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Patong Bus Crash Aftermath

Tour company free of charges

By Janpen Upatising

THE company that operated the tour bus that crashed on Patong Hill last month, killing one and injuring many others, will not have to defend itself against any criminal charges.

The news follows confirmation that the company, Tiengtham Tour, was unable to provide police investigators with basic details of the driver immediately after the accident. The company failed to provide even the driver's full name.

The driver, who fled the scene of the crash, remains at large.

He has since been named as Yongyut "Nuan" Jantip.

Police now believe Mr Yongyut is a native of Trang province, not from Phang Nga province as originally reported following passenger accounts of conversations with him.

A warrant for Mr Yongyut's arrest was issued on March 13, but the warrant had to be issued without his surname as police did not know it at the time.



The bus tour company will be held responsible for compensating victims of the accident.

Lt Pattapee Srichay, duty officer of Patong Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "Initially, the tour bus operator, Tiengtham Tour, did not have any personal information about Yongyut since they did not sign any employment contract with him.

"But the company later found out personal information about Yongyut by asking other bus drivers in the company," he said.

"So, we only found out Yongyut's real name and where he is from because of the tour

company's efforts. It might be a bit slow, but the company is actually helping us," Lt Pattapee said.

However, the company will be held liable for providing financial assistance to the injured and to the family of the deceased, he said.

"The company must be held responsible for providing support to the relatives of the deceased and the people injured in the accident," Lt Pattapee said.

"We have received medical reports of only five of the people injured in the crash. Once we have medical reports of all the people injured in the accident, we can contact each one to discuss what compensation they should receive.

"I am not sure how long this will take to finish," Lt Pattapee said.

The tour company is not to be held responsible for the accident, he added.

"Although the company hired him to drive a company bus, reckless driving causing an accident is an individual charge," he said.

(AoT) president Serirat Prasutanond.

"I reported the disciplinary investigation team's findings to the [AoT] board members on February 24," said Flying Officer Narongchai Tanadchangsang, Deputy Director of Suvarnabhumi Airport and head of the AoT's internal investigation into the incident.

"However, the board members said at a meeting later that the results were still unclear, namely proof about some specific issues, so they decided to have my team find more information," he said.

"Following my initial investigation, I pro-

posed that seven to eight officers be penalized, with the degree of punishment different for each official depending how much he or she was involved with the incident," he said.

The most recent working report identifies five to six officers involved, he added.

"As penalizing some officers will affect their careers, the AoT board should not want to penalize someone without solid proof," he said.

Now that he has been instructed to investigate further, Mr Narongchai said he had informed the board that another panel

of officers will be formed to further investigate the specific issues identified by the board.

"I do not know whether the new investigation team has been set up yet or who will be in the team," he added.

Regarding former PIA director Prathung Sornkham, Mr Narongchai said, "We still have to wait and see whether or not he can return as airport director.

"Meanwhile, Flying Officer Passakorn Surapipith is the acting director [at Phuket Airport] until further notice from the AoT board," he added.

Bike Week 2011



READY TO ROLL: Models show off what's hot in Phuket during Phuket Bike Week 2011. Thousands of bike-lovers arrived on the island for the annual roar 'n' roll, which included a music festival at Patong's Loma Park, a custom bike contest, the much-howled Miss Phuket Bike Week and Miss Phuket Songkran 2011 beauty contests. See page 14 for our photo special.
 Photo: Christian Mouchet

AoT extends probe into 'no passports' airport clearance

THE disciplinary investigation into the incident that saw Phuket Airport Director Prathung Sornkham suddenly transferred to a desk job in Bangkok in January has been extended in order to uncover "more evidence", the *Gazette* learned this week.

Director Prathung was transferred with immediate effect on January 19 following media reports circulated that nine Paragayan passengers departed Phuket International Airport aboard an Emirates Airline flight without passports.

The incident was confirmed to the *Gazette* on January 20 by Airports of Thailand

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This Week

Island View



Skin deep: Are topless bathers simply culturally ignorant? **Page 7**

Business



Chinese delegation shoots for fruit, tourism trade links. **Page 8**

Film



Bradley Cooper finds his brainiac bounds in *Limitless*. **Page 10**

Property



Waking up to Bali. Bill Barnett discovers life on the ring of fire. **Page 18**

Classifieds

Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 21-30**

Sport



Future Optimists: Phuket's Youth Sailing Squadron on the right tack. **Page 31**

Saturday



33 - 25

Sunday



33 - 25

Monday



32 - 24

Tuesday



33 - 24

Wednesday



33 - 23

Thursday



33 - 24

Dolphin dies despite local rescue efforts

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

EFFORTS by Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) veterinarians to save a bottlenose dolphin came to a regrettable end on Friday morning.

Following five days of intensive treatment and an around-the-clock vigil, the dolphin became comatose and paralysis had set in. It finally succumbed to an as-yet-undetermined cause of death.

The distressed dolphin was found by fishermen in the polluted Klong Tha Cheen in Rassada on April 2.

The fishermen then contacted PMBC researchers.

Having encountered a pod of dolphins earlier on their trip, the fishermen believe the dolphin broke from the group and followed them home.

Once the dolphin had been transported to the PMBC facility at Cape Panwa, 14 staff members of its Marine Endangered Species Unit began their fight to keep the dolphin alive.

Veterinarian Patcharaporn Kaewmong described the efforts of her colleagues to resuscitate the stricken dolphin.



A marine biologist cradles the dolphin as PMBC staff tried their best to nurse it back to health. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

"Its muscles weakened to the point that it was unable to swim or even float enough to prevent itself from drowning - then paralysis set in. One staff member had to stay in the pool and support it at all times.

"At night we put a life jacket

under it, allowing it to stay still on the water surface. We monitored its condition all day, all night," she said.

"We tried our best to keep it alive, for we held its life to be just as precious as that of a human being," she added.

New Chief Justice targets court backlog

PRAKON Rattanapit, the new Chief Justice of Phuket Provincial Court, has told the *Gazette* that he will make clearing 3,000-case backlog at Phuket Provincial Court his top priority.

"There are a lot of cases related with illegal drugs and land in Phuket. There are more than 3,000 remaining cases that we need to go through," he told the *Gazette*.

"The court here is the slowest to clear cases in Region 8. I will try to finish these remaining cases as soon as possible," he said.

Justice Prakon formally met Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on April 8, two



Prakon Rattanapit, the new Chief Justice of Phuket Provincial Court.

days after taking up his post as the top judge in Phuket.

He arrived from Koh Samui, where he served as Chief Justice there.

Samui rape suspect out on bail

AN ITALIAN man arrested on rape charges as he was leaving the country through Phuket International Airport on March 25 has been released on bail.

"The man was arrested for the alleged rape of a woman on Koh Samui. The case is still with us as the man has denied the charge. We are preparing our case to be heard in court," Samui Police duty officer Pumiwat Rodkerd told the *Gazette*.

"He is out on bail and I'm not sure where he is, but we are holding his passport until the case finishes," he said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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FAMOUS NIGHTCLUB PATONG



Tourists at Rassada Harbour, the main jump-off point for boats to Phi Phi.

Marine Office launches water safety campaign

THE Phuket Marine Office on April 7 launched its annual water safety campaign at Rassada Harbour.

"The pier must be strong enough, life vests must be fitted to every seat and a crew member must give a safety briefing to the passengers on board before the craft departs the dock," said Tawanrat Onsira, Director-General of Marine Department.

The Marine Office holds water safety training sessions for people working in the ferry industry twice a year, Director Tawanrat explained.

After each training session, participants are tested to ensure the knowledge gained has taken hold and can be put into practice aboard commercial passenger boats.

The aim of the annual training

program is to make water safety a top priority in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman regions, with the ultimate goal of zero marine craft accidents in Thai waters, Director Tawanrat said.

He highlighted the inherent difficulties in responding to marine accidents. "It is much easier to rescue you from a road accident than from an accident on the water. That's why preventing marine accidents is much better than trying to rescue people in them," he added.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha voiced his support for the campaign. "I believe marine accidents would seldom ever happen if we had well-maintained piers and boats and well-trained crews," he said.

- Janpen Upatising

Mon body remains unclaimed

THE body of a Mon woman who is believed to have died while giving birth in the hills in Wichit remains unclaimed, police have told the *Gazette*.

"No relatives have come to identify the body, so we will organize a funeral ceremony, awaiting someone to come forward to identify her," said Phuket City Police duty officer Lt Col Yongyut Krongmalai.

"She was not murdered. She died while delivering a baby," he confirmed.

"It seems there were complications. Her stomach was swollen and her vagina was dilated as if ready to give birth.

"I think she was about eight months pregnant. She was probably delivering prematurely. She was quite small, so that may have caused difficulties," he said.



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Thomas Jakobi's Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovations in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh, wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

The wine program, created by our sommelier, Harry Haan, has been granted the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the second year in a row.



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Karon gets B40mn beachfront park

By Janpen Upatising

WORK is underway on developing eight rai around the small lake on the Karon beachfront into a public park as part of a project costing 40 million baht.

"As there is no large public park in Karon, this will be a place for local residents and tourists to enjoy exercise and relax," said Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham.

The park, known locally as Nong Harn ["Swan Lake"], will also be a place to hold other activities, such as Songkran and Loy Krathong celebrations in the future, he added.

The design of the park had been finalized, said Mayor Tawee.

"Some parts of the park are already under construction. I expect it will be finished within three years.

"The park will include a football field, swimming pool, garden



Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham

and of course the lake," he said.

The park is part of Kata-Karon Municipality's "Heaven on Earth" campaign, comprising about 10 projects aimed at preserving the local environment and attracting regular-return tourists to the area.

"One of these projects starts today: the one million postcards project. This project is funded by 700,000 baht in total donated by Krungthai, Kasikorn, CIMB and Siam Commercial banks," he said.

"The postcards will be distributed to businesses in Karon, such as restaurants, hotels, jet-ski and speedboat operators, tuk-tuk and taxi drivers and street vendors, so they can give them to their guests for free," Mayor Tawee explained.

The postcards come in two shapes. Each shows one of 10 picturesque scenes in the Kata-Karon area.

Karon Municipality will also create online videos promoting Kata and Karon Beaches to post on YouTube to attract travelers, said the mayor.

"The videos, to be made with 200,000 baht from CIMB bank, will also be posted on katakaron.com," he added.

Songkran death toll target: two

THE Interior Ministry set the "target number" of Phuket road accident deaths at two for the Songkran Festival, during which police are under orders to strictly enforce provisions in the Alcohol Control Act.

San Jantrawong, who heads the Phuket Office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket), said the Interior Ministry's national Road Safety Center has designated the period from April 11 to 17 as this year's "Seven Days of Danger" road safety campaign.

The "target limit" of deaths over the period is calculated at five per cent below the number of deaths over the same period last year.

The same was applied for target numbers of road accidents requiring admittance to hospital (61) and accidents reported (57).

As in years past, an island-wide network of police checkpoints will be established in key locations to stop motorists and inspect for a variety of infractions that range from failure to wear a seat belt to drunk driving.

The locations of the 11 primary checkpoints are:

Muang District

Rassada: Thepkrasattri Road, in front of the Muang Mai building.
Chalong: Chao Fa East Road, at Talad Mai Moom Muang.

Karon: Patong-Karon Road, in front of the Ramada Resort.

Wichit: Chao Fa West Road, in

front of the Chaofah Thani Shell Station.

Kathu District

Patong: Sirirat Road, near Simon Cabaret.

Patong: Kalim Intersection.

Kathu: Phra Barami Rd, in front of the Thung Thong Police Station.

Kamala: in front of Phuket FantaSea.

Thalang District

Srisoonthorn: Thepkrasattri Road, near Heroines Monument.

Cherng Talay: in front of the Cherng Talay Municipality offices.

Mai Khao: Tha Chat Chai police checkpoint.

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Mentally ill man guards mother's body for a week

A MENTALLY ill man in Bangkok spent five days crouched over his mother's dead body in a Bangkok apartment before the foul smell alerted the landlady.

Walisa Amnuaypon, 58, said she knocked on the door but received no response. When she opened the room with her spare key she was shocked to find Somchai Saeju, 59, sitting next to the rotting corpse of his mother Sunyu Saepan, 88.

Police called to the scene, an apartment block on Rama II Road Soi 18 in Jomthong District, estimated Mrs Sunyu had been dead for five days, as the body was already in an advanced state of decomposition.

Investigation revealed that Mrs Sunyu lived in the room with Mr Somchai and his sister Muay Sawju, both of whom were reported as mentally ill.

QUEER news

Not one member of the family had jobs. Mrs Muay went out each day to beg for money from local people.

Nobody realized anything was wrong until a person in a room next door noticed the smell and told landlady Mrs Walisa.

Police believe Mrs Sunyu probably died of chronic illness and old age.

They believe that owing to their mental condition, Mrs Muay and Mr Somchai were probably unaware their mother was even dead.

- Daily News

Wardens make tough call on prisoners' cell phones

IF THERE were any doubt that that mobile telephone technology had completely saturated the local market, it was laid to rest with the revelation by Phuket Prison officials that persons unknown have been tossing cell phones over the walls of the facility and into the prison yard.

Phuket Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon said more than 20 mobile phones had been confiscated over the past two months, with six new arrivals on a single day on April 6, Chakri Day.

The phones were discovered that morning stashed in a box behind the craft workshop, along with a variety of mobile phone accessories.

Mr Rapin thinks that five more phones tossed into the compound on April Fool's Day were not part of a prank, but rather intended to allow inmates to conduct clandestine communications with their counterparts in free society.

"They must be up to no good, because they already have privileges to use public telephones



Mobile phones seized in a raid last year. Now guards at Phuket Prison are finding them being thrown over prison walls. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

located inside the prison," he said.

There are 1,390 inmates at the prison, about 80% of whom are serving time for drug-related convictions.

Built about 100 years ago, the prisons official maximum capacity is just 800.

"We sleep asses to elbows in here," one foreign inmate told the Gazette during an interview recently.

Chief Rapin warned any parties who might be tempted to hurl a Nokia or iPhone over the prison

ramparts that they would simply be wasting their money.

"We confiscate them all in the end, especially when we conduct searches of the inmates' sleeping quarters," he said.

Despite this, Chief Rapin plans to invest in technology that would block mobile phone signals on prison grounds.

He did not say what the penalty was for lobbing cellphones into the prison was, or if doing so could earn someone an extended stay on the inside.

Mother murders son with axe, poisons self

A WOMAN in Nakhon Sri Thammarat murdered her son with an axe before drinking poison, getting in her car and crashing into another vehicle.

She was rushed to hospital but died before she reached help.

Duty Officer Bunnarong Rattanakosai of Promkhiri Police Station said he received a report of the murder, at a house in Nariang Subdistrict, on the evening of April 6.

When he arrived at the house he found the body of Khamphi Kampaengkaew, 18, with a large wound to the head. Nearby was a bloody axe, three knives and a bottle of weedkiller.

Investigation revealed that the dead man's mother, Jirawan

Kampaengkaew, 41, cleaved Mr Khamphi in the head with the axe before drinking weedkiller in a bid to kill herself. She then got in her car and drove into town, where she crashed into another car.

A concerned citizen went to help Mrs Jirawan, finding her foaming at the mouth and smelling of weedkiller. The citizen then drove Mrs Jirawan to the hospital, but she died en route.

Police said Mrs Jirawan had invested in a shrimp farm and was involved in a million-baht lawsuit with a customer.

She was stressed and did not want her son to know about the problem or be held responsible. She hence decided to kill her son and herself, police said.



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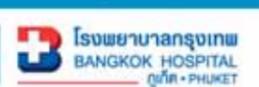
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Police round up conscription gang



POLICE in Northeast Thailand have rounded up 13 members of a gang who offered – for a hefty fee – to help any man avoid conscription into the Thai military.

Thai men who reach the age of 21 are required to report themselves to the military during an annual conscription period.

This year the period runs from April 1 to 11, and the armed forces are looking to conscript 97,280 men for the army, navy and air force, according to news agency DPA.

But not everyone is chosen. Conscripts are selected by drawing lots, though men whose physical characteristics do not match specifications are sent home.

The scam went like this: Men who wanted to make sure they avoided conscription paid the gang 2,500 baht. The gang copied the man's ID card, replacing the photograph with the image of a

different man.

The "ringer" then presented himself at the conscription round. The four men who performed this service were short, with small chest sizes that did not meet the Royal Thai Army specifications – and were always sent home.

The four "ringers" travelled all over the Northeast to attend conscription draws. After the service was complete, clients had to pay a further 18,000 baht, bringing the total fee to 20,500 baht.

On April 8, Mongkhon Surasatcha, director-general of the Department of Provincial Administration, Buri Ram Governor Thani Samatkit and Buri Ram Po-

lice Commander Sombat Khongphibun announced arrests of the four suspects at a press conference at Pradonchai Police Station in Buri Ram.

The four confessed to police to being paid 1,500 baht to present themselves at conscription rounds instead of other men.

Buri Ram Police contacted their counterparts in Udon Thani, who expanded the investigation, rounding up 13 suspects.

The gang members, from 19 years old to 58, were presented to the media together with evidence including 33 fake ID cards and 32 sets of *SorDor* 43 and *SorDor* 32 conscription forms.

Lt Gen Somphong Khongphetsak, commander of Region 4 police, said the suspects had been hired to run the operation by a 61-year-old Army colonel.

Lt Gen Somphong said a summons had been issued for the man behind the operation.



NO DODGER: Thai tennis star Paradorn being sized up for military draft in 2004. The 'conscription gang' used men who they knew would fail the Army minimal physical requirements, Photo: AFP

'Monster' haul of lizards

THAILAND made its "largest ever haul" of smuggled monitor lizards after more than 2,000 of the creatures were discovered in a convoy of pickup trucks in Prachuap Khiri Khan province, according to AFP.

The live Bengal monitors – which are a protected species related to the Komodo dragon – were believed to be heading for Chinese kitchens.

Officials estimated the value of the reptiles at 1.8 million baht. The meter-long lizards, which were discovered on April 7, were tied and stuffed into plastic bags.

"They are from Malaysia and then are transported through southern Thailand and northeastern Laos to China for eating," said Seree Thaijongrak, head of the customs investigation and suppression bureau.

"We knew there was a monitor lizard racket... this time it's the largest seizure ever," he said.

The BBC said global trade in the



The catch was biggest lizard haul in Thailand. Photo: AFP

lizards is banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and they are protected by law in Thailand and Malaysia.



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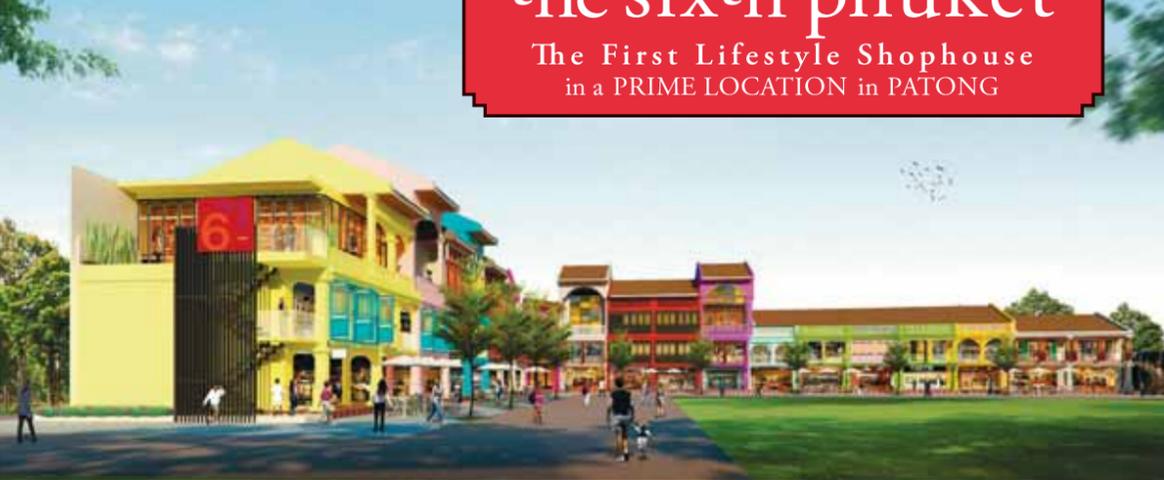
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Tourist blockade plain stupidity

The blockade at the Deep Sea Port by the taxi, van and tuk-tuk drivers was plain stupidity. The tours were booked on board and the numbers of buses and vans had to be determined before the ship arrived.

Most tourists do not speak Thai and will follow the ship's authorized tours for safety reasons.

Should anything go wrong, the responsibility will be on the ship and the tour agents, so that is what the tourists want.

Would taxi or van drivers accept that responsibility?

*Dorothy Chia
Gazette online*

Just desserts

Re: Gazette online – Serial rapist confesses to Phuket Police, April 3

My compliments to the Phuket Police. I hope that justice will give the perpetrator a strong lesson in order that other people who are doing this – and in Phuket there are many – start to worry and stop abusing women of any ethnicity or nationality.

*Cinin
Gazette online*

Make of Phuket what you will

Re: Gazette online - Phuket Poll: Is everybody happy? April 8

I believe many residents of Phuket go through a series of emotional states after they arrive. At first it is euphoria, after a few months reality sets in and it becomes depression and despair as they realize they aren't living in an Asian version of home.

Then comes acceptance and

Making the most of the valuable rain

Phuket Gazette

THE start of 2011 has been rainy indeed, but Phuket has fortunately been spared the kind of flooding and landslides that have devastated parts of neighboring provinces like Krabi and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

As this edition went to print, year-to-date rainfall at the Meteorological Department's monitoring station on Thalang Road in Phuket Town stood at 472 millimeters, while 659mm had been recorded at the station near Phuket Airport.

The long-term forecast was for continued scattered showers across the island.

Historical rainfall data for the 30-year period from 1971-2000 shows that the two stations averaged of 308mm and 247mm, respectively, over the first four months of those years.

With roughly double these year-to-date amounts by the end of March 2011, we are indeed experiencing an unusually wet start of the year, but this is something we should be rejoicing rather than complaining about – as many island residents have been wont to do lately.

Phuket is a place where people tend to come and go very quickly, but at least a small segment of readers will be able to remember back to the awful drought Phuket and other parts of the South suffered in the first half of 2005.

Coming just after the December 2004 tsunami poisoned surface and groundwater supplies well

inland, there were only trace rainfall amounts during the following three months. The annual monsoon was very slow in coming, leaving the entire South completely parched in early April that year.

The only thing that prevented that drought from having a devastating impact on the tourism industry that year was the fact that the high season had already been wiped out by the tsunami and demand for water was very low.

Fast forward to the present and we see verdant hillsides, at least in areas untouched by "development" and encroachment, record numbers of tourists, and copious amounts of water – enough for us to mindlessly douse ourselves with as many have been doing in recent days.

Although visiting foreign tourists may justifiably complain about poor beach weather, most residents on the island simply have little reason to complain.

Happiest of all will be officials at the Irrigation Department office at Bang Wad Reservoir, which is filled nearly to the brim at a time of year when it is normally being replenished with low-quality water from tin mines and golf courses.

accommodation, and finally a state of normalcy where they have adjusted.

Phuket is not heaven or hell. It is what you make of it.

*William
Gazette online*

It may be wrong, but stick to your rights

Re: Gazette online – Cambodia outlaws 'sham' marriages – is Phuket next? April 8

As much as I find it disturbing to see a 70-year-old guy with a 19-year-old girl anywhere, it is absurd that any government would make such a move. This is a clear violation of human rights, in line with charters and laws that are in effect, which the offending country signed.

Sanctions against the country should be sought until the situation is rectified.

*Jin
Phuket*

Sham and shame: it's understandable

Re: Gazette online – Cambodia outlaws 'sham' marriages – is Phuket next? April 8

Have people considered the fact that many foreigners marry to allow their wives to stay in their country, where she is forced to work in the sex trade?

These men live off women's earnings as prostitutes, which pays a lot better in foreign

countries than in Southeast Asia. These men are unscrupulous and it does happen – a lot.

I disagree with punishing the majority in order to catch a few, but I see why.

*The Investigator
Gazette online*

Bye-bye blockades

Re: Gazette online – Taxis blockade Phuket cruise passengers – again, April 6

If I were the cruise line, I would go to another port and say bye-bye to Phuket. These clowns have run roughshod over everyone for too long.

*Mark
Gazette online*

Coup de taxi?

Re: Gazette online – Taxis blockade Phuket cruise passengers – again, April 6

The only way this will ever be resolved is for the police and/or military from Bangkok to become involved. The US Navy are very close to eliminating Phuket as a port stop.

*Bill Gates
Gazette online*

'BYO wheels' is best

Re: Gazette online – Phuket Bike Week to rev up economy, April 7

This is always a good event. As most of the supporters have their own transport, a lot of tuk-tuks are redundant for the event.

Also, as they have big bikes they will probably not feel the need for speed and so jet-ski business may be quiet.

Tuk-tuk and jet-ski operators should enjoy a holiday – how about Libya?

*Phuket Kop
Gazette online*

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Issues & Answers...

Raw sewage really does flow downhill

On the road joining Baan Rawai and Baan Nai Harn, raw sewage runs in the street both ways from the top of the hill.

It stinks and is a health hazard as the sewage is sprayed into the air by passing cars.

Motorbikes have to drive through it. Last time I complained I was assured the problem would be taken care of, but the only thing that happened was that some vegetation was cleaned out of the ditches. Evidently there are no septic tanks as the sewage runs directly into the street. What's to be done?

*William Smith
Baan Rawai, Nai Harn*

Khanaruk Khobwach of Rawai Municipality Public Health and Environment Division replies:

This case sounds very similar. Last month, we received a very similar complaint, but I'm not sure if it is the same location or not.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

The previous complaint involved a restaurant at the top of a hill. We issued a warning and gave them seven days to fix the problem, but they failed to comply.

We then issued a clear written order to install a septic tank, but it seems they misunderstood and installed a peculiar system of drains instead, which only made the problem worse.

Now sewage runs in the drains along the street, giving off a foul smell.

We are currently in the process of explaining to them how to install a septic tank.

If they fail to comply after this, we will issue an order to have them close until it is done.

Blinded by the light

The very tall stadium-strength lights by Bang Ma Ruan lake are very bright. I live hundreds of meters away and I am blinded by them and cannot enjoy an evening outside anymore. Why are they on all night?

*Blinded by The Light
Bang Jo*

Thamrong Tantiwiratkul, president of the Srisoonthorn Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

The park was developed for villagers to exercise and enjoy social activities, so it is open and the lights are on until 9:30pm. This also deters troublemakers from congregating using the area.

The lights are automatically lit daily from 4am to 6am and 6pm to 9:30pm.

If you see the lights on all night, there may be a malfunction. If that is the case, call us at 076-617 803 and we will fix them as soon as possible. If the lights are too bright, we will adjust them.

The trouble with keeping dolphins

FIRST PERSON

THE greatest suffering for dolphins living in captivity is caused by the spacial limitations. Free dolphins dive to depths of up to 500 meters and swim distances of up to 80km a day.

Many species spend more than 80 per cent of their time far below the surface and are always in motion, even when they rest.

Dolphins maintain complex social structures and communicate with each other. In captivity, they are removed from their natural social environment.

Their need to partner with their species cannot be fulfilled and they are sentenced to life imprisonment in an artificially mismatched group.

Dolphins in captivity cannot live "normal" lives – they have no way to live out their instincts and needs.

Everything in captivity is unnatural – dolphins are forced to live in chemically-treated water, which can be extremely harmful to eyes and skin; they get dead fish as food and training rewards.

The dead fish are not always visible to the dolphin, in the beginning, as food – it will actually avoid them.

The "forced" feeding of captured young dolphins is brutal and performed with a gastric tube.

Imprisonment of dolphins in "dolphinariums" changes the behavior of the animals. Among the many sufferings of dolphins sepa-



Wilfried Niedermayr, 52, is a self-described "passionate underwater photographer" from Switzerland. His wife and three adult children are all certified divers. Mr Niedermayr has visited Thailand many times over the past 30 years. Here he talks about the nature of dolphins and the dangers of keeping them in captivity.

rated from their natural habitat are: forced idleness, boredom, irritation, submission to humans, loss of social fabric, forced drug consumption, birth control and foreign or unnatural diet.

Their sonar becomes useless as it just bounces off the bare concrete walls. There is no sunlight and no "change of seasons" to provide some variation. Straight swimming is no longer possible. Noise, smells, sounds and the proximity of strange animals and humans are all unnatural.

For dolphinarim owners, these animals are a lucrative business. Their smiles attract viewers while the facilities convey the impression of a perfect world.

Behind the scenes of the seemingly playful performances, the dolphins are subject to suffering, degradation and sometimes even deadly fights among each other.

Dolphins who survive the brutal capture and sometimes very long transport are expected to live in narrow, barren concrete pools.

In Switzerland alone more than

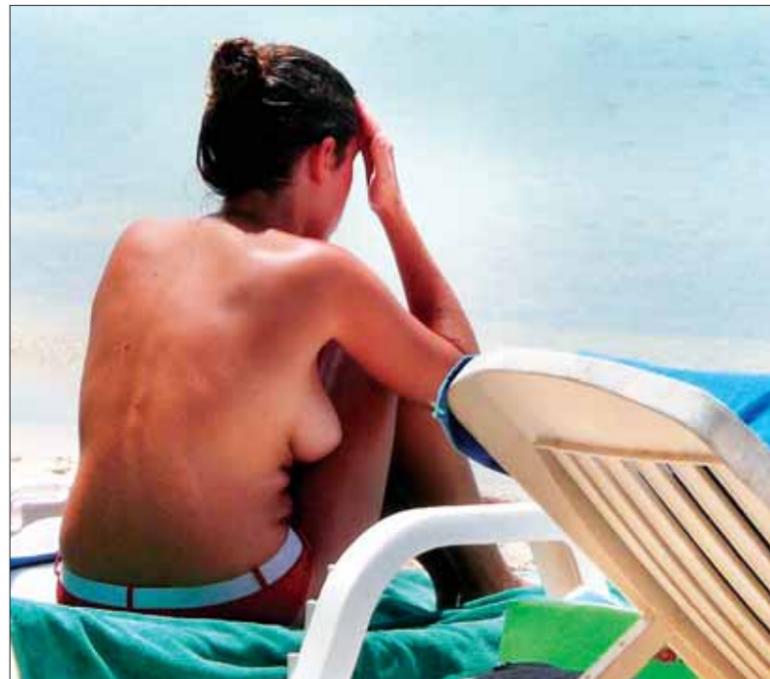
30 dolphins died in 30 years at one children's zoo. The dolphinarium was eventually closed following pressure from activist groups.

The movie *The Cove* by Rick O'Barry shows exactly how thousands of dolphins are every year driven into a tiny cove in Japan where the youngest ones are separated from their group, caught and sold to dolphinariums all over the world. The others are meaninglessly slaughtered.

Visitors to dolphinariums do not see any of this. Therefore I strongly suggest that Phuket not build a dolphinarium [*Gazette, Expat seeks support for B900mn aquarium, April 9*].

Many environmental groups and animal rights activists worldwide today are fighting plans to build new dolphinariums, and more and more people are supporting them with the help of the internet, such as through Facebook.

Text courtesy of Kurt Amsler Underwater Photographer & Wilfried Niedermayr (www.fotodive.ch)



Some foreigners on Phuket simply do not appreciate the culture gap.

Beauty and the foreign beast

Island View

By Bonny Reynolds

Do you have an opinion to voice? Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

THE debate in the *Phuket Gazette* regarding semi-clad foreigners on the beaches of Phuket gave me pause while relaxing on Lay Phan Beach recently.

Although argument rages over the imbalance of fairness towards women's rights to emulate their male counterparts by removing their tops – the fact remains that it is illegal to do so in Thailand.

Female foreign visitors to Thailand may be unaware of this law and most will immediately rectify their state of undress when it is pointed out to them.

However, there is no excuse for long-term visitors to this island. Disregarding the sensitivities of Thai culture is to disgrace oneself and one's nation.

Back in their countries of origin, foreigners habitually pick fault with foreign visitors who impose their culture. And yet, when these travelers visit another country they flagrantly ignore laws and defend their attitudes with inane and hypocritical arguments, or as in cases of females baring their chests – the sexist card is played.

The incident I witnessed on Lay Phan Beach had a triple whammy of foreign arrogance to inspire this article.

First, a young French woman flung a plastic bucket back at a three-year-old Thai boy who had accidentally thrown the beach toy in her direction. Second, she was topless. Third, she claimed she wasn't a tourist once the boy's father had remonstrated with the semi-clad female to cover up, adding that Thailand did not need tourists of her ilk.

Attempting to hurt a child in any case is thoroughly wrong and fortunately the child was not physically hurt. Being half-naked is, as noted above, illegal. To exacerbate the child abuse and her lack of attire, she showed why foreigners can sometimes be much disliked by Thai people.

Rather than being apologetic for her actions, she focused her re-



Are topless bathers turning their back on the Thai sense of decency?

tort on the ignominy of being called a tourist. If, as claimed, she wasn't a tourist then, she should be aware of the law, but clearly decided that topless child accosting was a loophole in Thai law that only long-term residents can benefit from.

How can long-term residents such as myself and many others who have families and an element of respect from Thai people expect to build on our hard work when these long-term tourists, who should know better, are allowed to exploit the law?

I have lived here for five years and I consider myself a tourist. Yes, I work here but the only difference between my visa and a tourist visa is that I can be employed. The laws of Thailand still apply whether a foreigner is here for two weeks or two years.

If anyone deserves forced repatriation from Thailand, surely arrogant foreigners with no respect for Thai law and culture are near the top of the list.

...asking the questions that affect you...

How do we kill the coconut beetles?

Has anyone found a way to get rid of the bugs that kill coconut trees yet?

Horst Lakits
Chalong

Pa-yao Pinno, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office, replies:

There are many kinds of pests that damage coconut trees. You need to know which kind is causing damage to your trees in order for you to use the correct treatment to get rid of them.

To the best of our knowledge, there are only two types of pests damaging coconut trees in Phuket and neighboring provinces.

The first is the coconut hispine beetle (*Brontispa longissima*). To counter this pest we use a biological agent. We release an insect called *Asecodes hispinarum* at the top of the coconut tree.

The *Asecodes* will eat all the coconut hispine beetles on the tree until there are none left, and then it will die.



The *Metarhizium anisopliae* fungus is capable of killing more than 200 insect species, including cockroaches. Photo: plosgenetics.org

The second type of pest damaging coconut trees in Phuket is the Rhinoceros beetle.

We get rid of this one by taking grains of rice covered with the fungus *Meterhizium anisopliac* and spreading them through a pile of fertilizer on your coconut plantation.

When the beetle lays its eggs in the fertilizer pile, the fungus kills the eggs and the beetles die out.

You cannot buy *Asecodes hispinarum* or *Meterhizium anisopliac* at normal agricultural stores.

You have to ask for these from the Surat Thani Pest Management Center, or you can contact the Phuket Provincial Agricultural Office and we will arrange it for you.

Call our office directly at 076-216565 and ask to speak with me.

AMCHAM seminar on this month

AMCHAM Thailand's Greater Phuket Chapter and Property Report South East Asia will host a seminar on April 29, from 4 to 6pm at Holiday Inn Patong.

At the event, a group of Thailand's leading property experts will discuss the resort markets of Phuket, Koh Samui, Pattaya and Hua Hin.

It will be the perfect opportunity to learn who's hot and who's not, and share insights into today's real estate market place. There will also be a special update on hotel transactions – past, present, and future. Speakers are David Simister, Chmn, CBRE Thailand, Patima Jeerapaet, Chmn, Colliers International Thailand, Duangjai Kraus, MD, Engel & Volkers Thailand and Andrew Langdon, Sr VP, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels. The Moderator will be Andrew Batt, Managing Editor, *Property Report South East Asia*. Attendance is open to the public for a 200 baht admission fee. AMCHAM members can attend free of charge.

Contact Sheree Tanpensuk, at T:02-2541041 ext 212. E: sheree@amchamthailand.com

Twin city trade to grow

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

A DELEGATION from Yantai City in Shandong province, China, met Phuket Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen at Provincial Hall recently to discuss commercial exchange in fruit, local products and tourism.

Huang Yewen, Deputy Director of the China (Yantai) Asia-Pacific World Trade Center, opened the talks by inviting Phuket officials to attend the 12th International Fruit Vegetable Food Exposition to be held in Yantai on September 23-26.

Attracting exhibitors and visitors worldwide, the exposition is held annually to promote and exchange international technology and co-operation in fresh produce-related industries.

Representatives from 10 industries in Thailand attended the event last year, said Mr Huang.

Phuket once presented in the expo in year 2000, he added.

"I would like Phuket to present fresh Phuket fruit at the fair because normally there is only dried fruit from Thailand on sale in Yantai," he explained.

Mr Huang also proposed establishing a Thai-fruit center in Yantai as a distribution center for neighboring areas in Shandong, on the Chinese northeastern peninsula.

The center would also be a focal point of fruits traded between the two cities, which are already

"twinned" with each other.

"Yantai is famous for fruit cultivation, especially grapes, apples, peaches and cherries," said Mr Huang, naming four fruits popular with Westerners but relatively hard to find at Phuket markets.

"It would be a good chance to have Yantai fruit on sale here and Phuket fruit on sale in Yantai," he said.

With the number of tourists coming to Phuket continuing to spiral upward, the demand for such fruits would only rise, he added.

In terms of tourism, Mr Huang pointed out that Yantai was near many tourist attractions popular with Thai people, such as Tai Shan Mountain and Qufu city.

According to Chinese government websites, Tai Shan Mountain is regarded as preeminent among China's Five Sacred Mountains, with 72 Chinese emperors of various dynasties making pilgrimages to the mountain for sacrificial and other ceremonial purposes.

Qufu City is renowned as the birthplace of Confucius.

Vice Governor Weerawat said he appreciated the visit and that he would bring the proposals to the attention of top officials.

In closing the meeting, Wannaprapa Suksomboon, deputy director of the southern regional Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Phuket, pointed out



MAKING CONNECTIONS: Huang Yewen led the delegation proposing more trade exchanges between Phuket and 'twin city' Yantai.

that in developing tourism, launching direct flights between the two cities would be a top priority.

"In the first three months of this year, 131,109 tourists from main-

land China visited Phuket. Most were from Shanghai and Beijing because there are direct flights operating between those two cities," she said.

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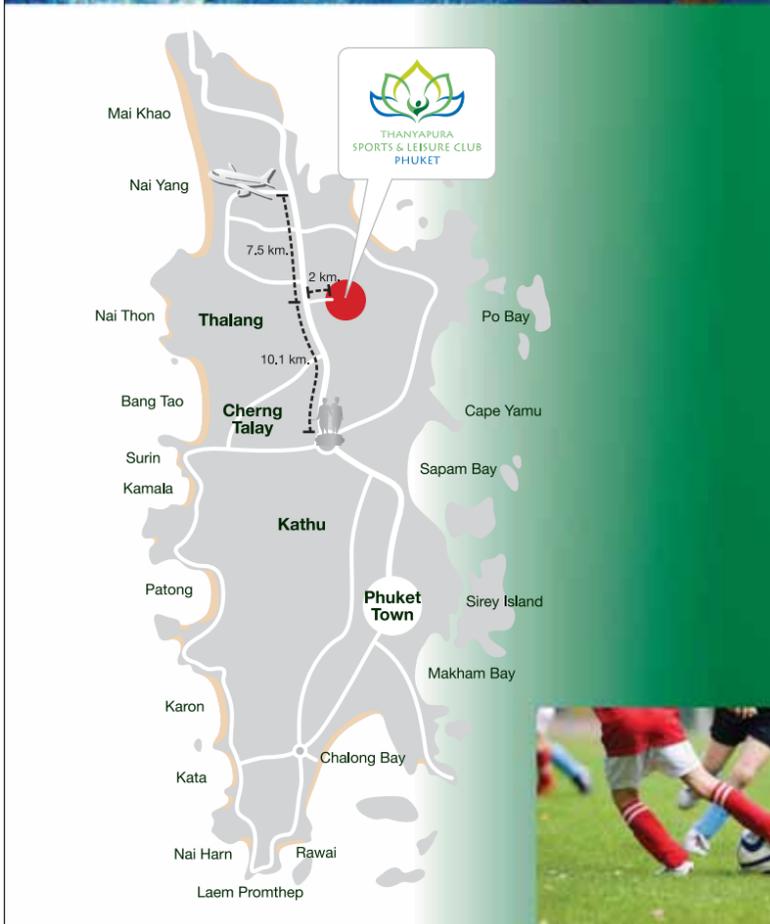
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Feeling a touch of d j vu?

The financial first half of this year bears some striking similarities to the year of the financial meltdown in 2008.

RECENTLY MBMG discussed “d j Vu” and whether this investing environment has a first half of 2008 feeling all over again? Today we have inflation fears in emerging markets, raging commodity prices and equity markets shrugging off so called “black swan” events.

In the first six months of 2008 the economy was remarkably upbeat on growth, Vietnam had surging double digit inflation, other emerging markets were worried about inflation. Bear Stearns had to be bailed out “a black swan” and the oil price moved from US\$100 to US\$150 by June. The conclusion on oil is below, but this has much bigger ramifications for our tactical asset allocation over coming months.

As Scott Campbell says, “In 2008, oil passing US\$125 acted as a choking point for equities. Morgan Stanley says the threshold could be higher in this cycle and points out the oil price spike in 2008 acted as a drag on equities only once oil rose above US\$120. As oil crossed the US\$100 mark in February 2008, non-financial equities continued to rise in tandem with the oil price, up until the middle of May when the correlation reversed.”

“The European non-financial index peaked on May 19 [2008], at which point oil was at US\$123. Oil rose a further 18 per cent through to mid-July, during which non-financial equities fell 17 per cent. Arguably, the point at which higher oil prices act as a signifi-



Island Investor
By Graham Macdonald

cant drag on equity prices could be higher than in 2008.”

No doubt this time is different and a lot depends on how long oil stays high for, but at some point markets are going to get pretty scared by what they are seeing.

According to our sources, each US\$10 increase in oil prices reduced OECD growth by 0.1 per cent – 0.5 per cent (depending on who you read), so with growth still fuelled (excuse the pun) by quantitative easing and fiscal spending, higher oil prices are certainly not good news for growth. Couple this with the ECB that seems hell bent on raising interest rates and one gets a horrible d j vu feeling to 2008.

We have already touched on commodities, but while many of them are, to say the least, more than a tad volatile there is still a good argument for gold. A couple of years ago, Warren Buffet was



NEW YORK: Traders work in the crude oil options pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange on March 22. Oil prices increased to US\$104 per barrel on the day as the unrest in Libya continued to drive prices higher. Photo: AFP

asked if central banks around the world would sell off the US Treasury holdings they owned. Buffet said this was very unlikely as they would have to convert them into an alternative currency and, over the long run, nothing was better than the US Dollar.

However, is this the case and is it true? I do not believe it is. More than a few countries are building up their gold reserves – with China leading the way. In 2004, the Chinese had 600 metric tons of gold. A couple of years ago this had grown to over 1,050.

It is not a secret that the central bank wants to increase this. It is also interesting to note that

China has quietly been selling its US Treasuries recently.

As the Spanish philosopher Santayana once said, “Those who do not remember history are condemned to repeat it”.

As the Spanish philosopher Santayana once said, ‘Those who do not remember history are condemned to repeat it’.

Without doubt, there have been times when alternatives to gold have come to the fore, for instance the Greenback

in the American Civil War and Roosevelt rejecting gold in the 1930s both come to mind. However, gold has been around for thousands of years and is valued more than ever – remember it has risen dramatically over the last couple of months. Its time is coming again and we do not

think it unlikely that by the end of next year gold will be at a minimum of US\$2,000 per ounce.

In conclusion, we were overweight risk assets from mid last year until recently.

We are currently around benchmark weightings, so neutral risk assets, and watching every day for the flashing red lights.

In no way does this mean we are forecasting a H2 like 2008 and notwithstanding equity valuations and a normally positive Year 3 US Presidential cycle, if certain events and policy decisions occur, the second half of this year will be difficult to say the least.

Graham Macdonald, MD of MBMG Group. E:graham@mbmg-international.com. MBMG Group will not accept any liability for errors or omissions in above article.

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Cooper's chance to shine

Film

By Scott Phillips

Limitless

Director: Neil Burger
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Robert DeNiro, Abbie Cornish
Genre: Thriller
Gazette Rating: 3/5

ATTENTION all hippies and dead-beats with nappy hair and tattered clothing: slick it back, shave up and put on a nice suit, and you will look infinitely more intelligent. The air of intelligence and the art of deception are often one in the same.

Though the filmmakers may not have intended it to be, this is one of the subtle messages behind *Limitless*, a new thriller that focuses on a man who finds a substance that allows him to use his brain to its full capacity.

We have all been told we only use 20 per cent of our brains; *Limitless* presents audiences with a story in which a clear little pill



CLEVER: Cooper takes a pill that transforms him from bum to brainiac.

unleashes the other 80.

It's rather fun to poke at the implications that the film suggests come with higher intelligence. Albert Einstein would have been disappointed. That signature "just been electrocuted" hair and raggedy appearance? Gone. Apparently, smart people only wear US\$3,000

suits, which intelligent people might argue is rather stupid if your day is likely to involve several violent encounters with super-genius gangbangers. Vanity, it seems, is not the refuge of retards.

Hangover star Bradley Cooper leads the film in another breakout role to help solidify his status as



Unfortunately there is no such pill to cure the film of its shortcomings.

one of Hollywood's new acting elite. He looks the part of Eddie Mora very well – believable as a bum who depends on his girlfriend's credit card to pay his bills, but cleans up very easily. When he takes his first dose of the mysterious brain pill (known as NZT) Cooper pulls off the personality of someone who you wouldn't mind being the smartest guy in the room. In short, he's confident and amusing without coming off as condescending.

Yet there is a major conflict for Eddie. Rather than exploring some of the "nerdier" sides of super intelligence, such as finding a cure for cancer or solving the mysterious riddles of the universe, he opts to hit Wall Street and smooth talk women into bed.

No complaints here, but if you were looking for an intellectual exploration of the power of the human mind, this isn't it. Yet it is still fun, albeit somewhat ironic, to turn off your brain and watch Eddie enjoy the fruits of his newfound super intelligence.

The drug apparently gives Eddie a four-digit IQ. "It works better if you're already smart", he's told. Does that mean that if Eddie takes NZT and ends up in a mess of Wall Street crooks, gangsters and loan sharks, that he was stupid before taking it? That's for you to decide.

Director Neil Burger earns some serious style points with the film. Considering he got his start in show-

biz by directing shows for MTV, this may come as no surprise.

The cinematography and visual effects are trippy and thematic. Movie buffs and acid addicts will be pleased at the variety of visual elements used to convey the experience of a neuronal high.

There are special effects literally falling off the walls – stock quotes that suddenly appear in Eddie's apartment so he can use them to make his first million. Bright hues abound when Eddie is on his NZT, and the world around him does indeed look different. It's a clever approach to visualizing the change the drug makes for Eddie.

Stylish though it may be, the screenplay still lacks the punch that this kind of plot could pack. The discovery of super-charged intelligence would certainly be an exciting one, but the film fails to make Eddie's experience a vicarious one. We are simply spectators watching Eddie on a series of power trips. Sure, Eddie suddenly becomes a super-genius who comes up with fail-safe algorithms for Wall Street, but what does it feel like to instantly become so brilliant? This feeling is never conveyed, and that is easily the film's greatest shortcoming.

Still, for a psychotropic thriller and a stellar cast that includes Robert DeNiro and Abbie Cornish, *Limitless* will deliver the goods.

Just don't expect to leave the theater feeling enlightened.

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Duane Lennie

DUANE Lennie is a media specialist who sold his thriving marketing and public relations company in Vancouver, Canada, in 2001 to take over operations at KohLanta.net, which he eventually bought.

"I had been working in journalism, strategic market planning, PR and media relations for almost 20 years and was ready for a change. I first visited Thailand in 2000, with a month on Phuket and a month on Koh Samui, and was very impressed with the potential to develop media and marketing projects."

Currently, Duane is the Director for Mango Nation Marketing Communications, a full service advertising and PR consultancy specializing in marketing Southeast Asia's finest luxury property and resort developments.

He started working at a very young age as equipment assistant with the BC Lions football team. He attributes his early exposure to media and events to his mother's husband who was PR Director for the Vancouver Canucks hockey team. While in school, he was named Canada's Newspaper Editor of the Year at Terry Fox Senior Secondary School. He went on to complete the Advertising and Public Relations Program at Grant McEwen Community College.

Duane began his career as a promotion assistant sponsoring movie

EXPAT
gallery
By Bruce Stanley

launches. He worked on a Willy Nelson tour and was hired by Vancouver's Expo 86 to handle the "Legends of Rock 'n' Roll" series.

He founded Mix Communications in 1987 and for the next 13 years handled the marketing for some of Canada's highest profile companies and events. His clients included the Pacific National Exhibition, Canadian National Ski Championships, World Wrestling Federation and the Stein Valley Music Festival.

Duane also handled promotions and tour management for performers such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, the Beach Boys, Ray Charles, Bill Cosby and Bob Hope. By 2001 when he closed his company, he estimates his work had helped to attract more than two million patrons to his clients' attractions.

"I was fortunate to have work that fed my personal interests. As a writer, I was interested in how journalism could 'spin' stories and create impact."

When Duane arrived to live on Koh Lanta in 2001, he began work-

ing with KohLanta.net. The business did hotel and dive bookings. He also began looking at the potential for property on the island.

After the tsunami, he became a fundraiser to rebuild local fishing boats. He also leased a heritage shophouse in Lanta Old Town, which had served as an opium den for the island's Chinese tin miners. He restored the building and created his own guest house and restaurant.

In 2007, he joined Phuket's INDIGO real estate as Director of Marketing and Communications, where he was instrumental in placing media stories in the *New York Times*, *Robb Report*, *Architectural Digest* and *Luxury Property* magazine.

"During my time at INDIGO, the firm was named *Best Thailand Agent* at the Thailand Property Awards. My job was to ensure the company and its offerings were mass exposed through an integrated marketing campaign and an innovative co-operating brokers program."

Most recently, he has been doing his own projects in promoting the Istana and Mandala condominiums. He divides his time between Phuket and Lanta where he recently produced the Mango House Festival, inviting international DJs to perform as part of the Lanta Old Town Festival.



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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Waging war on Songkran style

By Julia Dennis

WATER. Flour. Rain. Fashion. It's Songkran, and the Thai New Year's Day water fight that consumes the nation presents a daunting fashion task. With wardrobe malfunctions around every corner, it's nearly impossible to keep an eye on fashion while being chased by complete strangers with icy cold buckets of water.

Fear not! A handful of smart outfit decisions can save style in the midst of chaos, and apply as much for Songkran as for rainy season.

Of course, at the end of the day Songkran is a celebration of joy and goodwill no matter what you wear, but it doesn't hurt to look good while soaking fellow revelers and patting flour on their cheeks.



Wild 'n' Out Basics

Anti-destructibility is of the utmost importance for the Songkran look. Everything will get absolutely soaked, but it better not fall off – unless you want it to. Tight-fitting, quick-dry fabrics over a bathing suit are crucial to stay in the action without losing your drawers.

Avoid baggy t-shirts or heavy-when-wet denim. Ladies can take advantage of the myriad shorts and one-piece jumpers in trend now, inspired from the 70s to add retro chic, or mix crazy prints together for the youthful club-kid look.

Bare in mind this is a family event, not a wet t-shirt contest, so save your whites for the Vegetarian Festival.



SPLASH! Nicola Walters and Jennifer Kathrens are Songkran ready!

Ponchos and plastic overcoats can spell fashion disaster, but there's nothing like a well-placed belt to make water protection look smoking hot. Wrap a stretchy belt around your true waist (not the hips) to define your shape and keep outerwear in place throughout the deluges, especially when riding a motorbike. The extra insulating layer of warmth from the plastic cover will also keep you in the Songkran spirit longer, even if the sun refuses to shine on your celebrations.



Outerwear

I love flip-flops, we all do. But on Songkran day there is no quicker way to end festivities early than to slip on a wet, floury tile while trying to hose your best friend with a super soaker. Flip-flops are not the answer. Converse sneakers or rain boots like these DIY string-ups (pictured) will help keep you on your feet. Transform a pair of simple worker boots with spray paints and laces for custom footwear that turn wet days to stylish days. Just remember to add some slits on the sides of the foot for drainage – and douse away!



Below the Ankles



Wet-cessories

Often all you need to turn a look from dull to daring is the appropriate accessory. A sky-blue visor to keep sun off the nose and water out of the eyes finishes the Songkran club-kid look. A simple umbrella also adds a classy touch to even the biggest of misfits, with the added bonus of deflecting water. Above all, sealed dry bags are not just for divers anymore, they are a girl's best friend during the big wet. From hot pink to turquoise, dry bags come in a variety of colors and sizes to help you stand out in the crowd.

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**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

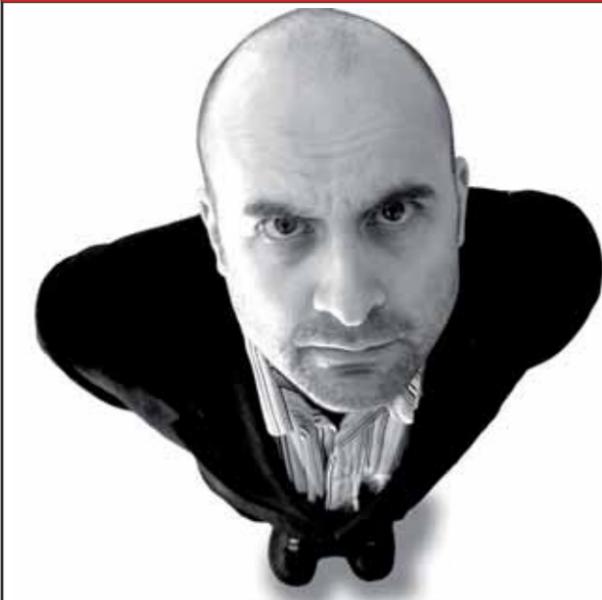
April 12-18. Easter and Songkran at Quest Fun Zone

April 12, 18 and 21 from 10am to 4pm. Quest Fun Zone is back on selected dates this April with their much-loved adventure activities for kids aged 5 to 12. All the favorites are there – rock climbing, high ropes, wet ‘n’ wild, little chefs, and so much more, all jam packed into fantastic fun days! Celebrate the Songkran water festival with a special slip ‘n’ splash event. Drop your kids off at Quest for a full day of adventure antics, including lunch. All for 750 baht per kid. Show proof of residency for great discounts. Contact Alun Matthew at T:076-314253 E:manager@questlagunaphuket.com or visit W:questlagunaphuket.com.

April 14-17. Oilfield Golf Classic

The third-annual Phuket Oilfield Classic is here. Last year's event saw Black Mountain resident professional Simon Yates shoot the course record of 63 at Loch Palm. This year Blue Canyon and Red Mountain will be played. Why not come along and join in this

April 20. Live Stand-Up Comedy



The next Phuket Punchline Comedy show is sure to be a corker. Three very different acts, all from the breeding ground of sublime comedy talent that is the UK comedy circuit, will be at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong, April 20 from 2pm to 11pm.

David Morgan recently burst onto the comedy scene with his own brand of high energy, high camp compering. He'll introduce two stalwarts of the comedy circuit: Scottish comedian Vladimir McTavish and the hilarious eccentric Dan Evans. The entertainment features all the ingredients for another top night of comedy.

Contact Boom at T: 089-6469278 E:info@phuketcomedy.com or visit W:phuketcomedy.com.

fun-filled event and stand a chance to win a car or US\$20,000 in cash for the hole-in-one prize. Contact Mark Cameron at T: 081-882843 E:mark@phuketoilfieldclassic.com or visit W:phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

April 15. Curry Fridays

Come on down to Curry Fridays on alternate Fridays, from 7pm to 11:30pm, at the Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa.

Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and more served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass, 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Contact Seemant Raju at T:076-286464 ext 4, 081-6295063 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

April 16 and 23. Facebook 101 – free seminar, group 2

Back by popular demand. This is the second free Facebook 101 seminar, with an all-new group of participants. Three sessions on three consecutive Saturdays cover everything you need to know about setting up a Facebook page for your company, charity, club or organization. No experience necessary. To sign up, please go to facebook.com/SandwichShope and submit the form. Limited to 20 seats, and the first

group filled up quickly. If places run, there will be a waiting list for the next round. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and *The Phuket Gazette*. Contact Woody at T:076-290468 or visit W:facebook.com/SandwichShope.

April 18-22. TSLC IronKids Camp with Jrgen Zck

The TSLC IronKids Camp is designed to be fun, focusing on essential triathlon skills. It is short so as not to tire the children before the TSLC IronKids Race April 23. Ironman Legend Jrgen Zck will run the camps, along

with professional support staff. Mondays to Fridays, kids aged 6-15 years. Monday to Thursday daily sessions: 300 baht. Friday for two hours session: 450 baht. One week camp: 1,500 baht. Private session: 1,500 baht. Contact Giles at T:076-336000 E:tslc@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

April 21. PIWC Monthly Lunch

The April lunch of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) will be held on April 21 from 11:30am to 2pm at Watermark Restaurant, Boat Lagoon. All are welcome and prior booking is essential. Price:500 baht for PIWC members and 650 baht for non-members. Contact Carole Dux at T:076-200730 E:info@phuketiwc.com or visit W:phuketiwc.com.

April 22-28. "Indian Feast" at Royal Phuket Marina

Introducing an "Indian Feast" at Les Anges in Royal Phuket Marina. Enjoy authentic Indian cuisine every Friday evening from 7-10pm. From April 22, and every other Friday night thereafter, home-made Indian food will be prepared and served by experienced Indian chef, Padam Kahtri. Come on down for a truly authentic Indian food experience. Price: 495 baht net per person. Contact Les Anges restaurant at T:076-360803 E:pascal@lesanges.com or visit W:lesanges.com

Free Computer Clinics

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April 17, 24 – Chalong Starts at 10am.

For more info contact Woody T:076-290468

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Phuket Bike Week 2011 turns heads



LADIES LOVE BIKES: Models at a Phuket Bike Week photo shoot in Patong on April 9.



FROM GERMANY WITH LOVE: Winner of the International Miss Songkran Beauty Pageant, Sina Kirmse of Germany.



RUNNERS UP: Second place went to Oksana Kiryach from Russia (right) while Lindy Gordon-Bennet from South Africa took third.

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Phuket Bike Week 2011 was here in all its loud, in-your-face glory from April 8 to 10. A record 6,000 bikers were expected to motor onto the island for the 17th annual event, with more than 500 motorcycle clubs from 26 nations taking part.

Phuket Gazette lensman Christian Mouchet got up-close-and-personal with participants at the International Miss Songkran beauty Pageant (right) and models at a special photo shoot at Nicky's Handlebar in Patong.

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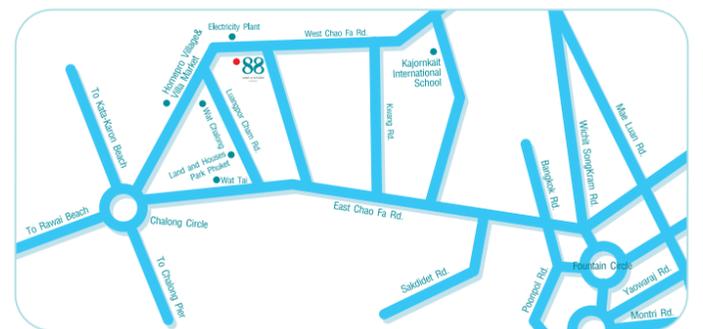


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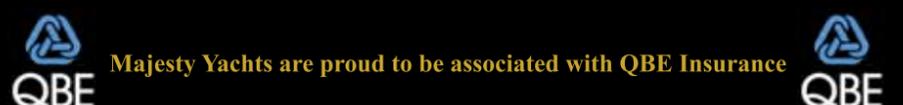
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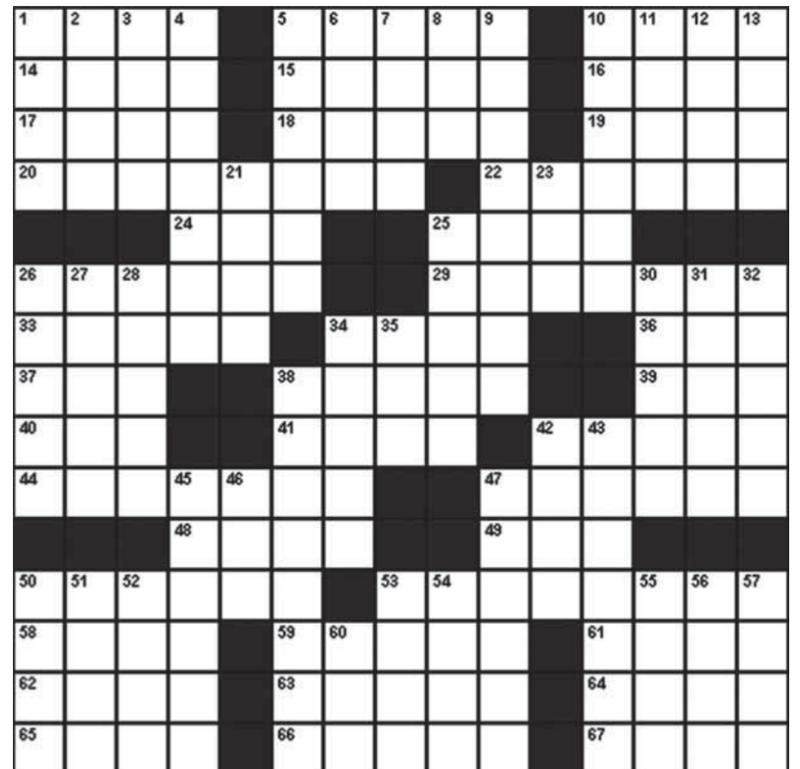
The Impossibly Possible Quiz

- Which mythological figure flew so close to the sun that the wax on his wings began to melt?
- In what city is the Dutch government headquarters located?
- Name the ghost who appears at a banquet in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*?
- What is the green pigment in plants called?
- What is Hilary Clinton's maiden name?
- Who did the original voice of Mickey Mouse?
- What kind of question is asked solely to produce an effect or to make an assertion, and not to elicit a reply?
- John F Kennedy's widow married which shipping tycoon?
- Which soprano has the lowest range: coloratura, lyric, or mezzo?
- In the song *The 12 Days of Christmas*, what did my true love send to me on the ninth day?
- What is the population of Sweden?
- Which Greek philosopher, the central character of Plato's *Dialogues*, was executed because the authorities claimed he was corrupting the morals of the youth of Athens?
- During the American Civil War, who was President of the Confederate States?
- Which 16th century astronomer first proposed the theory that the planets go around the sun rather than the earth?

Quiz solutions on page 25

- Across**
- Hot rock
 - Accord maker
 - Portico
 - Not a duplicate
 - Follows orders
 - Harbor
 - Peter Fonda title role
 - Damp
 - Actress Turner
 - Overthrow
 - Warm
 - Man's best friend
 - Optical device
 - Blunt
 - Bewitch
 - Moves through water
 - Morales of "NYPD Blue"
 - Former coin of France
 - Engine part
 - Rodeo horse
 - Son of, in Arabic names
 - Black bird
 - Sea eagles
 - Hackneyed
 - Anarchists
 - Like bulls and rams
 - Emotional state
 - In the manner of
 - Moisten
 - Inflammation of bone
 - Actress McClurg
 - Crude carrier
 - Breathe hard
 - Building for storing hay
 - Angry
 - Mexican miss
 - Stepped
 - Wood nymph
 - Fancy secondary school "college" in England

- Down**
- Like Hawaiian shirts
 - He sang about Alice
 - Opinion
 - Item on a list
 - Reverence
 - Ancient Greek coin
 - Singer Sedaka
 - Prefix



- Weak
- Spatter
- Exactly
- Writer Sarah_ _ Jewett
- Not much
- Moat
- Electronic Navigational Chart.
- Inclines
- Academy award
- African sir
- Shy
- Continental identity of a Chinese person
- Aristocratic

- Adjusted pitch
- He_ _ on the side of caution
- Junior
- Needlelike
- Boot bottom
- Walk aimlessly
- Be about to happen
- Council of Europe
- Intense dislike
- It's owed
- Purim month
- Joan of art
- Oil of_ _
- Bristle
- Fruit filled pie
- A big fan of
- Eminem hit song
- Discount rack abbreviation

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 25

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Many Arians will be feeling washed out after recent holiday fun. Allow yourself some quiet time this week in order to regroup. The stars suggest that inspiration will strike towards the end of this month and a new business venture or career direction is highlighted to make your summer a busy time. Those with a birthday in the days ahead are expected to have more control over their lives in the coming year.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

A win-win situation is forecast to put a smile on Taureans' faces this week. After ups and downs during the first half of April, your luck is set to increase during the coming two weeks. Where personal relationships are concerned, there are signs that a misunderstanding with a water sign will be resolved this weekend. Best days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The stars encourage Geminis to look on the bright side this week. Delays at work or in business could cause frustration, but you are advised to focus on progress that has already been made. A fire

sign friend could ask for help this weekend – be clear about how far you are prepared to put yourself out. Romance with a new partner is well-starred, but those in a committed relationship could have some explaining to do.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Cancerians who have suspected that something was going on behind their backs could receive confirmation that their intuitions were right. The stars predict that another water sign has important information to reveal early next week. Your luck in love continues to be strong – those who have become attracted to an earth sign should learn that their interest is returned.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Finances are forecast to be a source of concern for Leos during the second half of April. The stars suggest that you take a realistic look at your outgoings as there may be ways to cut corners that you haven't considered. Work should start to bring more satisfaction, particularly for those who have been considering a change – an air sign can point you in the right direction this weekend.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans are advised not to push their luck in work related negotiations. Asking for the moon could result in having nothing except your pride. Where romance is concerned, too much introspection could lead you to the wrong conclusion. The stars suggest that an honest conversation this weekend will relieve your worries. Those who are ready for romance should enjoy a flirtatious encounter with another earth sign this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Progress at work is forecast to be favorable for Librans. The stars are ready to support your determination to climb the career ladder this year. Flexibility will be your guarantee of success, so be prepared to compromise. Your romantic outlook improves, with focus on a relationship with another air sign becoming more relaxed.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Many of those born under the sign of Scorpio could be feeling under par this week and the stars advise cutting back on commitments. Where love is concerned, it's best not to act on impulse at the moment. There are signs that you may be hoping for a romantic response from a fire sign who only wants a platonic relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Your enthusiasm for spring cleaning and decorating may not be shared by other family members. Sagittarians should not try to force others' involvement as this will lead to disagreements. The stars suggest that next month will be a more auspicious time for improvements to your living situation. In the meantime, put excess energy to productive use by catching up on personal administration and tying up loose ends at work.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

A restless mood is forecast to affect Capricorns' work and personal relationships this week. The stars advise putting important discussions and agreements on hold until the end of this

month. If this is not possible, Wednesday would be the most auspicious day for communications. In the realm of romance, an air sign is ready to show their interest, but another earth sign can't make up their mind.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Aquarians might be feeling less inclined to socialize this week. However, the stars indicate that your networking skills will be heightened until the end of April and getting out and about could lead to worthwhile new contacts. Romance is affected by cloudy astral conditions – wearing your heart on your sleeve could have the wrong effect on an earth sign you would like to impress. Play it cool for more positive results.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

At least one of your hidden talents is forecast to come to the surface this week. An air sign could hold the key to helping you put this skill to constructive use, but it could involve radical changes in your life. Those Pisceans who are not ready to leave their comfort zone may have a change of heart as summer draws nearer. An earth sign friend can give sensible advice this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Land prices survive floods and tsunamis

FLOODING and natural disasters cause the public to worry about the future of Phuket's real estate market, but studies conducted by the Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA) of Thailand indicate that property prices on the island remained strong even in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami disaster.

Land valuation surveys were conducted during the month of July, 2004, about five months prior to the tsunami, and again in May, 2005, about five months after the tsunami.

The results showed that land prices along Phuket's west coast, even in areas directly affected by the tsunami, remained the same. Property along the east coast, which was

Pre and post 2004 tsunami prices in the west coast remained unchanged:

Mai Khao Beach: B5 million
 Nai Yang Beach: B6mn
 Nai Thon Beach: B7mn
 Bang Tao Beach: B7.5mn
 Kamala Beach: B9mn
 Patong Beach: B40mn
 Karon Beach: B20mn
 Kata Beach: B10mn

less affected, actually saw a surge in real estate prices. It is believed these increases re-



Statistics show that land prices in Patong were unaffected by the tsunami.

Average prices on the east coast increased:

Ao Maphrao: B2mn-B2.2mn
 Ao Por: B3mn-B3.5mn
 Ao Sapam: B3mn-B3.3mn
 Ao Chalong: B5mn-B5.5mn
 Rawai Beach: B5mn-5.5mn

flect the belief that any future tsunami inundations would have a less severe impact along the east coast, AREA researchers wrote.

Since then, surveys conducted during March, 2007, 2008, and August 2009, show that land prices have continued to increase rapidly; since 2005, real estate prices in 2011

have increased up to 60 per cent at Mai Khao beach, 50 per cent at Bang Tao beach, 70 per cent at Kamala beach, and up to 100 per cent rise at Patong Beach, of which undeveloped beach front land is valued at more than 80 million baht per rai.

These land price surveys suggest that even the deadliest natural disaster in recorded history, did not have a negative affect on land values in Phuket, including areas with extensive tsunami damage.

The public should therefore not worry about long-term effects natural disasters may have on real estate values, as any effect would likely only be in the short term, AREA analysts concluded.

In brief... New Patong condo taps Thais

ARGUABLY the two busiest property markets on the island are Inland-focused domestic developments and lower-price Patong condominiums.

In the latter, an emerging trend are larger number of Thai buyers flocking in to attractive pricing points. An example is the new art@Patong near to Jungceylon.

With sizes ranging from 27 square meter studios up to 107sqm three bedroom units, pricing starts at only 2.26 million baht.

A launch special also includes a free iPad for each purchase.

Twinpalms to launch 'Flame' soon

ONE OF the island's most popular hospitality innovators Twinpalms is set to open the garden rotisserie outlet, Flame, this June.

Located next to the popular Bake, near the entrance to Laguna in Surin, the new outlet will offer wood-fired pizza, roast chicken, pork and beef dishes, and a wide variety of kebabs.

Open from 10am to 10pm daily, home delivery and take-away are also on offer. Leave it to Olivier Gibuad to breathe some fresh air into Phuket's food scene.

- Bill Barnett

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Waking up to Bali

THE FAMILIAR FOE: Bali and Phuket still jostle for superiority in terms of tourism, development and property because both bear striking similarities in the markets they attract.

WAKING up on a dark rainy day in Phuket to a badly timed alarm clock could easily be compared to receiving the jolt delivered through defibrillator paddles.

The fog lifted, only to be followed by a wave of boozier remorse over why I thought I needed those four extra drinks for the road the night before and why I didn't simply take a sleeping pill when the sun went down.

I headed to the airport in the pitch black before dawn, on my way to catch an insanely scheduled AirAsia direct flight to the isle of sleep – Bali.

All looked good until I arrived at the terminal at precisely the same time as four "Transformer"-sized tour buses carrying herds of package tourists heading home on their charter flights.

The resulting carnage, limbs ripped from torsos and kicks to the head to slow-moving elderly women and children is far too horrific to recount here. Let's just

say I managed to run the gauntlet and find my way to the airplane minutes before takeoff.

My mission differed from those other passengers reclining their seats to pin down those seated behind them in what wrestlers call the "cobra grip of death". Mine was a mission of market research into the parallel universe of property in Asia's other great resort destination.

Filled with purpose and a slight buzz from four cups of very bad Nescafe 3-in-1 (aka sugar and some other substance resembling low-grade crank), I hit the immigration and visa-on-arrival lines itching to go.

Surprisingly, the dialogue with government officials was pleasant. There were multiple exchanges of polite hellos and thank yous and even an unexpected, "Welcome to Bali." This was unlike in Phuket, where I am so used to having my passport thrown at me with a grunt and



the turn of a head signaling that I must depart the line immediately.

After clearing entry, I made my way throughout the upscale tourist areas of Ubud, Nusa Dua, Legian/Seminyak, Jimbaran and Bukid, where construction was everywhere, propelled forward at fever pitch.

Branded-hospitality offerings screamed out at me, from the W, Banyan Tree, St Regis, Bvlgari, Anantara, Pan Pacific, Ramada, Alila, Karma, Outrigger all the way down the line to Citadines and more mid-scale condotels (hate that word, but it works) than I can count on all my fingers and toes.

It is interesting to note that Bali investment has experienced a large influx from Jakarta after the financial crises and riots in the capital in the late 1990s. Wealthy industrialists and high-net worth individuals considered the island to be a safe port in the volatile storm of political unrest.

While the 2002 and 2005 bombings each took a serious toll on tourism, room rate growth over the past few years has been one of the regional key success stories. Despite the surge, the ever-present security posts and guard dogs at hotel entrances somehow has not derailed visitors from the West.

More and more luxury hotels continue to enter the pipeline with Westin, Sheraton, Ritz-Carlton and a score of others typify a market on steroids.



The W is a fine example of luxury hospitality on offer in Bali.

There are familiar problems, though: an ailing transportation infrastructure, garbage disposal issues and a growing divide between the haves and have-nots, the latter mostly living in parts of the island that are not highly developed.

Add into this a controversial legislation over buildings located within a five-kilometer radius of the Uluwatu Temple. This zone has hotel and residential projects mired in uncertainty.

There are also restrictions on having buildings set back generally 100 meters from the high tide mark, but the island now experiencing a growing number of cliffside estates and hospitality developments.

And, yes, factor in the struggle over building controls by the island's seven regencies (similar to districts) versus sought-after centralized control by the island's governor. It's potent, topical and

sounds oh-so-Phuket.

One key trait of the Bali real estate market that's missing in Phuket, though, is the large presence of domestic buyers from the capital who are not only looking for investment but are also end-users in hotel-branded properties.

Despite the airfare between the nation's capital and Bali being similar to Bangkok to Phuket, families still come en masse versus shorter-haul destinations on their home island of Java.

While Bali's international airport upgrade project is similar to that underway in Phuket, the project is being fast-tracked to cope with increased passenger traffic. Rumors of a second airport in the northern part of the island remain just that – rumors.

Talking to agents, viewing projects and visiting hotels highlighted that activity on all fronts is vibrant and optimism is keen. Sales take-up rates for property are currently substantially higher than in Phuket due to a more balanced market mix.

As I sit in what is my favorite new haunt in Southeast Asia, the Poole Associates and AB Concept interior designed W Seminyak, it's hard not to be cast under the spell of the island's allure of life on the fringe of the ring of fire. It is certainly something to wake up to.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net



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Rawai fishermen up in arms over title deeds

PRIME real estate locations are being targeted and inhabitants may soon face eviction because they lack title deeds.

Strict National Reform Committee regulations are being enforced which allow for the reclamation of property that is owned but not officially certified by ownership documents.

Imposing these regulations have forced many people off the land they have been living on for generations. A group of seven landowners in Rawai are concerned their properties are now a focus because they have land in areas that is becoming increasingly valuable.

At a recent seminar, the group said they would soon become tenants on land which their families have lived for more than 200 years, and may be forced to pay people who possess the actual title deeds.

Phanuphong Pramongkij, a fisherman, said a group of people had approached him recently and claimed the rights to his land, demanding that he pay monthly rent or face an eviction lawsuit.

He said those "landlords" also demanded that he sign a lease in addition to paying rent.



RAWAI ROW: Local fishermen in Rawai claim they have received threats of eviction from unnamed groups of 'landlords'. Photo: Apinun Saithong

"All I know is that it will never be possible for them to own the land on which I have lived since birth. It is possibly because the land that we live on is an ideal plot to build a resort."

Phanuphong and his six neighbors are now fighting eviction suits, using pro bono lawyers.

"We rely on vintage and family photos proving [our families] acquisition of the land before title deeds or land ownership documents were issued," he said.

He added that fishermen or villagers living on tourist islands, and

whom had acquired their land under similar conditions, were facing the same problem.

"They have become prisoners on their own land. Those locations are Ban Tukkae in Phuket, on Phi Phi Islands, and on Koh Lipe. Many of them cannot make small catches of fish in coastal areas now designated as government property, or raise chickens or grow vegetables in areas proclaimed as the property of those landlords," he said.

"Of those catching fish or harvesting clams, about 20 to my knowledge, have been arrested and

charged with encroaching on state property without permission. Many of them who could not pay bail for temporary release during trial have been detained," he added.

In Patong, a number of people whose homes were swept away by the tsunami in 2004 built makeshift shelters near the beach, only to have the land later designated as government property.

Anurak Rakbanjong, one of the tsunami victims, said he believed it was because the area was a prime location looking out along the beach, which later prompted a local politician to designate it as government property.

Anurak now pays 1,000 baht daily for the privilege of not having to move away, while also having to fight an eviction lawsuit.

"I refuse to leave, I have no place to go. If they want me to leave, they must find me a place," he said.

Quoting his lawyer, Anurak said the local authorities were permitted under certain conditions to designate any area as state property.

"It was done to lease the land for profit making purposes, in favor of some businesspeople."

- *The Nation*

Savills and CBRE look to Europe

TWO LEADING internationally affiliated real estate brokerage firms in Thailand have started promoting properties based in the United Kingdom and Europe.

This is perhaps as a sign of the times, with foreign demand taking a sustained breather over the past two years.

Savills strategy looks to wealthy Thai and even expat residents searching for opportunities in the UK.

A UK properties showcase is prominently promoted on Savills' website offering a variety of entry points.

CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) Thailand recently inked a deal with a European company, Horizon Investment Management, targeting scalable institutional and high net-worth investor opportunities on the continent.

Perhaps the best adage to use is "fish where the fish are", and currently a strong Thai economy and rattled nerves over last year's civil unrest has seen significant levels of capital flight out of the country.

- *Bill Barnett*



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Only the brave grow the stinky sator bean

THERE'S is a bit of a southern Thai obsession with certain edible plants. Of these, the most remarkable is arguably the *sator*, or stinky bean.

Open markets quickly run out of this delicacy, despite its relatively high price. But although bunches of the pods hang invitingly from trees all around the island, it's more than one's life is worth to try and steal them.

The other day, a sidecar driver was observed going along Chao Fa Road. Both he and his motorbike with sidecar were clad from head



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

to foot in clumps of *sator*; they looked as though they were riding, camouflaged, into battle. You couldn't see the bike for the beans.

So what are these *sator*? They resemble enormous, flat, bean pods, up to 18 inches long, with a waxy, green skin, through which the round bumps of the beans within are clearly visible. Taken out,

they look like large broad beans.

The pendant clusters of six or eight pods dangle from huge, fast-growing forest trees, which, in common with most food-bearing trees, are now being cultivated commercially. But their jungle origins remain very clear.

There are basically two varieties of *parkia javanica*. *Sator khow* is rounder, nuttier in flavor, and with somewhat twisted pods. It is more sought after than *sator dahn* which has straighter pods.

The flavor of both is, well, intense. *Dahn* is so pungent that it is often pickled before being eaten. The taste is much more pervasive before cooking, but adds its characteristic bitter and penetrating flavor to a number of southern Thai dishes.

But beware! Feasting on the beans will assuredly give you bad breath and worse, something hardly surprising considering their smell has been likened to that of methane gas.

I risk indelicacy by saying that ingesting them will give rise to flatulence and strong smelling urine, so don't eat them before going to a bar.

And although they are rich in vitamin A, phosphates and calcium, *sator* beans are also exceptionally high in purines – the main cause of gout.

The good news for gardeners is that you can grow *sator* from ripened seeds soaked in warm water. And better still, you can now buy cultivars that will produce beans in three or four years. There

is also the bonus of attractive yellow flowers, borne on globular heads.

If you want rapid shade or privacy, the *sator* is your tree.

But even with the smaller hybrids, you will still need a good-sized garden. You may also have to hire a guard during the growing season.

The only other equally malodorous product of Thailand's trees is the durian, which is famously banned from hotels and aircraft on account of its smell. And ironically, it shares with the *sator* the accolade of being the

most sought after of all Thai fruits.

Another majestic tropical specimen, also a member of the legume family with bean-like pods, is the tamarind. It can often be seen in open-air bars and restaurants around the island, where it is frequently used as a shade tree.

Originally from Africa, it has been a presence in Thai rainforests for many centuries. Nowadays it is widely cultivated in plantations.

The ferny, bright green leaves are attractive, but the tamarind is grown for its roundish brown pods which contain large seeds coated in a sticky layer of sweet-sour flesh.

Used in chutneys, curries, drinks and sometimes candied to make sweets, this acidulous pulp adds a distinctive tang to many dishes in south Thailand.

Why not grow your own tree? It will fruit in as little as three years. Then you can cook your own prawns in tamarind sauce. Delicious, and a true taste of Thailand.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured on this page, please email: pcampbell45@gmail.com

Tip of the week

Snipping away the unwanted

PRUNING is useful for removing diseased wood, but also has a number of other practical functions.

Employed properly, it can improve the natural shape of shrubs. This is best achieved by thinning, which may require removing spindly growth or by cutting off rogue branches or offshoots that do not fit the plant's preferred shape.

Pruning new growth that threatens to become too leggy will stimulate the lower lateral shoots by inhibiting the production of a hormone called auxin.

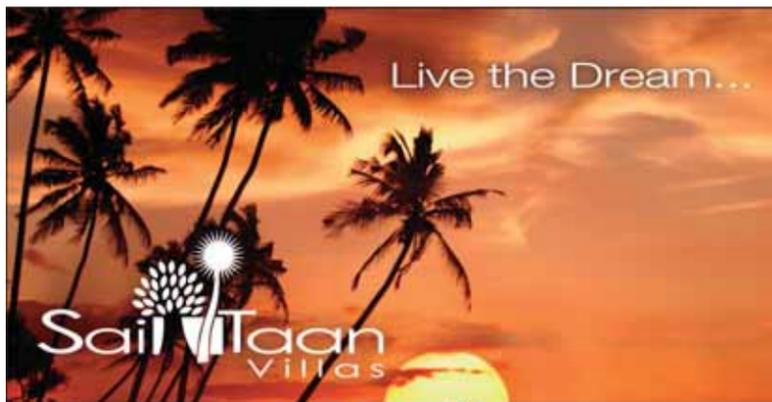
Removing low growth which is often unsightly, will help smaller plants in the vicinity get more space and sun.



Use secateurs when pruning.

In the case of a shrub such as the rose, pruning less robust branches may lead to fewer flowers, but it will almost certainly improve the quality of the blooms that do appear.

As for shearing, trimming and topiary, watch this space...



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Properties For Sale

SAI YUAN BUILDING



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5.5 MILLION BAHT HOUSE



3 bedrooms-plus in Rawai. 200sqm. With aircons, 3 bathrooms, and own water system. Within easy walking distance to shops and beach. Tel: 081-270 6310.

PENTHOUSE 7 MILLION BAHT

Two entire floors in a very private setting with the best view in Patong. Great location. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 084-848 4876.

BEACHFRONT CONDO
2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 9.7 million baht. Also available for rent. Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos please email jihshand@gmail.com

STUNNING SEAVIEW
Overlooking Patong Bay. Townhouse with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, and lock-up garage. Asking for 8.8 million baht. Tel: 076-341618, 086-691 9657.

LAND AT PA KHLOK
1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11km from Heroines Monument, near Mission Hill. Price: 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-4729118.

LAND IN THALANG

2 rai, 3 ngan or 4,400sqm or just under one acre of land for sale by owner. The plot, ideal for development or as an investment, is 10 mins from Layan Beach and 20 mins from Laguna Beach. Price: 16 million baht, negotiable. A smaller plot can also be sold. Please call 085-909 1584. Email: hisurfspirit@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE



Panoramic mountain views, overlooking Laguna project. Size: 4.921 rai. Price: 7.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-729 2989.

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

GREAT LIVING HOME



Single house for sale or rent located at Phanason 3 (Thalang). Land area 63.3 sq wah, 3 bed, 2 bath, large living area, furnished, ADSL, tel, landscaped garden and 24hr security. Sale price: 2.85 million baht. For more info, call Phing. Tel: 087-278 0067. Email: sweetpinkylive@live.co.uk

CONDO QUICK SALE

Price: 3 million baht (negotiable). Fully furnished + pool. Contact Khun Peter. Tel: 084-852 0338.

PENTHOUSE FOR SALE, KAMALA

3-bedroom penthouse in Kamala with private plunge pool and sauna. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.kingdomrealities.com

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30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: peecho74@hotmail.com

2 RAI OF LAND NEAR LAGUNA



Just over 2 rai of land for sale near Laguna/Tinlay Place. Ready to build. Peaceful area but good choice of bars, restaurants and golf nearby. Direct sale from owner. Price: Around 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-278 1393 (English), 081-968 3707. Email: rawai2004@yahoo.co.uk

LOFT SEAVIEW VILLA



2 bedrooms beachfront, panoramic view. All facilities, including fitness clubhouse. Price: 37 million baht. Tel: 084-837 4429. www.chokechaiproperty.com

LOVELY HOUSE



At Manik. The Valley project 2.2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 085-095 0599.

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

180 DEGREE OCEAN VIEWS

Big 155sqm, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment with private roof terrace, 5 minutes from Nai Ham Beach. It is fully furnished with a pool. Price: 3.7 million baht. Email for more information. Tel: 087-897 4421, 359-897 4421. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

LAND NEAR NAI THON BEACH

3.04 rai, chanote title, on the way to Nai Thon. 7.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-871 7130 (English & Thai). Email: chattaporn.t@gmail.com

SEAVIEW VILLA FOR SALE

Seaview Villa in Rawai with IT company for sale. Tel: 082-812 2018 (English). Email: david@phuketutopia.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-muay-thai.com/fisherman/fishermanway

VILLA WITH ROOM RENTALS

Thai style villa including three one bedroom rentals and pool. Good rental return. European quality. Only 13.9 million baht. Tel: 084-838 7801 (English). Email: kjartan.haraldsen@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE AT KAMALA



Near Phuket FantaSea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with kitchen. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 1041.

LAND FOR SALE



In Cherng Talay. 15rai. Price: 10 million baht per rai. Contact K. Sunit. Tel: 081-787 9021.

HOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

In Kathu. Western quality, with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Fully furnished. Price/rent negotiable. Tel: 089-588 5692.

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for sale in Chuan Chuen Lagoon Koh Kaew. Very close to British school. Fully furnished, with 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, 2 living areas. Includes washing machine. 65sq wah. Price: 3.95 million baht. Contact Scott. Tel: 081-866 8716.

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Looking for a walled house for rent, near Kata Beach. For 1 year. Not more than 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-282 9280.

HOUSE IN RAWAI / NAI HARN
Looking for a house/villa in this area on plot of 400+ sqm, ideally 600. Paying up to 7.5 million baht. If it needs renovation, that is okay, depending on size and location. Needs to be close to a concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

Accommodation Available

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG
Fully furnished with swimming pool and daily maid service. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.nanaivilla.com

HOUSE WITH POOL ONLY 13,000
New, fully furnished with aircon, free cable TV & WiFi. Ready to move in now. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

LARGE BEAUTIFUL APARTMENTS
Large beautiful apartments for 3-4 people, available for short and long term rentals with low prices. Tel: 076-342800, 081-810 4900 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-342800 or email to: lucianofash@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.evergreenlodge.com

PATONG TOWNHOUSE
Nanai Road soi 9 hillside. 2 bedrooms fully furnished with WiFi and cable TV. Price: 20,000 baht/month long term. Tel: 081-270 5374 (English & Thai). Email: alex@alexmalcolm.com

SHARE RENTAL 2-STOREY HOUSE
Very secure home, pool, covered parking, all utilities included 10,000 baht monthly. Email: barglen@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT
6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, swimming pool, mountain view. Low season: 80,000 baht per month. 1 year contract: 100,000 per month. Tel: 087-078 6379.

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG
Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 600-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

LOFT STYLE KATHU
Large, secure, quiet and central. Price: 12,000 baht/month, long term only. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

RAWAI HOUSE
Two floors, two bedrooms, one aircon. Good condition in a friendly area. 9,000 baht per month. Must see. Tel: 089-592 8905 (English & Thai). Email: wbramley2000@yahoo.co.uk

CONDO FOR SALE/ RENT RAWAI
Very good price for low season long-term lease. Quiet and clean. Tel: 080-078 0931 (English), 086-112 1477 (Thai). Email: rawaireservation@yahoo.com

NANAI PATONG APARTMENTS
Nanai 2 and Nanai 9. Two-bed townhouse, 20,000 baht per month. One-bed apartment, 12,000 baht per month. Fully furnished, WiFi, TV. Tel: 081-270 5374. Email: orcella@orcella.com

POOL HOUSE NAI HARN
Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon units, furniture, TV and parking space. April - November low season price: 20,000 baht per month, including the garden, pool and internet. Please contact Frank for more information. You can also phone the home number abroad: 0049 7119141325. Tel: 085-478 8010 (English). Email: c9000@gmx.de

PATONG CONDO
Fully furnished - 700 meters from Patong Beach. Email: wintin2007@yahoo.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARGE POOL
in Land & Houses Park available for long or short-term resident, or for daily holiday rental. Email: william.amonoo@gmail.com

APARTMENT PATONG
140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus storage room. Spacious living/ dining area with full western kitchen and large balcony. Full aircon. Includes free WiFi. UBC ready. Tel: 084-185 8536.

HOUSE NEAR CHALONG
Fully furnished house with 2-bed, 2 bath. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: cjtisomboon@hotmail.com

KARON CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT
2 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking Karon Beach. Short or long term. Condo also for sale. Reasonable rent to mature persons. Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

FREEDOM APARTMENT
Small kitchen, fridge, cooker, fully furnished, aircon, high-speed internet, cable TV, bathroom with hot and cold water. 400 baht per day. Tel: 084-845 0541.

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG
Room for rent with swimming pool. Daily and monthly. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details please visit our website: www.nanaivilla.com

HOUSE NEAR CHALONG
Fully furnished house with 2-bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Email: cjtisomboon@hotmail.com

1 OR 2 BEDROOM HOUSE / APARTMENT
Looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom house or apartment. Need the following: Internet, aircon, kitchen. Long-term rental. Price about 15,000 baht a month. Email: khun.ab@hotmail.com

PATONG SEAVIEW
With kitchen and DVD/cable. Rent: 800 baht per day, or 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-532 7708.

ROOMS IN KATHU: 6,000 BAHT
Large modern rooms with their own bathroom, satellite TV and Internet connection. At a great location with mountain views, near Loch Palm Golf Club. Email: cssmyth@hotmail.com

Accommodation Wanted

PATONG 2-MONTH RENTAL
I am looking for a 1 bedroom apartment, villa or condo in Patong for the months of August and September 2011. This is Low Season so we are looking for the best price. Email: dianz_p@hotmail.com

WANTED: HOUSE WITH GARDEN
Looking for a dog-friendly house with good size garden. Looking in Rawai, Nai Harn or Chalong area. Between 20,000 to 40,000 baht per month, depending on size and quality. Please reply with location, pictures and prices. Email: thaorientalinn@hotmail.com

2 BED HOUSE NEAR PATONG
2 bed house with an enclosed garden for 6 weeks from May 26 - June 26. Within a half-hour walk of Patong, preferably in a quiet area for under 8,000 baht. Must allow pets. Email: laurataylor83@hotmail.com

ACCOMMODATION IN PATONG
I am looking for either a 1 bedroom apartment, villa or condo in Patong for the months of August and September 2011. This is low season so we are looking for the best price. Email: dianz_p@hotmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL
3-bedroom villa located on the southern headland of Kata Beach. Built up area, 3400 sqft, with spectacular Andaman sea views. 6x15 meter infinity pool situated on the edge of rocks overlooking sea. The villa is surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings and is very private. Thai, Japanese, & Balinese design influences. Excellent Thai cook provided. Tel: +65-09621 0254. (English). Email: seavest@signet.com.sg www.housephuket.com

RENOVATIONS, REFURBISHMENTS
Renovations, refurbishments, painting, repairs and maintenance. High quality services for a reasonable price. English, Swedish and Thai speaking personnel. Welcome to contact us for a quote. Tel: 083-394 8337, 080-141 4577 (Eng & Thai). Email: mattias@zionpropery.com

Building Products & Services

PROBLEM WITH BUILDING
We can help you with alterations and renovations, including carpentry and building, maintenance and any other problems. We can also provide stainless-steel gates, etc. Tel: 087-896 2431 (English&Thai). Email: lasonth@gmail.com

Household Items

NEW COFFEE TABLES AND LAMPS
New boxed and never used lamps and coffee tables. Lamps are 3,000 baht and coffee tables are 3,000 baht. If bought together it will cost 5,000 baht. We have lots. Call with offers. Tel: 087-881 8075 (English&Thai). Email: harrison@windowslive.com

DINING TABLE
Good quality dining table with 4 chairs and 2 carvers. 16,000 baht o.v.n.o. Tel: 088-168 8145, 089-197 7438. Email: olay1@yahoo.com

AQUARIUM
800 Liter, 25x30x72 inches, 1/2 inch glass. Comes with stand, filter, water pump, air pump, etc. Cost 20,000 baht but will go for 7,000. Tel: 086-266 3710. Email: leif@butterfly-it-service.com

IT ALL MUST GO - MOVING SALE!
Open house sale in Nai Harn - everything must go on 2-3 April from 10am to 7pm! Furniture, appliances... even a motorbike and car. For more info. Email: fishytravel@gmail.com For prices, details, photos and directions, please see the following webpage: http://pyim.free.fr/home/sale.htm

TWO-DOOR REFRIGERATOR
Samsung RT22 two-door refrigerator with real freezer. Has air filtration system and separate controls for each section. 6,000 baht. Tel: 089-896 5609. Email: elliot@saenyim.com

Household Services

DWF HOME SERVICES
Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc. Contact: K. Noi. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF_homeservices@hotmail.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

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- ▶ **Sea Ray Sunsport 290SS (2006)**
 - 2 x Mercruiser 350MAG MPI engines with Bravo III stern drives
 - Fresh water cooling for engines
 - Corsa thru-hull exhausts
 - Mercruiser SmartCraft system
 - Trim tabs
 - Air-conditioning

3,500,000 THB

- ▶ **Roberts 37 CC (1982)** \$69,000 USD
- ▶ **Voyage 500 Cat (2005)** \$850,000 USD
- ▶ **Versilcraft 108 (1998)** \$3,400,000 USD
- ▶ **Jeanneau Leader 545 (2006)** 850,000 THB

leemarine.com

- Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Contact: Martin Holmes. Tel: 076 238 803. Fax: 076 273 319. Email: info@leemarine.com
- Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman. Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437. Tel/Fax: 076 239 729. Email: andrew@leemarine.com
- Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket. Contact: Jim Poulsen. Mobile: 081 891 3237. Tel/Fax: 076 206 260. Email: jim@leemarine.com
- Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach. Contact: Mark Heath. Mobile: 081 787 9408. Tel: 038 235 061. Fax: 038 235 062. Email: mark@leemarine.com

URGENT: BOAT FOR SALE



American speedboat. Year: 2005. Donzi-38-ZSF (Florida-Miami), 3 Verado 275CV. Slightly used. Maximum speed: 50 knots. Full options. TUNA power. Better than the original, lots of improvement made by owner. Ready to navigate. Available at Ao Po Grand Marina, berth no. S13. Free tackles. Original price on arrival in Phuket: more than US\$ 400,000. Special price now: \$ 198,000 or 5.99 million baht. Sold directly by owner. Call Alain. Tel: 089-970 2121 (French, English & Thai). Email: mrdpoupy@yahoo.fr

CHALAMARK DINGHY



40Hp and 5Hp engines. Can carry 8 persons. Like new. Price: 230,000 baht. Tel: 089-658 5664.

LIVEABOARD

Liveaboard 6x20 meter. 8 private cabins. Renovated October 2010. Price: 2.8 million baht. Email: info@aidcdive.com. Please see our website at: www.aidcdive.com

ANGLER 2,600 CC SPORTFISHING

Nice 26ft American sport fishing boat 2x225 4-stroke outboards. Tel: 085-691 1837 (English). Email: mangeolsson@hotmail.com

3 BOATS FOR SALE



- 24ft sailboat. Cal 24,8Hp Yamaha autohelm. New roller. Tasker sail solar panel include dinghy. Price: 220,000 baht.
- 5m Chalamark hypocoin dinghy. 15Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 100,000 baht.
- 25ft sailboat. Lifting keel. 10Hp Mercury engine. New rigging on sails. Price: 140,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-277 2355.

MANY JETSKIS FOR SALE



Many jetskis for sale from a specialist, with over 10 years experience. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com. For further details, please see our website: www.mfjetski.com

SARINA BOAT YARD

New boat parking place. Khun Ped. Tel: 086-940 3927. Website: www.sarinaboatphuket.com

46FT OFFSHORE CRUISER-RACER

For sale. For more information, please contact K. Gerrit. Tel: 081-842 3961, 087-276 7997. Email: gj.bijlsma@gmail.com. Website at: www.phuketbutler.com/node/1544

NEW BAYLINER 255 CRUISER

2011 Bayliner Cruiser for sale from an authorized dealer. Only one unit. Price only 3.9 million baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com. For further details, please see our website: www.mfjetski.com

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

15.8m long. 165Hp engine. Hino 12+2 persons. Price: 1.6 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 085-477 9535.

MUST SALE: BAYLINER SPEEDBOAT



18.5ft, 130Hp, in/out board. New price: 1.1 million baht. Now: 595,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

16M KETCH SAILING YACHT

Cutter Ketch rigged, center cockpit, fully equipped VanderStad sailing yacht for sale. Tel: 081-842 3961, 087-276 7997. Email: gj.bijlsma@gmail.com. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketbutler.com/node/1238

YAMAHA JET SKI

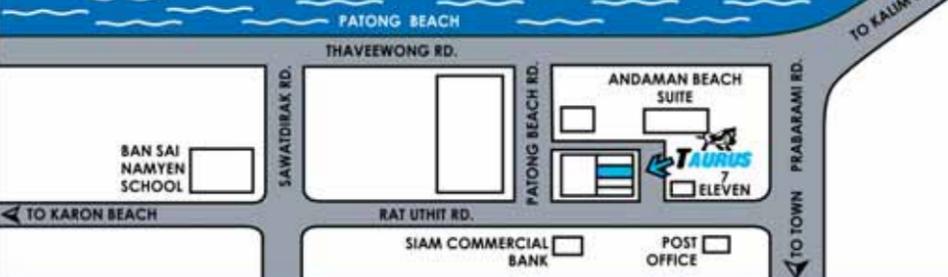
Cruiser VX. Safe and new, with only 14 months of use. Has warranty. In excellent condition: only owner has used it. 90 hours reels. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 089-819 9650. Email: pierrekofjer@yahoo.fr

VAN DE STADT 38' YACHT

Ashore at Langkawi Port, due for inspection in March. Photos and spec on request. Price: US\$ 45,000. Tel: +60-125-531 4030 (English). Email: brianralph.goodwin@yahoo.com

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. Icarus
2. The Hague
3. Banquo
4. Chlorophyll
5. Rodham
6. Walt Disney
7. Rhetorical
8. Aristotle Onassis
9. Mezzo
10. Nine ladies dancing
11. Nine million
12. Socrates
13. Jefferson Davis
14. Copernicus

ablearchitects

We are looking for candidates to fill the positions in the following area;

Position	Quantity
• Architects	2
• Civil Engineer	1
• Mechanical Engineer	1
• Electrical Engineer	1
• Secretary	1
• Admin	1

Workplace: Phuket

Salary: Depending on qualification skills

Scope of responsibility: Everything related to the profession

Qualification:

- Male/Female, work experience 0-5 years
- Good working knowledge of basic software (Microsoft Office)
- Initiative and creative personality with high motivation and responsibility
- Able to meet strict deadlines and manage multiple tasks
- Able to work under heavy pressure conditions and work as a team
- Preferably long term collaboration
- Good command off English, written & conversational is advantageous

Application:

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume (English only) including portfolio, expected salary and conditions to following e-mail address: hr@ablearchitects.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

PHP PROGRAMMER

Wanted for full-time position in Chalong. Good salary. Tel: 084-628 2629. Send resume to gianni@ictned.eu

ADMIN CHERNG TALAY

Young Thai female, good English. Must be able to do withhold fax forms & use Microsoft Office. 3-month trial period. Salary 12,500 baht per month. Send CV & pic by email. Email: patsypalm@hotmail.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12 children, 3-7 years old. Located in Chalong. Work hours: Mon-Fri (8am-4pm). Start immediate. Tel: 080-624 7060. Please send email to: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

ADMIN STAFF WANTED

Admin staff required by real estate agent in the Laguna area. Must be Thai national, female and have some experience in admin and accounts. Must also live locally. Good salary and immediate start. Tel: 076-271315, 081-895 6267 (English). Email: info@phuket-landandhomes.com

SALE EXECUTIVE NEEDED

Sale Executive needed urgently in Phuket Town. Qualifications: Aged between 25-45 years, male or female. Good command of English in writing and speaking skills. Minimum 2 years of experience as sales officer, any construction experience will be considered favorably. Salary: 8,500-12,000 baht not including commission. Email: phuketimperial@yahoo.com www.phuket-stainless-service.com

HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We are seeking qualified, dedicated and caring teachers to fill the following positions by August 1: Foundation, Primary, PE, English, ICT, Business Studies, French and Thai. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612877. Email: school@headstartphuket.com

MAID WANTED

For cleaning the house, inside and out and doing the laundry. Some English is a must. Three days a week, four hours a day. Please send an email, or phone Mr Beat. Tel: 081-085 5765 (English). Email: beat19@loxinfo.co.th

HOTEL POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Engineer

Salary 9,000 to 10,000 baht per month plus service charge. Working hours from 8am to 8pm - Work 5 days with 2 days off - Must be skilled in electrical, plumbing systems & wood work - Position available now. Must be a Thai national, fluent in English.

- Bartender/Receptionist

Salary 8,000 to 9,000 baht per month plus service charge & commission. Must have front desk experience - Shifts alter from morning, afternoon and evening. Must have knowledge in making drinks & bar beverages, and be friendly and outgoing with guests. Must speak and understand English. Position available now.

Tel: 076-333222. Or send email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com

LAGUNA HOLIDAY CLUB

Laguna Holiday Club, the fastest-growing Vacation Club in Asia, is urgently seeking:

Sales Representatives & EP Booker

English, Russian, Chinese (Cantonese and/or Mandarin), Arabic, and other multi-language speakers

Salary, benefits, generous commissions, and easy hours

Call... 076-362400 Ext.4405

career@lagunaholidayclub.com

ADMIN + LITTLE ACCOUNTS

Young Thai female, good at English. Must be able to withhold fax forms and use micro-soft office. Three months trial period. Salary 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-271315, 081-895 6267. Fax: 076-271316. Send a CV and picture to Email: joinourcompany@gmail.com

DETOX WELLNESS MANAGER

Seeked by Samui detox resort. Tel: 088-491 1462 (English). Please send CV via email: fasthealing@yahoo.com

50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

For low season we need English-speaking marketing personal. Work permit and visas are provided. Tel: 081-607 3434. Email for more info: marcjunker_69@hotmail.com

YACHT SALES EXECUTIVE

Requirements: Experience as luxury motoryacht sales executive of over 3 years, fluent in English, and any other languages, excellent computer and communication skills, knowledge about luxury motoryachts, engineerings, maintenance, etc. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

PA/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Requirements: Experience as an executive assistant/secretary of over 4 years, fluent in English, native Thai, excellent computer skills, must be efficient, organised, and independent. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Requirements: Experience as sales & marketing executive of luxury high-end products of over 4 years (ideally in Phuket), fluent in English, and any other languages, excellent computer, communication and social skills, PR & marketing knowledge and skills, knowledge of luxury yachts and islands around Phuket, boating industry and lifestyle would be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

MANAGER GUESTHOUSE PATONG

We need a manager and tour seller. Thai, English speaking with experience. Salary: 15,000 baht + commission. Tel: 089-932 5175. Email: wojkdowbengt@hotmail.com

RUSSIAN SPEAKER WANTED

Food supply company is looking for a Thai national with good Russian language skills to be manager. Tel: 089-054 4176.

STAFF REQUIRED TO MARKET

The Village-Coconut Island. If you have experience promoting tours around quality resorts in either Europe or Asia, please contact us. We are seeking staff that can work well with cold prospects making bookings for sales presentations on Coconut Island. Contact Khun Kurt for further information. Tel: 082-806 5739.

wine connection

Wine Connection Phuket is urgently looking for skilled and talented individuals to join our team.

• SHOP MANAGER 3 Positions

- Male / Female age 25 years old & up
- At least 2 years experience in retail business or related field
- Possess good interpersonal, teamwork, leadership and planning
- Able to communicate in English

We offer good remuneration package.
Interested applicants please send resume to hrrecruitphuket@wineconnection.co.th
Or Call 076 282 411 ext 13 for further information



WEST SANDS VACATION CLUB

Be a part of something fantastic! West Sands Vacation Club is seeking additional outgoing, motivated individuals to join our growing fun-filled family. Fantastic compensation plan with unlimited deal bonuses.

OPC'S 7 Positions

Send resume with recent photo to james@west-sands.com
or call 086-690 6977

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/

A HOTEL AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE

Embark on a truly unique career with the Conrad Koh Samui, the newest luxury hotel to join the Hilton family in Thailand. We're looking for team members who want to express, improve and challenge themselves on every level while delivering an exacting level of service distinguished by genuine hospitality.

Walk-in interviews for these positions will take place at the following locations:

CHIANG MAI

6th & 7th April
dusitD2 Hotel
9:00am - 5:00pm

PHUKET

8th & 9th April
Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa
9:00am - 5:00pm

Now accepting applications for:

Front Office

- Night Manager
- Supervisor
- Butler
- Reception
- Bellman
- Call Centre
- Driver
- Airport Representative

Housekeeping

- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Laundry Manager
- Floor Supervisor
- Florist
- Room Attendant
- Public Area Attendant

Food & Beverage

- Assistant Food & Beverage Manager
- Sommelier
- Outlet Manager
- Outlet Supervisor
- Server

Kitchen

- Sous Chef/Chef De Cuisine
- Chef De Partie
- Baker
- Kitchen Artist
- Butcher
- Commis I, II, III
- Steward

Engineering

- Supervisor
- Technician

Security

- Chief of Security

Spa & Fitness

- Pool Attendant
- Life Guards
- Gym Instructor
- Kids Club Attendant

Sales

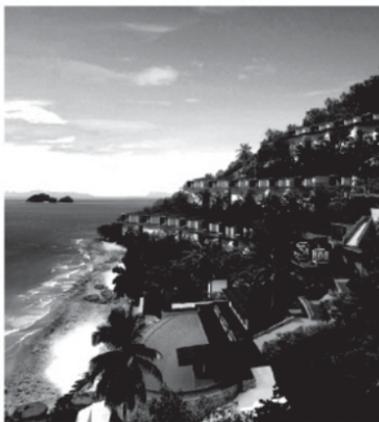
- Sales Manager
- Revenue Manager
- Public Relations Manager
- E-Commerce Manager
- Reservation Manager
- Reservation Agent
- Graphic Designer

Human Resources

- Training Manager
- Hygiene Manager

Finance

- Chief Accountant
- Purchasing Manager
- General Cashier
- Credit Supervisor
- Accounts Receivable Clerk
- Accounts Payable Clerk
- Income Auditor
- Cost Controller
- Store man
- Receiving Clerk



Phuket Gazette

In connection with a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at Nee@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 205 Fax: 076-615240

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

- **Asst. to Head of Refectory [F&B and Kitchen Product]**
 - Male or Female / Thai national / aged 28-42 yrs
 - Bachelor's Degree in a related field
 - 5 years experience in the hotel industry
 - Outstanding personality and service minded
 - Hard working, diligent, enthusiastic, honest person
 - Willing to work as a team, has a positive attitude
 - Has supervisory and leadership skills
 - Ability to communicate in English, computer literacy and good people skills
 - Able to coordinate with other departments
- **Teacher's Assistant**
 - Thai National
 - Bachelor's Degree in a related field
 - Teaching qualifications and experience in child care / teaching preferable
 - Good command of spoken and written English
 - Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
 - Loves to take care of children

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund, etc.

59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076 238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111
Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: patcharakornr@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

THE LUXURY OF BEING YOURSELF

OFFICE SECRETARY

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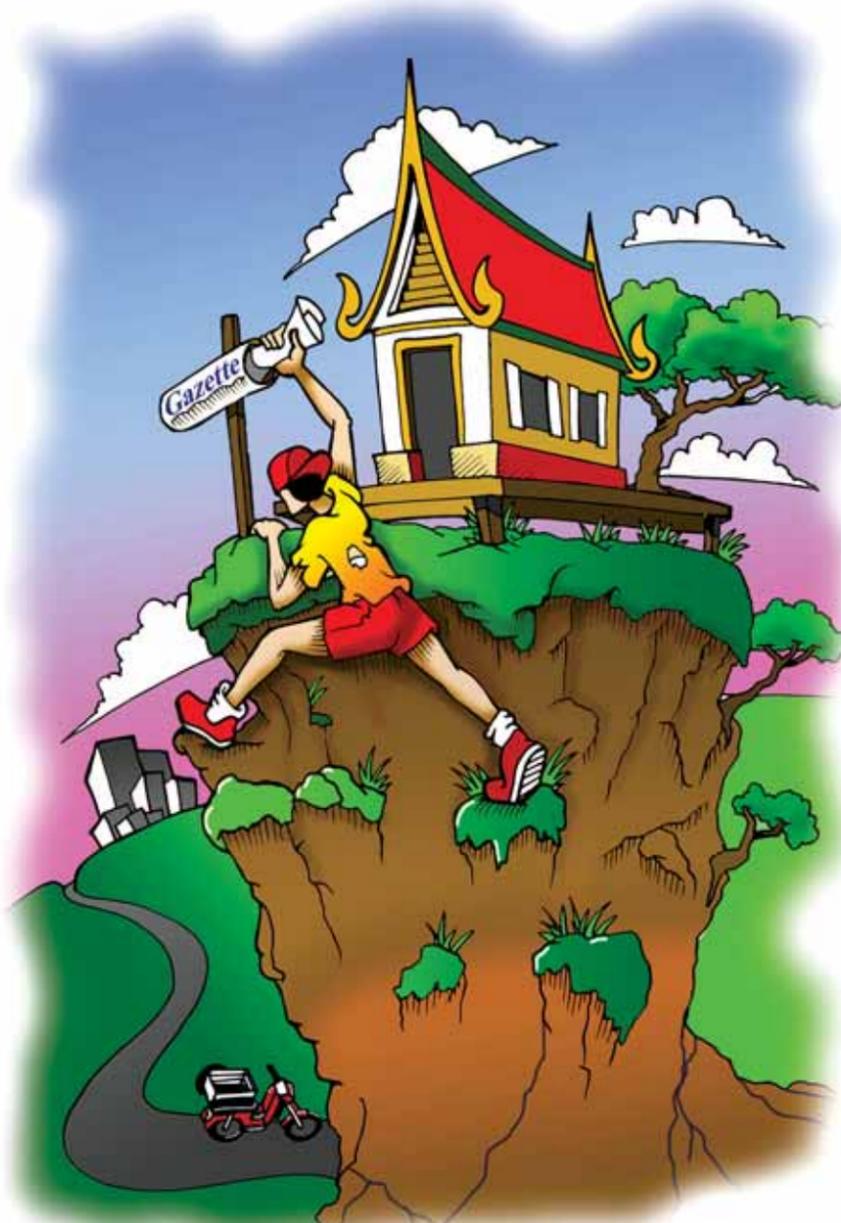
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The Super Squadron

‘We want you! For the future of Phuket sailing’

By Neil Quail

ESTABLISHED in September 2010, the Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron (PYSS) has surpassed all expectations thanks to tireless efforts by its volunteer organizers. The Squadron is now entering a growing number of regattas, and providing incredible sailing opportunities for the youth of Phuket.

Located in Ao Yon and supported by the Phuket Sports Association, the Squadron has its base in one of Phuket's most secure and sheltered bays. This fact was proven recently when inclement weather, which affected nautical traffic around the island, did not upset the PYSS Optimist regatta a fortnight ago.

The Squadron's objectives have been fundamental to their success, and reflect a desire to use sailing as a positive influence for local and underprivileged children. PYSS will soon be registered with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand (YRAT), which will certainly benefit the children and the club's future fortunes.

Sailing provides a wonderful outlet for the children fortunate enough to have PYSS in their vicinity, with numerous volunteers

pooling their experiences to teach youngsters the principles of safety and good-natured competition.

The Squadron is determined to promote and develop the sport on Phuket, something that will certainly benefit Thailand's national sailing scene and maybe even produce future representatives at international levels.

The Squadron's objectives have been fundamental to their success, and reflect a desire to use sailing as a positive influence.

Katy Gooch of PYSS is really pushing the boat out to achieve all these goals. Voicing her ambitions for the club she said:

“We want to see the Squadron grow with more children enjoying sailing and racing and coming into the Optimist

Fleet. As their experience grows, some will continue as coaches for the new team.

“We also need to build a fleet of boats so the sailors who become too old to race the Optimist can continue sailing and develop their skills further. We hope some will become champions and that others will find work in the sailing and yachting industry.”

Katy views the approaching Optimist Nationals as valuable training and a great opportunity for the 10 young sailors to showcase their talents among some 130 boats that will line up for the start.



SQUADDIES: The Squadron provides children with sailing opportunities. Photo: Katy Gooch

As with most sports, the skills acquired through sailing can be easily adapted for life and can help children generate a focus in terms of education and career paths.

“Sailing is a great sport and provides the opportunity to develop independence and self-confidence. It also helps them to realize their hidden talents and conquer their fears and doubts, while having fun and making new friends,” Katy said.

Enthusiastic and inspired describes the children of PYSS, several of whom offered opinions on their sailing experiences and hopes for the future.

Sukanya “Ann” Saimarn, 14, attends Koh Sireh School and has been sailing with the Squadron for two and a half years.

“Sailing at PYSS has helped with my discipline, organization and also helped with my spoken English,” said Ann.

“Sailing is great fun and many skills are involved, as you have to understand the sea and wind. I hope to be a champion and compete for Thailand,” she added.

Teerapong “New” Tohrkatoak, 13, goes to the same school and has been sailing for just over a year.

“Learning to sail has helped me to be patient and calm. It is challenging and I have gained skills from meeting other good sailors. We have younger

children joining the team. I enjoy teaching them new skills,” said New.

However, as with all amateur sports, financial support is the greatest obstacle to the best intentions.

“We need to gain more support from the local community so that we can continue and keep the sailing program going. Naturally there are costs associated with training every weekend, but the main expenditure goes on competing. We have three big competitions coming up that will need support to cover transport, accommodation, food, entry fees, boat transport and charter,” Katy said.

The three competitions referred to are: TOG Optimist Nationals April 29-May 3, Koh Samui Optimist Regatta June 3-5 and the Hua Hin Regatta in August.

The Squadron is open to everyone and all ages, and thrives on an active membership. The club invites interest from individuals who would like to help and support their training program

All financial support is more than welcome and sponsorship packages including corporate, boat, regatta, team and prize options are available.

For more information contact Katy at E:phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com T:085 2159185 or visit W:phuketyouthsailing.org.

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STAR: Legends of Thailand Manager Piyapong Pue-on

Thai stars 'won't make it easy' for Liverpool

By Neil Quail

TWO of Thailand's footballing heroes are gearing up for their toughest match yet: A clash with a team of Liverpool FC's most prolific former players in a bid to lift the Prime Minister's Cup.

The Legends of Thailand versus the Legends of Liverpool second leg match at Surakul Stadium on June 18 is not to be missed. The first leg will be played in Bangkok three days earlier.

Thai Legends Manager Piyapong Pue-on, 52, and Head Coach Kiatisak "Zico" Senamuang, 37, are national icons, having scored 103 and 77 goals respectively for their country.

Piyapong told the *Phuket Gazette*, "This is a great opportunity to help a worthy cause and enjoy a great game of football," he said.

The exhibition match will raise funds for the Phuket Youth Football Home (YFH) based in Thalang, with support from the Thai Government and the Ministry of Defence.

"I come from a generation of

amateur players so there is a different motivation for us. We played with much more spirit than those in the modern game and that is what people will see when we play against Liverpool," he added.

This is not the first time Kiatisak has played against Liverpool.

"We are really looking forward to the game. But we are not teenagers anymore and will have to be more patient. We still have a few tricks up our sleeves though. We certainly will not make it easy for Liverpool," he said.

Also preparing for the clash of legends will be Surachai Jaturapattarapong, Phairoj Puangjan, Tachatawan Sripan, Amnaj Chalermaovalit and Suthin Chaikitti.

Martin Hill, Head Coach with Brazilian Soccer Schools, which organize the YFH Fair Play League here in Phuket, is delighted with the efforts to raise awareness for YFH.

"Brazilian Soccer Schools Phuket are looking forward to the Legends of Liverpool arriving. It's a chance for the Phuket public and boys of YFH to socialize with true legends of the game," Martin said.

Managing the Legends team will be former Liverpool captain and England defender, Phil Thompson. He is well-versed in management of the "Reds" having been caretaker manager during the 2001-2002 Barclays Premiership season when they finished second - their highest placing to date in the competition.

Irrespective of being a Liverpool supporter, the chance to witness one of the sport's most potent strike partnerships in the form of Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman should not be missed. And with John Barnes confirmed to play - goal mouth action should be plentiful.

The ever-flamboyant Bruce Grobbelaar will tend the legends net. It may be worth while taking a seat behind the goals to experience the entertainment he will no doubt give fans.

The Great Dane, Jan Molby will monitor the midfield with English born Irish international Jason Macateer and Czech star Patrik Berger, while Gary Gillespie and Don Hutchison will have the double



LEGEND: Robbie Fowler Photo: AFP

European Cup (now UEFA) winner Alan Kennedy to marshal their defense.

The full interview with Piyapong and Kiatisak will be in a forthcoming edition of the *Gazette*.

For more information on the game visit www.footballlegendstour.com

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