teiki in his pink Spiderman suit executes one of his trademark aerial moves while (inset) he flies over a small wave at Nai Harn Beach last November. Photos by Janne Mikkulainen and Gecko.

embark on Teiki's first circumnavigation of the globe, eventually arriving in Phuket seven years later.

"Phuket was and still is the perfect place for us to drop anchor and make our home for six months out of the year," he said.

Teiki soon made friends with Phuket's international school students, and spent his days waiting for his chums to finish class so that they could skateboard, surf and cycle around the island.

Whilst anchored off Phuket, his family would also charter island trips for scores of tourists, a service they still provide today.

For the other half of the year, usually in Phuket's high season, the Ballian family elopes to the Mentawai Islands and Bali.

Having first learned to surf at nine-years-old in Costa Rica, Teiki said it was the breaks around the Mentawai Islands where he molded his craft.

"The perfection and consistency of the breaks jump started my progress into being recognized and sponsored," he said.

With sponsors falling over themselves to sign him up, the young Teiki made his way to

Bali to compete in surf competitions alongside some of the best surfers in the world.

But although Teiki has had some decent standings in some of Asia's most reputable surf competitions, he says that free surfing is more his style.

"I strive daily to push the boundaries, to challenge myself in my surfing... a constant competition between me, myself and I.

"I don't aim to be number one, I don't want a rank to define me. I aim to show the beauty of surfing by representing freedom by means of all crafts, from a plank of wood, to a sophisticated modern short-board," he said.

Teiki said the stereotypical image of a surfer being a 'rock star or beach bum' is one that riles him.

"I want people to grasp surfing as soulful, creative, challenging, refreshing and an expressive art form," he said.

Keep your eyes on the water. Teiki will be back in Phuket after *Songkran* and can be found at either Kata or Nai Harn beaches dodging swimmers.

-Fraser Morton

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Champagne and pearls on Bon Island



On January 20, Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa will be hosting a champagne dinner on its private island. Guests indulge themselves in bubbles of Billecart-Salmon Champagne surrounded by the Andaman Sea and accompanied by fine seafood prepared by acclaimed Executive Chef Thomas Jacobi.

Shining stars above and pearls served to you all night long. Start the new decade with an experience you will never forget. Hosted from 6:30pm-11pm and priced at 3,500 baht++. For further information contact Ms. Monika Bielka-Vescovi. T: 076-381010. E: bvm-phuket@sixsenses.com. W: sixsenses.com.

January 15–February 28. Much More of Me... Art Exhibition

Much More of Me is a collection of innovative art works by artist Map Abday. Selected pieces are showing daily at the Clubhouse of Blue Canyon Golf and Country Club, Phuket from 6am-9pm. For more information contact Ken. T: 081-649 3557. E: art@phuketlifestyle.com W: phuketlifestyle.com.

January 2. Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The PIWC monthly luncheons are open to members and guests. Newcomers are welcome. From 11:30-2pm Kata Beach Resort. For further information contact T: 076-200730. E: info@phuketiwc.com. W: phuketiwc.com.

January 23. 'Chill Out' House Sessions Volume 1

Relax after all new year's parties with some smooth and uplifting house tracks. House maestros DJ T.J. Bangkok and DJ 'The Professor' Pierandre from Italy select the best music for a chill vibe. Enjoy wines, beer and sparkling water from the bar and take in the sunset at Grasslands, Royal Phuket Marina's new pier side venue. From 6.30pm-9pm at Grasslands - Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-7973364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com.

January 24. Phuket's First Celebrity Chef Raw Food Workshop

Celebrity raw food chef Ani Phyo will conduct a raw food workshop at Mom Tri's Villa Royale from 1pm-5pm. After six recipe demonstrations by the chef, participants can sample dishes including three guilt-free desserts, a main course, an appetizer, a soup and a drink. In advance tickets are 800 baht each; or 1,000 baht each the day of the event. For more information contact Sylvie Yaffe, PR Manager. T: 087-888 9089. E: pr@villaroyalephuket.com. W: momtriphuket.com/events.htm. For more information about Chef Ani Phyo visit aniphyo.com.

February 3 – 7. Phang Nga Bay Regatta

A fun-filled four days of racing between the beautiful islands of Phang Nga Bay and Krabi. Perfect for families and less serious racers. Held around Chinese New Year, there is a party at a different beach venue each night from 10pm-11:30pm throughout Phang Nga Bay. For further information contact Vicky or Rolien. T: 085-069 0940. E: vicki@loxinfo.co.th. W: bayregatta.com.

February 10. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club

Live International Stand-Up Comedy at The Punchline Comedy Club. The three performing comedians – John Moloney, Stewart Francis, and Pete Johansson have over sixty years of stand-up experience between them, so you can be assured of a fun packed night full of laughter. The air-conditioned comedy venue sells drinks at sensible prices: beer 100 baht; selected spirits 120 baht; wine 140 baht. Show time is from 8-11pm at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong Beach. For further information contact Khun Boon. T: 089-646 9278. E: infor@phuketgazette.com. W: phuketcomedy.com.

February 13. Chinese New Year Eve at Movenpick

In accordance with tradition, Movenpick has arranged a celebratory feast on Chinese New Year's Eve. The celebration brings friends and family to gather together to start the new year. You'll feast on a dazzling array of Chinese delicacies and international desserts. The Chinese New Year's Eve buffet dinner will be held at the Pacifica from 6:30pm-10:00pm and is priced at 1,288 baht ++ per person. Book a table for 10 persons or more and receive a complimentary 'Yu Sheng' Chinese New Year Salad. For further information contact Mr. Patrick De Staercke. T: 076-396139. E: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com. W: moevenpick-phuket.com.

February 14. Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year starts with the new moon on the first day of the new year and is the biggest social occasion in the Chinese calendar. It is celebrated with gusto amongst Thailand's sizeable Chinese community, and legions of Chinese tourists from neighboring nations who choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

February 14. Jazz in the Park on Valentine's Day

The Rotary Club of Tongkah proudly presents 'Big Band' Jazz charity concert to raise funds for the Bang-neaw School at Suan Chalermparakiet 72 Years Queen Sirikit Park. Enjoy the night with songs from favorite all played by the JCB Jazz Cool Band. There will also be a Classic & Super Cars Show. From 5pm-9:30pm at Suan Chalermparakiet 80 Years Queen Sirikit. For further information contact Chaisak Koaysomboon. T: 076304090. E: chaisak@expressdata.co.th. W: tongkah.org.

Free Computer Clinics

Have a computer problem? Frustrated with your Internet connection? Want to know where to buy a computer in Phuket, or get one fixed?

Join "For Dummies" author and Windows victim Woody Leonhard at one of his FREE weekly Computer Clinics, held every Sunday morning at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes in Chalong, Patong and Laguna. Click on the 'Old "Khunwoody.com" pages' link.

For more information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: KhunWoody.com. All clinics are from 10am-12pm. In Chalong, January 17, 24, 31 and February 21 and 28. In Laguna, February 14.

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On The Move *Introducing the island's movers and shakers*

Marine industry specialist **Derrick Van Deventer** was appointed Marina Manager at Ao Po Grand Marina on December 7, 2009. Mr Deventer is South African and trained as a mechanical engineer. During his career, he has been a private captain, a charter captain and sports-fishing captain. Specializing in the marina industry, Mr Deventer has been manager at the Royal Phuket Marina for the past four years.



In her sixth year with Laguna Phuket, **Kulchada Boonrawd** has been appointed Marketing Communications and Public Relations Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. She has over a decade's experience at Phuket's luxury hotels, previously holding positions at Twinpalms, Allamanda Laguna, Sheraton Grande Laguna and the Banyan Tree Phuket. She also participated in the launch of Catch Beach Club.



Italian chef **Silvano Amolini** was recently appointed Executive Chef at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, where he leads a team of 60 kitchen staff. Mr Amolini joined the hotel in 1993 as Junior Sous Chef. He oversees the resort's six food outlets, including banqueting and room service. Mr. Amolini plans to offer the classical-fusion dishes of La Trattoria Restaurant and fresh seafood of Casuarina Beach Restaurant.



MONEY TALKS

Richard G. Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years' experience in the field of finance.
T: 076-381997, 081-0814611.
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We are living in a very interesting period in the history of mankind. People of the 'baby boomer' generation – children born in the decade after World War II (broadly 1945 to 1955) – are now either retired or approaching retirement.

What's so interesting about this generation is that for the first time in history, there are so many affluent people in many different countries with a large number of choices available to them.

Additionally, many people, younger and older than the baby boomers, are financially independent.

Major UK bank Lloyds TSB recently conducted a survey of attitudes among people approaching retirement.

The results were rather interesting. Over 91 percent of respondents wanted to retire outside the UK but in reality, this

Give gray areas the attention they deserve

will never happen for a wide range of reasons, including family ties, friendships, the fear of the unknown... The list is almost endless.

However, significant numbers of people will move; usually to warmer climates.

North Americans often relocate to the 'Sunshine Belt' and Europeans move to warmer areas in the south of the continent.

Another great change in the 20th Century was the rapid decline of the extended family unit. Many call this a tragedy but it is a reality which has meant educational improvements that in many countries have ultimately led to greater wealth and individual freedom.

The net result for South East Asia is that a small percentage of people (a substantial number in real terms) are making this region their home.

A significant number will spend some months every year in South East Asia and stay home for the remainder of the year. Others spend most, if not all, of their time in this region.

New Zealand and Australia have long understood the economic benefits of this 'gray immigration'.

On average, one 'gray' immigrant is worth more than ten tourists in economic rewards for the host nation.

However, South East Asian governments have generally been

very slow to recognize the massive benefits that this type of immigration brings to their economies. They pay lip service but simply have not thought the situation through in its entirety.

A perfect example is the field of medical tourism; it is widely understood that this is a very profitable area.

Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and India are aggressively promoting this form of tourism with great success.

The benefits of medical tourism are not merely financial; it provides local entrepreneurs the opportunity to develop hospitals of a high standard and career opportunities for local medical professionals that would otherwise not exist. It also means better health care facilities become available to local residents.

If countries on this region are really serious about encouraging retirees, they should ask themselves what retirees want. Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines offer packages to retirees but limit them to condo ownership.

However, part of the attraction of living in this region is the natural beauty of plants, birds and wildlife, so many retirees want their own garden.

Malaysia has 'stolen a march' on its rivals. They realized that retired people want security, so they now offer ten-year,



Malaysia offers foreign retirees 10-year renewable visas and the right to own property. However, one French national not so welcome is Alain 'Spiderman' Robert, pictured scaling the Petronas Twin Towers in downtown Kuala Lumpur, in 2007. He was arrested after the climb and later fined. Photo: AFP/Tengku Bahar

renewable visas and the right to own properties.

For buying property, Malaysia simply placed minimum costs, as they do not want to encourage 'breadline' retirees and they don't want this category to compete for property with poorer Malaysians. In this it is similar to Thailand.

Malaysia requires certain income levels or fixed deposits to guarantee the financial stability of the applicant.

The Malaysian government has an excellent website, www.mm2h.gov.my, which stands for the name of the official program: 'Malaysia My Second Home'. There are other valuable incentives in this program.

There's also an excellent magazine, *The Expat*, available in hardcopy and on line at www.expatriate.com.

The most ambitious project ever devised for retirees was a creation by major Japanese investors in the mid-1980s.

Somalia was selected because of its hot climate year-round. The idea was to transport 300,000 Japanese retirees to a substantial coastal area in Somalia.

The Japanese would have installed first-world infrastructure, including roads, electricity, housing, medical care, entertainment, shopping, golf courses, etc.

The benefits for Somalia would have been a massive capital infusion and employment opportunities. However, the country descended into, and remains embroiled in a civil war. The project was canceled.



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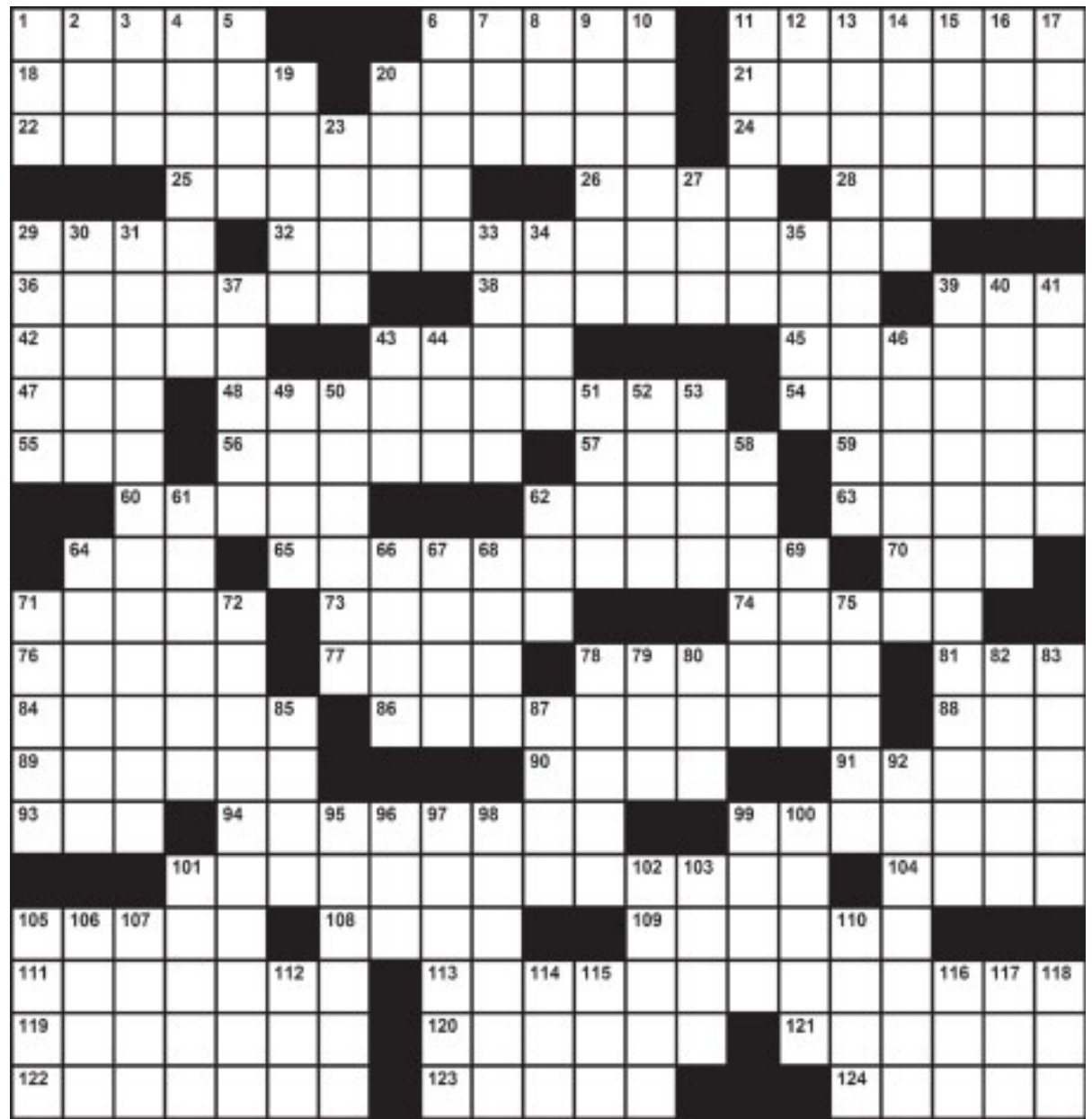
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



ACROSS

- 1 Met staple
6 Haul with effort (Var.)
11 Answered
18 Croupiers, at times
20 For each thing
21 "O Sole Mio" composer di Capua
22 Type of economic pressure
24 Roget or Webster, it could be said
25 Pillage and plunder
26 Ablutionary vessel
28 Coming-apart points?
29 Board game cubes
32 Not integrated into a wider society
36 Diacritical marks
38 Creature named for its flat feet
39 Wave meas.
42 Acts as a fence for
43 Substitute for unmentioned people
45 "Come on now!"
47 Convent dweller
48 Brown or Rice, e.g.
54 Decorative knob
55 Common Market inits.
56 Defender of Troy
57 Southwestern artist colony
59 Present occasion
60 Heeds the sentry
62 Be a brat
63 Does some lawn work
64 "Alice" diner owner
65 "Carpe diem!"
70 Some 45s, briefly
71 Tyler Perry character

DOWN

- 73 Unrefined oil
74 Edible seaweed
76 "___ as I can see ..."
77 Bathroom square
78 At will
81 Silver Gavel Award org.
84 Raises up
86 Shades
88 Post-picnic trash, maybe
89 Like rural life
90 Hash house sign
91 Actor Milo of "The Matchmaker"
93 "TV Guide" abbr.
94 Exceptional, as a restaurant
99 Sanitation trucks in a snowstorm
101 Unconcerned
104 Actual existence
105 Megaphone-shaped
108 Vast land mass
109 Greater than 90 degrees
111 Conviction
113 Hope against hope
119 Walgreens rival
120 Fiery streak in the sky
121 Boot part
122 It's spotted on kids
123 Ammo provider
124 University leader, in slang

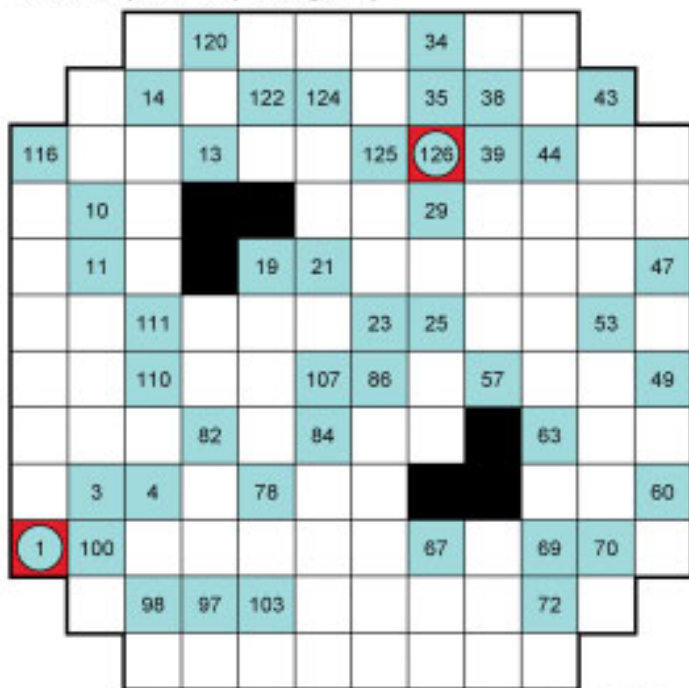
- 9 Skin condition
10 Lapwing(Var.)
11 Prepare to give what you received?
12 Tokyo, once
13 Type of fish net
14 Took on cargo
15 "___ la Douce"
16 Cheese that's made backward?
17 Adams and Ameche
19 Imitate a peacock, perhaps
20 Caribbean color
23 Without, to the chic
27 "Tarzan" star Ron
29 Allman Brothers lead guitarist
30 Charge, as with feeling
31 Part of a defiant gesture
33 Bandies words
34 Panacea's targets
35 Home area
37 Order from a regular
39 Canned-fruit choice
40 Director's cry
41 Standish of Plymouth colony
43 The apple of Adam's eye
44 Herbal quaff
46 Positive battery ends
49 Tennis barriers
50 Aardwolf prey
51 Irritating skin sensation
52 1991 film "Little Man ___"
53 "___ better watch out ..."
58 Bidder's suit, sometimes
61 Orioles' div.
62 Bolted down some nuts?
64 Afghan resistance

- leader Ahmad
66 Tennessee's state flower
67 African language
68 ___ Prairie, Minn.
69 Big season at Toys"R"Us
71 Olympic skier Phil
72 Unnatural
75 Cleaner/disinfectant brand
78 Boater's emergency kit item
79 "King ___" (Clavell novel)
80 Capital of Sweden?
82 Dutch colonists in South Africa
83 Belittle
85 Biol. and geol.
87 Cyclist's choice
92 Three-card-monte skill
95 Gourmet delights
96 Capt.'s subordinate
97 Blot on one's reputation
98 One who creates rags, at times
99 Paving block
100 Burned or parched
101 Enjoys an elegant meal
102 Deep sleep
103 A lift, in Aspen
105 Bulblike plant stem
106 Andy Taylor's boy
107 "The Concrete Jungle" actress Talbot
110 Word on a traffic sign
112 French for "goose"
114 You can bank on it
115 Meet a bet
116 Andy Roddick specialty
117 Tussaud's medium
118 Undercover agent

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www.whatzit.com August 17, 2009

WHATZIT?

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. What type of animal is a vmi-vmi?
2. For what invention did Mege Mouries win the Napoleon prize in 1870?
3. What was Walt Disney's middle name?
4. Who lives in Castle Gondolof?
5. What two items make up the dish 'devils on horseback'?
6. What does the term 'ludo' mean?
7. The musical group The Detours changed their name to become which mega band?
8. What animal was believed to be a cross-breed of a camel and a leopard?
9. An elephant has 400,000 of these in its trunk?
10. What colour is cerulean?
11. Who composed music to be played on a G-string? Both initials and last name.
12. Stuffed cats Twinkles and Lucky Jim were the first to do what?
13. What are kreplach?
14. The Pica pica is what common bird?
15. What male human feature was taxed in Elizabethan times?
16. Which London record company rejected The Beatles?
17. From which country does spinach originate?
18. All British policemen carry truncheons. What is the American equivalent called?
19. The DC comics hero Linda Lee Danvers is whose alter ego?
20. In what country does the milky sapped cow tree grow?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

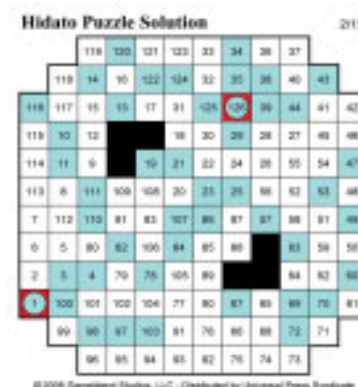
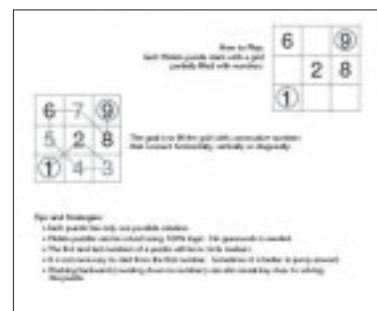
WHATZIT? solutions

1. Batten down the hatches. 2. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. 3. Right under one's nose.

Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



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



Solution to this week's crossword



1. Very small pig;
2. Margarine;
3. Elias;
4. The Pope;
5. Bacon and prune;
6. I play;
7. The Who;
8. Giraffe;
9. Muscles;
10. Deep blue;
11. JS Bach;
12. Fly across Atlantic with Alcock Brown;
13. Jewish ravioli;
14. Magpie;
15. Beards;
16. Decca;
17. Iran;
18. Nightstick;
19. Supergirl;
20. Venezuela.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

The last review I wrote was about Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*. After its cliff-hanger of an ending, I immediately broke open the second novel of her Maddadams Trilogy, *The Year of the Flood* (Bloomsbury, London, 2009, 434pp).

Alas, you don't catch up to the cliffhanger and find out what happened until the last few pages of this sequel. But this is as much of a page-turner as the first. Only the characters are different.

Oryx and Crake centered around the love trio of its three main characters: Oryx, Crake and Snowman. These were the originators and distributors of a viral plague that virtually obliterates humanity.

The main characters of the second novel are the Gardeners of God. This is a Christian cult that cultivates vegetables, herbs

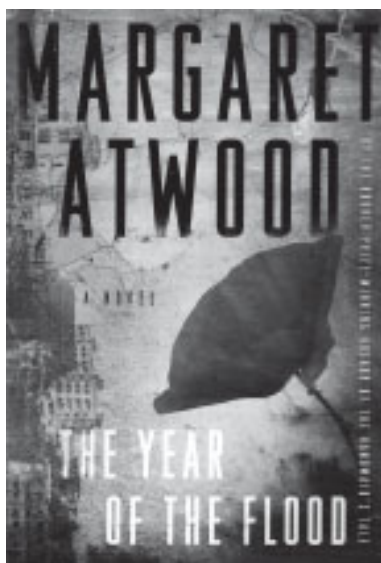
and honey on the rooftops of a decaying city overrun with criminal gangs.

The three main characters are female: Toby, Ren and Amanda. Interspaced within the narratives are sermons glorifying various aspects of nature by the cult leader, Adam One, followed by hymns to birds, snakes, fish, insects, carnivores and extinct species.

Margaret Atwood has never shown much interest in religion, more taken by left wing causes, but here she is glorifying – though occasionally making fun of – a high-minded band of pious vegetarians rejecting material vanity and devoted to the worship and preservation of nature – the sort of pantheism espoused by the 19th century American Transcendentalists.

There is more than a whiff of apocalypse, too. God's Gardeners are awaiting the coming of the 'Waterless Flood': the end of the world, caused by rampant exploitation and genetic manipulation of nature.

The book opens with Toby, a lone survivor, surveying the horizon from the rooftop of a



hermetically sealed health spa for the rich. Once the sex slave of a group of gangsters, she had been rescued by the Gardeners of God.

She was not much of a believer, but spent years with the cult, learning beekeeping, herbal medicine and survival skills. They stand her in good stead now, along with a rifle she digs up from her late father's home.

Ren is the daughter of an elite couple who live in the secure, heavily-guarded compound of a

giant pharmaceutical conglomerate. Her mother flees for the outside world with her lover Zeb, a street-smart God's Gardener, taking her seven-year-old daughter with her.

Ren's best friend is Amanda, a refugee from the Texas dust bowl who'd survived on the streets until finding the same refuge. Both are eventually forced to leave the Gardeners and, when the flood strikes, both are saved by a quirk of physical isolation.

The crux of the plot is formed around how the three women, along with other cult members, are reunited after the flood forms. They remain under constant threat by man, beast and the plague.

Margaret Atwood has always been a writer attracted to heroic ideas, and in Adam One's sermons, she gives full vent to a kind of natural theology, extended to somewhat precarious ends:

"True, we are sometimes infested with nanobioforms we would prefer to be without, such as the Eyebrow Mite, the Hookworm, the Pubic Louse, the Pinworm, and the Tick, not to

mention the hostile bacteria and viruses. But think of them as God's tiniest Angels, doing His unfathomable work in their own way, for these Creatures, too, reside in the Eternal Mind, and shine in the Eternal Light, and form a part of the polyphonic symphony of Creation."

Towards the end, Adam One rails against "the elaborate intellectual framework Human-kind is endlessly constructing for itself . . . No Human can truly know the full mind of God. The human reason is a pin dancing on the head of an angel, so small is it in comparison to the Divine vastness that encircles us."

But as the plot gallops toward its violent conclusion, the reader resents the yammering interruptions of Adam One; left with the thought of, 'Just get on with the story'.

Still, his voice is the one that recounts the persecution of the group and its dwindling to possible extinction, and we care about the fate of the survivors because of it.

I can't wait until Atwood publishes the third installment of the trilogy.

Horoscopes



Isla Star



Capricorn

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Good news this week should put a smile on your face. Capricorns who were waiting on tenterhooks for an important decision will spend the last half of January in a positive frame of mind. Romance is highlighted to go smoothly, although a fire sign partner's problems with money could rub off on you. Those celebrating a birthday this week will attain goals more easily in the coming year.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Words spoken in the heat of the moment this weekend will give Aquarians cause for regret. A water sign family member or friend is predicted to push your patience to the limit. The best approach is to retreat from this person until their mood has calmed. Financial discrepancies are indicated to require your immediate attention early next week. The number six can bring some good luck on Sunday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans who resolved at the start of the year to turn over a new leaf with their finances should be on the right track. This week, the temptation to spend more than you can afford will be particularly strong, but an earth sign friend will encourage you to resist. A romantic relationship with Aries becomes smoother when honest feelings are aired this weekend. The number seven is lucky this Sunday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Those born under the sign of Aries who have been experiencing trouble at work will spot a way to make their lives easier this week. The stars suggest that an air sign colleague's advice is well worth following, but Sagittarius is certainly not giving you the whole story. This weekend, your timing is perfect to put a budding relationship on a more intimate level. Wear the color chocolate brown to encourage a sweeter mood.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans should be ready to deal with whatever life throws at them during the second half of January. Your brighter energy and appetite for adventure will also attract others to you. Someone born under the sign of Gemini will be especially impressed – expect a romantic invitation to be forthcoming this weekend. Those in a committed relationship could have difficulty encouraging their partner to leave familiar territory. The

scent of vanilla enhances the softer side of your nature.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Many Geminis discover that someone's bark is worse than their bite in the world of business this week. Finding a way to collaborate with this person will enable you to get ahead during the remainder of January. This weekend, a fire sign reveals that they would like to spend more private time with you. A financial windfall on Monday or Tuesday is the icing on the cake for a successful week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Clearing cobwebs is the main focus for Cancerians this week. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to have a down to earth discussion with someone who you have not been seeing eye to eye with recently. This weekend, the germ of an idea to relocate develops when another water sign has an interesting tip. A chance meeting with an old flame could provoke jealousy, but you will soon see that there is no going back.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The spotlight continues to shine on employment for those born under the sign of Leo. During the second half of January, there are indications that final decisions will be made. This week, you realize that one job offer will involve too much change in your lifestyle, but an interview midweek holds promise for quick progress up the career ladder. Where

romance is concerned, Scorpio thinks that you're the cat's whiskers.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your social scene brightens when a water sign friend returns to town. Those Virgoans who are ready for more fun could find their lives turned upside down during the remainder of January. However, the stars suggest that you will need to put in some overtime at work this week and tiredness is highlighted to be an issue. Early next week, a dream encourages you to see Aquarius in a more romantic light.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans looking for the way out of a financially related problem should gain insight from an encounter with Capricorn this weekend. Your tendency to spend first and think later will need to be addressed during the remainder of January as temptation is highlighted. Romance with an earth sign continues to be uplifting, but those in a committed relationship will be affected by a partner's problem. The number three can be lucky on Sunday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Sparks are still forecast to fly in relationships this week. Scorpions' impatience is likely to cause tension, particularly when communicating with earth and air signs. Money matters are better highlighted and your efforts to find a practical way of saving are about to be rewarded.

Wednesday is the best day to address a bureaucratic issue. Wear a piece of amber to encourage a more positive outlook on life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The sun is about to set on some Sagittarians' problems involving money. A benevolent astral atmosphere prevails until the end of this month and you should see more than one golden opportunity to earn more. Romance could become complicated when three is a crowd this weekend and you may decide that it's time to take a few steps backwards. The scent of sandalwood can encourage a more down to earth attitude.

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Time to end restrictions on alcohol sales times

After more than a year in power, it is time for the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to rethink the confusing and ineffectual regulations that apply to the retail sale of alcohol products in Thailand.

First to go should be the regulation that limits the sale of alcohol at retail outlets to the hours of 11am to 2pm and from 5pm until midnight. This annoying regulation, put in place by the Thaksin administration at the height of its social engineering campaign, was ostensibly enacted to stop minors from buying or consuming alcohol products on their way home from school.

The sheer absurdity of this rationale is demonstrated by the fact that people under the age of 18 are already prohibited by law from buying alcohol at any time. Does the government really believe that the kind of mom-and-pop store operators willing to sell booze to teens at 9am are going to deny them the same privilege at four in the afternoon?

The government should get serious about enforcing the more important provisions of the 2008 Alcohol Control Act that call for fines and/or imprisonment for those who sell alcohol to minors, while doing away with the time restrictions that inconvenience adults who drink responsibly.

Another vexing aspect of this ill-conceived regulation is the amount of alcohol involved. Bulk purchases of alcohol are not covered by the law. This means the sale of a case of 12 large bottles of beer is forbidden between the hours of 2pm and 5pm. But throw three more bottles into the shopping cart and the sale can go through. This actually serves to encourage people to drink more alcohol than they might otherwise, which obviously runs counter to the objectives of the Act.

The people who suffer from these restrictions are those who might have a spontaneous craving for a drink, or people without the financial means to buy alcohol in the amounts required. And one can't help but feel sorry for retail staff who need to explain the regulation to tourists.

The time restriction is only one of a number of alcohol control measures in Thailand that need revision or scrapping altogether. Another is the rule, again put in place by Mr Thaksin, that requires entertainment venues to close by 1am. No province suffers more from these draconian rules than Phuket.

Phuket currently has three MPs and two senators, including the chair of the senate committee on tourism. It is time they get together and lobby Cabinet to change these draconian, difficult-to-enforce measures that do little good but harm the tourism industry.

– **Stephen Michael Fein**



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.

Recycled profit

Sorry, but maybe I have missed the point on the campaign against plastic bags.

I like to carry my groceries home in plastic bags so that the blood from the meat I buy doesn't ruin my car's carpets, among other concerns. At home I put my rubbish in them, so they are used twice.

Why should I pay more for plastic bags when their cost has already been factored into the price of my groceries? Will they reduce the price of my groceries? I think not.

I won't pay extra for the bags! It seems like just another way of extracting money.

Deal with the plastic at the incinerator. Use prison inmates for garbage pick-up, especially the ones that steal.

**Alan Vacquier
Nai Harn**

Road revelers

I've been in Phuket for two months now, and one of the greatest surprises is how blatant drunk driving is on the weekends.

As a frequent visitor to the island's top nightspots, I'm always nervous about staying out too late for fear of these ubiquitous dangers of the road. It seems to me no matter where you go or how long you drive, you're never far from someone swerving, speeding, and running red lights.

Has this always been the case in Phuket? And why is nothing done about it – when it seems a police officer could simply pick a spot on a road and make a handful of arrests in one night?

**Dianna Smith
Bang Tao**

Survival of cheapest

Having just arrived in Phuket with my family, I have noticed a few oddities regarding DVD sales in Phuket.

On the first day of my holiday, my family and I bought a bunch of DVDs in Patong from a nice man (who also offered us a suit) for only 60 baht per movie.

The next day, we went to a shopping mall and I popped into a bookstore and again had a nosey at the DVDs. The movies were all original, but a whopping 500 baht more than the ones I had purchased the previous day.

I'm interested to know if anyone buys non-pirated movies in Phuket, and if so, why? It seems to me you'd be throwing your money down the drain.

Also, just an afterthought: will I have declare my pirated videos on my return to the UK? If I don't, will I face jail?

**Bob Spatts
London, England**

Verbal contract

I do not agree with the recent beating of a Canadian tourist. However, he was wrong for initially agreeing to the price and riding in the tuk-tuk, then backing out of the deal once he arrived at his destination.

That being said, there still is no justification for attacking anyone.

It is a pity visitors are now afraid of tuk-tuk drivers because of this kind of incident.

Unfortunately, the word has spread worldwide about these guys and Phuket has already suffered. I hope for the best with this situation.

**Mike Messmer
S. Dakota, USA**

The fatty special

Where did Thailand come up with the idea – and the name – for 'American Fried Rice'? As an American, I'm aware that many of my countrymen are at least a size deuce-and-a-half, but throwing every fattening condiment onto an oversized plate of oil-saturated rice is, well, not the American way.

When I recently ordered it, I expected to get a flavorful variety of fried rice, but I got a steaming heap of heart attack highway: hot dogs mixed with ketchup, fried eggs, hash browns, and god knows what else.

Why not just throw my bacon and grits on the side, offer me a supersize, throw in a diet coke, and call it the 'fat ass special'?

However... if you stuck those same condiments on a two-pound burger and threw in some fries, then we'd be talking a different story.

**Charlie Burnham
Patong**

Big brother too big?

Does anyone feel as though the impending increase in CCTV cameras is a bit of overkill? There's seems to be a lot more than is needed.

While I do like the idea of feeling more secure, Phuket seems to be a relatively safe place to begin with, so adding an extensive amount of cameras seems a bit extreme.

There's something uncomfortable about the idea of someone being able to follow me via camera, wherever I go, when I come to visit Phuket Town.

**Sarah Bridger
Chalong**

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Forum brings light to maritime security



FIRST PERSON

The inaugural Phuket Maritime Forum was held this past week at the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2010 by the Bangkok-based, non-profit Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFS). The forum was a pioneering event that aimed at combining international expertise on maritime security with technology experts to introduce new

perspectives and advancements in both policy and technology.

In addition to programs that cover a wide range of disaster prevention and conflict resolution, HDFS also conducts research on policy studies and other aspects of human security, including non-traditional security issues and maritime security. In this

week's first person, HDFS Research Manager Christian Scholz summarizes the topics discussed at the Maritime Forum, and what they have in store for the future of Phuket's boating community.

The Phuket Maritime Forum was a great opportunity to interact with private yachtsmen, ship owners, maritime training companies and interested experts and laymen.

During the sessions, HDFS was able to effectively raise awareness on maritime security issues for leisure centered people and, of course, related businesses. HDFS does a lot of work in this field, but mainly at the official and academic levels.

In my eyes, we should not forget the interested laymen who are also in need of practical information.

With this in mind, we designed topics for the Phuket Maritime Forum that would be most useful for the general public as well as for businesses.

During the forum days, most participants focused on the private security of yachtsmen. In particular, there was much interest in the underestimation of danger faced by owners and leisure travelers enjoying yachting pursuits.

"The danger is there, but many people are just too ignorant to face it" Capt Stefan Strehl (ret) said in a discussion.

Leonard Teo from Raymarine added, "even people who bought our sophisticated

radio and radar equipment do not use it properly in many cases. So we provide training on how to use our equipment properly so users do not need to run away from a harmless fishing boat."

Nevertheless, even if training is offered to crews and owners, very few make use of this opportunity as Capt. Wright (ret) from the Southeast Asian Medical Information Center pointed out.

During the Phuket Maritime Forum's network sessions, the overall tenor was that ignorance can cost lives and property, and that being prepared is the most efficient way to cope with it.

"If you drive a car you use a seat belt," Dr. Herrmann pointed out, "even if you do not expect to have an accident every time."

Therefore, yachtsmen and private ship owners need to be aware of the dangers at sea and the maritime security requirements needed to stay safe.

They need to invest only a small amount of money to prepare for the dangers. This amount is very small compared to the value of their boats and, more importantly, the lives of the people on board.

Overall, HDFS was surprised at the amount of



The Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFS) held its inaugural *Phuket Maritime Forum* at the PIMEX boat show this past week, committing three days of forum discussions to topics on maritime security.

interest in the maritime security topics. Consequently, the HDFS's Board decided to continue maritime security related activities in the region.

As a major result of this week's activities, HDFS plans on establishing an internet-based network for private yachtsmen,

companies, organizations, and media, as well as interested laymen. Regular meetings (including the annual PIMEX) and a web-based exchange platform will provide all participants with first hand practical knowledge about maritime security.

For further information or inquiries please contact Mr. Christian Scholz by email (scholz@hdfs.or.th) or via the web-board on HDFS's homepage (www.hdfs.or.th) and HDFS's Facebook (search for Human Development Forum Foundation).

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang
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213971, or submit your issue
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Who gets the right of way at intersections in Thailand?

Most Europeans are used to the 'right-hand' traffic rules, which state that at an intersection, you should always give way to cars at your right. This is even the case in most 'left-hand' traffic countries, the right of way at an intersection goes to cars at the right.

However, I've been told that in Thailand, you should give way to cars arriving from left side. Is that true?

Claudio Santini
Rawai

Referencing the Thailand Highway Code, the following laws apply:

Yes, It is true.

When you arrive at an intersection, you should give way to the vehicles on your left.

When you come to a traffic circle with the light, you should always follow the light.

If no light is present, you should give way to vehicles traveling from the right of the circle.

For more information, visit the following website for information on the Thailand Highway Code: www.panyathai.or.th/wiki/index.php

How can I get my Thai girlfriend over to Norway?

I have a Thai girlfriend I want to bring to Norway for a holiday. My question is: What kind of papers does she need in order to apply for a visa?

Where in Phuket/Patong can she go to apply and/or get he help with this? About how long will the whole process take?

Tore Borgerud
Patong

An officer of Royal Norwegian Consulate, Phuket, replies:

The Royal Norwegian Consulate in Phuket only provides services for Norwegian citizens for issues such as Passports, Driver licenses, and so on. In order to apply for a visa for Thai people, they will have to go to the Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok. Please visit their website for details on required paperwork.

For more information contact the consulate at MMB Building, 3rd Floor, 9/17 Moo 6, Thepkasattri Road, Rassada, Muang Phuket 83000 T: 076-2237156, F: 076-236317. E: norconpt@phuket.ksc.co.th

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Cricket newcomers face off in first match



The two new teams of the Island Furniture Cricket League went head-to-head on January 10.

The Island Furniture Cricket League was a setting for new talent on January 10 in Cherg Talay, with recently formed Phuket Cricket Development Club (PCDC) in action against fellow newcomer Laguna Cricket Club (LCC).

The latter consists entirely of players who either live or work at Laguna, and although this is the team's first season, they have a number of players with experience. Several of their players have competed in the league for different clubs and the team will undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned throughout the season.

The Phuket Cricket Development Club, by contrast, consists entirely of Thai youngsters, most of whom are still in their mid-teens. Under the leadership of manager Nifty Catts, they have been learning the game of cricket with substantial success, having recently finished third at the National Youth Cricket Tournament in Phuket.

In the first innings, they demonstrated that they had developed into a well-oiled fielding unit with an organized field and accurate bowlers, but could not prevent LCC from scoring a formidable total of 235 runs for the loss of just four wickets. Michael Way top scored for LCC, retiring upon the completion of his half century, while Pao did the damage for PCDC, with three well-taken catches.

It was always going to be a big task for the young Thai team against the more experienced bowling line up of the LCC, which featured Sameer Khan, captain of 2009 Island Furniture League champions. Things got off to a bad start for PCDC when Khan took a wicket with the very first bowl of the innings, subjecting the opening batsman to the ignominy of a golden duck.

PCDC were eventually bowled out for 52, a respectable total given the gulf in age difference and experience between the two teams. Bruce Whitehead was named man of the match after scoring 26 runs and taking two wickets.

Speaking after the game, Michael Ayling was quick to hail the efforts of the youngsters. "It's fantastic to have the Thai youngsters involved. They can really play cricket. They are still young and when we were 15 or 16 years old I don't think we were much better than them, so they are only going to improve as a team."

Cricket is going to be featured as an exhibition sport at the 2010 Thai National Youth Games in Petchabun, and the hope is that the PCDC will gain invaluable experience by competing in an adult league before sending a team to participate in the tournament.

For results, fixtures and tables from the Island Cricket League visit: www.phuketcricket.com.

— James Goyder

Fair Play takes to the field



The Youth Football Home's Fair Play League was off to an action-packed start with an exciting opening round between Holland and Brazil. Teams were allocated names of the World Cup's top competing countries.

The 2010 Fair Play League got off to a flying start at the Youth Football Home (YFH) game on January 10. Four of the six teams were in action, with the two remaining teams scheduled to kick off next weekend's games.

Teams were divided randomly to ensure fair play and give the boys the opportunity to mix with athletes from other schools.

In a World Cup year, it is only fitting that players have been allocated team names representing Brazil, Argentina, Holland, Germany, England and Spain.

The league was created on the initiative of Youth Football Home manager Hannu Tuukkanen, and YFH played host to the opening round of games.

Remarkably, the league organizers found 60 children from all over Phuket to participate. At game time, all players and substitutes appeared ready for the opening match between Brazil and Holland.

Holland was under the tutelage of former Tottenham and QPR goalkeeper Martyn Ware, who is the head of sport at PIA. Brazil was playing under the watchful eye of Martin Hill of the Brazilian Soccer School.

It was Holland who soared to an early lead with four well-taken goals, which left many on the sidelines wondering whether the teams were fairly divided.

Any doubts were later dispelled in spectacular fashion when Brazil, inspired by the substitution of defender Carl Yodmark, staged a first half fight back to level the scores at 4-4.

At half time the game was perfectly poised at 5-5, but it was Brazil who seized the moment to pull away in the second half and claim an 8-6 victory.

Twelve-year-old Carl Yodmark, whose start proved a turning point for Brazil, is looking forward to more of the new league.

"I played in the league last

year, and it was good because I got to meet a lot of other players that I would never have met if I wasn't playing football," he explained. "I am pleased to be playing on the Brazil team and I hope I can play like a Brazilian, maybe Ronaldinho!"

The second game was another closely contested and high scoring match, with England defeating Germany 5-3.

The second round of games will take place at the British International School next Sunday.

— James Goyder

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PROPERTY WATCH

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

Religion and real estate make strange bed-fellows at the best of times. The Tibetans have their prayer wheels, turning the wheels of Dharma, and Catholics say their 'Hail Marys', but how much faith to the rest of us have in the current state of real estate affairs?

As we move into the first year in a new decade, there is still a profound lack of clarity – and faith – about the future of the Phuket property market.

The Edward Burns movie *She's the One* gave birth to the phrase, 'We just got caught in a downward cycle', which seems to sum up the current mood of many potential buyers, sellers, developers and observers.

It raises the obvious question about where we currently stand in the cycle: up, down, or in a strange sleep mode, like the setting on modern consumer electronics.

In 2009, resales became the talking point of the industry. Secondary market transactions took a large piece of the shrinking pie off the back of the global financial crises. While many of

the world's economies are storming back, the property industry is recovering like a chronic alcoholic – taking it day by day.

In the early days of the decade, you could count the number of resort-grade real estate developments on two hands.

Then in the middle boom years, demand sprinted back supply like Usain Bolt at the Olympics, but in the end, it flattened like a tin can run over by a car.

The blame was mostly put on politics, recession, currency flips and saturation.

Last year's 'failure to launch' more than a handful of significant new developments has created some fatigue among purchasers returning to the market this high season.

Asking what's new or hot, they are faced with growing resale listings and projects still trying to sell off-plan while the market is asking to mitigate buyer risk with completed units.

I'm reminded of the recent end-of-season American football game in which the undefeated Indianapolis Colts lost their chance to make NFL history.

Benching star quarterback Peyton Manning mid-game and relegating several other stars to the sidelines, the team watched their dreams of a perfect season evaporate right before their eyes, all in hopes that their key players would stay safe from injury, ready for the big playoff games.

In the broader market, we saw off-plan sales prices peak nearly 24 months ago, just prior to then Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra being ousted.

The large-scale depreciation of the UK pound amplified the situation, as did a new, unabated supply of real estate.

There was also a plethora of other issues, plus the pounding of very large hooves when



HONG KONG: Upmarket apartments and houses rise behind luxury yachts in Hong Kong's Deep Water Bay. The economic downturn saw Hong Kong's luxury real estate prices plunge by more than 35 percent towards the end of 2008. However, analysts now point to signs of a bubble forming, with the city's luxury sector jumping 39.5 percent in 2009 while the mass-market segment rose 20 percent, according to property agent Savills. Photo: AFP / Ed Jones

Lehman's went down.

Meanwhile, we have simply moved farther in the cycle, and there's now a rush to take in the profits. Several early off-plan purchasers are now seeing developments hand over products, such as the highly successful Andara.

Markets in places like Hong Kong and Singapore have hit a good degree of saturation. Early promises by Russia and the Middle East have proved loveless, so developers are now brushing up on their Mandarin skills and seeking emerging buyers in Mainland China.

Bangkok came back into stride off the back of the domestic market in the last half of 2009, but Phuket has so far been unable to attract a large-scale presence of Thai buyers.

A growing rental market is also now in play.

Wooed by decreasing long-term rental rates, many potential purchasers are now borrowing a move from the Colts' playbook, and are taking their own positions on the sidelines in a 'wait and see' tactic.

A number of hotel-managed, mixed-use projects have yet to come onto the market. Their strategy is to attract yield-based or lifestyle investment, but that's like looking in a fishbowl instead of picking a number and taking the opportunity to play.

The caution horses are stampeding well ahead of the bulls and bears.

For now, those mighty stallions are having their way in the marketplace.

The overnight bag is packed with challenges: there are changes in leasehold terms for overseas buyers; limited availability of mortgages for foreigners;

and an inability to nurture the domestic segment.

There are also political worries as the Supreme Court brings the Thaksin case to a close.

At the moment, I'm afraid to say that there are more questions than answers.

While land prices continue to rise and infrastructure investment abounds, this destination's long-term prospects look strong.

What's needed now is a bit of good luck, some gutsy plays by developers to reignite new products, and, like the religions of the world, faith that we continue to see the best properties sell through even in the darkest of times.

I have no plans to convert to Buddhism or Catholicism just yet; I'd prefer to saddle up a fast horse. It may be a bumpy ride, but it gets you where you want to go.

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Construction Update

Rawai

Banking on public support for modern Sea Gypsy museum

By Thanasorn Chookate

Construction of Phase One of a contemporary tribute to the region's Sea Gypsy culture is set to begin in Rawai this year, after the project was approved at a recent public hearing. The end result will be a modern museum called the Orang Laut Culture Center, the cost of which is expected to reach 10 million baht.

The museum is the brainchild of Phuket-based architect Pakin Aunggulsant, the managing director of Able Architects. Mr Pakin's vision is to preserve the region's Sea Gypsy culture and heritage while adding an interesting aspect to the island's tourism industry.

The region's multi-tribe Sea Gypsy community numbers about 3,000 people. The Orang Laut tribe is the largest ethnic group of Sea Gypsies, stretching from Koh Sireh and Rawai in Phuket to Phi Phi Don and Koh Lanta in Krabi province and Koh Adang, Koh Lipe and Koh Rawi in Satun Province.

There are also some tribes in Koh Libon in Trang Province. They speak a mixture of Orang Laut, Malay, a Southern Thai dialect and standard Thai. They are predominantly Buddhist, but some follow Christianity.

The building will be a cultural center for future generations, said Mr Pakin. "Visitors will be able to get involved in activities and learn all about the Sea Gypsies' way of life, society and culture."

Construction in the first phase of the project will include a walkway leading to a building designated as an area for activities, funding for which has been authorized



A model of the proposed Orang Laut Culture Center, designed by Able Architects and expected to cost 10 million baht.

from the province's remaining budget from 2009, providing an initial 210,000 baht.

However, that is the limit of government funding at the moment, so advocates are hoping for public and private sector support in order to go ahead with construction of Phase Two, the center's main building, which is expected to cost another eight to nine million baht.

"We are not sure yet where the funding will come from yet but we are confident that many people will support the project," said Mr Pakin.

The Sea Gypsy community at Koh Sireh have begun preparing for the center's opening after getting the go-ahead for the project following a public hearing. Some of the Sea Gypsy community members will be assisting in the construction of the center and others are preparing performances and dances.

The center has the support of Phuket City Mayor Ms Somjai Suwannasuppana, several scholars and historians, who recently presented a model of the proposed cultural center to Phuket Governor Wicha Phraisa-ngop.



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Get ripped on recycled parts

all exercise regularly, right? We all watch our diets, and don't smoke or drink, right? And wild bears never go potty in the woods, right? Right.

The trick here is finding a bar of the correct diameter. You could use a piece of inch-and-a-half 're-bar', the ridged steel bars used in concrete construction, but pipe is better for two reasons. First, re-bar is quite rough on the hands, unless you cover or pad it. Second, as strong as it is, it is not as resistant to bending as a similar piece of pipe.

Finding a suitable length of pipe usually involves a trip to a local scrap-yard. You want it to be wide enough that your hands can close around it, and long enough that you can get a grip just slightly more than shoulder-width.

Look for a piece with the thickest walls possible, and check to be sure it's not rusted on the inside, as this would weaken it and could cause it to give way at a bad time.

The wooden mounts are simple to make. Take two pieces of wood; about two inches thick, five inches wide, and ten inches long (the exact dimensions are not critical). Place the end of your pipe on one, centered for width, about two inches down from one end. Trace the outline of the pipe, and then draw straight lines up



A classic pull-up bar is great for on-the-go exercising. Not only does it tone and define your arms, but chiropractors consistently recommend hanging on them to help with back problems.

from the widest points of the circle to the top of the piece (see drawing). This is the part that you will cut out.

For mine, I lacked pieces that thick, so I just glued and clamped two 3/4" pieces together. The bottom piece was a little longer, and I installed an extra mounting screw in the bottom area, just for safety.

Cut out the outlined section with a jig saw. A hack-saw can suffice, but it takes more cuts, taking out wedge-shaped pieces each time.

Use a rasp, or a wooden dowel covered with rough sandpaper, to make sure the bottom edge of the cut-out section matches the curve of your pipe. If it's too wide, the weight of the pipe will be on a very narrow piece of the wood, and will rock back and forth as you use it. Not the best of feelings when your weight is hanging in the air. Too narrow, and the pipe won't fit all the way down, but will rest on two areas above the bottom of the curve, and could eventually split the mounting piece.

You want the bottom of the cut-out area to match the pipe's curve, so that the weight is distributed evenly all around the half-circle at the bottom.

Determine your location, either between two walls or within a door frame. Drill your screw holes in the mounting

pieces in a rectangular pattern, with one in the middle. Then hold it against the wall, and push a pencil through the holes to mark their positions on the wall.

Trace around the corners of the mount as well, since that helps in positioning the piece before installing the screws.

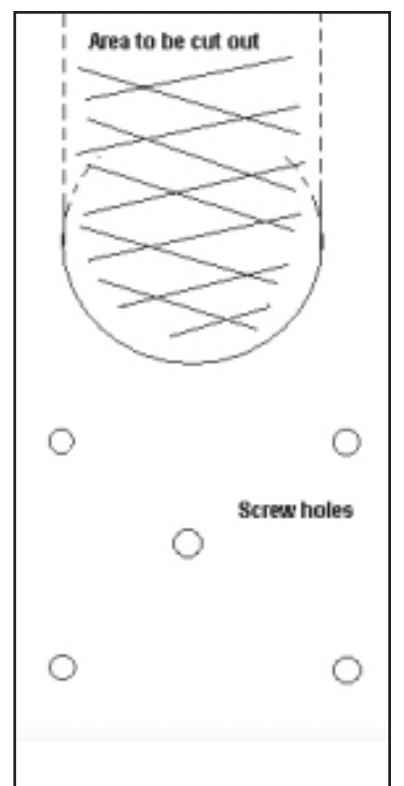
Next, drill your screw-holes in the wall/door frame. If drilling into concrete, use a masonry bit, and remember it's best to drill an initial hole smaller than needed, then enlarge it with the correct size bit.

If drilling into wood, use a twist-bit as thick as the shaft (not the threads) of the screws. Make sure the holes are straight, as crooked mounting holes will not allow the screws to go in all the way until the bottom of the head is flush against the mount. If this happens, it will not be as strongly anchored as if they were straight.

Next, if drilling into concrete, install the screw anchors, remembering to first clean the holes of concrete dust. Push them in by hand first, then tap them in the final bit with a hammer until the top is flush with the wall.

There are screws available at Home-Pro and other local hardware stores that look like over-sized, brass-colored wood screws, but with a bolt-type head and built-in washer.

Get a size about 4" or 5"



A diagram of the wooden wall mount used to support the bar. A simple cut-out and five screws are all you need to start exercising.

long, and about as thick as a pencil. Put all the screws through the mounting pieces until their tips just barely protrude, and then line the piece up with the mounting holes in the wall. Start each screw by hand, then run the rest of the way down with a proper sized wrench.

Lower your bar into position, and that's it!

Have fun, and start exercising! See you next time.

This article is going to show how to install a basic chin-up bar between walls or in a door frame.

Not only is this thing good for basic exercises, but it also has a great lesser-known benefit. Years ago, I had a job which involved a lot (and I mean a LOT) of driving. I habitually and unknowingly sat somewhat crooked while driving, and after a while, I developed chronic back pains.

During my first and only visit to a chiropractor, I was told that simply hanging still from a bar, for just a moment or so, allows gravity to gently realign your spine, using your body's own weight to straighten it.

I installed one in my home and found that it works. After a stressful day, just a moment of hanging helps take the tension out of your back. You can actually feel the discs in your spine decompressing.

Plus, doing the old chin-ups and pull-ups keeps the arms and shoulders toned. I know that we

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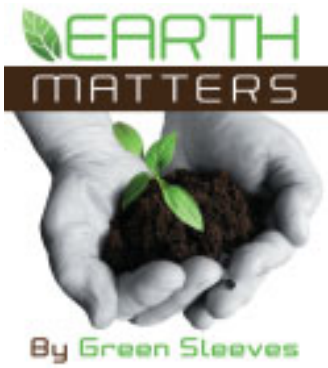
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Owning up to the gaffes in the garden



A LOT LEFT DESIRED: Some species of attractive plants can prove to be quite stubborn in a Phuket garden. The characteristic shape of *Brugmansia*, nicknamed 'Angel's Trumpet', is just one example.

It is now nearly two years since I moved to Rawai and I guess a number of expressions – blunder, gaffe, slip-up, miscalculation or boner come instantly to mind – might be used to describe my horticultural mistakes. For mistakes there have been aplenty. I make no apology for them; indeed, learning from experience is the best way to improve one's performance.

So where have things gone awry? First and foremost, I have improved the soil too little and too late. Bags of compost are all very fine, but you need so many of them. Two or three cubic meters of top soil is a better option, especially if you envisage large expanses of grass, or sizable flower beds.

The result has been that some shrubs, notably the heavy feeders and lime haters such as magnolias, have not done as well as anticipated, and the lawn – which should be an aesthetically pleasing feature – is patchy and uneven.

Which brings me to the topic of grass. I chose what is called St Augustine or Malaysian grass. It has broad, flat blades and spreads above the ground by means of runners. I chose it on account of its robustness, its resistance to drought, and its appearance in other gardens. So far, so good. But although this grass is reputed to thrive in shade, it only does so if regularly watered; indeed as the shrubs and trees have matured it has died back in the darker recesses of the plot.

And it needs plenty of nutrients – more than were provided by the dressing of compost over which the turves were initially placed.

What's the alternative? Bermuda grass, common everywhere in the southern states of America, is fast growing and tough, probably more drought-resistant and possesses a deeper root system. It will turn brown

below a certain temperature, but that is hardly a consideration in Phuket.

Or perhaps I should try a native grass – the sort with finer blades that mows well and looks neat. More time-consuming, I daresay.

As for shrubs, I have had my share of non-starters. A friend offered me some very sage advice when I started to plan the garden.

"Have a look around the island", he said, "and see which plants do well in particular places and situations."

He offered an example. In his large estate in Southern England, naturalized primroses flower abundantly in Spring. A neighbor, three kilometers away, can't grow them for love nor money. Such anomalies exist everywhere and most certainly here in Phuket, where soil, shelter, moisture and shade conditions vary enormously.

One of my first fatalities was a dwarf *bauhinia* [*acuminata* or *kaa long*]. I had read in the columns of the *Phuket Gazette* that it was a shrub worth cultivating, and since it comes from South Asia, I invested in one.

The *bauhinia* happened to be planted in one of the few shady spots in the garden; it promptly dropped its twin-lobed leaves, never flowered and finally expired. As an estate agent would observe, it was clearly in the

wrong location. I may try it again, but in a sunny, dry spot. But be warned. The dwarf *bauhinia*, like the dwarf gardenia, is a very slow grower.

The *hibiscus* [*rosa-sinensis* or *chaa baa*] have also proved temperamental in my Saiyuan garden. Without doubt, this *hibiscus* is one of the plants of the tropics, forming colorful hedges all over Phuket, and available in

a range of brilliantly colored cultivars. It looks so easy to grow that I may have given my plants too little care and attention. Most have struggled, some have died back and a few have been lost.

The reasons? For a start, they enjoy both full sun and moist, fertile soil, a combination not easily found in a new garden. And they need pruning – something I neglected to do –

before new growth appears. Finally and importantly, they have been susceptible to a fungal disease, which was probably present when the plants were bought.

Perversely, two other species of *hibiscus* have been a success story: *schizopetalus*, with its pendent red flowers and prominent pistils, already rises above the garden wall, and *mutabilis*, whose double flowers change colour during the day, has burst forth ever more vigorously. Both, I may add, take easily from cuttings.

The other notable casualty has been the *brugmansia* [*datura* or *lam pong khao*]. I had high hopes, since a yellow cultivar had grown into a substantial tree in my Andalusian garden and had, furthermore, produced numerous offspring via cuttings. Doi Inthanon, near Chaing Mai, also has some superb specimens.

Here in Phuket, neither shade nor sun seemed to suit the shrub: both environments were tried, and neither did the business. Clearly, it needs the slightly rarefied air of hills and mountains.

As the man said: location, location, location....

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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.

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Kata centre, 2 bedroom apartment, beautiful decoration furnishing, 140sqm from 10.5 million baht. Now 9.2 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

YANUI PARADISE BEACH



Apartments for sale. Prices from 2.75 million baht. Close to Yanui beach and Rawai beach. Tel: 087-884 4663 (English), 089-292 9416 (German).

LAND FOR SALE

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

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: yaris.vios@gmail.com

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

NEW TOWN HOUSE



in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 airconditioning unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

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

SURIN BEACH

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

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

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.

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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.

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5 bedroom Thai style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang-Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite 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.

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: yaris.vios@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_supertik@yahoo.co.th

THE ROYAL PLACE

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

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.

NEW BRAND CONDO

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

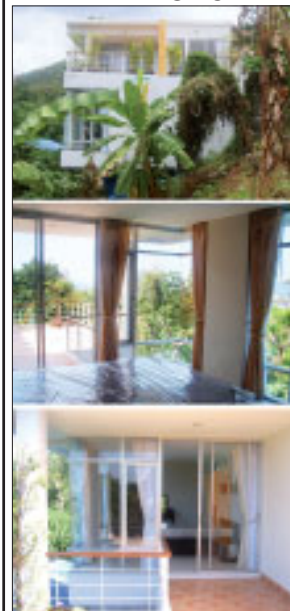
HOUSE IN KAMALA

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

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

Kata Centre, luxury 1 bedroom apartment, 65 sqm include furnishing with pool from 4.5 million baht. Now 3.9 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view. Hasip Pee Road, 49sqw. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

HOUSE IN KARON BEACH

Corner town house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sea and mountain view. Thai freehold, Chanote title, fully furnished. 6.3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 0423. Email: crustaceaus@yahoo.com

SPECTACULAR ECO-VILLA

Custom-built, four bedroom luxury villa for sale. Tel: 087-270 5959. Email: gdublancko@gmail.com For further details, please see my website at <http://www.damazamya.com>

HOUSE IN BANG TAO

1-story house near Laguna, Chanote, 2 bedrooms. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-086 0088.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrung school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



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

PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom, 62 sqm. mountain view, freehold foreign name, 12th floor. By owner, no brokers. 5,200,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 8231. Email: peterlomm@hotmail.com

2-BED CONDO FREEHOLD PATONG

93.65sqm furnished penthouse. 42" TV, aircon, new fitted kitchen, balcony and 24-hour security. 3-5 minutes walk to Jungceylon, Bangla Road, beach. Good rental machine. 8 million baht. Tel: 086-691 7573. For photo go to <http://www.704palmsprings.com>

QUICK SALE

Villa with jacuzzi, pool, seaview, Chalong Bay, open daily 9am-12pm. Tel: 089-908 2112.

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-689 9679, 089-588 5458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

VASSANA RESIDENCE



for sale. Rawai/Nai Harn, Soi Kery. 3 exclusive luxury apartments. Each apartment comprises 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, large Euro-style kitchen and living room, large balcony back and front with sweeping views over Rawai and Andaman sea. Swimming pool and roof top whirlpool. Price start at 8.5 million baht. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

in Kata Beverly Hills, 3 luxury bedrooms, pool villa, garden, jacuzzi, includes furnishing. Special price now 17 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

CHANOTE, 29 RAI

at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO

Furnished. Patong Condotel, 2nd and 8th floors. 1.39 million baht. Call now! Tel: 089-667 8386, 080-693 3430.

QUICK SALE

Villa with jacuzzi, pool, seaview, Chalong Bay, open daily 9am-12pm. Tel: 089-908 2112.

80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

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

2 MILLION BAHT OFF



Kamala Villa. 4 bed, 5 bath plus 2-car garage. Studio & apartment above. 370sqm on 700sqm land. fully furnished 15.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8500568. Please contact Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.

HOUSE IN BANGJO

for sale. 2 bed, 2 bath, chanote, western kitchen, saloon, fully furnished. Price 6 million baht. Contact Khun Lek. Tel: 089-5903665.

LUXURY VILLAS RAWAI

Ready to move in or build to your wishes. Highest possible quality and luxury for your satisfaction. Tel: 085-783 1890.

RAWAI 1 RAI, 43WAH

Last nice plot under 6 million baht. Asking 5.8 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-623 3784, 085-795 5383. Email: chartsri@yahoo.com

HOUSE RAWAI/NAI HARN



for sale or rent 35,000 baht per month. 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, 9x4m swimming pool, 2 car parking spaces and aircon. In Rawai/Nai Harn, just minutes from the finest beaches and scenery to be found in Phuket. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

PATONG SEAVIEW VILLA

Modern, luxurious, furnished. Pool, jacuzzi, garage, etc. Minutes (2km) to the beach. Price reduction @ 15 million baht (o.n.o.) Tel: 084-292 0008 (English), 087-883 4866 (English & Thai). Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com For further details, please see our website at <http://public.me.com/robinsonkevin>

QUICK SALE

Land in Laguna Phuket area. 4 rai at 6 million baht per rai, Chanote. Located near Anchan Villas and Tanod Villas. Good size to do residential project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLAS RAWAI

Ready to move in or build to your wishes. Highest possible quality and luxury for your satisfaction. Tel: 085-783 1890.

0.5 RAI 'CHANOTE' FOR SALE

Thalang, area Tonsai Nat.Park, waterfall, Int. School, Russian Church. Tel: 081-005 5701. Email: info@grass-routes.com

LUXURY LIVING

for quick sale. 2 en-suite bedroom and under roof room, free form swimming pool, Jacuzzi. Only 5 minutes to Naiyang beach for 9.5 million baht. Connecting with 2 bedroom house for 4.5 million baht for quick sale, together for best price ever. Call now. Tel: 087-271 4484 (Eng-Thai), 085-889 1220 (Eng-Swedish). Email: supha2007@hotmail.com

PATONG SEAVIEW



3 bedrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, furnished, great location. Priced right, a must see! Tel: 087-882 1963.

SEAVIEW PROJECT

What an investment! Fully completed 8-unit apartment building in Karon with panoramic view. 8 large units, decks, 25m pool + 2 jacuzzis on the roof. Buy this property for 33 million baht and sell the units for 50 million. Call us at Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

CONDO IN KRABI

New condo in Ao Nang, Krabi, 1 month from completion. 32sqm condo management company already committed to rent it for 14,000 baht per month if bought for investment. Photos on request. 1,960,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 7095 (English), 089-908 7586 (Thai). Email: peter@seafa.com

LAND BEHIND LAYAN HILLS ESTATE



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

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

New project in Rawai, close to Beach/ Pier, 4 apartment with pool, all furnished include company 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE



1,200 sqm with infrastructure, overlooking golf course in Kathu. 5,500,000 baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Email: julienmayard@me.com

PATONG SEA VIEW

nice land. 2.3 rai at 18 million baht per rai. Nice location in a quiet area of Patong. Road and utilities access to the land. Ready to start a villa project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

CONDO PATONG

for sale. Fully furnished freehold in Andaman Beach Condominium, Patong, Phuket. 126.43sqm, 16th floor, seaview, 2 bedrooms, 1 living room. Contact Songpan. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

PROPERTY IN KATA



120sq wah (480sqm) land, 2 story. Thai building of 15 guestrooms, fully furnished, 1 reception, 2 studios. 10 min walk to Kata beach. 20 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 085-441 4999.

SALE STUDIO APARTMENT

Patong, freehold, 46sqm. Swimming pool, fully furnished. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

PATONG DELUXE CONDO

61sqm, beautiful, modern, quiet, city/sea views, furnished, parking. 4,275,000 baht. Tel: 081-309 9154. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

AO MAKHAM FOR QUICK SALE

2.5 rai plot. 2.9 million baht a rai or 6 million baht for total. Sea view, 500m from Ao-Yon beach, road access, electricity. Tel: 087-381 8477.

NAI HARN BEACH VILLA



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, extra toilet, private pool, 1 Rai land, kitchen, 320sqm. auto gate, car parking. Tel: 080-141 1147. Email: zkatrenko@ya.ru

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

OCEANFRONT LAND



Beautiful piece of land, 3.5 rai (can be sub-divided) with over 90m of beach frontage. Opposite Yacht Haven Marina, water, electricity, road access, secure Nor Sor 3 Kor title. For sale direct from owner. Now only 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

LAND BETWEEN NAIHARN/RAWAI

for sale. Chanote title. 960sqm on the road. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai on a public road with water. 80m long beach, white sand, no rocks, includes shophouse and a beautiful view. Beautiful land! Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

AO MAKHAM FOR QUICK SALE

2.5 rai plot. 2.9 million baht a rai or 6 million baht for total. Sea view, 500m from Ao-Yon beach, road access, electricity. Tel: 087-381 8477.

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

Kata centre, unique penthouse on 6/7th floors, 6 bedrooms, living room, terrace, jacuzzi, seaview. Total 450sqm living space. Now 29 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

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ACCOUNTANT

Thai nationals wanted. Fluent English, computer skills and results oriented. Candidate must be knowledgeable in all government reports. Salary 15 to 18,000 baht per month plus service charge. Position available now. Forward CV via email. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com

GOOD SALARY

V.I.P Pizzeria Restaurant and White Sand Bar staff wanted. Salary from 7,000 to 25,000 baht. Waiters, bartendy, bartender, chefs and restaurant manager required. Tel: 076-292618, 089-651 5781, 084-746 1295 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292575. Email: booking@santiwhitehotel.com

NEED AN HONEST COUPLE

To work at the house as a maintenance guy and a maid. Live in. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-926 3286.

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Thai national. Tel: 086-271 8254. Or send email to: ninapartments@hotmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY @ BODEGA



Staff required for new concept bar, hotel and cafe. Experience is not as important as a positive attitude and excellent English. Areas include: Kitchen, bar and reception. Competitive salary for the right candidates. Contact Khun Amy. Tel: 089-471 6201. Email: amyfellingham@gmail.com

HOME MANAGER

Looking for woman with Thai and English to run our household. Duties include shopping, cleaning, cooking, paying bills, and taking care of dogs. Both a car and motorcycle are provided, as well as accommodation and all living expenses. Salary up to 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-532 6144, 086-940 1504 (English). Email: gshrk1972@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER

We, a restaurant on a hillside with a good view, are looking for an experienced restaurant manager who also has a background in marketing in the Phuket market. Tel: 076-261940, 081-877 9292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

EXPERIENCED HOTEL STAFF

Reputed hotel in Patong (Phuket) needs experienced English speaking staff aged 25 years and above.

– 1) Front Office Manager (female). Salary: 12,000 baht + service charge.

– 2) Receptionists (1 female, 1 male). Salary: 10,000 + service charge.

– 3) Housekeeping Maids. Salary: 8,000 + service charge.

– 4) Housekeeping Supervisor. Salary 10,000 + service charge.

Tel: 081-919 2533. Contact by Or send your resume by email to jasminenarry@gmail.com

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Approx 30 days of work during the period from early Feb 2010 to early April 2010. Competitive salary. For more detailed info and to apply, please contact
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www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

SALES ADMINISTRATOR

Thai National required for busy real estate company. Applicants should be able to communicate well in both spoken and written English and have good computer skills. Tel: 076-527565 Send CV and current salary details to info@phuketoceanvillas.com

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Female Thai with good English skills needed. Attractive salary and working conditions. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-892 1621.

URGENT RECEPTION NEED

If you have any further question please contact us. Tel: 076-281084, 083-969 6084. Email: phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com

ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

for private lessons with a primary school child. 10-15 hours per week, near Phuket Airport. Email: kirkasia@hotmail.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Must be passionate about biking, speak excellent English and provide great customer service. Tel: 076-283436, 087-263 2031. Fax: 076-381337. Email: info@amazingbiketoursthailand.asia

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

A person with at least 2 years' experience in hotel and restaurant marketing is needed. Salary with standard basis and commissions according to sales revenue. Tel: 081-877 9292, 083-503 3329, 083-503 3347 (English & Thai). Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.gracegardensphuket.com>

CRUISE DIRECTOR WANTED

Full-Time Cruise Director position offered on Liveaboard in Thailand and SEA. Must be a certified and renewed PADI Instructor (or higher). Preferred are individuals who are multi-lingual; have dived Thailand and SEA extensively; and are able to work independently and willing to start immediately. Non-smoking persons who have a true passion for the underwater world preferred. To arrange an interview, please call. Tel: 076-383819, 084-923 4109 (English). Email: mshandur@hotmail.com

RESERVATIONS/OFFICE CLERK

Requirements: Male/female Thai National with Bachelor's Degree or higher. Excellent written and verbal English skills. Full Time, 9-6pm. Starting salary: 15,000 baht per month for the right applicant. Please submit current resume with photo by email. Tel: 084-051 7455 (English & Thai), 084-879 8115 (Thai). Email: info@atsumihealing.com. For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.atsumihealing.com>

STAFF WANTED

Cook and waitress. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-690 9114.

NANNY / HOUSEKEEPER

Maid and Nanny wanted. 50-year-old man with 12-year-old son seeks Maid / Nanny. Flexible working schedule to follow international school calendar. 4 hours a day, 4 day a week work and weekends during school session. On vacation time, every day full time 8:00–5:00pm. Must be able to drive and I will supply the vehicle. Pay is 15,000–20,000 baht a month. Must be able to speak, read and write English. Submit resume for review and consideration to bob_tames@yahoo.com

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Seeking reggae musicians to form new band. Call Mark. One love. Tel: 087-895 7284.

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Rawai based property rental, biz needs female with good English. Some cleaning required. Tel: 086-279 0837.

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Full time nurse required. Thai National only. Care for 89-year-old English woman in Kamala. Room available. Please call for more information. Tel: 080-699 2436. Fax: 076-279605. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

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Siam Real Estate requires a Thai person with good English and computer skills. Must be bright, confident, outgoing and able to communicate with farang clients. Good salary and bonus scheme. Tel: 076-288908. Fax: 076-383646. Please send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com

URGENT NEED: KITCHEN STAFF

If you have any further question please contact us. Tel: 076-281084, 083-969 6084. Email: phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.tamarindvillaphuket.com>

ACCOUNTANT

Thai accountant required for SCUBA diving Liveaboard Company in Phuket. Responsible for bookkeeping, accounting procedures, salary admin, stock-control, monthly and annual tax forms, and Social Insurance. Will also be responsible for submitting, applying for and renewing all kinds of documents, e.g., licenses, permits, etc. To arrange an interview, please telephone. Tel: 076-383819, 084-923 4109 (English). Email: mshandur@hotmail.com

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Full time and part time sales staff now required in Patong and Kata. Nice working environment, great salary and commissions for the right person. The position is open to Thai and Philippine nationals, and English speaking skills are necessary. Tel: 089-646 8580. Email: cameronjhansen@yahoo.co.uk Please visit our website at <http://www.cameronhansen.net>

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Morning help-cooking & cleaning, afternoon driver - must have own car. Tel: 083-175 1920. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

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The person we seek must:

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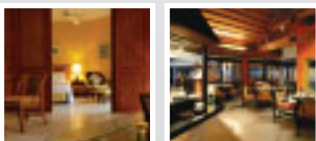
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laguna PROPERTY RESALE

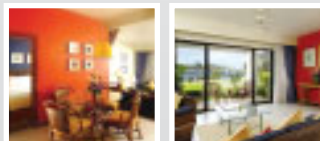
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda Studio THB 6.5 M



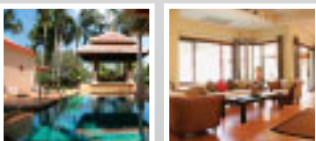
- 1 bed 1 bath
- rental pool
- freehold

2 Allamanda 1-Bedroom Suite THB 8.5 M



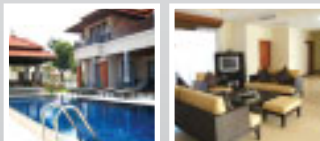
- 1 bed 1 bath
- fully furnished
- freehold

3 Laguna Townhome THB 19 M



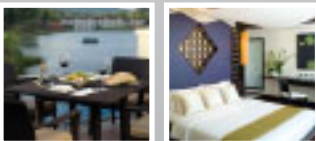
- 3 beds 4 baths Townhome
- fully furnished
- 25 sqm private pool
- golf course view

4 Laguna Village Residence II THB 29 M



- 2-storey detached Residence
- 4 beds 3 baths
- fully furnished
- lagoon view

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 38 M



- 3-storey 2 beds
- roof top pool
- lagoon frontage
- rental pool

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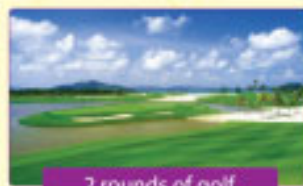


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