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Trouble in Paradise

Ladyboy kills tourist in heart of Patong's gay district

AN ITALIAN tourist who allegedly went on a drunken rampage in Patong's gay district early on April 17 was killed by an enraged ladyboy.

Kathu Police duty officer Jakkapong Luang-aon identified the victim as 28-year-old Simone Tene Riello.

According to eyewitnesses, the Italian stumbled down Soi Paradise at around 5:30am and assaulted bystanders without provocation, police said.

After the Italian twice hit transsexual barworker Sathit Boonnuchit, Mr Sathit responded by smashing a bottle over his head.

Mr Riello was rushed to Patong Hospital and later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he died of blood loss at about

10:30am the same day.

Kathu Police arrested Mr Sathit, 34, later the same day at his rented room on Soi Sainamyen.

He confessed to manslaughter and was bailed on April 19 for 180,000 baht.

In another head trauma fatality in Patong this month, a young Singaporean man sustained serious brain damage after a jet-ski accident on April 2.

Loh Ying Jie, 21, was first taken to Patong Hospital, then transferred immediately to Bangkok Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

His relatives slammed local authorities for wasting time in getting Mr Loh to treatment.

He died in Singapore General Hospital 11 days after the crash.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan



International football came to Phuket this week when Thailand's league champions played South China in the AFC Cup. Full story page 23

Mystery of exploding car stumps officials

ACAR mysteriously exploded near the busy Tesco Lotus intersection at rush hour on April 21, leaving the driver with burns and causing traffic chaos on the bypass road.

Witnesses reported hearing a loud bang around 5:30pm. A silver Honda Accord burst into flames and came to a stop on the right hand lane of the bypass road southbound, opposite Tesco Lotus.

It took five Kathu Municipality firefighters about 10 minutes to put the blaze out. The whole car, except for the front

bumper, was completely charred.

The driver, 35-year-old Supachai Jongchanasetthakul, was rushed to nearby Bangkok Phuket Hospital, where he was treated for burns to the right side of his stomach.

When Phuket City Police officers arrived at the scene they found traffic backed up along the bypass road and a large crowd gathered around the car.

Holes in the bodywork led police to initially suspect a bomb exploded in the back seat.

The next day Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai

Ekpornpit said police were investigating whether the explosion was the result of some fault with the car or another cause.

"I can tell you it had nothing to do with sabotage or a bomb," he said. "If it were a bomb, he would have been killed."

A witness, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "The car was very new. It wasn't going very fast because it had just passed through the intersection after a green light on the busy road."

"I heard a very loud sound like a bomb and saw the back

window blow 100 meters out of the back of the car. Then, suddenly, the fire started."

Phuket Land Transport Office director Kanok Siripani-chakorn said the car was registered in September 2008. The car had not been modified to take LPG or any other alternative fuels, he confirmed.

The burns suffered by Mr Supachai were not as bad as initially reported by some media outlets and he was expected to be discharged from hospital after a one-night stay.

— Gazette reporter

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The spotted dolphin was thought to be at least 25 years old.

Beached dolphin dies

MARINE biologists were unable to save a wounded dolphin found clinging to life off Patong Beach on April 19.

Veterinarian Patcharaporn Kaewmong of the Phuket Marine Biological Center's endangered species unit responded to reports of a beached dolphin just before noon.

Arriving at the scene off Loma Park, Ms Patcharaporn found the 60-kilogram, 2.2-meter spotted dolphin in weakened condition.

Jet-ski operators were using life jackets to support the animal's body in the shallows when the PMBC team arrived.

The decision was made to treat the dolphin at the PMBC, but the animal died shortly after making the long trip to Cape Panwa in the back of a pick-up truck.

During initial examination

Ms Patcharaporn found festering wounds on its dorsal and pectoral fins.

"I cannot say whether the wounds were from fishing equipment, as running aground can also cause similar wounds. Plus, it was already in a weak state before it died.

"Some teeth were worn away or broken, so I assume it was fully mature. For its age the animal was quite thin. Its bones were clearly visible," she said.

She estimated the dolphin to be over 25 years old.

The spotted dolphin's typical lifespan is thought to be about 40 years.

"I will do an autopsy to try and find out the cause of death and its bones will be kept for further study," Ms Patcharaporn said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

Patong's top cop: 'Lose the lizards'

KATHU Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao has declared Patong an 'Iguana Free Zone', following complaints from tourists and animal rights activists.

"Many tourists complained about iguana handlers putting the reptiles on them without permission, especially on Soi Bangla. Some tourists got scratched when the handlers pulled them off. NGOs have also complained about the practice," he told the *Gazette*.

For years iguana handlers have made a living in the area by having tourists pose with the reptiles and snapping pictures of them for a charge.

Other animals used for this purpose over the years by 'photo tots' have included gibbons, pythons and sea eagles.

Although the law carries stiff penalties for illegal possession of wildlife – with up to four years in prison possible – enforcement has always been sporadic in Patong.

There have also been incidents of violence between tourists and iguana handlers,



SAY HELLO TO MY LIZARD FRIEND: Iguanas were rife on Soi Bangla.

including the stabbing of a Syrian tourist in October last year.

Soon after taking up his post in February, Col Arayaphan ordered a crackdown.

All iguana handlers were arrested and the reptiles were turned over to a government wildlife conservation agency, he said.

Col Arayaphan also wants bar owners along Soi Bangla to employ less aggressive tactics to

lure customers into their establishments.

"After Songkran I will talk to them about having staff who try to physically pull tourists into their bars," he said.

The tactic has long been employed by bar hostesses in Patong and other parts of Thailand with tourist-oriented adult entertainment.

— Atchaa Khamlo

Police hunting Patong tout's killers

POLICE are searching for the men responsible for gunning down a Patong bar tout in Kathu on April 15.

The body of Pornsak 'Jame' Thongbaiyai was found around 3:30am in front of a small rental house on Wichit Songkhram Road.

Mr Pornsak had been hit by five 9mm bullets, including one to

the center of his skull.

Thung Thong Police ruled out robbery as a motive after finding a three-bahtweight necklace, two bahtweight bracelet and over 40,000 baht in cash in the victim's pockets.

Also found nearby was the victim's fully-loaded 9mm pistol.

Initial investigation revealed

that Mr Pornsak, a Nakhon Sri Thammarat native, worked as a tout on Soi Seadragon and was also heavily involved in gambling.

A witness told police Mr Pornsak was returning home from Patong by motorbike with a fellow tout identified only as 'Yai'.

The pair were trailed by two other motorbikes, each ridden by a man and woman.

After Mr Pornsak pulled into the driveway of his small rented home on Soi Kathu Women's Cooperative, one of the assailants opened fire.

The first shot knocked Mr Pornsak from the bike. The shooter then fired four more bullets to make sure he was dead before both motorbikes sped off in the direction of Kathu Waterfall.

Thung Thong Police blocked off all possible escape routes but the perpetrators remain at large.

Police believe Mr Pornsak must have drawn his own gun, but not in time to return fire.

A nurse who witnessed the aftermath said she saw Mr Yai run into a wooded area nearby.

He is now sought by police for questioning.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers took the victim's remains to Patong Hospital for examination.

Police are considering several motives for the murder, including a gambling debt dispute.

— Gazette reporter

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New trash incinerator slated soon

WORK on a second solid waste incinerator at Saphan Hin should get underway in a few months' time, according to Phuket City Municipality.

Deputy Mayor Thaworn Jeeraphat said work on the waste-to-energy incinerator, originally scheduled for completion in October this year, should get underway in June.

The incinerator, to be built by Malaysian firm PJT Technology Co Ltd, will have two chambers, each capable of burning 300 tonnes of trash a day.

It will also have 5 megawatts of electric power production capacity, some of which will be sold to the local grid.

When the project was announced in early January 2009, the municipality said construction would take 600 days.

According to this timeline, if construction begins in mid-June and goes according to schedule it should be on line in February, 2012.

The new incinerator is urgently needed because the existing plant at Saphan Hin can only burn 250 tons of trash per day. An average of 500 tons are trucked to the site every day from all over the island.

The remainder continues to pile up at a 120-rai landfill next to the plant where trash has reached a thickness of 15 meters in some places, five meters below the ground and 15 meters above.

In June 2007, toxic wastewater held in retention ponds at the landfill overflowed into local waterways during a rainstorm and killed millions of farmed fish.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



Senior Phuket police officers give the attacker a dressing down at Phuket City Police Station.

Day of mayhem

Law catches up with serial sex attacker

A SERIAL rapist was arrested in Phuket following a Songkran crime spree that left two young women badly shaken and a man fighting for his life in the hospital.

Phuket native Sathian 'Sakai' Reungjinda, 36, has confessed to raping or attempting to rape 11 women in Phuket in a spate of attacks that began in December last year.

Police arrested him at his home in Phuket Town on April 15. The arrest followed a day of mayhem in which he attacked two young women and stabbed a man in three separate incidents.

About 6:30am on April 13, Mr Sathian followed a 25-year-old woman to her apartment on Soi Lor Rong in Phuket Town after she had celebrated Songkran in Patong.

He forced his way into her apartment and threatened to stab

her with scissors before stealing valuables.

Dragging her to a stolen motorbike, he drove her to the Chinese cemetery on Rang Hill, where he forced her to remove her pants and attempted to rape her.

When someone approached and shouted, she escaped while Mr Sathian fled the scene.

Just half an hour later he struck again, attacking a woman on Patiphat Road in Phuket Town.

Around 5:30pm the same day, Mr Sathian stabbed 22-year-old Songkran 'Kae' Saednam three times in the chest in an altercation in Chalong.

Mr Songkran was sent to Vachira Hospital in critical condition.

After the first victim of the day reported the crime to Phuket City Police, they matched her description of the attacker to a profile of Mr Sathian, who was released from prison six months

ago after serving two years for robbery. She then identified him in a photograph.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong said 11 women have come forward and identified Mr Sathian as their attacker in sexual assaults beginning in December 2009.

Case Officer Yongyuth Krongmala said more victims were probably out there. "They might be too shy or ashamed to tell the police," he said.

Mr Sathian has confessed to all charges against him and admitted sexual desire as his motive, with robbery an afterthought.

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

Vietnamese man found hanging

KATHU Police are treating as 'probable suicide' the case of a Vietnamese man found hanged in his rented home in Patong early on the morning of April 12.

The corpse was identified as that of 26-year-old Huynh Tan Phong, shown in his passport as a resident of Thua Thien-Hue province in Vietnam.

The body, clad in white pajamas, was discovered around 8am by a business partner who had come to wake him.

The corpse was found hanging by the neck from a staircase inside a two-story shophouse on Soi Jareornsap, near Patong Municipality offices.

The apparent suicide was carried out using pajama bottoms.

Kathu Police investigators initially suspected foul play because Mr Phong's hands were found bound together behind his back with a belt.

However, the dead man's sister told police that Mr Phong had recently been under great stress due to financial difficulties and had talked about ending his life.

Mr Phong ran an outdoor shop selling leather bags behind Jungceylon in Patong until his death.

As an inspection of the body and the shophouse found no evidence of foul play, police are now treating the case as a probable suicide, Maj Jongserm said.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Amnaj Suebsin (center) poses with police and his cache of stolen metal.

‘Ironman’ thief nabbed

CHALONG Police arrested a man with a motorbike sidecar full of pilfered iron on April 19.

Amnaj Suebsin, 33, was caught with two iron drainage grates, three car ramps, two supports designed to hold exhaust pipes, an industrial pipe-cutter and various other large pieces of iron.

On Sunday night Chalong Police noticed two road drainage grates were missing, creating a serious hazard to passing motorists, especially at night.

Assuming the covers had been stolen, they began a search for the culprit.

Police spotted Mr Amnaj with part of his haul on Soi

Anusorn in Chalong shortly after midnight.

He fled the scene in his *salaeng* (motorbike with sidecar), but was soon arrested near the entrance to Land & Houses residential estate on Chao Fa West Road in Chalong.

Mr Amnaj confessed to snatching iron and loading up his *salaeng* in overnight raids.

He sold the items to a scrap dealer in Rassada for seven baht per kilogram.

A painter by trade, Mr Amnaj said he was behind on motorbike payments and needed the money because he feared his bike would be repossessed.

— Gazette reporter

Bt167mn market gathering dust

WITH the new market on Ranong Road yet to open more than a year after its completion, would-be tenants have filed a complaint accusing the municipality of overcharging them for construction costs.

Work on the project got underway in March 2007, after vendors agreed to move off the site of the old wet market.

The municipality then oversaw construction of a hygienic, state-of-the-art complex with facilities including elevators, rooftop parking and wastewater treatment equipment.

The new market is a four-story building with an area of 11,200 square meters surrounded on three sides by 27 commercial shophouse units.

By the end of September 2008, Phuket City Municipality had paid out the full 167 million baht in construction costs to the project contractor, but that did



PRETTY VACANT: The new market building on Ranong Road.

not cover the cost of stalls for each unit.

These are being built under a separate 25.7-million-baht contract, work on which began last month with scheduled completion in July.

Vendors are being asked to pay additional fees of 15,000 baht per square meter as well as material costs varying from 2,000 to 8,000 baht/sqm depending on the type of stall.

Thus far not a single vendor has agreed to pay the fees, which they view as excessive.

In just one example, a greengrocer is being charged more than 540,000 baht for his designated area of a little over 28sqm.

The vendors complained to the municipality before lodging a formal complaint with Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop on April 8.

Gov Wichai arranged a meeting between them and Phuket Town Mayor Somjai Suwansupana the same day.

The municipality has asked the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives (BAAC) to offer more attractive loan terms to vendors who cannot afford to pay, but the vendors are asking that the

15,000 baht/sqm fee be waived completely.

“Why do we have to pay when the market was built with over 167 million baht in taxpayers’ money? That should have covered the cost of building food stalls,” said one vendor representative.

The city also kept them in the dark about how much it would cost to move into the new market when the project was announced, they allege.

If the city refuses to negotiate on construction fees, it should at least offer low-interest loans direct to vendors, they said.

Monthly repayment on a 15-year BAAC loan at 7.5% annual interest would result in vendors having to pay back almost double the principal, the representative said.

Further problems lie in the fact that many vendors are too old to qualify for long-term loans, while others have been blacklisted due to bad credit histories.

“We are begging them for sympathy and not to place this hardship on us,” the representative said.

Mayor Somjai said the municipality will review the issue and announce its conclusions by the end of the month.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Red shirt leader Arisman Pongruanrong is helped by others as he flees arrest at a downtown hotel in Bangkok on April 16. Thai security forces surrounded the hotel where leaders of the red shirts were holed up, but failed to make any arrests after the suspects fled. AFP PHOTO/MANPREET ROMANA

Festival deaths down

THAILAND: There were 3,516 road accidents during this year's Songkran holidays from April 12 to 18. Last year the period saw 3,997 accidents.

This year 3,802 people were injured and 361 killed, according to a Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation report released on April 19. The

previous year saw 4,332 injuries and 373 deaths.

The provinces accounting for most of the road accidents this year were Nakhon Si Thammarat and Nakhon Ratchasima.

Drunk driving is still the major cause of road accidents, followed by speeding.

Source: The Nation

Raw boar kills three

LAMPANG: Two men and a woman died and four more patients were under hospital surveillance in Wang Nua District after eating raw boar meat last week.

Dr Sirichai Pataranupa, provincial public health chief, said the villagers – all relatives – had eaten infected meat after capturing two wild boars in the forest.

Ban Huai Nam residents Thongdee Jamtham, 47, and Soi

Khanthima, 53, died of *streptococcus suis* – known as 'swine strep' – at Wang Nua Hospital on April 15. An unnamed male relative succumbed two days later.

A rapid-response medical team was dispatched to the area to examine those at risk, especially the victims' families.

The disease, which causes meningitis and pneumonia in pigs, can infect humans who eat or handle contaminated hogs, Dr

Sirichai said. The bacteria spread quickly through the bloodstream and produce high fever.

The pathogen goes on to damage the nervous system, leading to partial blindness, deafness and ultimately death. All symptoms appear within two to three days, Dr Sirichai said.

Lampang sees up to two deaths from swine bacteria infections per year, mostly from eating uncooked pork, he added.

Source: The Nation

Killer mom saves son

NAKHON NAYOK: A mother allegedly rescued her son from a drunken Songkran brawl by gunning down two of his enemies with a shotgun, killing one and seriously injuring the other.

Nikon Chitphong, 36, and his 27-year-old nephew Nippon Mangsa were taken to Nakhon Nayok Hospital in the early hours of April 14 with gunshot wounds.

Mr Nikon later died of his injuries.

Another of Mr Nikon's nephews, 20-year-old Suphachai Hassa, told police he was drinking with the two victims when the shooting happened.

The three were arguing with Montree Panyawong, 29, an old enemy whom they had fought before.

Suddenly, Mr Montree's mother Buasri Kanyaphan, 45, appeared with a short shotgun and let fly with both barrels.

She hit Mr Nikon in the chest and Mr Nippon in the back, Mr Suphachai said.

Police said Mrs Buasri denied shooting the two men but that gunpowder was found on her hands.

She has been charged with murder and firearms offences.

Source: Khao Sod

Thaksin Fiji-bound

FIJI: The interim government in Fiji says it would treat the former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra like any other applicant if he sought to settle in Fiji.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Mr Thaksin may be in Fiji or on his way there.

The paper says Thaksin, whose Thai passport has been cancelled, may be considering setting up a base in Fiji because it has no extradition treaty with Thailand.

Source: The Nation

Queer News

Cops' Songkran booze scheme

THAILAND: In a bid to cut the number of accidents during this year's Songkran festival, Thailand's highway cops launched an innovative scheme: 'Entrust Your Liquor With The Police'.

Drinkers who couldn't trust themselves to stay off the wheel were invited to leave their booze collections at any of 227 Highway Police offices around the country.

The service was free, with the boys in brown promising to return all bottles untouched.

Deputy Commander of the Highway Police Phinit Maneerat said drunk driving was the main cause of accidents over Songkran.

"When it comes to the major festivals, especially Songkran, wherever people go, they intend to get drunk. They buy alcohol to take with them in their car, and if they stop for something to eat on the way they crack it open," Col Phinit said.

"When they go to fairs with films and performances, they drink alcohol too and then drive their motorbikes or pick-ups to see their friends or their girls despite being drunk," he added.

Col Phinit said he wasn't sure if many would use the service but hoped it would make people consider the dangers of drunk driving.

To kick off the campaign, Thai film star Arun "Sumo Tui" Phawilai – who is no stranger to drunk driving charges – entrusted a prized bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label whisky to the safe hands of the Commander of the Highway Police, Maj Gen Somyot Phromnim.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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Celebrating cool custom art

Phuket Tattoo Convention and Bike Week leave a lasting impression



ALTHOUGH the 16th annual Phuket Bike Week featured many events over five days, for most fans the highlight was the April 10 biker parade along Soi Bangla (pictured above). Photos: Elizabeth Branca



JUNGCEYLON SHOPPING CENTER in Patong played host to the island's first annual Tattoo Convention from April 6 to 8. Over 30 professional artists competed in 13 competition categories. Pictured is Phuket tattoo artist Chart Suchat's first prize in the Best Oriental Tattoo category for his outstanding image of Buddha. Pictured bottom left: Ajarn Aor performs an amplification blessing on a customer. Gloved and armed with his needle: Local bamboo tattoo artist Mr Pa Prachitchai adds more ink to a custom tattoo. Photos courtesy of Golden Needle Tattoo and Nicky Vermeulen.



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The sweet chill in the peak of summer's heat

DESPITE being part of a chain of restaurants, Phuket's 'ete ice cream' shops are places where the appeal of a small-town parlor is completely understood.

The shops are brightly decorated with pastel colors that have a way of piquing a craving for ice cream. The smell is distinctly sweet. The lively chatter of dining friends and family is constantly within earshot. And most importantly, the ice cream is gourmet.

Ete might be able to credit its small-town appeal to the fact that it is still a young company – founded in 2002 – and operating a mere nine restaurants nationwide.

Three of them are in Phuket, and all dairy products come from a quiet farm in Nakorn Ratchasima province.

It could also be that ete is run by people who genuinely

enjoy making and eating ice cream. It undeniably takes a true lover to sit down with mangos, chilies and fish sauce, and make a tasty sorbet. This concoction has actually made its way onto the menu – and has become a favorite among locals – for 49 baht.

With more than 30 flavors, freshly-made waffle cones, heaps of chocolate and fudge, countless toppings and a hearty supply of fruits from around Thailand, there is something at ete for everyone.

Those craving classic dishes will be pleased to see a menu complete with banana splits, hot fudge sundaes, frosty milkshakes, and a wide selection of floats.

Chocolate lovers will fare well and will want to try the "Midnight Summer" – a homemade brownie topped with chocolate sauce, whipped cream, chocolate chips, and a scoop of vanilla and chocolate ice cream (139 baht).

Those seeking something a

Ete ice cream is a local favorite in Phuket, and for good reason. A menu that combines classic favorites with unique creations keeps people coming back. Photos by Scott Phillips



little more unique will want to check out the seasonal specials. It is with these that ete gets creative. Don't be surprised to see a hot dog bun filled with scoops of vanilla ice cream and topped with sticky rice.

The infamous durian even has its own flavor ice cream – and the parlor still manages to keep its sweet smell.

The newest addition to the menu is a maple toast sundae – a thick slice of sweet toast topped with hot fudge sauce, maple

syrup, a scoop of both strawberry and chocolate ice cream, whipped cream and almonds (69 baht). It has become a favorite among both foreign and Thai children.

Plenty of sorbet is offered for those seeking a healthier treat.

The Fruity Basket – three scoops of sorbet in a cone basket with fresh fruit chunks and raspberry sauce – is an ideal option for 125 baht.

The more touristy ete shops, located at Jungceylon and Cen-

tral Festival, will charge you a bit more for being in the company of vacationing families. They'll also be more crowded.

For a location with a little more appeal and personality, head into Phuket Town to the Limelight Avenue shopping center next to Queen Sirikit Park.

Those who venture out will find the same menu at a lower price and a less crowded atmosphere.

– Scott Phillips

Oilers swing for charity at golf tourney



Competitors in the 2010 Oilfield Classic golf tournament.

FAIR weather and friendly competition welcomed golfers from around the world to the Loch Palm and Red Mountain golf courses as they took part in the Phuket Oilfield Classic tournament on April 9 and 10.

Part of a mini tour in Asia that includes locations in Macau, Kuala Lumpur and Bali, the annual tournament offers high level players in the oil and gas industry the chance to raise money for charity and a weekend of golf at some of Phuket's finest courses.

Now in its second year, the event has been organized and run by director of Phuket-times.com Mark Cameron and has raised almost one million baht for local charities: Phuket Sunshine Village and Phuket Has Been Good To Us.

This year's Oilfield Classic had a special participant in Simon Yates, one of the most successful players on the Asian tour. Not only did Simon join in and participate, his team shot an impressive six under par score on day one.

Yates then went on to set a course record of 63 the follow-

later, he has his name on the honors board," said Graham Haslam, who co-ordinated the event with Cameron.

The tournament came to its conclusion with a gala dinner and auction at the Club Andaman Beach Resort in Patong. Included in the attractive items up for bid were an autographed picture of Muhammad Ali and a signed jersey from football legend Pele.

Now firmly established as an annual event, Mark Cameron is already in the process of making 2011's tournament even bigger. Teaming up with local golf holiday provider Golfasian, he hopes to bring more than 100 players to next year's event.

Anyone interested in planning a golfing holiday to participate in next year's Oilfield

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Skating Swedes: Thai - Singapore slog rolls south

TWO Swedes who are skating almost 5,000 kilometers from Chiang Mai to Singapore rolled in and out of Phuket earlier this month sporting a few road scars – but relishing their long slog south.

Education workers Jim Petersson, 25, and his girlfriend Maria Larsson, 29, have skated 30 to 90 kilometers a day through 21 Thai provinces since January.

Petersson is riding a long board skateboard and Larsson is strapped into rollerblades.



Jim Petersson and Maria Larsson skating outside their hotel in Kata, Phuket.

Driven by their goal of raising over 200,000 baht for the Swedish Childhood Cancer Foundation, the pair plans to roll into Singapore on June 12.

In Phuket, the Swedes bungee jumped in Patong, skated along the busy Thepkatrassi Road and rested their weary feet on the island's beaches.

"People love to talk about our adventure," Petersson said of the Phuket support for their cause.

At the time of writing, the skating Swedes had raised 100,000 baht and were heading from Penang to Malaysia's east coast.

With no support vehicle and the danger of skating busy highways, avoiding potholes and living out of small backpacks, Petersson said life on the road is tough. Especially as he only learned to skate six months ago and has food allergies to curry, nuts, beans and peas.

They plan to coast down Malaysia in under two months before eventually arriving in Singapore.

If they make it, the pair will fly to Bangkok and then back to Sweden.

With 8,180 fans following their progress on their Facebook page and plenty of Swedish media interest, Petersson said he is looking forward to returning home in June and catching up with friends and family.

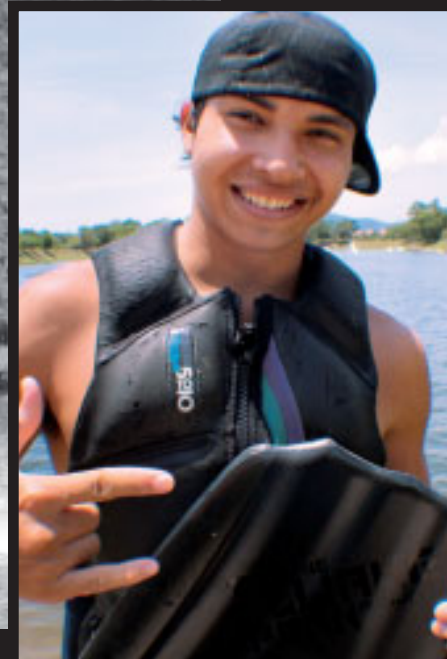
But he won't rest for long. In the summer he plans to skate the length of Italy with his brother to raise funds for the same charity.

For more information, see Petersson's blog at mrjimonlongboard.blogspot.com or visit www.mrjimonlongboard.com.

– Fraser Morton



Mac Rosen pulls off a stunning 'S-bend' trick earlier this month at Phuket Cable Ski. Photos by Nicky Vermeulen



A 19-YEAR-OLD Phuket resident is making waves in Asia's professional wakeboarding circuit after an impressive performance in his competitive debut.

Mac Rosen took third place in the Bangkok leg of the Asian Wake Park Tour (AWPT) earlier this month. The first of a three part series, the AWPT attracts some of Asia's top wakeboarders, with the next stage set down for Singapore in May and the final drawing to a close in the Philippines in the summer.

In Bangkok, Patong resident Rosen was one of the youngest competitors in the advanced division, with most riders aged between 25 and 40 years old.

Competitors from Korea, Singapore, the Philippines and Australia all turned out for the two-day wakeboarding battle.

Fighting off nerves and having only two practice laps before competing, young Rosen said he was surprised to finish third in his heat.

"I didn't expect to make the top five," he said.

In his heat, competitors had to execute three air tricks and three obstacle tricks. Rosen came up trumps and awed the judges with an extremely difficult aerial maneuver called a 'double S-bend'.

"I'm going to have to work on my obstacle tricks if I have any hope of a podium place at the finals," he said.

Having first wakeboarded just four years ago, Rosen is determined to pursue a professional wakeboarding career in America.

Most days on Phuket, he can be found at Phuket Cable Ski training to land a near impossible trick: a 'double S-bend to blind'.

The aerial maneuver would see him spinning 520 degrees horizontally, and then landing with the rope handle in one hand behind his back.

So far the trick has eluded young Rosen, but he is adamant that once he masters the move, he can be sure of more podium place finishes in the future.

For more information on the AWPT see W:thaiwakepark.com.

– Nicky Vermeulen



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Phuket teens top the world



Above: Phornsia (left) and Tanaporn (right). Below: Phornsia's artwork of a restless teenager, named 'top in the world' by Cambridge.

Not many teenagers get to tell people some of their work is the best in the country – let alone the world.

That claim, however, is nothing short of the truth for two BIS students who recently completed the University of Cambridge's International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exam. Phornsia Yu and Tanaporn Taveepattanangkul were both recently informed that their submissions in Art and Chemistry were top in the world and top in Thailand, respectively.

Phornsia's ten-hour creation of a tired teenager resting on brightly-textured pillow was named by Cambridge as the best in the world for 2009's Art and Design exam. That's no small feat, considering her artwork was in a pool of creations from students in over 120 countries.

Tanaporn's IGCSE Chemistry exam had the highest mark in the whole of Thailand – scoring higher than the hundreds of other students in the country who took the exam.

An accomplishment to boast, both girls are modest and gracious when discussing the test in ways that reveal the discipline and concentration behind their success. They arrived for an interview during their Songkran holiday, dressed in proper school attire and awaiting any and all questions with their hands folded.

When asked if she was aware she was creating an artwork that would soon be known around the world, Phornsia simply replied, "I was just thinking about the painting. I didn't really think about how good it would be, so I was very surprised when I



was told how well I did."

Now studying in the UK to complete her A levels, Phornsia admits that she enjoys art, but her mind is just as capable of analytical thinking as it is artistic. While she does want to keep up art as a hobby, her sights are set on business and economics as a profession, and she has hopes to get into the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Her friend and fellow student Tanaporn also places her success with the Chemistry exam into humble perspective: "I am kind of proud of myself. It is nice to be rewarded for good work... But this has not really changed that much in my life. I just know that studying hard can pay off in more than one way."

With that outlook in mind, she continues to pursue her schoolwork at BIS, hoping to go to university in two years to continue her studies in Chemistry, and eventually go into medicine.

– Scott Phillips



Tony's final curtain

FRIENDS and family are mourning the loss of Tony Kelsey-Stead who died peacefully on April 19 whilst in a coma. Tony was battling leukemia when he passed away in hospital in England.

As one of the founding members of the Andaman Players, Phuket's only theater group, he will be missed by Phuket's art community.

"It is a real shock to us all that Tony has gone. What a brilliant guy and a fabulous example he set for all of us," said Michael Flynn, the producer of the players' April 23 show dedicated to Tony.

A remembrance event is planned at the Green Man pub in Chalong on May 2. Many actors, singers, comedians and musicians who have worked with Tony on Phuket will perform in the show.

All are invited to attend. Further information will be posted on www.phuketgazette.net in due course.

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Petite and pristine

Rang Yai island offers a bounty of natural wonders



For the less regimented daytripper a longtail boat can be chartered to Rang Yai for the day. Photo: Elizabeth Branca

Idyllic stretches of white sand flanked with coconut trees and azure sea are ubiquitous in southern Thailand. However, with the onset of the region's low season, Phuketians can explore the surrounding tourist-bare islands with a more discerning eye.

Located just 5km offshore from Koh Kaew's Boat Lagoon, Richy Island Phuket, more commonly known as Rang Yai Island, is a petite and pristine 275 rai island paradise.

Nestled on Phuket's east coast between Coconut and Coral Island, Rang Yai is accessible through local tour companies or, for the less structured traveler, via longtail charter from Laem Hin pier.

On arrival visitors are greeted at an informal information center and given a brief rundown of the island's activities. The circumference of Rang Yai can be strolled in under an hour, lending the island an intimate feel. To help explore the island by land

or sea, bicycles and kayaks are available for a 100 baht per person per day.

Besides the island's one restaurant, a pearl showroom, an activity center, a few staff buildings and eight bungalows, there isn't much to distract guests from sand and surf tranquility.

The beachfront adjacent to the restaurant is lined with brightly colored loungers and offers relatively calm water for swimming and snorkeling.

As a testament to the

island's low traffic flow, the sand is sprinkled with abalone shells and bleached Elk coral. Those yearning for more privacy can venture down any of the island's paths to claim their own vacant stretch of sand.

Staying on global trend with eco-development, there are few man-made materials used in the buildings on Rang Yai. Most are made of bamboo, coconut trees and a little cement. The Robinson Crusoe-style bungalows are a castaway's dream.

Built in 2006 along a small jungle slope near the beach, these eight small wooden houses are sparse on décor but big on atmosphere.

From the deck hammock, each bungalow offers views of the sea and an intermittent cacophony from jungle birds and bugs. Priced at 1,000 baht per night, Rang Yai's bungalows appeal to travel-savvy couples or flashpackers wanting soft eco-adventure in a romantic setting.

Before leaving the island many visitors take in a pearl farming demonstration.

Within fifteen minutes a well versed Rang Yai pearl farmer explains the cultivation process. Well-dressed shoppers and bikini clad curiosity seekers alike are ushered into the opulent pearl showroom, but there is no hard sell.

From earrings to necklaces, locally cultivated pearls are strung and polished in a remarkable variety of forms, shapes and colors. The ideal pearl is smooth and round with a rich pale luster and high shine. Naturally occurring pearls, meaning those produced in the tissue of a mollusk, are very rare and the majority of pearls sold worldwide are farmed.

To augment the pearl demonstration experience, visitors are encouraged to swim out to Rang Yai's floating pearl farm and admire the cultivation process. Not far from shore, snorkel-sheathed swimmers can explore underwater oyster beds, cages and nets.

For more information on Rang Yai Island visit www.rangyaiisland-phuket.com.

— Elizabeth Branca

Travel & Tourism Briefs

Schools opt out

ASIA ONE NEWS reports that the ongoing political unrest in Bangkok has prompted more Singapore schools to put off their plans to travel to Thailand.

During the holidays from March 13 to 21, at least four schools scrapped planned field trips to Thailand when unrest was deemed imminent.

For the coming June break, tour agencies have reported that at least nine secondary schools that had booked student field trips to Thailand have now either put the trips on hold or changed their country of destination.

Ministry digs deep

THE MINISTRY of Tourism and Sports has extended tourism stimulus measures for one year to assist tourism entrepreneurs affected by Bangkok's political unrest, the National News Bureau of Thailand reports.

The stimulus measures include the exemption of some visa fees, travel insurance for foreign tourists of up to US\$10,000, low interest rate loans for tourism businesses, and extension of loan payment periods.

Summer hottin' up

ALL THREE of Courtyard by Marriott's resorts in Phuket have launched a 'Hot Summer, Hot Offer' promotion which must be booked by April 30, 2010 for stays before May 31.

The resorts in Patong, Kamala and Surin Beach are offering rates from 3,199 baht per room per night. The rate includes all local taxes and service charges.

Included in the Phuket package is accommodation in a 'Deluxe' room, a free daily buffet breakfast in Momo Café, 500 baht credit for use at the resort's food and beverage outlets and a 20 percent discount on all spa treatments for the duration of the stay.

The Sentosa uprising

THE NEW STRAITS TIMES reports that hotels in Johor, Malaysia stand to benefit from the spillover of tourists flocking to the newly opened Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore, said Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen.

She said arrivals in January rose by 3 percent, and more than 10 percent in February, compared to the same months last year.

For more news briefs from around Thailand see **NEWS HOUND** at W:phuketgazette.net



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EXPAT GALLERY

Eric Dohlon

Eric Dohlon provides insurance policies for those needing health and accident protection. He is a partner in E & I Insurance Broker Company Ltd.

What sets Eric apart from other insurance brokers is that he was born in Thailand and holds both Thai and Swedish passports. With over 30 years working in the country, he knows how systems work and is thus well qualified to advise on the best protection and claims results.

Other insurance companies often call upon Eric to interpret with their foreign clients to settle accident claims. He appears at the police station and in court, when required, to offer his fluent Thai reading, writing and speaking skills for the benefit of his customers.

His Swedish parents worked outside Calcutta, India before moving to Thailand where Eric was born in 1961. The family lived off Sathorn Road in Bangkok and the young Eric attended Bangkok Pattana School before graduating from the International School of Bangkok (ISB) in 1979.

"I had a good childhood. I took a klong boat to school every morning and our family was a member of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club so we spent our leisure time playing tennis, swim-

ming, or learning every sport that the club offered. We also had a beach house in Pattaya where we spent our vacations."

Thai was Eric's first language as a child. His mother had to take Thai language lessons in order to talk with him.

After graduating from ISB, he decided to move to the family home in Pattaya and became both a PADI and NAUI instructor. He taught diving in Pattaya until 1987 when he made his first visit to Phuket.

"It was like another country. I had never visited Phuket before and I was ready for a change. I got a job teaching diving in Patong and then at Le Meridien Phuket. But after a few years I decided to try something different as I was tired of going to the same underwater places and tired of being cold and wet."

He decided to return to an early interest. Eric and his dad had often worked on classic cars together. They owned a 1960s Fiat roadster and the two had a large collection of tools.

In 1992, Eric opened his own auto repair shop across from Wat Chalong and spent the rest of the decade repairing and restoring classic cars.

During that time, he taught himself to read and write the Thai language from international comic

books that had been translated into Thai.

"I developed my 10,000 word vocabulary in Thai from studying the Thai versions of 'Tin Tin', 'Obelisk' and 'Asterisk'. When I would get a car to restore that I didn't know, I would get the Thai manuals and learn by reading what to do."

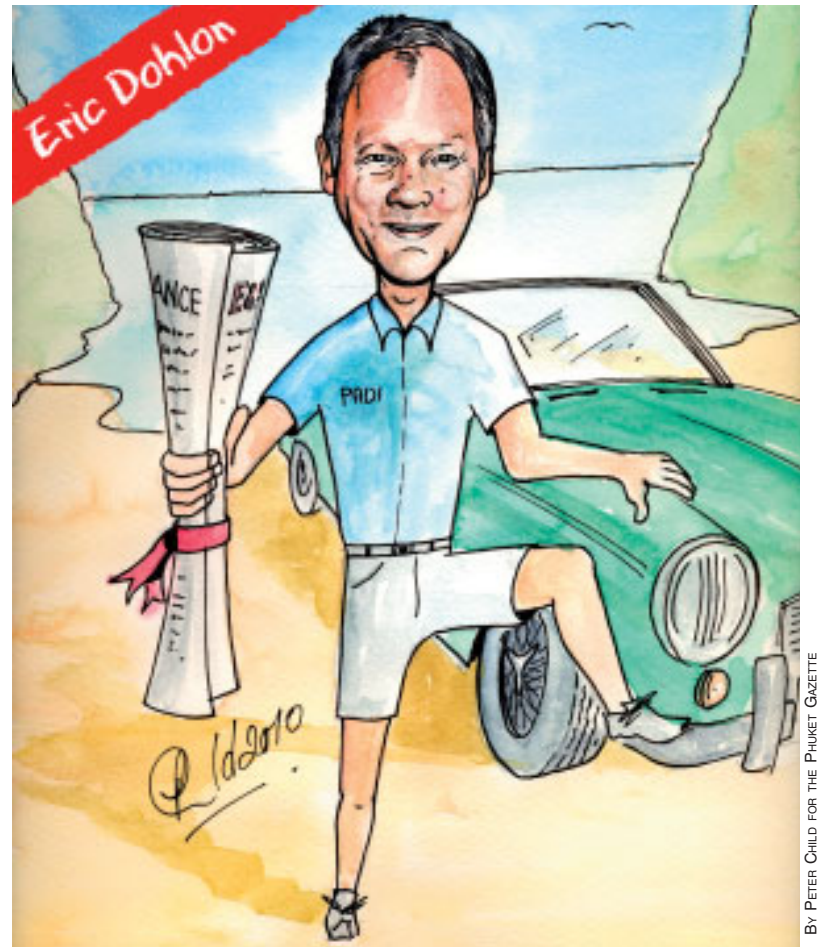
He was asked to join an insurance company venture in Bangkok in 1999 and decided to return to the capital where he learned the many complex aspects of selling and servicing policies. He was one of the few to pass an insurance broker's exam and became an independent broker and consultant in 2000.

For the past ten years, Eric has been advising his customers on the best insurance policies for their particular needs. He maintains an excellent relationship with the local hospitals who recommend him to their patients. He advises people to secure a second opinion before having an expensive procedure at any hospital, and for those over 60 he recommends purchase of the best medical insurance available.

"There are 70 registered insurance companies in Thailand. I research their policies and make recommendations. The best is not always the most expensive."

"I always tell my clients that they need to arrange their insurance before they need hospital care as hospital staff are only there to assist the patients with their insurance claims – not purchases."

– 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.



We look forward to seeing you in our new offices at **Gazette Square** from **Tuesday, March 30...** onward.

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SUNSET STYLE: General Manager Thibault Salaun (top right) and Sales Executive Supaluck Klongsamut (bottom right) from Phuket Premier Yachting Company hosted a sunset cruise through Phang Nga Bay on April 6 aboard the luxury 76' yacht *Twinpalms One*.



DOG DAY AFTERNOON: HomePro Village hosted 'Dog Lover 2010@HomePro Village Phuket' from April 1 - 4. Highlights included a rabies vaccination service, a 'Lovely Dog Photo Contest' and 'Dog Lover Fancy Contest'.



PHUKET PITSTOP: F1 driver Nico Rosberg stayed at The Racha resort from April 5 - 14. Pictured is Rosberg (center) with General Manager Gerard Tan (left) and Managing Director & owner of The Racha Daniel Lim.



BEVY OF BEAUTIES: Bikini-clad hopefuls turned out for Soundwave Sunday's first annual Bikini Contest and Beachwear Fashion show on April 11 at Laem Singh Beach.



ROCKIN' BODY: Hard Rock Cafe in Patong held the Miss Hard Rock Phuket 2010 semi-final competition on April 10. More than 50 bikini-clad girls competed for one of the ten spots in the upcoming final contest in May.



QUEEN OF THE ANDAMAN: Jungceylon Shopping Center celebrated its third anniversary from March 26 to April 6 with several summer themed events. Highlights included a traditional Thai puppet show, the International Tattoo Convention, Phuket Bike Week and two fashion shows. Playboy's show featured playmates wearing the brand's latest swim and casual fashions. "The Spirit of the Sea" fashion show celebrated the beauty of the Andaman Sea with swimsuit and beach wear collections from Quiksilver and Roxy. The show's grand finale was an appearance by the 'Queen of The Andaman', Miss Universe 2005, Natalie Glebova.



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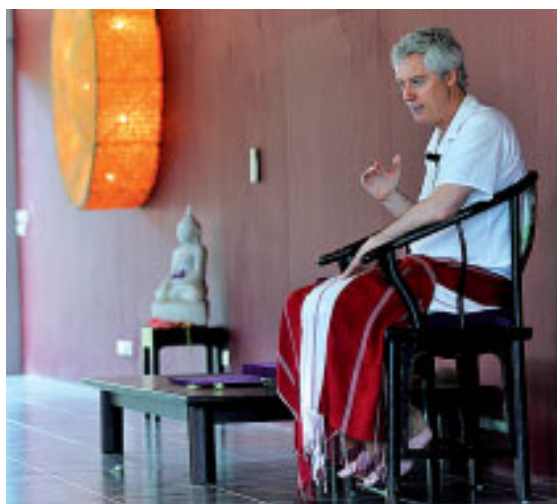
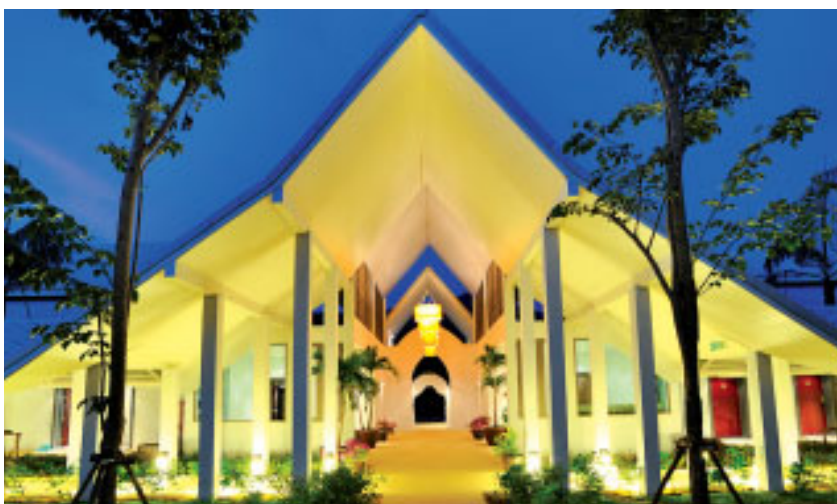
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Phuket residents listen to Dr Alan Wallace at the opening of Phuket International Academy's Mind Centre.

Happiness: the natural high



SEEKERS of genuine happiness gathered to hear words of wisdom from modern-day mind guru Dr Alan Wallace recently at the Phuket International Academy's newly-opened Mind Centre.

The participants were a mixed bunch: some were experiencing guided meditation for the first time and others had been practising meditation for many years. But there was little discomfort among the strangers and all soon felt a sense of unity as the lighthearted discussions and meditation sessions progressed over the two-day 'Genuine Happiness: Focused Mind, Open Heart' retreat.

Although the Mind Centre is part of the Phuket International Academy (PIA), its buildings are set apart from PIA's education and sports facilities, among landscaped gardens surrounded by a mature bamboo boundary,

making everything nice and quiet.

Participants sat on custom-made meditation mats (chairs were also available) in the spacious, purpose-built meditation room. Dr Wallace spoke softly and engagingly with the participants about the Mind Centre's purpose and the role of the center in scientific study of the mind.

A linguist and a scholar, Alan Wallace was ordained as a Buddhist monk by H.H. Dalai Lama in 1975. Twelve years later, Dr Wallace began teaching Buddhism as a lay person. His academic studies in physics and philosophy, including a doctorate in religious studies, have made him a leading authority on the scientific study of meditation.

His initial talks at the retreat centered around developing the mind's ability to focus for extended periods of time,

explaining that studies conducted on university students revealed that even the smartest of those tested could concentrate on a single image for no more than a few seconds. However, Dr Wallace pointed out, many people practice meditating (focusing their attention) for up to eight hours at a time.

Using an analogy of an air traffic controller, who must remain focused throughout a shift in front of a radar screen, that person would feel completely drained and exhausted by the end of his or her shift. On the other hand, someone who has meditated for several hours will feel refreshed and energized at the end of their session of concentration.

The difference in the two scenarios, Dr Wallace explained, is that focusing the attention through meditation is a process of 'letting go' and encouraging the mind and body to reach a

naturally relaxed state; rather than becoming tense like the air traffic controller.

The retreat focused on two methods of cultivating meditative quiescence, known in Sanskrit as *Shamatha*.

On the first day, Dr Wallace introduced the group to an initial step in practicing meditation: mindfulness of breathing, which calms the mind and makes way for 'insight meditation' (*vipashyana*); to settle the mind in its natural state. The quiet, air-conditioned and comfortably spacious surroundings – accompanied by Dr Wallace's soft-spoken voice – made it very easy to sink into a meditative state.

When it came time to meditate, Dr Wallace put the beginners at ease by announcing that unlike sports training, pain didn't have to be a part of mind training, so you don't have to cross your legs if it's

uncomfortable. And so began the first, 25-minute meditation session: a wonderful experience that seemed to last only an instant.

Refreshment breaks of fruit juices and healthy snacks (no coffee) punctuated the sessions and gave participants the chance to share their thoughts. Some of them were very open to talking about the life-changing experiences that had spurred them to begin seeking spiritual happiness.

Dr Wallace's talks were based on Buddhist teachings on suffering: how to recognize internal suffering, and what to do with the emotions you experience in order to lead a happier life.

By the end of the retreat, the participants had formed a common bond. Each had been on a private journey of discovery but all were now going in a similar direction, along a brightly-lit pathway to inner well-being – a natural high, as it were.

With 38 boutique hotel rooms and dining and recreation facilities on hand, the Mind Centre is equipped to host guests for days or even months at a time.

Dr Wallace is set to hold an eight-week intensive meditation training program at the Mind Centre in the coming year.

For more information and retreat application forms visit www.phuketinternationalacademy.com/piamc/mind-centre.php or contact mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com

– Nick Davies

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Writer's Night with Bjorn Turmann – April 29



Don't miss Writer's Night at Mom Tri's Boathouse, Phuket's first literary event of Summer 2010. Bjorn Turmann, internationally recognized writer/speaker, will talk about writing novels and developing Oscar nominated ideas, relating his experience with fiction and film. Drinks at reduced prices. From 7pm - 9pm at Mom Tri's Boathouse. For further information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076-330015 E: pr@boathousephuket.com. W: boathousephuket.com.

April 26 – May 1. PIA Sports & Leisure Club After School Program

Running throughout the school year, Phuket International Academy will offer an after school multi-activity program for children. All instruction is given by professional, internationally experienced and accredited coaches. Activities include: swimming, football, martial arts (judo/muay thai), gymnastics, volleyball, cricket, touch rugby, music (band), and drama. The program changes with each school term. From 2:30pm – 5:30pm at PIA Sports & Leisure Club. For further information contact Khun Mik. T: 076-376000. E: activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com.

April 28. Green Love Festival at BIS

The Year 12 British International School CAS students will host the Second Annual Green LOVE festival to raise awareness about local and international environmental issues and solutions. Students will aim to educate each other and the wider community about recycling, waste management and how to implement eco-friendly and sustainable solutions. From 8am - 3pm at British International School, Phuket. For further information contact Chris. T: 076-238711. E: cespouy@bisphuket.ac.th. W: bisphuket.ac.th.

April 28. The Phuket PR Network's Free Public Speaking Seminar

Worried About Public Speaking? Help is at hand. The Phuket PR Network is holding a free seminar on public speaking with author Bjorn Turmann, renowned expert on public speaking. From 4pm - 7pm at Silk Restaurant, Andara Resort, Kamala. For further information, contact Alastair Carthew of AC PR Counsel. T: 076-317929, 081-7500448. E: alastair.carthew@staralliance.com.

April 30. Music & Art Festival by Lions Club of Phuket Pearl

Come enjoy dancing and more in the Town Square of Royal Phuket Marina, together with a stunning visual display of *Old Phuket* photography. All proceeds to be donated to children in need on Phuket. Dress code is smart casual, entrance is 500 baht and includes a glass of wine with finger food. From 6pm - 11:30pm. For further information contact Mr. Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

May 1. National Labor Day - Public Holiday

A public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 1. The Green Man's Mayday 9th Anniversary

Games for kids, beer garden with BBQ, car boot sale, May pole dancing, May king and queen, musicians jamming, charities and more. Free space for sales is also available for booking. From 9am - 6pm at The Green Man Phuket. For further information contact Nui. T: 081-894 7736. E: info@the-green-man.net. W: the-green-man.net.

May 1. One Night in May at The Sheraton

Local charity Phuket Has Been Good To Us invites all to enjoy an evening that will help change the life of a child forever. Guests will enjoy canapes, a four-course gala dinner, free-flowing bar and entertainment that includes the Sheraton Band and two fantastic DJs. Tickets are 3,000 baht per person; special weekend rates start at 3,000 baht per night. From 6:30pm - 1am in the ballroom of the Sheraton Grande Laguna. For further information contact Chantal Fernandes. T: 089-874 2942. E: Chantal.fernandes@gmail.com. W: phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

May 5. Coronation Day - Public Holiday

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 8. Angels in Les Anges

Guests are invited to enjoy an evening of art, fashion, glamour and delicious food. Features include body art, beautiful models from Bangkok, great music and a unique culinary experience by Chef Peter Webber. Admission: 1,000 baht. From 5pm - 11pm at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Peter Webber. T: 076-360803. E: peterw@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

May 13. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day - Public Holiday

The annual Royal Ploughing Ceremony usually takes place in May every year at Sanam Luang, near the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The ceremony has been performed since

ancient times and is designed to give an auspicious beginning to the new planting season, amid hopes and wishes for an abundant harvest.

May 21-23. Phuket Fun Fly 2010

The first paragliding competition in Phuket will be held May 21-23 at Naiharn Beach. The colorful and exciting event is sponsored by Phuket Province, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Canon, the *Phuket Gazette* and other local businesses. More than 150 flights will take place from 8am to 6pm during the three days of the event. For further information contact Peter. T: 089-474 5253. E: peter@bmsevent.com. W: phuketparagliding.com.

May 28. Visakha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

This holiday is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It commemorates three important events: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha.

June 4 – 13. Phuket Film Festival 2010

After a successful inaugural event in October 2007, the second edition of the Phuket Film Festival will lay the groundwork for a sustainable arts and entertainment event. The festival aims to not only help raise awareness of Phuket as a quality tourist destination, but to bring a bit of the arts into Phuket and act as an event to draw tourism during the low season. For further information contact Chaiwat Ahantharik. T: 02-982 4525. E: info@phuketfilmfestival.asia. W: phuketfilmfestival.asia.

June 13. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

Join the largest and fastest growing destination marathon in Southeast Asia. Race day will comprise a marathon, half-marathon, 10.5k run, 2k kids' run and 5k walk, all passing through Phuket's rain forests, rubber plantations and local villages. For further information contact Laguna. T: 02-236 2931. W: phuketmarathon.com.

Free Computer Clinics

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April 25 – Chalong

May 2, 9 – Patong

For more info contact Woody. T: 076-290468.

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Unbreakable bonds part II



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MOST bonds have a fixed interest component that pays out the same amount, usually every six months, for the life of the bond.

This, naturally, means that bonds, especially longer dated bonds of five years, ten years and upwards, are poor stores of value in an inflationary environment.

To counter the eroding effects on inflation, a number of governments and related issuers of bonds issue inflation indexed bonds.

This type of bond may, for example, have an interest rate known as a coupon rate, which is adjusted every year to compensate investors for the current inflation rate plus, say, two percent.

Therefore if inflation rates were at three percent, investors would be paid a total of five percent.

These inflation indexed



HANDLING INFLATION: Indexed bonds are very popular with investors although there is usually the old grumble about governments understating the real inflation rate. AFP Photo/Carl de Souza.

bonds are very popular with investors although there is usually the old grumble about governments understating the real inflation rate.

The coupon rate varies greatly and there are a whole range of bonds that are termed high yield.

High yield bonds are to be found among countries that

issue bonds where the history of the country is one of more than average inflation rates.

The other type of high yield bonds are those issued by companies and other entities such as electricity utilities with less than stellar credit ratings.

However, this is not always the case: electrical utilities such as South Africa's Eskom, has a good credit rating.

The risk is not primarily in the issuer but in the currency. In other words, the South African Rand. Risk is a difficult concept.

It often relates to the level of volatility rather than outright risk of default.

Where investors buy bonds in other currencies there is always the risk of losses when

converted to the investors' "home" currency.

Individual investors often make the mistake of chasing yield. This meaning that bonds with high yields are vastly preferred to those with low yields.

This is often due to greed and lack of care in examining why the difference exists.

Many investors in bonds avoid actually buying individual bonds and simply invest in a bond fund. Naturally, a bond fund has extra costs compared to simply buying a bond.

This cost is hopefully more than compensated by the added value a fund manager can bring to the portfolio.

There are many different types of bond funds, ranging from those which only invest in

bonds of a very high credit rating, to those who specialize in junk bonds. The latter is a term for bonds that are below investment grade credit rating.

In addition, investments in emerging market debt are also popular. This then means that the bond fund manager is responsible for multiple tasks such as selection of individual holdings; political; economic; currency and market factors.

In large bond portfolios the managers may also, where deemed prudent, purchase credit default swaps. This is basically purchasing insurance against a default by a bond issuer.

Bonds are often the sole or major component on an investment fund which is labeled "cautious" and is almost always present in a fund which is labeled "balanced".

Almost everybody has heard of stock and property market crashes, but who has ever heard of a bond market crash?

Unfortunately they do exist, but they are relatively rare and any newspaper carrying a headline "Bond Market Crash" is unlikely to find that many of their readers even understand anything about the subject matter.

The last significant bond market crash started on the 24 February 1994. This was caused by a global bond market rally that had simply carried on far too long.

Worries about higher economic growth and rising inflationary pressure suddenly infected world bond markets and a stampede for the exit doors caused bond prices to collapse.

This was not just a single day of falling prices, the 24th February was the start of what was referred to as a rolling market crash which extended until December 1994.

During March of this year it appeared that some sort of resolution had been reached to tackle Greece's debt problems.

The Euro zone countries reached a loosely worded accord that would see them in some sort of combination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) coming to rescue Greece if necessary.

Reports from Bloomberg and other sources now reveal that Greece is about to try and raise billions of dollars in American bond markets.

It's also reported that Greece is trying to avoid any involvement with the IMF as it fears that there are stringent rules and conditions which will apply.

Instead, Greece wants to have other Euro zone countries involved as it knows that with them, they can virtually set their own terms. Until this matter is settled, the value of the Euro will be undermined.

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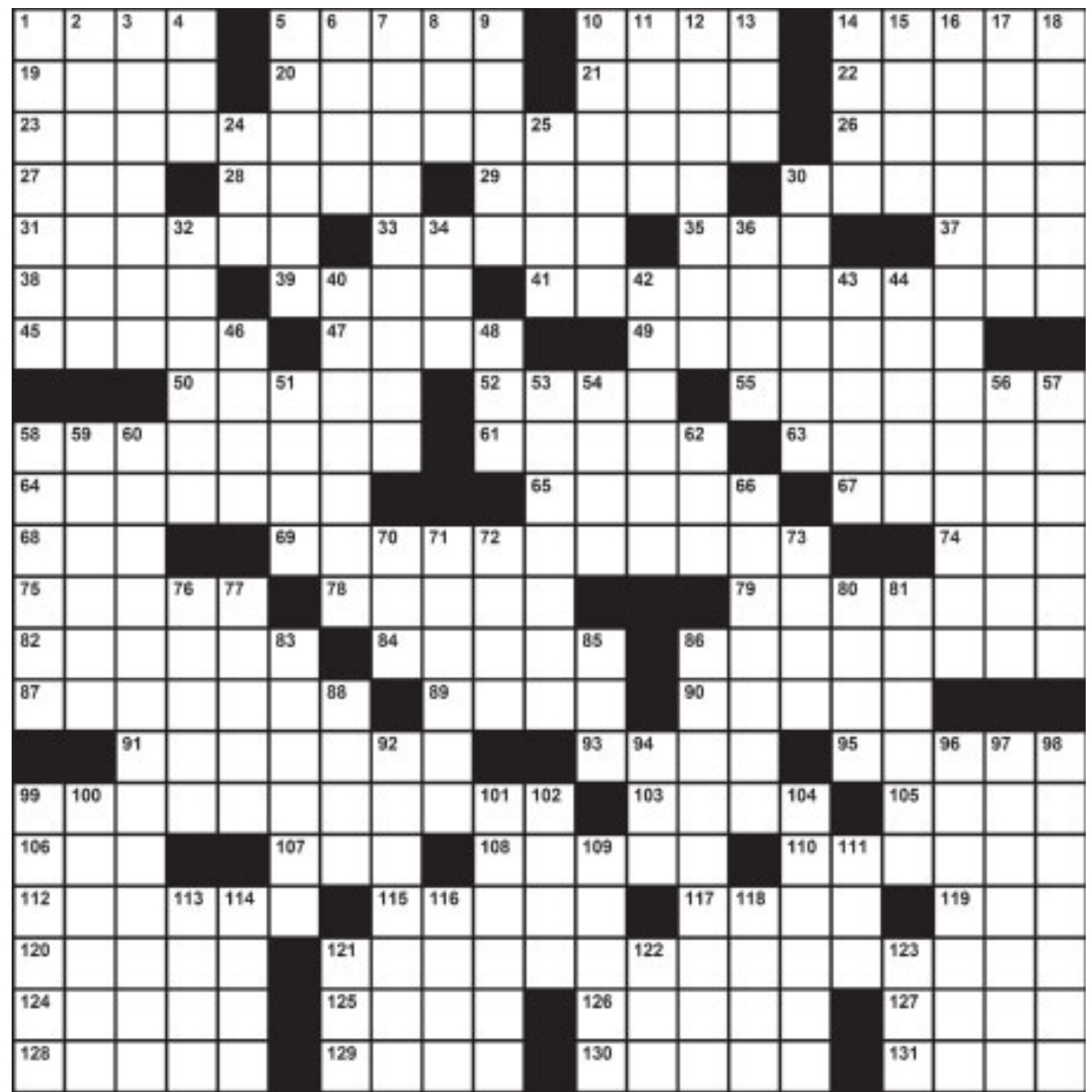
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PUZZLES

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 Cowboy boot attachment
- 5 Adhere
- 10 Observatory function
- 14 It gets dressed in the kitchen
- 19 First-rate
- 20 Slow tempo
- 21 Gas station brand
- 22 "___ swear" (affirmation of a deposition)
- 23 Reel properties?
- 26 Result of changing your locks
- 27 "Addams Family" Cousin
- 28 "Is it just ___ is it hot in here?"
- 29 ___ Island Red (chicken)
- 30 Roman magistrate
- 31 California fruit
- 33 Al or Bobby of auto racing
- 35 "That's the spot!"
- 37 "Bravo matador!"
- 38 S-shaped molding
- 39 Chore list heading
- 41 In an ill-advised manner
- 45 Residences for cardinals
- 47 Calf meat
- 49 Ends
- 50 Come to the point?
- 52 Computer customer
- 55 "Saturday Night Live" specialties
- 58 White, apple cider and wine
- 61 Cuomo or Lanza
- 63 Give off again
- 64 On the whole
- 65 Like many Indians
- 67 Rapper with a title
- 68 VW predecessors?
- 69 Yellowstone figures
- 74 Suffix with "Christ"
- 75 "Cosi fan ___" (Mozart opera)
- 78 More

- 79 Maneuverable at sea
- Gossip columnist
- Rona
- 82 Conan of late-night TV
- 84 Biblical whale bait
- 86 Cane cutters
- 87 University town in Nebraska
- 89 Not any
- 90 Like stamp pads
- 91 Kind of time or suit
- 93 "Been there, ___ that"
- 95 Acclimate
- 99 Patronizes
- 103 Distinctive emanation
- 105 "___ Enchanted" (2004 film)
- 106 "Based ___ novel by ..."
- 107 Fleming who authored Bond books
- 108 Abstract form prominent in the '60s
- 110 More buffoonish
- 112 Do over, in Hollywood
- 115 Unaccustomed to, as an activity
- 117 Month after Ab
- 119 Bug killer banned by the EPA
- 120 "Spider-Man" director Sam
- 121 Homeowner's source of funds, sometimes
- 124 "As loathsome as ___" (Shakespeare)
- 125 And so on, at the end of lists
- 126 Clear from memory
- 127 Fruit drinks
- 128 Finishes a flight
- 129 1040 IDs
- 130 "___ of God" (Meg Tilly movie)
- 131 Bold and sassy

DOWN

- 1 Clothes presser of yore

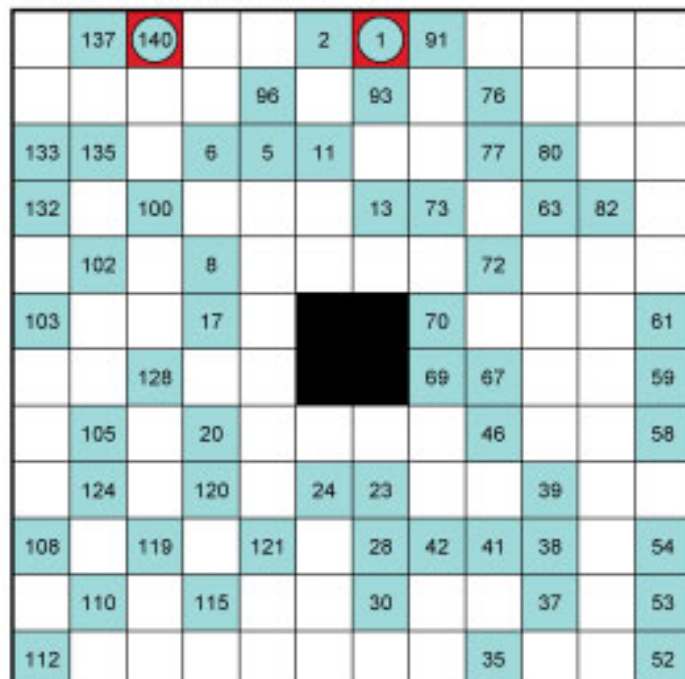
- 2 Cost of transporting
- 3 Accords
- 4 Abbr. for Jesse Jackson
- 5 Accountant's customer
- 6 Jay with a prominent chin
- 7 They're not on the guest list
- 8 Mathematician's highest degree?
- 9 Word following "party" or "opera"
- 10 Zen Buddhist enlightenment
- 11 Street ___ (urban acceptance)
- 12 Tract of farmland
- 13 Thumbs-downs
- 14 ___-Japanese War
- 15 City near the Red Sea
- 16 Doctor's recommendation, sometimes
- 17 Comparatively boring
- 18 "The Legend of Tom ___" (1959)
- 24 Big British record co.
- 25 "Beg pardon"
- 30 Bell ringer
- 32 Irish ___ (dog breed)
- 34 When doubled, a book by Gauguin
- 36 Family in a Lew Wallace novel: Ben-___
- 40 Transparent sheet
- 42 Kind of bikini
- 43 Used the good china
- 44 Omega, to the Greek alphabet
- 46 Drawn-out drama
- 48 Abner's old-time-radio pal
- 51 Crab's sensor
- 53 Like some North African desert terrain
- 54 "___ go brag!"
- 56 Johnny Depp plays one

- 57 Angioplasty tubes
- 58 Early Soviet space program
- 59 Conduit in an ICU
- 60 Switzerland is one
- 62 Literary tribute
- 66 More debonair
- 70 British rule in India
- 71 Old Austrian coins
- 72 City north of Lake Tahoe
- 73 Hopping-race need
- 76 Sick partner?
- 77 Choosing word
- 80 Cassowary's relative
- 81 Become flushed, as cheeks
- 83 Loch monster's nickname
- 85 "___ be a fool not to!"
- 86 Revolutionary War figure
- 88 Cassava plant
- 92 Milk-curdling agents
- 94 Scull implement
- 96 Surveying instrument
- 97 One showing promise?
- 98 Most sharp-tasting
- 99 Steer enclosure
- 100 ___ time (individually)
- 101 Carpenter's pins
- 102 Box for practice
- 104 Sky-blue shades
- 109 Where "ahoy" may be heard
- 111 Keyboard key
- 113 "Diary of ___ Housewife"
- 114 They say the darndest things
- 116 "Almighty" title role for Steve Carell
- 118 Come in last place
- 121 "Do" followers on a music scale
- 122 .0000001 joule
- 123 Word with "generation" or "gender"

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1. What is the name of the highest mountain in Europe?
2. In 1923 American Colonel Jacob Schick invented what?
3. What former title did the Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Derby, and the Marquis of Salisbury all share?
4. Who directed the film *Citizen Kane*?
5. What is the lightest weight class in amateur boxing?
6. Located in Wyoming, this is considered the world's first established National Park.
7. What is the capital of Slovenia?
8. British physician Ronald Ross campaigned for the destruction of what infectious disease?
9. What female scientist won Nobel prizes in both physics and chemistry?
10. Who is considered the Father of Geometry?
11. This treatment's name comes from the latin root word "acus" meaning "needle". What is it?
12. Located in western Africa, this is the world's deepest river. What is it?
13. In 1879 James Ritty invented what important money device?
14. Who wrote the 1749 novel *Tom Jones*?
15. In which country were fireworks invented?
16. Which country did the largest recorded earthquake take place in 1960?
17. The okapi is what type of animal?
18. What makes a triangle scalene?
19. Which British band released the song *Teenage Kicks* in 1978?

Answers below

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Puzzle Solutions

WHATZIT? solutions

1. Guest list
2. Back to the drawing board
3. A chip off the old block

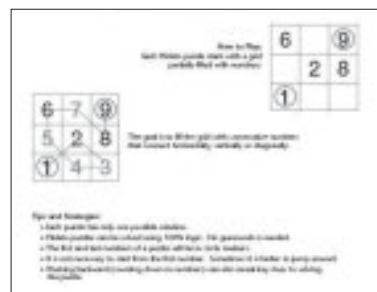
Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Mont Blanc
2. The electric razor
3. UK Prime Minister
4. Orson Welles
5. Light Flyweight
6. Yellowstone
7. Ljubljana
8. Malaria
9. Marie Curie
10. Euclid
11. Acupuncture
12. Congo River
13. Cash register
14. Henry Fielding
15. China
16. Chile
17. Giraffe
18. No equal sides
19. The Undertones

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



Hidato Puzzle Solution

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

Solution to this week's crossword

S	P	U	R		C	L	I	N	G		S	C	A	N		S	A	L	A	D			
A	O	N	E		L	E	N	T	O		A	R	C	O		I	D	O	S	O			
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O	N	A			I	A	N		O	P	A	R	T		Z	A	N	I	E	R			
R	E	T	A	K	E		N	E	W	A	T		E	L	U	L		D	D	T			
R	A	I	M	I		R	E	V	E	R	S	E	M	O	R	T	G	A	G	E			
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L	A	N	D	S		S	S	N	S		A	G	N	E	S		P	E	R	T			



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Paul Theroux has written 31 novels and 12 travel books. With a bookshelf that wide, there's bound to be some clunkers.

His best novels, *Mosquito Coast* and *O-Zone*, feature children experiencing a moral awakening. His adults tend to be surly, as in his worst novels, *Doctor Slaughter* and *Kowloon Tong*.

His latest novel, *A Dead Hand* (Hamish Hamilton, London, 2009, 265pp), falls somewhere in between. It's both a mystery and a love story – genres that Theroux has not turned his hand to before.

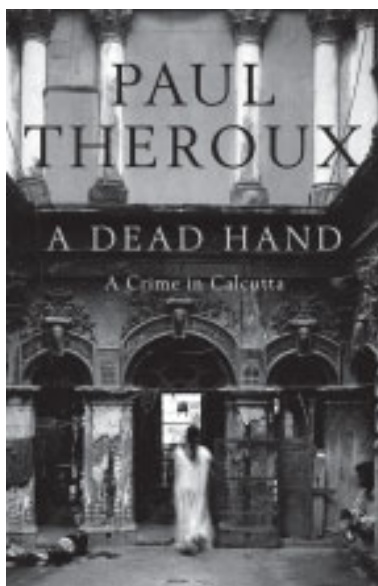
He hooks you on the mystery at the very start: a young Indian named Rajat wakes up to find the corpse of a boy on the

floor of his room in a seedy hotel in Calcutta. He flees in horror.

Rajat is the gay lover of Charlie Unger, the son of a rich American widow, Merrill Unger, who has founded a school for street children close to Mother Teresa's famous hospice. She writes a letter to Jerry Delfont asking for his help in solving the case.

Delfont is a middle-aged American travel writer who happens to be in Calcutta on a State Department junket to give lectures to Calcutta's cultural elite. Delfont meets Mrs Unger at the Oberoi Hotel, flanked by son and his lover. She is a striking woman, dressed in Indian jewelry and a white sari, and Delfont is promptly smitten, the more so after he visits her school and its attached spa, where she gives him a tantric massage that leaves him in a swoon.

That's the nugget of the plot. Jerry Delfont tells the story and it swiftly turns into more of travel story than a novel:



Calcutta, Assam, Uttar Pradesh. The travel writer's eye for detail is given full rein. Here he is on the architecture of Calcutta:

"Calcutta was roughly plastered and painted; the Corinthian columns... and much else seemed like marble but was really whitewashed wood. It was not beautiful but its handmade

look gave it a human face, which was also a look of impermanence, if not frailty."

And elsewhere he describes the sounds: "From the sounds alone you knew you were in another century – bicycle bells, the clomp of pony hooves on cobblestones, the chatter of a sewing machine, the clang of a hammer on an anvil, the bang and clump of wooden wagon wheels."

And the smells: "... where the stinks were so sharp they seemed audible, the diesel fumes of taxis and buses, the reek of garbage, of shit, of risen dust that was also like a high-pitched whine, the vibration of dirt, the sweetish tang of decay, the presence of oil smoke from the lamps and candles of veneration."

To his passion for Mrs Unger, Jerry Delfont owes the resurgence of his writing skills. "It was love of a rarified kind: I was her devotee. I had nothing to offer her except my loyalty. She had everything to offer me.

When I could not see her I felt mournful, almost ill."

Delfont eventually meets a rival travel writer named Paul Theroux whose "twitching eyes were those of a predator". Their confrontation lasts for 11 pages and is merciless on Paul Theroux, "this smirking, intrusive, ungenerous and insincere man".

Where *A Dead Hand* fails is as a mystery story. As strong as Theroux is on description and dialogue, he has always been weak on plot – and a mystery story hinges on plot. Despite Delfont's many and repetitious pages of rhapsody over the character of Mrs Unger, the reader just knows that she is not all she appears to be, and the novel's last scenes come as no shock or surprise.

Still, Delfont ends up grateful to Mrs Unger for inspiring him to write the book. "She inspired much more, gave me the vitality to write it and taught me tantra – gave me the hands, the fingers, the energy."

Horoscopes



Isla Star



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your week begins with uplifting news from overseas. Many Taureans will be looking at ways of celebrating and this might include a last minute trip. If you are single and looking for love, a meeting with Pisces could be the icing on your cake. The number seven can bring good luck this weekend. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will learn there is much to their advantage in the coming year.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis have a chance to set the record straight this week. A recent disagreement with a fire sign needs to be laid to rest and Tuesday is the most auspicious day to do so. Your spending power increases as money matters are better starred during the last week of April. This trend should continue well into May, but a new partner's shopping addiction needs to be controlled. Wear the color mauve to encourage a sensible outlook.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): A business related mission should be accomplished by the end of April. Those born under the sign of Cancer who have

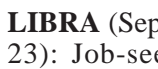
almost been ready to give up will see a positive result at the last attempt. The stars will also back your efforts to expand work interests – expect an encounter this weekend with Aquarius to have promising results. Love with Virgo is well-starred, but starting a relationship with Scorpio is not advisable.



LEO (July 24-August 22): Treading water is the best approach this week. The astrological atmosphere will become brighter and more supportive in May – in the meantime, spend quality hours planning. Your romantic outlook is rosier and a liaison with Capricorn could be just the relationship lonely Leos have been looking for. Those already committed will be surprised when their partner reveals exciting plans for a summer vacation. The number four can be lucky this weekend.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans could be upset by a fire sign friend flying off the handle this weekend. The stars indicate that your easy approach to this relationship needs examining as there are signs that you are being taken advantage of. As the month of April draws to a close, romance becomes much smoother – those enjoying the excitement of a new relationship will want to make it more serious. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.



LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Job-seeking Librans are



advised to wait and see what lies around the next corner. The stars indicate that your impatience to move on could result in regrets. May is highlighted to be a more positive month for changes and this will also affect some lifestyle choices. The possibility of romance with Pisces leaves you cold, but an introduction to Aquarius is promising. The number nine can be lucky next Thursday.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): A dream you have this weekend highlights confusion in your life. Although a work-related situation is forecast to become more comfortable this week, there will be no easy answers to financial problems until May. Romance is set to bring more happiness when you finally accept that another water sign is not trying to lead you up the garden path. Wear a piece of light amethyst to encourage more peace of mind.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians who suspect they've been given a wide berth where promotion is concerned should receive a pleasant surprise this week. The stars predict that your keen attitude has been noted and is about to be rewarded. Schedule important meetings for Wednesday when the astrological atmosphere will help things to go your way. Romantic luck is on your side this

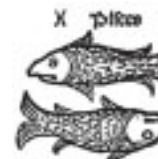
weekend – an air sign is forecast to give the answer you've been waiting for.



CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your playful nature is highlighted to add extra sparkle to this week. Capricorns looking for a good time should seek out the company of air signs to ensure enjoyment. Romance is well highlighted – expect a casual relationship to be put on firmer foundations in the near future. Those still single will finally get closer to someone they've been admiring from afar. The number six can be lucky next Thursday.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): As April draws to a close, it is likely many Aquarians should see improvement in personal circumstances. However, business matters are still subject to stormy astral conditions and it would be inadvisable to expand your interests this week. The month of May promises to bring a calmer atmosphere and finances are indicated to become less of a source of anxiety then. Wear the color amber to encourage a less judgmental attitude.



PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans will be relieved when a business contact takes the bait this week. The only possible downside might involve having to work with an impatient fire sign.

Someone born under an earth sign is about to spark your romantic interest – Tuesday is the most auspicious day for a first date. Spending money you can't afford is forecast to be a temptation this weekend. The number seven brings good fortune next week.



ARIES (March 21-April 20): Those Arians anxious to put an important business relationship back on the rails have opportunity to do so before the end of this month. Your financial luck is predicted to increase once May begins, but unexpected bills this week could put a dampener on your social life. The stars suggest that home improvements will soon be on the agenda – ask a creative air sign friend for economical ideas.

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Market needs compromise

Pressure is mounting on Phuket City Municipality to reach an agreement with 425 market vendors who have been waiting almost three years for completion of the new fresh market on Ranong Road. [See page 4]

Most of the vendors have been operating at a temporary market on Wirat Hongyok Road since mid-2007, when the city asked them to leave the rat-infested Ranong Road market that had been in continual operation there since the World War II era.

The municipality's plan to clear the old market and replace it with a modern, hygienic facility was laudable, but changes on this scale seldom come without difficulty.

Vendor complaints about forced relocation from the area date back to 2003, when plans for the project were first announced. Then some 150 traders – including unlicensed vendors operating on the public roadways until 5am every morning – were forced out of the area.

Nostalgia aside, few who remember the state of the area around Suriyadej Circle at that time would ever choose to return to it. The municipality's decision to clean up and improve traffic flow in the area was in fact long overdue and a critical step in the ongoing transformation of Old Phuket Town into a genuine tourist attraction.

Chief among the vendors' current complaints is that Phuket City Municipality used 167-million-baht in taxpayer money to fund construction of the market and that this amount should have included costs to construct vending stalls.

The 167-million-baht price tag does indeed seem high for a market. But before making knee-jerk cries of 'corruption' skeptics should take a tour of the building, which has many facilities seldom associated with wet markets: rooftop parking, air-conditioned meeting rooms, large service elevators, wastewater treatment facilities – even a Muslim prayer room.

While the Gazette of course sympathizes with vendors who cannot afford to pay, the reality is that this final phase of the project is funded on money borrowed by the municipality. It needs to be repaid.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana has also reminded the vendors that they were allowed to operate from the temporary market free of charge and were encouraged to save as much money as possible during that time.

Those who did so will be rewarded with long-term leases on space in what promises to be not only a major tourist attraction, but also the new heart of Old Phuket Town. What is needed now is clear communication and a genuine desire to find a solution fair and affordable for both sides.

– The Editor

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Letters

The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-615240 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.

Road reversal

Having lived in Patong for two years, I think the most terrifying thing for a tourist is crossing the road, particularly at night.

Perhaps a set of pedestrian lights at the beach end of Bangla Road might help.

As an ex-policeman, I believe that the majority of roads should be one way, and that reversing the traffic flow of the roads would be an improvement.

Darren Slattery
Patong

I choose danger

Re: Gazette online, Songkran 2010: Two teens dead on Phuket roads, April 16

Should matters of health and safety, particularly helmets and drunk driving, be dealt with by the criminal justice department? Maybe not. I like the fact that you can generally get away with these things. It's part of life here and one of the reasons I live here.

I am an adult and therefore should have the right to choose the degree to which I protect myself. Fair enough, if someone were to be killed or injured in some way as a result of my actions, then – and only then – it should become a case for the criminal courts.

Anyone agree?

Matt
Gazette forum

Sketchy bills aren't rocket science

I have heard many people complaining about being overcharged in Thai restaurants and bars. They say the bills are hand-

written so they can't tell if they're being charged fairly or ripped off.

I would like to point out that every time I have received a bill in Thai, the numbers have been written in standard Western numerals.

I haven't had any problems with being ripped off because of a sketchy bill. I'm far from fluent in the Thai language, but my basic speaking skills and ability to add numbers have proven successful in avoiding problems.

If the menu doesn't have prices listed and I'm worried about money, I always ask how much something is before I order. And, of course, when the bill comes, I check it. It's not rocket science.

Gemma Shales
Phuket Town

Safety last

I find it incomprehensible that the young Singaporean man involved in a fatal jet-ski accident could be charged for the death of his friend [Gazette online, Phuket tourist may be charged in jet-ski death, April 18, 2010].

According to the article, the charge could be a "wrongful act" that "caused the death of another". What was the wrongful act?

Did the young man wrongfully take advantage of a tourist attraction on Patong beach? Was he wrongfully driving a jet-ski which the rental company authorized him to use?

I am unaware of what kind of license is needed to operate a jet-ski in Thailand, but that is beside the point. We can assume that most tourists and expats are not fully versed in laws regarding motor vehicle operation.

Furthermore, the police send mixed messages by inconsistently fining drivers for various reasons.

What is at issue here is a lack of information available to not only visitors, but Phuket's population in general.

In countries such as the US, we safely assume that any services, such as jet-ski rentals, will be legally operating and fully insured. They also give safety information and instructions on operation and make sure the customer is legally authorized to drive the vehicle.

When tourists rent jet-skis on beaches, they are likely to assume the lack of safety precautions translates to a lack of rules.

However, there are rules in Thailand and they can be quite severe when enforced.

The problem is that authorities do not ensure that businesses, such as the jet-ski operators, at least properly inform their customers of the rules and dangers involved in using their services.

This is a failure on behalf of local authorities and businesses, the consequences of which an unfortunate, if not naive, tourist is being forced to bear.

Carl Knapp
Rawai

Half a chance

According to Ms Benjawan Tamphanuwat, president of the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation, only around half of the Foundation's 50 permanent staff members have received advanced first-aid training [Phuket Gazette, First Person, April 17, 2010].

One can assume that a smaller proportion of their 300 volunteers have undergone such training. As Kusoldharm rescuers are often first on the scene in emergencies, does anyone else find these statistics alarming?

Ron Burley
Patong

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

Second sight: avoiding an ocular ordeal

FIRST PERSON

As a word of warning for some of our more shortsighted readers, *Phuket Gazette* news editor Stephen Fein recounts his ongoing 'vision quest': eight months of expensive medical treatments that could have been avoided.

When God was passing out the eyeballs I must have been at the back of the line. I have been cursed with severe myopia – shortsightedness – since birth.

One of my earliest and most vivid memories was putting on my first pair of glasses at about the age of four and seeing for the first time what trees looked like in fine detail instead of the fuzzy, impressionist-painting view of them I had until that moment.

But despite being badly shortsighted, my eyes had always been pretty healthy. All that changed in mid-August last year, when I began to experience what doctors refer to as 'floaters' in my left eye.

Most people past 40 have at some point experienced these annoying spots and filaments, but on that day it was as if I was looking through a snow globe that some sinister force kept continually shaken.

Trips to several doctors revealed that I was at high risk of a retinal detachment in my left eye and the 'floaters' were in fact little clots of blood floating around inside my vitreous humor, the jelly-like substance inside the eye.

I ended up getting laser surgery on both eyes at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, with retinal specialist Dr Captain Wiriyaluppa.

The left eye was still in trouble, however, so I had a series of laser procedures over the next few months. These failed to solve the problem, however. The floaters kept getting worse and in the end I had to be rushed to Songklanakarind Hospital in Haad Yai for an emergency 'vitrectomy', surgical removal of the vitreous humor.

Getting your retina blasted with a laser is no fun, but having the entire inside of your eyeball sucked out and then getting laser surgery is worse, I can assure you. What's more, when it's over they inject a long-lasting gas into the eye to hold the retina in place. For a full month afterwards you need to continually lie face down so the gas exerts pressure on the healing retina, keeping it in place.

This is extremely boring and uncomfortable, and even after you get the green light to begin standing upright again, the gas bubble takes another month to fully disappear. It is in your field of vision all the time and waiting for it to dissolve completely and be replaced with natural body fluid is kind of like watching paint dry, but much slower.

The vitrectomy and retinal surgery had the desired effect of saving the retina, but all parts of the human body exist for a reason and the vitreous humor is no different. Among other things, it plays a key role in protecting the eye's natural lens from oxygen, preventing cataract formation.

By the time the gas bubble finally disappeared, I already had a bad cataract that kept getting worse as the months passed to the point that my vision out of that eye was just a big blur. I needed cataract surgery to replace the natural lens with an artificial one; I decided to go back to Songklanakarind Hospital for this procedure.

I got back to Phuket with my new lens in March and thought I was only a new pair of glasses away from having fairly normal vision again, but a few days later a bad infection set in.



EYE EYE CAPTAIN: *Phuket Gazette* news editor Stephen Fein is back to work after months of surgical torment.

The condition is called 'endophthalmitis', defined in Wikipedia as 'a dreaded complication of all intraocular surgeries, particularly cataract surgery, with possible loss of vision and the eye itself'.

Dr Captain injected strong antibiotics here in Phuket, but they weren't enough to stop the infection. I had to be rushed back to Haad Yai again for yet another vitrectomy, technically an 'aqueous vitrectomy', followed by a full week in a hospital bed, this time lying face up.

Getting major surgery on a badly infected eye is far more

painful than on a healthy one. The pain this time around was the worst I had ever experienced, with the possible exception of the time I got dengue fever, which is another medical condition to be avoided at all costs.

Eight months after it all started I am finally back at work trying to get my bearings at the new Gazette Square offices, starting into the computer monitor with a patch over the left eye and counting the days until my new glasses will arrive and I can get my life back to something resembling a normal routine.

The point of my writing this

is not to seek pity, but to warn others like myself – those getting on in years who have high degrees of myopia – that getting a simple retinal scan, and preventative laser procedure if necessary, could spare you the pain that I have been through, not to mention over two months of lost work and well over 100,000 baht in treatment fees.

These scans are also relatively cheap here in Phuket, where some of the private hospitals offer them as part of eye check-up packages. I wish I'd had one a few years ago, that's for sure.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Write to:

The Phuket Gazette
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatthi Rd, T. Koh Kaew, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-615240, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

Why widen the walking path at Suan Luang?

I have noticed on my daily walks through Suan Luang park that over the past weeks the sides of the walking path have been filled with asphalt. It is difficult to see the reason for this as it does not benefit recreational activities such as walking, running, cycling or simply sitting and enjoying nature in the city.

I'm afraid that widening the path will encourage more driving in the park. Any recreational user would hope to avoid this at all costs. What is the purpose of this widening?

Name and address supplied

An officer at Phuket City Municipality replies:

The walking path was sloping and uneven. We wanted to even it out and make it more suitable for those who come to walk, run and cycle.

For more information contact Phuket City Municipality: 52/1 Narisorn Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-214808, 076-212314

How do I export goods?

I am starting a women's clothing business and would like information regarding permits, if they are needed, to bring goods from Thailand to Australia. What are the customs regulations for quantities, taxes and so on?

Tani Gippeto
Australia

A Phuket Customs officer replies:

There are no export duties on women's garments, however all goods being exported from Thailand are subject to customs control and must be reported.

You have to pay a 200 baht fee and complete an export declaration form each time you sent a shipment abroad.

The documents required are: export declaration form, invoice, export license (if applicable), certificate of origin (if applicable) and other related documents such as catalogs, product ingredients and so on.

For more information contact the Phuket Customs House in Phuket Town at 454 Phuket Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211105 or call the Customs Call Center at 1164.

Ready for rugby 10s

THE Overgaard Rugby 10s tournament – one of the most eagerly anticipated annual sporting events in Phuket – will return to Karon Stadium from May 28 to 30.

Still growing with each passing year, the tournament has come a long way from its humble origins.

The first Rugby 10s took place at Sapan Hin Stadium in 1999 with a turnout of only six teams. This year, there will be 40 teams traveling to Phuket to compete.

The rapid progression of rugby on the island is largely due to the tireless efforts of Pat Cotter, who in addition to organizing the Rugby 10s, has also been

instrumental in introducing Thai children to the sport.

The Phuket youngsters, however, are not the only ones to benefit from growth of rugby on the island.

In addition to some great sporting action, the Phuket Rugby 10s raises money for the Asia Center Foundation, a charity for disadvantaged children in Phuket.

Over 400,000 baht was raised last year and the aim is to raise even more this year.

Several members of the Bangkok Bangers rugby team have already raised 250,000 baht for the cause with a sponsored cycle ride from Bangkok to Phuket.

Karon Stadium, which is



Action from last year's Rugby 10s at Surakul Stadium. This year's tournament will take place at Karon Stadium.

situated along the beach front, is a favored location for both players and spectators.

The pitch has recently been re-laid and all are hoping it will be in a good enough state to play rugby by the time the tournament rolls around.

"It's looking a bit sandy right

now but hopefully if we get some rain on there it will be fine come 10s time" said Pat Cotter, who plays for the Bangkok Bangers.

Also on the agenda is an under 14s match between the Phuket Lomas team, a completely Thai team, and the British International School.

Away from the pitch the action is likely to center around Soi Bangla, with the annual 'Tour Virgins Beauty Pageant' expected to provide entertainment.

For more information visit W: phuketrugby10s.com.

– James Goyder

India takes top spot at Cricket 6s

CLOSE to 30 teams from around the world recently descended on Phuket for the eagerly awaited Phuket International Cricket 6s competition.

This year saw a number of new entries in the ladies tournament, one of which featured former Australian women's cricket captain Karen Rolton, who has a reputation as one of the best women players in the history of the sport.

Rolton, who retired from the international game earlier this year, was representing the Custom Cockatoos from Australia and appeared in both the men's and the women's teams.

Also featured in the tournament for the first time was the Phuket Cricket Union Youth Development Team, who has been playing regularly in Phuket's Island Furniture Cricket League.

The Custom Cockatoos won the fourth tier Spoon Cup

and easily overtook the Singapore Slingers clocking up 55 runs with a couple of overs to spare, 25 of which were scored by Rolton.

Other former professional cricketers in the line up was Indian test cricketer Vivek Rajdan, who was representing her home country's team, Power Packers.

Rajdan and her fellow Power Packers went on to win the third tier Bowl Final against another Australian team Toorak Prahran.

The second tier Cup Final marked a victory for Australia's Leaming Spartan Club, who ran up an impressive total of 78 to 36 runs against fellow Australian side St Francis De Sales. In the first tier Cup Final, Pakistan and perennial cricketing rivals India set up an intriguing match.

Pakistan's Corner Tigers batted first and got off to a disastrous start, losing two wickets in the opening over.

They rallied to score a respectable 60 runs and give their bowlers something to aim for.

Their opponents, India's Gauhati Town Maroon Club, featured a couple of former first-class cricketers of their own.

With two overs remaining, Gauhati needed 24 runs to win.

It appeared that the match would go down to the final ball, but three consecutive wides in the

penultimate over killed the Pakistani side's hopes.

In 6s cricket a wide scores four runs. By the time the last over came around Gauhati needed only five runs to secure victory.

A four from the second ball of the over leveled the score and the winning run duly followed.

This sparked wild celebrations from family and friends as well as the players themselves.

Captain Gautam Dutta expressed his delight:

"We have been trying to win this tournament for five years, this is the first time we have actually done it so we are very happy!"

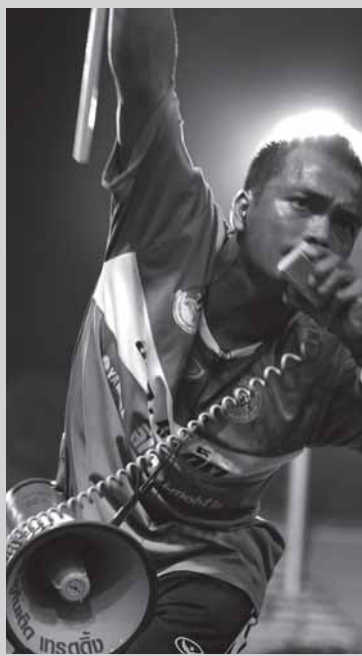
– James Goyder



Karen Rolton in action for the Custom Cockatoos at Karon Stadium.

FC Phuket falls from top

FC Phuket 1 Trang FC 2



FC PHUKET slipped to third place in the Division Two (southern section) after suffering their first defeat of the season at Trang on April 10.

FC Phuket have won every home game this season, but have yet to win an away game. After beating FC Phuket, Trang now stand top of the division, while Yala has moved up to second

courtesy of a 0-0 draw with Satun Utd.

Surat Thani are tied for points with FC Phuket following a 2-0 win over Phang Nga, but have a game in hand.

With only five points separating the top five teams, FC Phuket will need to urgently address their away form to secure promotion.

Current league standings

Top seven teams in Division Two (southern section)

Team	Games Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Trang FC	8	5	1	2	17
Yala FC	8	4	0	4	16
FC Phuket	8	4	1	3	15
Surat FC	7	5	2	0	15
Satun United	8	3	2	3	12
Had Yai FC	7	3	2	2	11
Phang Nga FC	8	1	2	5	8

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South China sink Thai champions

SOUTH China clinched victory over Thailand's league champions in a fiery AFC Cup qualification match at Surakul Stadium on April 20.

A win against South China would have guaranteed Muang Thong's qualification to the knockout stages of the AFC Cup.

South China started the game as the stronger side and dominated early possession.

They came close to taking a surprise lead when a free kick from the right touchline eluded everyone in the penalty area and bounced back off the bar.

Captain Li Haiqiang could have given his side the lead, but dragged a shot wide.

Muang Thong soon got into the game and were unfortunate not to take the lead when a headed clearance fell at the feet of Pichitphong Choeichiu, whose well-taken volley clipped the outside of the post.

The turning point of the game came when a South China



defender collapsed after an off-the-ball altercation with Muang Thong forward Yala.

The assistant referee had an unhindered view of the incident and after a moment's consultation, the referee showed no hesitation in producing a red card.

Despite the dismissal, Muang Thong came out strong in

the second half and had better opportunities to score. Their swift counter-attack football proved effective.

The referee did the home side a considerable favor by sending off South China's Brazilian forward Tales Schutz for an extremely innocuous looking challenge.

Now playing 10 against 10, Muang Thong sensed a win was within their grasp.

Disaster struck, however, in the dying minutes. Muang Thong conceded possession deep in the South China half, allowing their opponents to break.

South China's Wong Chin Hung, fired a shot low into the

bottom right-hand corner of the Muang Thong goal.

South China walked off the pitch as the 1-0 winners minutes later.

The result leaves South China level on goal difference with Muang Thong, who will need to win their final group game – away to Indonesian side Persiwa Wamena – to guarantee qualification.

As recently as 2007, Muang Thong were playing in the third tier of Thai football, much like FC Phuket are at present.

Their rapid rise, which has come with the aid of considerable investment, should give FC Phuket hope that they too can enter the upper echelons of Thai football.

The South China, Muang Thong match was moved to Phuket due to the ongoing political unrest in Bangkok.

It is the second year in a row that a major football match has been moved from the capital to Phuket.

– James Goyder



Come watch the cricket league final

THE top two teams in the 2010 Island Furniture Cricket League will meet at Cherg Talay School in the final on April 25.

Last years winners Kingfisher Island Cricket Club will take on Patong Cricket Club.

Patong will be looking to end their opponent's incredible record, who have never lost a game.

The action is set to get underway at 9am and should continue through the morning. All are welcome to attend.



Thailand's top ranked female volleyball player Yupa Phukrongploy picked the beaches of Phuket to train for a series of upcoming tournaments.

THAILAND'S number one female beach volleyball player, Yupa Phukrongploy, has recently found Phuket to be the ideal spot to train for a series of upcoming tournaments.

Volleyball is one of the most popular sports in Thailand and Yupa, from Garasin province, has been ranked number one for the best part of eight years. She has won a gold medal at the last four SEA games, most recently in Laos earlier this year.

She is normally based in Bangkok, but her partner is currently injured and unable to train, so she decided to move down to Phuket to train with American coach Bob Selznick.

Bob's father, Gene Selznick, was one of the founders of beach volleyball and the best player of his generation.

His brother Dane was also recently in Phuket last year as coach of the Russian women's volleyball team. During his prime,

Dane was also considered one of the best players in the world.

He is still a highly regarded coach and has been instrumental in introducing volleyball to Phuket, organizing a women's tournament in Karon last year.

In the absence of her regular partner, Yupa has been training with Bob every day in Karon. "The beach in Karon is perfect for volleyball and I am surprised there are not more people training here. The sand in Phuket is really deep and training here has helped to make my legs a lot stronger," she said.

Bob is going to start teaching volleyball at the Phuket International Academy in Thalang, but would like to set up a beach volleyball training center on Karon Beach. For more information about playing or learning volleyball in Phuket contact Bob Selznick. E: bbselz@gmail.com.

– 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 in Greater Phuket.

WHILE the term “ground zero” became the idiom for the 9/11 attacks in New York in 2001, the phrase is far older than that, dating at least as far back as the Manhattan Project and the World War II bombing of Hiroshima.

On the heels of the recent tragic events in Bangkok, Thailand’s tourism industry has become the global poster child for what the media is calling “an explosion” that is expected to hit hotels throughout the country.

After speaking to hotel executives about Phuket, it is evident that for the moment the nation’s capital remains an isolated epicenter of both metrics and opinion.

Kevin Wallace, President of leading Thai hotel chain Centara, said recently: “Bookings outside Bangkok are holding up very well and we are at 100 percent in Phuket, Krabi, Pattaya and Hua Hin, and are in fact overbooked in Samui, with no cancellations yet in these destinations.”

Tourism at ground zero



Political turmoil in Thailand, though typically centered outside of Phuket, has been known to cause problems in hotels. Hotel managers have mixed thoughts on how the instability could affect Phuket. Photo: AFP/Nicolas Asfour

In Patong, Wolfgang Meusberger, General Manager of the Holiday Inn, is taking a different view. He said, so far, cancellations are slightly up versus the usual patterns, about 20 percent for the upcoming week (April 19 - 26).

The new booking pace has “definitely eased” and shows a reduced trend for April, May and June, he said.

“Many customer inquiries are being made about safety in Phuket. There have been cancellations from groups who planned to have a joint Bangkok and Phuket schedule. The longer the situation goes on, the more cancellations will come,” he added.

According to historical market demand, the period of mid-April to the end of June

constitutes the deepest downward spike for occupancy in Phuket. May is widely considered the worst trading month of the year, so perhaps it’s fitting that the run-up to May this year comes on the heels of events which will create considerable volatility.

But Pieter van der Hoeven, Corporate Director of Sales and Marketing Asia for Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas, reports that his property has seen “no cancellations at all.” He confirms, however, that, “bookings have tailed off... [but that this] “is somewhat expected on the cusp of the low season.”

One of the most compelling trends during the recent global financial crisis was the strong decline of long haul tourism, which was replaced by short haul regional travel that propelled increasing amounts of traffic.

Meanwhile in Kamala,

General Manager Andrew Whitaker of Andara Resort Villas said: “We have had some cancellations from short haul feeder markets, namely Hong Kong and Taiwan. It is a great pity that the travel advisories that have been put out do not clearly state that Bangkok is the only affected area, as life here in Phuket goes on as normal.”

Going forward, the challenges for Phuket’s tourism industry could fill a basket. One of last year’s compelling stories was a rebound which carried visitor arrivals back up to the 2007 level of 2.9 million. Airlift was a huge driver, with the reinstatement of many routes canceled after the 2004 Asian tsunami and new direct flights added.

If the political situation is unstable for a sustained period, the likelihood of direct-flight cancellations or reductions from important feeder markets such as

Hong Kong and Singapore could set back Phuket’s development cycle. Playing into this critical issue is the recent Thai Airways price hike of 46 percent on the Bangkok-Phuket route.

Adding to these concerns is the oil market, where prices look set to increase over the US\$85 a barrel level, bringing increased potential for damage to air travel.

While tensions in Bangkok are perceived to be widening the divide on the way forward for Thailand, tourism has been relegated to the uncomfortable position of passenger.

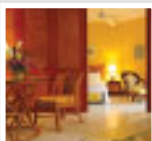
Bob Geldof captured the trauma felt after a shooting spree left countless dead in the song *I don’t like Mondays*. But truth be known, regardless of the events which many in Phuket feel are a world away, the days of the week are sure to follow... and most of us wait in anticipation of what tomorrow will bring.

laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

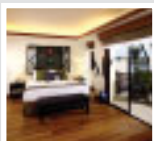
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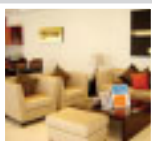
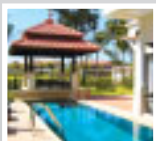
- 1 bed 1 bath Apartment
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2 Laguna Village Villa THB 13.5 M



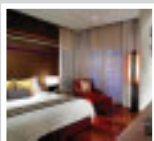
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Construction Update

Patong

A conception of the finished Sansabai Plaza in Patong, Kathu.



Construction is due to be completed in March next year.

Rising high from Soi Sansabai

REPRESENTATIVES from the Sudporn SS Company say their first Phuket project, the Sansabai Plaza in Patong, has been attracting investor interest from Thai and foreign pro-

fessionals on the island.

Work on the 26 unit condominium plaza began in early February and is expected to be completed in March next year.

Located on Soi Sansabai, the plaza is five minutes walk to

Jungceylon Shopping Center, Soi Bangla and the main nightlife entertainment areas in Patong.

Construction work on the one rai plaza is being carried out by the Thavornkul Karnyotha Company.

Facilities include a parking area, CCTV, security and a 6x10 square meter rooftop swimming pool. Prices on the 4x14 square meter units start from Bt10 million.

Due to a high level of investor interest, plaza rep-

resentatives say they are already planning additional Phuket projects.

For more information contact Khun Sudporn at Sudporn SS Co.Ltd on T: 081-4769666.

— *Thanasorn Chookate*



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Certain plants are quite adept at surviving the driest of dry seasons. Pictured from left to right: Crown of thorns [*Euphorbia millii*], Spanish broom [*Sparticum junceum*] and desert rose [*Adenium obesum*].

Survivors of the dog days

WE are experiencing the longest dry spell I can recall in my bit of Phuket. I say "my bit" because precipitation is a very erratic and localized affair on this island. As any driver can testify, there can be torrential rain and flooded tarmac in one area, and dry, dusty roads in the next.

Despite occasional storm clouds and bursts of lightning, very little water has fallen on Sai Yuan village in the past three months. Since my garden sits atop a stratum of impermeable granite, I don't have the luxury of a well.

For gardeners, it is a testing time. Here are some tips to help you get through the dry season.

Daily watering quickly becomes a necessity, at least for any plants that have been recently transferred from pot to garden. Established shrubs with decent root systems will probably survive, but small ones with fragile roots growing in potting compost will dry out quickly without a daily douche.

Remember to give the roots a good soaking. If only the top inch receives moisture, the immature roots will be drawn nearer to the surface and become more vulnerable.

My Thai partner and I disagree about this; she prefers to spray the foliage, believing that the water will filter down to the soil. While this can obviously benefit the plant, much of this moisture is quickly lost to evaporation.

Keep in mind it is best to water in the cooler times of day – early morning or dusk – when the sun is not remorselessly beating down.

The same applies to your lawn. I use a sprinkler every evening to ensure the Malaysia grass doesn't give up the ghost entirely. Any plants in earthenware containers or hanging baskets will need particular attention.

Soil conditions are also important. If you have only a thin layer of top soil, as I do, try to "bulk it up" by adding mulch. A top-dressing of mulch will help in-



sulate against the heat of the sun, absorb water, and minimize evaporation. Of course, it is a procedure better undertaken before the dry season takes hold. Use whatever local material is available – wood chips, coconut fiber or compost.

I have refrained from using artificial fertilizer during these dog days. Granular fertilizer is, in any case, best used sparingly and watered thoroughly: if allowed to dry out and concentrate in the soil, it may well kill off tender plants. The intensity of the salts in the soil will prove too much for the plant.

When it comes to plant selection, it is probably better to stop buying new container plants. They will do far better when the rains come, when they can be planted

out in moist soil. After returning from my trip to England a few weeks ago, I noted my recently transplanted small-potted plants are the ones that suffered the most. Some are probably past redemption.

Of course, it is not all doom and gloom. After all, many shrubs are at their best in these bone-dry times. All over Phuket, bougainvilleas are blooming, testimony to the fact that they thrive in arid conditions.

Given too much water, they will produce masses of green foliage and no flowers; given a superabundance of sun, they will bring forth masses of colorful bracts.

The same can be said for *euphorbias* [crown of thorns], the staple floral decoration of most Thai front yards. Placed in pots, *euphorbias* will bloom all year long with only an occasional dose of water. Indeed, watered to excess, those forbiddingly prickly stems will become top-heavy and need support. Right now, my potted specimens are in full and continuous flower. I only water them every three or four days.

So too the *adenium* [desert rose]. Not such a profuse bloomer as the crown of thorns,

it nonetheless comes into its own when conditions remind it of its desert origins. With its swollen stems, it can, if required, store water for a long time; hence its popularity as a pot plant. Usually pink or white, newer cultivars include a striking variety that has deep red flowers.

If you must leave your garden to the not-so-tender mercies of the tropic sun, then you will need to choose other shrubs and annuals that will tolerate dry conditions. Your friendly nurseryman or woman can help. As a general rule, shrubs will endure droughts better than annuals because they have bigger root systems that are adapted to dry, sandy conditions.

In the latter category are cacti and most succulents; in the former, shrubs such as *oleander*, *Hibiscus mutabilis*, *senecio*, *Tecoma stans*, *ixora*, *ylang-ylang*, *allamanda* and Spanish broom [*Sparticum junceum*].

The broom is particularly useful since it has succulent, reed-like stems and tiny leaves. Most of the photosynthesis occurs in these stems – a good strategy for water conservation. And it produces an abundance of yellow blooms. A plant for all seasons.

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Property Briefs

Phuket shunned

BANGKOK Airways, Thailand's largest privately owned carrier, plans to turn Samui Airport, rather than Phuket International Airport, into an international air hub for the airline.

According to *bangkokbestflights.com*, the airline would launch more direct international flights on medium-haul routes from Samui.

There are also plans for direct flights from Samui to Dubai, Shanghai, Bali, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Bangkok Airways is eager to make Samui Airport its second traffic base to support the airport's new 500-million-baht passenger terminal that was completed early last year.

CCTV down in Patong

THE MAJORITY of closed-circuit television (CCTV) security cameras in Patong don't work. There are more than 20 security cameras in key locations in Patong, but only eight are still functioning properly.

Most of the ten CCTV units provided by Patong Municipality are still in operation, but most of the units provided by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) are out of order due to lack of maintenance, say reliable sources at Kathu Police station.

CCTV surveillance has been promoted in Phuket in recent years as a way of increasing security on the island, which has just over 1,000 police officers for a population estimated to exceed one million people at peak tourism periods.

For more news briefs from around Thailand see **NEWS HOUND** at W:phuketgazette.net

Port Takola to harbor yachting style



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

AS KRABI slowly moves its way up the scales as an international tourist destination, there are still several notable needs lacking in the community. Primarily, Krabi would stand to benefit from a marina which would highlight the region's striking topography.

While there has been talk of various marinas being built over the years, for Krabi very little has changed.

The much anticipated Port Takola Marina project expects to change the landscape of the marina industry in Southern Thailand. Situated on almost 800 rai in the Baan Laempho section of Ao Nang, the marina will be located in an undeveloped section of ocean front at the mouth of the Krabi River. Its natural entrance channel of only 500 meters is surrounded by untouched mangrove forests, but is only 10 minutes to Ao Nang and five minutes to the Krabi Town pier across the river.

Port Takola plans to encompass several different projects which would eventually make up an entire balanced community.

The focal point and first phase of the project will be the international class marina comprised of about 250 wet berths for yachts up to 35 meters in length. The full service facilities will include maintenance and repair, storage for about 100 boats onshore, a marine village, and all the amenities and luxuries expected in an international class marina.

The emphasis on good design and service has been ensured by hiring well respected marina consultant, Simon Arrol, former manager of the world



Construction is underway at the new 800 rai Port Takola marina in Krabi. Inset: An aerial view of the landscape the marina will occupy in Krabi.

renowned Camper & Nicholson Marinas Ltd.

Also to be found in the community will be waterfront villas with private slips, a residential community and a wellness center with medical facilities. Construction has already begun on the marina basin and soon after the waterfront villas will be ready to break ground.

The addition of the wellness spa and medical facilities will provide treatments and therapies previously not available in Krabi.

Vice Admiral Dr. Suriya Na

Nagara, owner of the project, is a pioneer in the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for medical treatments in Thailand.

With over 20 years experience, his wellness spa will include a wide range of fitness and therapeutic treatments.

In addition, negotiations are underway with the Bangkok Hospital group to operate a small private medical facility.

What makes this development unique, besides its massive size, is its emphasis on preserving the natural environment.

Special care has been taken in the design to ensure environmental balance of the land.

Having such a large area for the project allows for spacious use of facilities, and provides a sense of serenity and peacefulness not found in most marinas. With its tropical gardens, large stands of trees, and tributaries snaking throughout the mangrove forests, it is truly a premier marina.

For information on the Port Takola project please contact Mr Matthew Na Nagara. T: 081-7877383.

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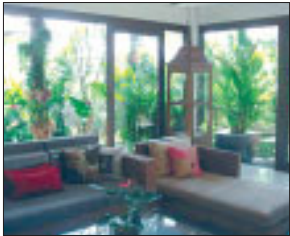



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Property Gazette

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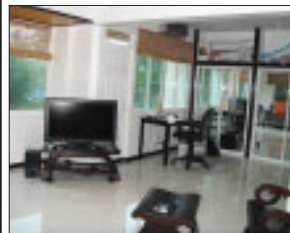


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Property Gazette

BAAN BAI MAI



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

TWO NICE VILLAS

Two nice villas from private party. In Nai Ham: 1,600sqm. And in Chalong: 740sqm. See link to website below for details. Tel: 087-823 7371. Email: holgersaue750@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sophia-phuket.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

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

NATAI LAND FOR SALE

4 rain 1 ngan, 50 square wah (7,000 sqm) of land on main road, 2 km to Natai Beach. 2 million baht per rai. Email: nisaya@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrungs 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.

LAKESHORE TOWNHOME
for sale or rent. 16-room large Lersuang apartment, long-term. 27,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-724 3237.

KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

Land area 320 sqm., 2 bedrooms. 6-7 million baht. Second home with strong rental income. Tel: 087-897 7380. Email: mrxelmay@gmail.com

TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: Bt10.2mil. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

BEACH LAND KHAO LAK 5 RAI

Beautiful 5 rai of Chanote land. Hard to find better than this, next to 5-star resort. 118m of beach front, stunning property. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

4 1/2 story commercial building, 3,423 sqm. Phuket Town. 1 rai of freehold land. 120 million baht. Contact Robin. Tel: 081-803 7189. Email: robinbglee@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE 2 STOREY



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

PHUKET HOUSE & OFFICE

Living room, 5 bedrooms, 1 Office, 4 WCs with shower, 1 business room, 1 store, 1 garden house. Asking price: 13 million baht. Email: khonkaener@hotmail.ch <http://www.thai-swiss.ch/Immobilien.immobilien.0.html?&L=0>

PATONG TOWER URGENT SALE

Freehold, lease hold. Start 4.7 million baht. Tel: 081-878 2199. Email: orso.realestate@gmail.com

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalong. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

Koh Klang Lanta Krabi. 27 rai, Chanote title 2.7 million baht per rai. Electric present, asphalt road. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

NEW TEAK HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 84/460sqm, terrace + pool! From 5.9 million baht. Land plot near Boat Lagoon. Construction time: 3 months! Tel: 076-325085, 086-281 1264 (English). Email: ts-teak@contexphuket.com

NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



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

KATA BEACH CENTER

6th floor. 2 bedroom apartment, 140sqm. Includes luxury furnishing, POOL, PARKING. SPECIAL PRICE: 8.9 MILLION BAHT. Tel: 081-788 8280 (English), 089-971 8399 (Thai).

74 SQM CONDO: 1.7 MILLION BAHT

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 aircon units. Located in Phuket Town. Tel: 085-782 8881 (English & Thai), 081-895 6629 (English & Thai). Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

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.

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

48 RAI KHAO LAK / BANG SAK

250m from the beach. Chanote, Nor Sor 3. Only 1.7 million baht. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English), 081-397 4957 (Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAND, NANAI ROAD

for sale. Patong, high mountain views over Patong Bay. 4.5 million baht. Ideal for development. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

DETACHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 wc, 4 meter wide garden. 68sq wah, Thepkasattri Road. 3.6 million baht. Contact Kant. Tel: 081-477 6657.

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 & BUSINESS RAWAI

Land and house with 2 successful businesses (Laundry and Coffee Shop) for sale. Good location between Nai Ham and Rawai in developing area. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388484, 081-891 3264 (English & Thai). Email: bergman.brittmarietelia.com

RESORT AT NAI YANG

Approx land size: 6 rai, 71 Sq Wah. Nor Sor Sam. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-279 8050. Email: taan_ty@hotmail.com

74 SQM CONDO: 1.7 MILLION BAHT

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 aircon units. Located in Phuket Town. Tel: 085-782 8881 (English & Thai), 081-895 6629 (English & Thai). Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW CONDO

Sale/rent new condo. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, balcony, pool, WiFi, parking. Tel: 084-851 0703. Email: st@kl.lv

MAIKHAO RANCH



for sale. 1 bed, 2 baths on 1,300sqm of land. Wooden ranch with natural lotus pond. 500 meters to West Sands, less than a kilometer to beach. Tel: 087-271 4484, 082-288 0581. Email: supha2007@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

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 FOR SALE

5 rai in Kathu, plus 90 wah on Nanai road, Patong, with stunning mountain view. Tel: 087-883 1756.

VILLA IN PATONG

Very cheap for quick sale. Tel: 083-176 7676. Email: tom.k.phuket@gmail.com

SHOWROOM / COMMERCIAL BLDG

1.5 rai, 2,800-sqm showroom on bypass rd near Thanachart Bank. For lease or sale. Tel: 081-787 2201. 081-597 8315. for more info, please e-mail phuket1988@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA URGENT SALE

350sqm villa. 4 floors in the mountain above Amari Coral Beach Resort, Patong. Garden of 800sqm with 10x5m pool. Carport, huge aquarium. Sea-view from 3rd and 4th floors. Urgent sale required. Reasonable bids will be considered. Tel: 076-292214, 081-979 3860. Email: steen8jansen@gmail.com

CONDO KATHU

Freehold condo for sale at the Phuket Country Club. 132 sqm, 4.9 million baht. Fully renovated. 1 bedroom. Tel: 081-922 4045 (English). Email: sebasver@hotmail.com

POOLSIDE APT, RAWAI

Nai Harn. Big 1 bed apartment with balcony. 1.75 million baht. Or 2 beds, 2 baths in a penthouse with, roof terrace and stunning seaviews: 4.9 million baht. Finance available. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

3 RAI SEAVIEW

Beautiful seaview, land plot, near Mission Hills Golf Course, 3 rai. Sale direct from owner. 9.5 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

URGENT SALE

Beautiful, seaview, land plot, near Mission Hills, 3 rai. Sale direct from owner. 9.5 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

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.

NICE HOUSE 88 SQ WAH



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE KAMALA BEACH

Western style, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, fully furnished, aircon, phone, ADSL, quiet. Mountain view, close to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

YACHT FOR HOUSE

Trade your property for 48' luxury yacht+business. Based in Greece. 249,000 Euro. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.hpyachtcharter.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.

KATA BEACH CENTER

Nice apt/suite, 65sqm. Pool, parking, luxury furniture. PRICE: 3.8 MILLION BAHT. 50% FINANCE AVAILABLE. Telephone: 081-788 8280 (for English), or 089-971 8399 (for Thai).

SURIN BEACH

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

SELLER FINANCE RAWAI/NAIHARN

Spacious 1 bedroom apartment, separate living, private balcony, views, furnished, pool. Buy for 180,000 baht down and 15,800 per month. Tel: 086-684 5368, 086-684 5368 (English). Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

74 SQM CONDO: 1.7 MILLION BAHT

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 aircon units. Located in Phuket Town. Tel: 085-782 8881 (English & Thai), 081-895 6629 (English & Thai). Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

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.

CHALONG PRIME INVESTMENT

30 rai flat land, 4 million baht per rai. 1 km from Chalong Temple. Tel: 081-719 2984.

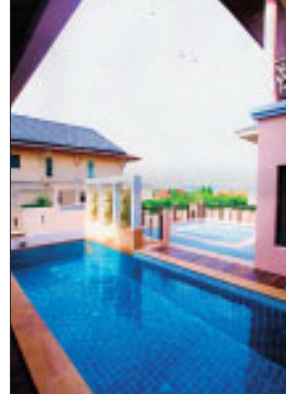
3BR, 3A/C: 20,000B RENT / SALE

fully fum & appliances. Tel: 083-299 7257 (English & Thai), 086-465 4674 (English & Thai). Email: cphotosm@hotmail.com See details, pictures & map at www.ddproperty.com/property/show/22800

SEA VIEW CONDO

Sale/rent new condo. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, balcony, pool, WiFi, parking. Tel: 084-851 0703. Email: st@kl.lv

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for sale or rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837, 089-646 4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

APARTMENT IN NAI HARN

for sale. Palm Beach Resort, 102sqm, private owner free hold, new top floor, 2 bedrooms, swimming pool, fitness, mini tennis club house, security in Nai Harn, minutes to beach. 5.7 million baht. Tel: 089-593 6815. Email: shmaen2006@hotmail.it

3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS HOUSE

or sale. Preusachart Lakeview, Land and Houses Park. Beautiful, peaceful setting on the lagoon. Fully furnished with quality new and antique pieces, 3 double bedrooms, 1 ensuite with jacuzzi. Maid room and covered washing area. Email for full details and pictures to: lowprofile@mail.com

LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Cheap land for sale at North end of Patong Beach. Has access road, good water supply, and underground utilities. Very quiet, natural location, 2 mins to beach. Land plots range from 500sqm to 1,400sqm. Part of an existing small development. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

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

BEACHFRONT PANORAMIC



seaview. 27 rai with chanote title, 230m from beachfront. 14 rai connect with 13 rai on hill, beautiful sunset, electricity, asphalt road. 40 mins to Krabi airport Lanta Krabi. 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-892 1072. Email: farmar5@hotmail.com

OCEANFRONT LAND



Beautiful piece of land, 3.5 rais (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. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

QUICK SALE HOUSE IN CHALONG

94sq wah, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 car park, big garden, full furnished. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-886 4208.

KATA OCEAN VIEW 4.9 MTB

Luxury, 90sqm. Click link below for more details. Tel: +1-408-627 5793. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

HOUSE IN SOI SAIYUAN

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with swimming pool fully furnished 9.5 million. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

4 BEDROOM POOL VILLA

for sale. Stylish pool villa in Patong. Spacious living, 3 mins to beach. Email: ooy76@hotmail.com

NEW TOWN HOUSE



in Phuket Intervilla 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.

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Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 868 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
mobile: 081 881 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
mobile: 081 787 9408
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INFLATABLE DINGHY

Affordable inflatable Dinghy and Outboard Motor for sale. 2.7m = 28,000baht; 3.1m = 45,000 baht (fiberglass bottom)/ brand new outboard 15hp-2 stroke = 48,000 baht. Call Mr Sak. Tel: 086-950 0313. Fax: 076-221390. Email: retouchchannel@hotmail.com

MAXUM 18" BOWRIDER YEAR

Very good condition with trailer. Quick deal only 495,000 baht!! Tel: 089-932 5175. Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

FOR SALE SUNNAV NEW 8 FT



Highest quality, price starts from 65,000 baht. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940. Email: sales@sunnava.com www.sunnava.com

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Reduced to AU\$ 200,000. Please visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

B-R SPRAY 33F ST

Sailboat, good condition. Price 800,000 baht. Tel: 084-112 1419. Email: g2lander@gmail.com

REGAL 3560 FOR SALE

38 feet, 2004, 2x petrol 4 stroke Volvo Penta 8.1 Gxi. 1000hp. Great price. Tel: 087-893 8747. Email: billeby@comnet.ca

DUNCANSON 30, 1996

Cruising & racing sails. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

WAVQUIEZ HOOD 38, 1980

Great condition. 89,000 Euros. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

BRUCE ROBERTS 44

Thai commercial registration. Now only 2.4 million baht. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

MOTORSAILER

33' Neptunian. Recent paint/varnish, inside and outside. Many new parts. Blue water cruiser. Sailed single-handed from UK. Excellent condition. Tel: 081-968-1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

23M BOAT

55 million baht, can be used as tour boat or house boat, 6 bathrooms, 6 bedrooms, salon all a/c etc. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

MARGOT 43' 1989

No nonsense blue water steel yacht, full refit 2007. For further details, please see our website www.boatshedphuket.com

SUNSEEKER MANHATTAN 58



One-day tour 110,000+ baht. Price includes captain, crew, cook, snorkeling & fishing equipment. Tel: 076-238976, 02-814-4070 ext 156. Contact for more detail at email: sales@sunnava.com. Or visit our website at: www.sunnava.com



ORIGINAL THAI 12 METRE LONGTAIL CONVERSION. (2006)

A very original boat, one of only 3 on Phuket. Converted to cruising and pleasure boat, ideal for family or charter with seating for up to 12 guests. She has a fully enclosed WC compartment and is fitted with a 2006 4-stroke Yamaha 250hp outboard engine with full service history, giving top speed in excess of 20 + kts Lying Laem Him pier. Asking 1.15M THB.

HER 10 METRE SISTER SHIP is also for sale. She is identical in design but being 2 metres shorter has seating for up to 10 guests and a 2006 4-stroke Yamaha 200hp outboard with full service history, giving top speed in excess of 20 + kts. Lying Laem Him. Asking 1M THB.

Both boats are locally built and are perfect for area conditions. Ideal for anyone looking to start a charter business with a difference.

Call Scott: 081-978 4740

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Island Job Mart

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car. Knowledge of Burmese is an advantage.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Ann@PhuketGazette.Net. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality, aged not over 28 years. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to anna@phuketgazette.net

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Short-Term Administration Clerks

American Red Cross is seeking 2 short-term Administration Clerks for approx. 5 months to assist with arranging, scanning and filing documents. Competitive salary offered.

Preferred qualifications:

- High School or Vocational Education
- Knowledge of computers is mandatory
- Experience with office equipment will be advantage

Interested candidates can walk in during 09:00 am - 05:00 pm on April 19, 2010 at American Red Cross, Phuket office, 100/158-9 Moo 5, Srisuachart Village, Chakempakiat R. 9, T. Rasada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Or contact Khun Apichaya at Tel. 076.376.253 ext. 104 for more information.

STAFF NEEDED

For a luxury restaurant in Patong, we need 5 waitresses, 1 bartender, 1 bartendee, and 2 cleaners. Good interpersonal skills, English speaking. Tel: 085-679 3808 (English). Please send your CV to email: ilpalazzo.phuket@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST IN KARON

Needed for beautiful guesthouse. Thai national. Tel: 089-875 3823. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

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Russian Sales Executive (Fluent English required)	1 position
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Member Services Supervisor	1 position

Send resume or CV with recent photo to mark@west-sands.com



DETOX CONSULTANT

Atsumi Healing center is looking for a full time Western Fasting consultant (preferably male). Must have a keen interest in and knowledge of health, the human body, yoga and meditation. Full training will be provided. Tel: 084-855 7803 (English). Please email resume to shell@atsumihealing.com. For further details please visit our website at <http://atsumihealing.com>

RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED

Atsumi healing requires full time receptionist 6 days per week, 9-6pm. Must have BA or higher and excellent English skills. Email resume to info@atsumihealing.com. Starting salary: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288-075, 081-272 0571 (English & Thai). Email: shell@atsumihealing.com. For further details, please see our website at <http://atsumihealing.com>

ASSISTANT FOR HAIR SALON

Should know how to wash/dry hair, manicure, pedicure. Must speak English. Good salary. Tel: 084-838 2304. Email: hamuenst@yahoo.de

CHEF IN SWEDEN

This is an opportunity for an experienced chef who has worked in the 4-5 star hotel sector and has knowledge about Sushi. A very generous salary is on offer for the right candidate. Tel: 080-696 3183.

We are part of an established and diversified group of companies involved in the business of hotels and resorts, travel and property development. We seek results - orientated individuals to join our team as:

PROJECT MANAGER

(Phuket)

REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ Possess Degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Building Science or equivalent professional qualification
- ▶ Minimum 6 years hands-on working experience in property development and building construction
- ▶ Able to lead a team of consultants and contractors effectively
- ▶ Strong project management skills with experience in managing multi-disciplined projects
- ▶ A team player with good interpersonal skills and high level of integrity
- ▶ Computer literate with good knowledge of planning software and presentation tools
- ▶ Willing to be stationed at Phuket project sites

Interested candidates are invited to e-mail resume stating present and expected salary to sao-narak@hotmail.com

the Villas overlooking Layan

High end, mid-size Villa development with panoramic views of the Phuket West coast. THE VILLAS OVERLOOKING LAYAN is seeking a qualified professional to join their team.

PROPERTY SERVICE EXECUTIVE

Responsibilities:

Look after all aspects of property management and related areas, customer service as well as related administrative work, reporting directly to the Managing Director.

Qualifications:

- Highly motivated, outgoing personality
- Good command of English language
- Strong administrative background
- Able to interact with foreign villa owners
- Accounting background an advantage
- Thai National, female

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate

Send your resume with recent photo to: info@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com www.thevillasoverlookinglayan.com

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Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!

Island Job Mart

Professional Property Management Solutions

PIPS Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Guest Services Coordinator

Qualifications:

- Good command of spoken and written English essential
- Experience in hotel or property management
- Computer literate.

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co., Ltd | PIPS | 393/2 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chengtalay, Phuket Thailand 83110

Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: tasanee@pipsphuket.com

job opportunity

Legal & Property Consultancy Firm in Phuket urgently requires

Executive Secretary

With these qualifications:

- ▶ Female with Bachelor Degree
- ▶ Excellent spoken and written English
- ▶ Able to translate Thai – Eng & Eng – Thai
- ▶ Computer Literacy in: MS Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet
- ▶ Knowledge of legal work an advantage

Excellent benefits for the right candidate

20/44 Mae-Luan Road, T. Taladnua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.
Tel: 076-234074 Fax: 076-235339
Mobile: 085-7931122
E-mail: svone@loxinfo.co.th

www.phuketstvlegalservices.com

Euro Design Furniture

Manufacturer of quality furniture and specialist in interior design.

For our new branch in the Phuket Hafele Design Center, we are looking for professional and self-motivated persons for the following positions:

- Branch / Sales Manager
- Sales / Assistant Manager

Requirements
Excellent communication skills in English.
Relevant experience in respective position.

Please send CV with recent picture and expected salary to: chris@euro-design-furniture.com

The Sands Condominium

The Sands Condominium is offering 1 exciting opportunity

Property Duty Manager

Qualifications:

- 1) Property Management Experience
- 2) Budget Management
- 3) Knowledge of property law
- 4) Office admin & computer skills
- 5) Excellent spoken & written English
- 6) Thai Nationality ONLY

Please send your cover letter with complete CV
E-mail: thesandsjp@gmail.com, prama_mantana@yahoo.com
Tel: 076-388 329 Mobile: 084-058 9856, 087-273 2934
Contact Khun Mantana (Yaa)

Wine Connection is the leading chain of wine shops in Thailand and is now developing a Deli & Bistro concept as part of a business extension. We are looking for an organized and dynamic person to lead our team.

Restaurant Manager (Female)

Qualifications:

- Good knowledge of written and spoken English
- Minimum 2 years similar experience
- Outgoing personality, self confident and high level of attention to details
- Excellent knowledge of service standards
- Computer literate
- Mature, self motivated, fast learner, good interpersonal and organizational skills.

Salary & benefits:
25,000 baht (negotiable) plus service charges, tips, food allowance, uniform, group insurance and provident fund.

Interested applicants please submit a resume together with the recent photo to: seniorhrphuket@wineconnection.co.th or call 076-282411 # 15 for further information.

Splash Jungle Water Park

Sales & Marketing Manager

Phuket's first and only Water Park is looking for an experienced, outgoing, ambitious Sales & Marketing Manager to promote the Water Park throughout Phuket and the surrounding area. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of the travel, tourism and entertainment industry in the Phuket area. Great opportunity for the successful candidate with competitive salary, benefits and incentives.

Send resume or CV with recent photo to hr@west-sands.com and chris@west-sands.com

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

สำนักงานกฎหมายระหว่างประเทศ

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

OPEN POSITION

- Lawyer

Qualification

- Bachelor degree or higher in Law from reputable educational institution
- Minimum of three (3) years experience practicing in a Law Office
- Excellent communication skills in English
- Good computer and typing skills in English
- Competent, highly responsible and self-motivated
- Strong leadership skills

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.
17/6 East-Chaofaa road, Talaadnuea sub-district, Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076-222191-5, Fax: 076-222196.

Location: Phuket town, Thailand

NuEra Asia Ltd

Experienced Property Sales Executives Required

We require several experienced property sales executives to join our new office in Phuket. We are expanding globally and desire to recruit sales executives who have a passion for marketing international properties.

The Company, NuEra Asia Ltd is part of an international group of companies that builds and sells resorts, hotels and investment properties on a global scale. We currently are developing a 230 room 4-star resort in a South Pacific country that is truly paradise.

As an experienced property sales executive you will be required to apply the skills you have acquired to help drive the company forward and achieve key performance indicators and sales targets.

We are offering an attractive package with commission and in house promotions available for those who show drive and commitment.

Essential criteria for applicants:

- Must be a Thai national;
- Must be English speaking, with a third language being an advantage;
- Must possess creative sales tactics to convince potential clients to learn more about international property investments;
- Very good communication and relationship building skills required, especially over the phone;
- A positive attitude with a desire to please our clients;
- Prior property sales experience is essential for this role.

All candidates that are interested in the role should send their CV to Duncan Maxim at d.maxim@nueradevelopments.com

TEACHING FELLOW
Seeking full-time English teacher for primary grades (unpaid with accommodation and work permits provided) to work for our small, dynamic, progressive children's charity. Please send CV and cover letter to: info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org For more information please visit our website at: phukethasbeengoodtous.org

EXPAT CHEF DE CUISINE
Impiana Hotel KLCC, Malaysia is looking for an Expat Chef de Cuisine (Western cuisine). Attractive package & benefits. For further details, please contact. Tel: +60-3-2147 1008. Or send email to: sunita.kaur@impiana.com

SECRETARY WANTED
Must understand and speak English. Must do a little accounting. Full time, salary 10,000 baht plus commission. For more information, please call K. Pen. Tel: 081-537 6866.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR
Varied role for self motivated Thai National with strong communication skills; good command of written and spoken English a must. Experienced on Word & Excel with the ability to create reports. Involves administration of staff hours, holidays, etc, overseeing of purchasing & house-keeping dept, dealing with local administrations. Drivers license a plus. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com

PADI INSTRUCTOR
Wanted for busy 5-star dive center on Phi Phi. Email: jkg24@hotmail.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER
Female caucasian to teach class of 10-12 students. 3-6 year old children. Chalong, Mon-Fri 8am.-4pm. Start May 1. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com

AUSSIE-EUROPEAN
English speakers wanted. 40,000-60,000 baht a month. For further details, please contact Steve. Tel: 085-573 0638.

FARANG LIVING IN PHUKET
is looking for part-time secretary with computer knowledge Thai-English. if possible with driving license. Please contact me by email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR NANNY
To take care of my 18 month old son. Must love kids. Tel: 089-874 6170.

Employment Wanted

NEED A MAID?
employment agency has maids available, full time, live-in/ live-out or for periodic cleaning. English speaking. Contact Anong. Tel: 088-442 8032 (Thai). Contact Fon. Tel: 088-442 8027 (Eng).

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

MOVING SALE RAWAI

Orient rugs prints from China, India, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong. Select Asian furniture. Jade ivory vases, kitchen utensils, rosewood desk, Japanese wedding kimono rare, Japanese stone lantern. More to come. Indonesian statues, queen size bed+matress, tables, flowerplots, dining set (8). Tel: 080-145 3483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

SOFA CLEARANCE SALE

50% off selected items. Prices start from 14,000 baht. Tel: 085 787 1515.

JACUZZI (NEW)

Sapphire Jacuzzi 'Palm Island' (Diamond). 5 seats with total of 65 jets and 2-speed blower. Dimensions: 1990 x 1990 x 850mm. Dry weight: 225kg. Operating capacity: 1,090 litres. Price: 545,000 baht. SPECIAL PRICE: 345,000 baht. Tel: 076-273577, 081-978 5901 (English), 081-958 0743. Fax: 076-273579. Email: moose@waterworkwarehouse.net

GARMIN GPSMAP 60CX

Color map navigator, pre-loaded with marine charts. One year young, never used. New Price 25,000 baht, make an offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-077 3307. Email: sudeckh@web.de

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Must go before 1/31/10.

– Room fan: 36 cm, 390 baht when new. Now 200 baht

– Hot water pot, aluminum, 290 baht when new. Now 150 baht.

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Inflatables on big sale. Jacuzzi, dinghy, boats, beds, beach toys. Tel: 087-882 0343.

MUSIC COLLECTION

MP3 collection, over 30,000 tracks tagged. Comes on 250GB, USB drive. 31,000 baht. Email: philsim96@gmail.com

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Electrolux zac 6,707 warranty till 11/06/2010. New 6,000 baht, now 2,500 baht. Colour: red/white. Tel: 076-319560, 084-441 3871 (English & Thai). Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

POOL PUMP

1.5hp Pentair Whisperflow. Hardly used. 12,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-683 1964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

MOVING SALE RAWAI

Burmese cabinet, sofa bed, terrace, table, chairs, fan, dehumidifiers, shelves book, artwork, etc. Tel: 089-970 1861. Email: derek24davis@aol.com

FRIDGE AND AIRCON

3 Sanyo fridges 5.2 cubic. 3 LG aircons 12,000BTU. 2,000-6,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-682 1066.

LLADRO FIGURINE

Tahitian Dancing Girls, #0100 1498. It's 11.75 inches, retired 1995, hand painted. DF file available by email. Very slight damage to 2 fingers on 1 hand. 40,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-895-7727 (English). Email: info@axiominvestments.com

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for sale, 6 station tower spartan, universal gym. Email: chilli garden@hotmail.com

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Need to move back home. Selling everything. Good price. Call now!! Tel: 081-294 5441.

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Beautiful hardwood bench seat. Good for inside or outside. Call or e-mail for more info. Tel: 082-878 0392 (English & Thai). Email: olay1@yahoo.com

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Conti Italian espresso coffee machine. 2 groups, 8 litre capacity. Stainless steel with red paneling. As new. Ideal for restaurant/coffee shop. With Mazzer 1.2kg grinder. Cost 220,000 baht. Selling for 165,000. Tel: 084-846 3887 (English), 081-893 4355 (English & Thai). Email: stefuena@hotmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912665, 081-9354763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM
Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM
Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM
Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM
Krabi Hospital - Krabi
Wed 1 PM
(additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463103)
Scandinavian Speaking Meetings-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-9440490 Svc. 082-2765568 Nor
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860)

or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948).

Or email: info@phuketiwc.com

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7 floor apartment building FOR SALE IN KATA CENTER. Includes restaurant, bar, pool, gym, parking. 11 apartments (70%) are leased for 30 years. The balance (left over) are available. 4 apartments, restaurant, bar, pool, gym, parking-roof 300sqm. with Chanote and Thai company.

NOW FOR QUICK SALE 25 million baht (500,000 euro). For appointment to visit email: MAURICE. PHUKET@GMAIL.COM

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Nail & beauty shop and equipment. Banzan street. 2.5 year contract. Tel: 089-504 8882.

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for rent. 4 floors, 4 aircon. Fully furnished apartment on third floor. Very good location only 26,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-432 6587.

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Come join our monthly, last Thursday Pub Quizzes. Starting at 20:00. Royal Phuket Marina. Tel: 076-360890.

Business Opportunities

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Nice, four-storey hotel with 20 fully furnished rooms, restaurant, jacuzzi pool, roof garden. Nanai rd. Magnificent view of Patong. For Rent (4 1/2 Years) Fax: 076-341 258. Tel: 081-693 9642.

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7 rooms, all furnished, aircon, TV. for quick sale only 6.5 million baht. Ready to make money. Tel: 081-343 0777.

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Internet Coffeehouse & Food (similar to Star Bucks). Unique and well established Top location in Patong Beach – 100m to Best Beach, opposite Paragon Hotel. For sale at 3.8 million baht. Partnership is an option. 5.5 year lease contract. Tel: 076-385573, 086-476 5642 (English), 081-459 3079 (English & Thai). Email: sten.martin@gmail.com

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Phuket town. Fully equipped. No key money. Rent 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
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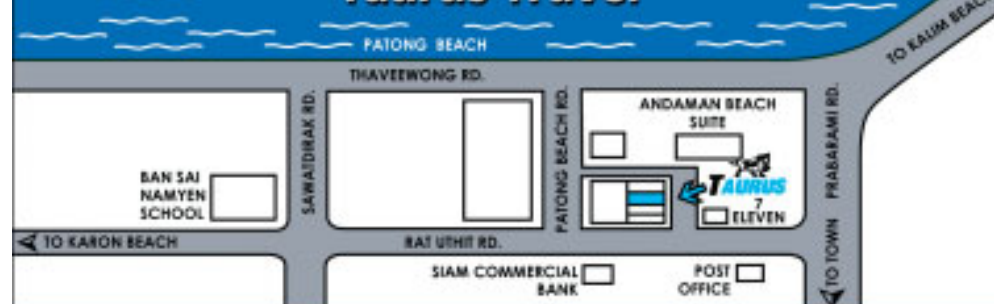
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Paying restaurant/bar for sale. Good location - Khao Lak Center. Long-term lease. Price negotiable. Contact. Tel: 085-784 9645, 087-887 0276. Email: eike.symanzik@gmx.net

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ENTRANCE TO LAGUNA STORE

Located next to a Queen Air Tour Agency and 7-eleven (opening soon). Rent: 13,000 baht per month plus key money. Email: kornkamonat21@yahoo.com

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Stunning new development. 3 floors, 8 apartments plus 3-bedroom penthouse. Fully furnished, freehold land. Private parking, BBQ, landscaped, full security, elevator, swimming pool, 5 minutes to Naiharn Beach. Asking Price: 52 million baht. Tel: 076-289122, 087-887 7133, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-289121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com Website: http://theroyalpalmresidence.com

500,000 BAHT GUESTHOUSE

Located Patong, Nanai Rd/Banzaan Rd, next to 7-Eleven. 3 rooms with fans, 3 a/c rooms, beauty salon at bottom, separate entrance to room. 90,000 deposit, no key money. Rent 35,000 baht, 3 years lease left. Contact Mats or Tab. Tel: 081-787 2573 or 085-795 2101.

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Restaurant & bar for sale or lease. Good location on Koh Lanta. Cheap, cheap deal. Want quick sale! Tel: 086-974 3085 (English & Thai). Email: kohlantathebricit cafe@yahoo.com

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Take over lease contract (expires 11/2011). Key money: 150,000 baht. Furnished apts. 20,000 baht deposit, 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-277 5743 (English). Email: mb@is-internetservice.com

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for long term rental in tourist area of Bang Tao Beach. 5 rai of land (8,000sqm), only 200 meters from Bang Tao Beach. Surrounded by villas and hotels with lots of tourists and residents. In the complex are: a 250 seat restaurant, 12 shops (already rented with monthly income), a 12 room guest house for daily rental - fully furnished. Interested persons please contact Khun Beer. Tel: 087-593 6751, 085-888 8718. Email: chev8143@gmail.com

PATONG MASSAGE SHOP

for sale. Included 7 motorbikes and spa products. There are many repeat customers. Excellent write up in the Lonely Planet Encounter's Guide. Good location near major hotels, long lease. 44,000 baht per month rent on 4 story building, no key money. Price 2,300,000 baht. Tel: 089-475 3220.

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Promenade Plaza, Nanai Road. Fully equipped, new everything. 179,000 baht. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-828 7505.

CHALONG CAFE

In busy new plaza, large patio. Rent paid to 2011. 560,000 baht. Tel: 080-706 1350.

PATONG HOTEL

Located in a small soi off the beach road, just a short stroll onto the beach. 25 million baht leasehold, or buy freehold at 55 million baht. See website at the link below, then call or mail for further details. Tel: 075-326247, 080-146 2536 (English & Thai). Email: admin@thaisunshine developments.com Website: http://www.thaisunshine developments.com/for_sale_detail.php?id=158

BEAUTY SALON PATONG

rent 7,000 baht, good location, 240,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 4957. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

BAR FOR SALE

No key money, Bangla Road. Tel: 087-270 8894.

AUSSIE BAR FOR SALE

Bangla boxing stadium. Patong, Phuket. Email: stockholmbar@yahoo.com

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RESTAURANT 145,000 BAHT

Kamala everything ready, no key money. Rent 15,000 baht per month, 2nd floor. Tel: 087-888 1327.

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PATONG BAR RESTAURANT

Prime location, fully furnished bar for outside eating, good conditions. Tel: 081-124 8051 Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com

FOR SALE PHUKET KARON BEACH

Front hotel, 11 rooms+ restaurant pizzeria. All furnished, 4 year contract. Price 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-894 7273.

GUESTHOUSE KARON

12 rooms, furnished to a high standard, spacious bar/restaurant area seating for 45. Well situated on main road. Freehold sale or long lease available. Tel: 081-891 9461.

MASSAGE SHOP PATONG

Massage shop for sale, Soi Banzaan market. 480,000 baht. Tel: 081-188 1443.

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For restaurant in Kamala, prefer Swedish or German nationality. Call Thomas. Tel: 081-538 5285. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

NATURAL DECOR



Give a natural beauty to any occasion.

We can make a bouquet, basket, vase, etc. All natural plants: flowers, leaves, boughs...with original Thai style. Contact for more details, tel: 089-724 4325, 087-270 9093.

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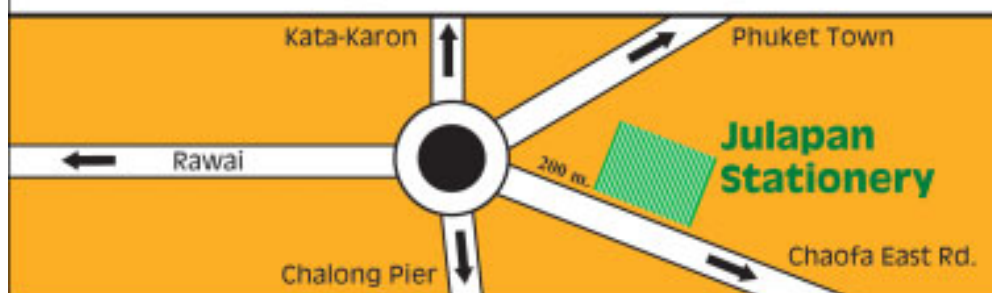
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