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Candidates prepare for polls – again

PHUKET: As Phuket prepares to go to the polls once more, following the Constitutional Court's May 8 ruling of the controversial April 2 snap election as invalid, mystery surrounds just who will represent the locally powerful Democrat Party on the island.

Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, speaking on behalf of the Democrat Party in Phuket, told the *Gazette*, "It is clear that we will have a new election for MPs throughout the country, and Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva has confirmed that the Democrat Party will run in the next election."

However, K. Anchalee added that, at the time of going to press, the party had yet to decide who would represent the Democrats in Phuket's two electoral districts – or anywhere else in Thailand for that matter. "The party has yet to call a meeting to discuss the candidates, but I believe they will call one soon," she said.

Former MP Chalermklak Kebsup is being rumored to stand again for the Democrats in District 2 in the coming election. However, K. Anchalee said she could neither confirm nor deny this.

Prawat Suwannadithakul, a candidate in the recent Senatorial election, said he thought it unlikely that he would run in District 1, which covers Phuket City.



Thai Rak Thai candidate Wisut Santikul will contest Phuket District 2 in the coming election.

"I haven't decided yet. I have just run in the Senatorial election and I'm still tired from that.

"At the moment I don't think I will run in the MP election because it's not easy and politics is not just a game. There are many rules and I'm not ready for it. For example, I have not been a member of any party for at least 90 days. But even if the Constitution were amended to change this rule, I don't think I would run in this election."

Chaowana Kiatchawana-sevee, a member of the Phuket Provincial Administration Orga-

nization (*OrBorJor*) council, has also been rumored as a possible Democrat Party candidate in District 1. However, at the time of going to press, the *Gazette* was unable to contact K. Chaowana to confirm or deny this.

Representing the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party, Dr Sriyada Palimaphan said she was ready to go to the polls again. "We have to wait for the final decision from the courts. All we know is that there will be another election, but we still don't know when. But for me, as I'm a politician, I'm always ready to represent the people," she said.

Dr Sriyada, who won the Phuket District 1 seat in the April 29 by-election, was denied a chance to become Phuket's first TRT representative by the recent court ruling.

TRT member Wisut Santikul is prepared to run again in District 2, where he ran unopposed in the previous poll but failed to gain the necessary 20% of the vote required to take a seat in parliament.

Speaking from the TRT Phuket branch in Phuket City, he said, "It's up to the TRT Party. If the party chooses me to represent them in District 2, I will run."

Officials crack down on fuel smugglers

By Nattamon Ratcharak

PHUKET: Marine Police and Customs officers are conducting random inspections of ships in the Andaman region while police officers and Department of Energy officials are inspecting gas stations on the island in a crackdown on fuel smuggling into Thailand.

Arthon Keesiri, Director of the Investigation and Suppression Office, Excise Department, Ministry of Finance, announced at a seminar on April 29, "The Excise Department has been working to protect against and eliminate the use of illegal fuel.

"The department will be conducting random checks on fuel distributors and be on the lookout for smugglers," he added.

Natie Tabmanee, Director of the Petroleum Division, Energy Policy and Planning Office, explained, "Most of the illegal fuel [in Thailand] is smuggled in from Singapore by ship," adding that shipments have been intercepted in both the Gulf of Thailand and along the Andaman coast.

"The government must increase measures and its awareness to find and arrest people engaged in these illegal activities," he added.

Sirisak Wittayaudom, an expert in fuel and gas safety from the Department of Energy Business, Ministry of Energy, said that Energy Department officers are using a mobile laboratory to test whether fuel being sold by petrol stations is up to market quality, as smuggled fuel tends to be of an inferior grade.

K. Arthon requested that people with knowledge of any illegal activity relating to fuel sales or taxation should report their concerns to the Excise Department on its hotline at Tel: 1713.

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Collector's Visakha Bucha stamp launched

PHUKET: On May 12, Thailand Post issued a limited-edition, three-baht stamp to commemorate Visakha Bucha Day, the day of the year that the Lord Buddha was born, attained Enlightenment and died.

The stamp shows an image of the enlightened Buddha sitting in the lotus position atop the coiled body of a *naga*, a mythical serpent.

The *naga* has seven heads, one to represent each of the seven days the Lord Buddha meditated under a bodhi tree after reaching enlightenment. Rearing above, these protect him from wind and rain.

The stamp will be 27 millimeters by 45mm, and only one million will be made.

The stamp will be available at all 10 post offices in Phuket.

World music festival for Patong

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Popular entertainer Todd Thongdee and Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura met on May 4 to discuss a festival of world music to be held in Patong from December 26 to 30.

The aim of the event, which will be called Music World, is to bring together musicians from 14 tsunami-affected countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Malaysia, Indonesia and Somalia, to perform live on Patong Beach.

"So far 10 countries have agreed to take part," Todd said. He explained that 7.5 million baht

is needed to make the event possible.

"So far we have secured 3.5 million in sponsorship from Singha beer, AIS and Mitrpol Sugar," he said. He came to Phuket to ask officially for 4 million baht from the Phuket Provincial purse.

Gov Udomsak said that he would give his answer by the end of May.

Todd added, "We want the event to take place in Phuket because it is popular – everyone in the world knows Phuket. This performance will be world-class, and we want to mix Thai cultural ele-

ments with international music to promote Phuket and Thailand to the world.

"Every night a Thai artist will perform, as well as those from other countries. There will be three stages at Patong Beach, so many people will get the chance to perform on stage, including autistic people and others with disabilities," he added.

To ensure the younger generation has the chance to experience music from other cultures, Todd said that artists will also perform at schools and university campuses before the main event begins.



Todd Thongdee: 'It's going to be big.'

Company accountant shot while jogging

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET CITY: Police are scratching their heads after company accountant Somporn Pattanakij, 61, was shot dead by a gunman while jogging with his wife near Suan Luang Park early on May 4. The gunman shot K. Somporn once in the face with an

11mm pistol before jumping on a motorcycle and being driven away by an accomplice.

K. Somporn died at Vachira Phuket Hospital, after being rushed there by Kusoldharm Foundation rescue volunteers.

Pol Lt Col Sanguan Muangtham of Phuket City Police Station said that K. Somporn's wife,

K. Sumalee, told investigators that she and her husband went to Suan Luang together every morning for exercise.

K. Sumalee would speed-walk on ahead, while K. Somporn would jog slowly behind, she said.

Another witness to the killing said that the gunman was apparently waiting for K. Somporn

and called out to him as he jogged past. When K. Somporn stopped, the assassin shot him from about two meters away, then walked over to a motorcycle waiting nearby.

"We don't yet know why the gunman killed him. We have to investigate further," Col Sanguan said.

RAINY SEASON BLOWS IN

PHUKET: The annual southwest monsoon rains have arrived, on May 4 soaking the island and flooding part of Karon.

Chumnong Chitpukdee, Director of the Southern Meteorological Center (West Coast) Phuket, on May 4 correctly predicted heavy rain over the following few days, especially in the afternoons and evening – along with more flooding.

He warned people in exposed or landslide-risk areas to be on the alert, and to listen to forecasts.

"Some areas such as Patong, Kata, and Karon may have to watch out for flooding because there is a lot of construction [in those places] that impedes drainage," he added.

Heavy rain on May 4 caused flooding to a depth of around 50 centimeters in the area around the Nong Harn Circle in Karon, making the area impassable to smaller vehicles.

Tawatthai Tongmang, Chief Officer (*Palad*) of Kata-Karon Municipality, blamed the flooding on insufficient drainage.

"The drains were incapable of channeling the rainwater into the sea, which was also high at the time, and it took us about two hours to clear it all out.

– Janyaporn Morel

THAI to increase ticket prices on Bangkok route

THAILAND: Thai Airways International (THAI) has announced it will increase ticket prices on both domestic and long-haul international flights, while cutting prices on flights to some destinations within Southeast Asia, to reflect the price increases in fuel.

The new prices will come into effect from June 1.

Price adjustments will be calculated based on the distance flown. This means that while ticket prices for domestic and long-haul international flights will increase, fares to destinations within Southeast Asia will be cut.

Tickets for flights on the airline's popular Phuket-Bangkok leg, along with all other THAI flights within Thailand, will increase by 100 baht for a one-way ticket; 200 baht for a return fares.

Price increases on international flights between Bangkok and long-haul destinations in Europe, Australasia and the Ameri-

cas will increase by 600 baht a ticket.

Flights to Seoul or Busan will cost 400 baht more each way, while flights to Taipei will cost 200 baht more. Fares to the Japanese cities of Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, and Fukuoka will rise about 400 baht, while Beijing and Shanghai will cost about 200 baht more.

However, flight prices to Vientiane and Phnom Penh will fall by 600 baht, and prices for flights to or from Singapore will fall by 400 baht. Flights to Malaysia will cost 440 baht less.

Somchainuk Engtrakul, a member of THAI's board of directors, said the adjustments in the fuel surcharge was the result of the increased fuel costs over the past months that have affected all commercial carriers worldwide. He added that the price changes implemented by THAI are in line with measures taken by other major airlines.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

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Mission to raise human torpedoes from WWII

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Chalong-based marine engineer Capt Chris Parton on May 5 asked Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura for permission to salvage two World War II Chariots – sometimes know as “human torpedoes” – from the sea floor off Koh Dok Mai.

The Chariots – torpedoes powered by batteries and converted to carry scuba divers – were used 62 years ago by Britain’s Royal Navy to attack the Italian cargo ships *Sumatra* and *Volpi*, which were anchored in the Phuket Roads.

The divers attached explosives with timers to the ships before sneaking away to the submarine HMS *Trenchant*.

After the charges went off the *Sumatra* sank and the *Volpi*

was so badly crippled that it was abandoned.

After the raid, the Chariots were dumped on the seabed, where they are believed to have remained ever since.

Gov Udomsak told Capt Parton that before trying to raise the Chariots he must produce documentation proving that he has the permission of the British Government, in particular the Ministry of Defence, to salvage the vessels.

Only then would he consider the petition further.

“If there are no problems, I will assign a team to work alongside [Capt Parton],” he added.

The Phuket Gazette first wrote about the human torpedoes in its issue of November 6-12, 2004, entitled “Phuket’s Submerged WWII Secret”.

Nok Air flight to Trang makes a forced landing in Phuket

PHUKET (*Kom Chad Luek*): Low-cost carrier Nok Air’s daily flight from Bangkok to Trang was forced to land at Phuket International Airport (PIA) on May 6, after one of the engines on the Boeing 737 aircraft began to malfunction.

Among the 148 passengers aboard flight DD251 when it made its unscheduled landing at 11:20 am were former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, popular Grammy Entertainment recording artist Nat Meria and well-known comedian Note Chernyim.

Sihaphan Chumsai Na Ayudhaya, Nok Air’s Vice-President for Marketing, described the

malfunction as a slight technical problem and said the airline was only following strict safety procedures by landing in Phuket.

Unlike at Trang Airport, Phuket International Airport also has a repair and maintenance center that could service the aircraft, he added.

Most of the passengers completed the journey to Trang aboard two air-conditioned buses provided by the carrier. Those who did not had their air tickets fully refunded. The scheduled return flight DD252 from Trang to Bangkok, scheduled for departure at 11:20, was also canceled.

– *Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*



The work is part of a project to resurface Chao Fa West and Viset Rds all the way to Rawai Beach.

Chao Fa West roadworks causing traffic delays

WICHIT: Motorists using Chao Fa West Rd are feeling the pinch as work continues on the Phuket Provincial Highways Office (PPHO) project to resurface the main artery to the island’s southern beaches and widening it to four lanes.

Project contractor SCG Construction Company Ltd is currently working on two stretches of Chao Fa West Rd.

The first starts just south of Darasamut Intersection and ends a mile south, near Phromphan supermarket.

The second section begins just a few hundred meters further south, and ends at the intersection with Kwang Rd.

The roadwork is causing congestion not only on Chao Fa West Rd, where the work is taking place, but also on Chao Fa

East Rd, which many motorists are using to try to avoid the dust, rocks and tailbacks.

PPHO officer Parnumart Junkhun told the *Gazette* the work is part of a PPHO project to resurface and widen the entire road, all the way to Rawai Beach, by March 6 next year.

The work follows the recently completed widening of the bypass road, which joins Chao Fa West Road at the Darasamut Intersection.

Upgrading the road from Darasamut Intersection to Chalong Circle will cost an estimated 128.6 million baht, K. Parnumart said.

Improvements from the southern roundabout to Rawai Beach will cost about 131.6 million baht, she added.

– *Natcha Yuttaworawit*

Veteran CBC broadcaster dies while snorkeling off Koh Khai

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Veteran Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) broadcaster Lorne Saxberg died May 6 while snorkeling with friends off Koh Khai, Phang Nga.

The 48-year-old Ontarian journalist had been holidaying in Phuket.

An officer from Phuket City Police Station told the *Gazette*, “We received a report at about 4 pm that a man had died while swimming in Phang Nga Province.

“Volunteers from the Kusoldharm Foundation went to recover the body from Rassada Port [where it had been taken by Mr Saxberg’s friends].

“We are not yet sure of the cause of death,” the officer said.

“He had had an operation on his heart seven years ago, but we are uncertain if that is connected to the incident.

“Another possible cause is an attack of cramp while swimming,” he speculated, adding that a postmortem would be carried out at Vachira Phuket Hospital to establish the exact cause of death.

DISTINGUISHED

Mr Saxberg was a greatly experienced newsman, having worked at the CBC for 27 years.

In 1989, he became an anchorman of the CBC’s Newsworld news channel.

Recently he had been working for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) where he received an Edward R. Murrow Award for *Hiroshima 60 Years Later*, a program he both wrote and presented.

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Stunted growth: Ryan Dunn's Lamborghini Gallardo made a spectacular exit from the rally in true 'Jackass' fashion on the Phuket-Bangkok leg when it lost an argument with a tree.



Just Kidding: 'Mrs Smith of LaLa Land' is the name she entered under, but she is better known as supermodel Jodie Kidd. She gives a traditional British 'wave' to our photographer from her Lamborghini Murcielago.



Bentley does it: The Continental GT of Michael Ross and Alexander Roy punctured its sump when it hit the wreckage of Ryan Dunn's Lamborghini. Somebody call the Polizei.

Around the world in eight days with the Gumball 3000 Rally

By Janyaporn Morel & Nattamon Ratcharak

Brainchild of British entrepreneur Maximillion Cooper, the Gumball 3000 Rally swept through Phuket from May 3 to 4, leaving skid marks and bemused locals in its wake.

The eighth annual Gumball Rally started from London's Pall Mall on April 30 and arrived in Los Angeles on May 7.

Participants included stuntman extraordinaire and alumnus of the *Jackass* TV series and movie Ryan Dunn as well as Bam Margera from the same show,

Oscar-winner Adrien Brody, skateboarding legend Tony Hawk, and model Jodie Kidd, along with many others.

The rally, inspired by the cult movies *The Gumball Rally* and *The Cannonball Run*, was made up of 120 colorful and customized luxury cars (along with a souped-up VW Camper) and, with its 200 drivers, careened across three continents in just eight days, covering 3,000 miles in the process.

After London, the rally headed through Belgium, Austria, and then from Hungary to Belgrade, Serbia (with a Rolls Royce Phantom totaled on the way).

From there, the rally cars were transported in Antonov An-124s – the largest mass-produced aircraft in the world – to Phuket, from where they “drove through rain forests”, according to the official website, up to Bangkok.

In Bangkok the cars were loaded once again into the Russian-built monsters and flown back to the US for the Salt Lake Flats-Los Angeles leg, finishing on Rodeo Drive to attend a finishing party at Hugh Hefner's Playboy Mansion on Sunday, May 7.

The Phuket-Bangkok leg was not without incident and excess. A purple Lamborghini roadster – worth around US\$230,000 (8.7 million baht) – belonging to the “Flash” team, had an argument with a tree and lost.

A passing Bentley from the “Polizei” team, perhaps wanting to join in the carnage, ran over the resulting debris and punctured its sump. Luckily, no one was injured. However, the “Grids” team missed the flight to the US. They chartered, as one does, a Boeing 747 to complete the journey.

The eight-day rally featured many famous celebrities from stage and screen, along with four-wheel stars including Bentley, Porsche, Ferrari, McLaren, Lamborghini, Mercedes-Benz, Aston Martin, Jaguar, Rolls Royce, Audi, and Range Rover.

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The cars arrived at Phuket International Airport in giant Russian-made Antonov An-124s, the world's largest transport aircraft.



Many famous celebrities took part in the event. There were some quite well-known people, too...

Right: Lovely model – two Lamborghini Murcielagos: Car 51 (rear) of Swedes Joakim Nilsson and Lars Andersson, and that Jodie girl.



What the devil? Yup, it's yet another Lamborghini, this time the Diablo of UK Greek Cypriots Xanthos Paphitis and George Georgiou.



The Jaguar XK8 Convertible of Britons Alan Sykes and Jonathan Hick.

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The image shows a modern villa with a large pool and garden at night. The villa has a traditional Asian architectural style with a tiled roof and wooden accents. The pool is illuminated, and the garden is lit up. The villa is surrounded by lush greenery.


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Queer News

Sneaky thief shows a clean pair of heels

BANGKOK: After waking up to find that their house had been broken into, a high-society couple in Bangkok were left more than a little confused when they discovered that the thief had ignored a selection of diamond and gold jewelry – instead making off with more than 20 pairs of shoes.

The crime scene, an elegant European-style house that had previously been used to shoot soap opera *jao chai hua jai gern roi* (*Prince of Over a Hundred Hearts*), perhaps left the thief feeling that his own attire was a little inadequate. Thus confronted with such a *hi-so* abode, he also took six pairs of designer sunglasses and a leather briefcase worth 15,000 baht.

STITCHED

The owner of the house, Utcharawadee Wongsakol, a famous jewelry designer who counts many celebrities among her clients, said, "It's very strange. The thief seems to have only been interested in leather shoes.

"He totally ignored a selection of diamond rings, bracelets and tens of thousands of baht in cash. Maybe he just didn't notice them."

The burglary was discovered when K. Utcharawadee's husband, Daniel Tabuch, got up

for a drink of water in the night and found the front door wide open and their possessions scattered all over the floor. The French financial analyst then woke up his wife, who promptly called the police.

SOLELESS

The couple were left barefootedly kicking themselves that they had neglected to fix the burglar alarm, which had broken down only a few days before.

Pol Lt Col Seksit Sapa-oun said that the now presumably very well-heeled thief had gained entry to the house by prying open the kitchen window with a hammer, which was left at the scene. Police also retained as evidence a brand-new bicycle and a white-and-blue striped T-shirt, both found by a wall in front of the house.

Lt Col Seksit dismissed the theory that the perpetrator was a connoisseur of distinguished footwear, instead working on the assumption that he is part of a gang of secondhand shoe merchants. Investigating officers are now searching secondhand shops for leads.

For the moment, however, it appears that the robber has shown the police a clean pair of heels.

Source: Thai Rath

Belgian found hanged in Chalong

CHALONG: A 66-year-old Belgian man was found dead in his home on May 2, apparently having committed suicide.

Police reported that the man, whom they named as Jose Wiame, had hanged himself. Two empty beer bottles and a note accusing his wife of cheating him and deserting him were found next to the body.

The suicide note, addressed to his wife, accused her of tricking him into opening a restaurant for her and then causing him to lose 3 million baht, before aban-

doning him. He finished the letter by vowing to haunt her through all her future lives and wrote that from now on she would have no happiness.

The body of Mr Wiame was discovered by volunteers from the Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation and officers from Chalong Police Station after his landlord had reported that something seemed to be amiss.

He was found in a semi-kneeling position with a mobile phone still in his left hand. The noose around his neck was at-

tached at the other end to a beam. There were no signs of a struggle.

Pol Lt Col Jetsada, the officer in charge of the case, said, "Mr Wiame and his wife ran a restaurant in Karon until it closed down at the end of last year. They were often heard arguing. Three or four days ago, she disappeared.

"Mr Wiame's body has been officially identified and is being kept at the Phuket Wachira Hospital awaiting instructions from the Belgium embassy," he added.



This is not a post-apocalyptic scene from *Mad Max* or of urban rubble in *Full Metal Jacket*, this is the western end of Soi Nanai 2, in the heart of Patong. Some good-natured soul keeps on setting the piles of refuse alight, but more and piles of trash just keep on arriving.

TRASHING Phuket



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TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Rising oil prices are taking their toll on the Highway Police, with one police station in Isarn facing debts of more than 500,000 baht as its transport budget has run out.

"We receive 2 million baht a year from the central office to cover the cost of five stations," said Highway Police Unit 4 Superintendent Nirandorn Luarm-sri. "It's only the middle of the third quarter [of the budget year] and the cash has already gone due to the surge in the oil price," he said.

Unit 4 has five stations and is responsible for 11 provinces in the Northeast. It has 51 radio-equipped cars to patrol and provide security for royalty, ministers and other VIPs. A considerable amount of fuel is required, K. Nirandorn said.

He said the limited budget had prompted about a third of the area's petrol stations to stop giving the Highway Police credit, which they had done in the past. Some officers were paying to fill their police cars with money from their own pockets, he added.

"This certainly affects our work. Before we send a vehicle on patrol, we must calculate if it is financially justified," K. Nirandorn said.

Petrol station owner Somsak Tulayachat, who recently canceled police credit, said he had to do so to save his business. "The Unit has been using credit here since 2004 and I have always been flexible. At first they said they would pay at the end of each month, then they extended it to three months and later five months. I had to carry debt of 600,000 baht. If I let this continue, I would have to close," K. Somsak said.

A police officer said no one wanted to set up a checkpoint as they would have to bear the cost themselves while the reimbursement process was extremely slow. VIPs who requested escorts would be asked to pay the entire cost, the officer added.

Sweet kids: Children are spending more than 80% of their pocket money on junk food and sweet drinks, a recent poll found. The Thai Health Promotion Foundation and Assumption Business Administration College canvassed 1,139 Bangkok youngsters aged 11 to 15. Given an average of 65 baht a day, they spent



Police motorcycles stand idle outside a Bangkok police station. The rising cost of fuel may see them unused for some time as police turn to patrolling on foot and on bicycle to keep costs down.

Gas prices halt Highway Police

30 baht on snacks and 20 baht on fizzy drinks, said Assist Prof Wit-taya Kulsombat, head of the consumer health protection division. They spend about 83% of their money on "unhealthy" food and drinks, he said.

These findings, he said, corresponded with a recent survey by the National Economic and Social Advisory Council showed that on average each child spends an about 9,800 baht a year, or about 170 billion baht in total, on junk food.

On the up: Inflation peaked at 6% in April, the highest level in five months, due mainly to dramatic increases in fuel and food prices. Despite expected further fuel price rises, inflation should fall for the rest of the year, Commerce Ministry Permanent Secretary Karun Kittisataporn has said.

"Stringent controls on prices of goods will help keep inflation below 6% for the remaining months of the year," K. Karun said.

As long as the average oil price stays at US\$60-\$65 (2,250 baht-2,450 baht) a barrel, the ministry will stand by its estimate that headline inflation will not exceed 4.5% for the whole year, he added.

Along with higher fuel prices, public transportation and electricity fees contributed to last month's rise in inflation, as did higher prices for agricultural products, sugar and retail food items.

In an effort to reduce the burden on consumers, The ministry would closely monitor prices and would not allow the price of any item to rise too fast, he said.

The ministry has already refused to allow increases in the retail prices of chemical fertilizer, medicine, coffee, baby powder, yogurt, yogurt milk, noodles, school shoes and milk because their manufacturing costs are not that high, he added.

Taboo Thai voodoo: Chinese authorities have banned handmade dolls, made mainly of rope,

steel wire and thread, because of concerns they possess black-magic powers and have obsessed young Chinese buyers, who use them against people they hate.

Chinese officials acted on complaints from parents that their teenage children had performed black-magic rites on their dolls, including piercing needles into them, in the belief that they could harm people they hate, said Kanya Thuailai, Manager of doll manufacturer Saen Ha Co Ltd.

K. Kanya said the ban had drastically affected sales, as China was the main market for the dolls. Her company produces about 60,000 dolls each month. She said the problem began two years ago when retailers in Taiwan started marketing the toys as voodoo dolls that could be used to harm other people.

Pigeons on the pill: A proposal to feed birth-control medication to pigeons in central Bangkok as a way of stopping the spread of bird flu needs further study, say senior city officials. The scheme

would involve feeding them a mixture of green beans and human birth-control medication, but more research was needed to determine the method's safety and effectiveness, said Sittisat Jiemwongphat, Director of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) health department.

The BMA was concerned about the number of pigeons in the city. Laboratory tests by the Livestock Development Department show that the bird-flu virus has spread to migratory birds such as sparrows, pigeons and mynas.

"The BMA will launch a campaign simply asking the public not to feed birds and asking vendors not to sell bird feed," K. Sittisat said.

Other costs of fuel: High fuel bills have taken their toll at all levels, as the number of people unemployed rose to 640,000 in March compared with 560,000 in February, according to the National Statistics Office.

"A factor in the higher joblessness is the higher fuel oil prices, which have pushed up manufacturing costs," a source at the office said.

Of the total, 170,000 were laborers, 160,000 formerly worked in agriculture while 110,000 had worked in the manufacturing sector.

Bangkok blues: Bangkok residents are living with constant depression, worry and moodiness, according to a survey designed to measure Thais' quality of life. The survey covered 3,158 people in Bangkok and the provinces including Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Chon Buri and Songkhla.

"Bangkok residents' physical and mental health problems are greater than others," Ramathibodi Hospital Deputy Director Dr Ronnachai Kongsakon said.

People living in town enjoy better physical health but poorer mental health than those living out of town, Dr Ronnachai said, adding that the elderly tend to enjoy better mental health compared with younger people.

Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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Surat Thani enjoys an investment boom

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

According to the Surat Thani-based Southern Investment and Economy Center, first quarter figures for business investment in Surat Thani Province show a significant increase on last year, with individual companies investing between 20 and 500 million baht in a variety of major projects throughout the province.

Thai companies accounted for 72% of investment from January to April, with 10 large-scale projects started in the province.

Most of these projects were in the hotel sector and the rubber industry. Several joint-venture companies also invested in these industries, as well as in yachting and boat building.

Foreign-run companies invested significant sums, although these companies accounted for just 14% of the total investment. Projects focused mainly on tourism, particularly the dive industry, but like their Thai counterparts, they made significant investments in rubber plantations.

A further 50 projects are already scheduled to begin this year in the province, which many market analysts say has benefited enormously from tourism growth on Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao.

Police to monitor motorbike rentals: As Koh Samui enters its low season, many people, especially those employed on a casual basis, find it hard to make ends



SEAFOOD PRICE HIKES: Rising petrol prices have forced around 1,000 fishermen to keep their boats in Donsak Port, Anan Chusak, the President of the Surat Thani Fishermen's Association, said recently. Following fuel price hikes in recent months, seafood has risen four to nine baht per kilo, depending on the type of catch. K. Anan warned that if oil costs continue to rise, customers should expect further seafood price increases, as well as shortages due to the lack of fishermen working the seas.

meet. As a result, there is traditionally an increase in petty crimes such as bag snatching and theft on the island. This year, local police are asking motorbike rental companies to help prevent such crimes by placing stickers on their bikes to make them more easily identified.

At a meeting with over 100 motorbike rental agents on April 21, Pol Col Apichat Boonsrirot said that local police were finding it increasingly difficult to catch

thieves who use rented bikes in perpetrating crimes because few of the newer models have license plates, and because many rental companies do not ask for a copy of the hirer's ID card.

Col Apichat asked the owners of all the island's rental companies, including those that sell motorbikes on monthly-payment schemes, to place clearly recognizable stickers on their bikes and to keep accurate records of each person who rents or leases a bike.

In this way, the police hope to apprehend more thieves and deter potential criminals from using rented bikes as getaway vehicles.

Samui responds to international criticism: According to the local island press, many public officials, local businesspeople and residents on Koh Samui were shocked and concerned by a recent report in the UK's *Guardian* newspaper.

The article criticized the island for its irresponsible attitude to visitor safety, suggesting that both the local and foreign residents lack morals due to an obsession with money.

Tanu Woramit, the head of the Tourism Authority of Thailand office on Samui, called the article "unfair", and Samui Mayor Warakorn Rattanarak defended the island's population, describing the majority as

"peaceful, generous and sincere".

Others, however, admitted that crime levels were rising on the island. One local businessman said that massive foreign investment was causing certain tensions within the community, especially due to the obvious damage being caused to the island's natural beauty and resources.

The *Guardian* report comes as Koh Samui moves beyond the shadow cast by the rape and brutal murder of Katherine Horton in Lamai. Since the attack, the number of police on the island has increased significantly and volunteer security patrols have been established to ensure tourist safety.

Pol Col Chakkrit Srisawan, the recently-installed Superintendent of Koh Samui Police Station, defended his team against accusations it is ineffective, saying that a number of cases involving crimes against foreigners had now been solved, with the perpetrators safely behind bars.

Samui Spa Expo: The Samui-Surat Thani Spa Fair 2006 will be held beside Chaweng Lake from May 10 to 14.

Exhibitors will include accredited spa businesses on Samui, spa cuisine retailers and international food outlets selling health food and beverages, and spa product and décor firms with Jacuzzis, sauna rooms and herbal oils on show.

Also on display will be equipment and furniture for the massage and beauty sectors, aromatherapy products, flowers for spa gardens, and music for spas. Local products and food offered by premium OTOP producers will be on sale.

Bangkok Airways, in conjunction with the Samui Hotel Association and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, are offering special packages for those who want to visit the exhibition.

With the Samui Regatta taking place from May 21 to 27, Samui tourism companies are hoping for a boost in visitor numbers during what is generally considered to be one of the island's quiet periods.



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By Janyaporn Morel

Over recent years alternative medicine has been gaining in popularity. Nowadays if you go into hospital suffering from a painful but not-critical condition, besides being offered modern medicine you may also be advised to seek alternative treatments.

One of the most popular, and reportedly most effective, forms of alternative medicine is the traditional Chinese medical technique of acupuncture. This technique has been practiced for at least 2,000 years, though some people think it has been around for as long as 4,000 years.

Practitioners of the technique have identified some 500 specific points where needles can be inserted to help relieve various illnesses.

The World Health Organization (WHO) now recognizes that acupuncture is beneficial for treating conditions that incur symptoms which become a major problem. Acupuncture is believed to encourage the release of natural painkilling substances in the body, and is sometimes used to treat symptoms of pain associated with:

- musculoskeletal pain (for example, back, shoulder, leg and neck pain),
- arthritic and rheumatoid pain,
- headaches and migraines,
- trapped nerves, and
- muscle strains and sports injuries.

Research suggests that acupuncture can affect most of the body's systems, not just the nervous system. It is sometimes used to treat mild illnesses of the respiratory, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems. There is also evidence indicating that acupuncture encourages the body to produce antibodies, improves circulation and reduces the severity of allergic reactions.

A number of theories have been proposed as to why ac-



Needling pain? Go for something alternative



puncture has the beneficial effects that its devotees claim for it. Some studies have shown that many acupuncture points are more richly supplied with nerve endings than other areas of the body.

Some researchers claim that sticking needles into certain

points affects the nervous system, stimulating the body's production of natural painkilling chemicals, such as endorphins and enkephalins, and triggering the release of certain neurotransmitters, including serotonin.

One theory suggests that acupuncture blocks the transmission of pain impulses from parts of the body to the central nervous system.

In Phuket, Dr Piyanat Sakulpipat, who works full time at Vachira Phuket Hospital, has opened a rehabilitation clinic on Thalang Rd offering acupuncture treatment. Dr Piyanat became interested in acupuncture while studying at Mahidol University, where it was included in her rehabilitation medicine course as a cure for muscle pain.

"In the first era of acupuncture, healers would apply needles made of sharpened stone to the point where pain was felt. When people saw that it helped to re-

lieve the pain, they began to experiment with more points on the body," Dr Piyanat explains.

"At first, I understood that acupuncture could be used to treat only muscular and neuromuscular pain. However, when I learned that it could also be used for many other diseases, I became very interested and so started to study more about the Chinese tradition of acupuncture," she adds.

This led Dr Piyanat to attend an advanced acupuncture training course held jointly by Huachiew Chalermprakiet University, the Thai Ministry of Public Health and Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

When I told her that I had suffered from migraine on my left side for more than 10 years, she immediately suggested that I try acupuncture. She inserted pins at specific points on my body; in the hands, feet, neck and head. The

process is done very quickly, so there is little time to feel any pain, although it is followed by a slight sense of numbness.

The pins have to remain in place for around 20 minutes. During this time Dr Piyanat performs "dry needling" on my left shoulder, by twisting a specific pin that is still inserted in my body.

This is more painful than the other stages of the treatment. However, Dr Piyanat insists that it is necessary, in spite of the pain, as it serves to relax the nerves.

After the pins are pulled out, the numbness persists a little. Dr Piyanat explains that this is normal and soon passes.

"The frequency of treatment depends on the symptoms," she says. "For migraines, usually about 10 sessions are required with up to three sessions a week. However, this also depends on how much 'dry needling' the patient can tolerate."

Acupuncture can also have benefits in beauty treatment, Dr Piyanat says. "It can be used for tightening wrinkles and can also help people who are trying to lose weight," she adds.

Dr Piyanat can be contacted at the Dr Piyanat Rehabilitation Clinic at 259 Thalang Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-212773. Open Monday-Friday 5 pm-8 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

Volkswagen-owned Audi has exhibited its next generation TT, although currently there is no confirmation that it will actually become a production reality. Officially known as the Shooting Brake Concept, it is widely believed to form the basis of the new TT, to replace the popular little roadster and coupé.

Shown at last October's Tokyo Motor Show, the latest Audi sparked huge interest from the media, arousing speculation that it cannot be too far from becoming a production model.

Sporting a 3.2-liter six-cylinder motor, delivering a strong 250bhp, the Shooting Brake will reach 100kmh from rest in just six seconds. The V6 engine is already a proven design, used in both the existing TT and the A3, as well as the rapid VW Golf R32. Torque output is the most impressive aspect, peaking at 320Nm between 2,500rpm and 3,000rpm.

'EYEBALLS'

The Tokyo concept featured the neat interior carried over from the existing car, with twin analogue round dials, reminiscent of the current TT's aluminum-shod dashboard. The air vents are also distinctly current TT - large round, aluminum eyeballs which add to the sporty feel in the cockpit.

The slab sides and wide-opening tailgate give the Shooting Brake a distinctive appearance, but the deep vertical slats of the front grille give it an ungainly look. The lights are all new, too, and there are large air intakes on either side of the grille.

The car sits on massive 19-inch alloy wheels, specially created for Audi's current top sports car, the RS4.

The new Audi's body is predominantly aluminum, but some of it is steel, and the manufacturers are confident they have overcome the danger of electrolytic corrosion between dissimilar met-



The new car is expected to make its debut later this year and go on general sale in early 2007.

Shooting Brake Concept - the new Audi TT?

als. Only time will tell, of course.

The Quattro all-wheel drive of the new car is programmed to give it the feel of a rear-drive vehicle, with more power directed to the back wheels. On the current TT, there is a front-wheel-drive option - as opposed to four-wheel-drive - and it is likely this will be offered on the new model as a cheaper alternative. The front-drive TT, though, has the smaller, 1.8-liter engine, but whether this will be offered in future is unclear.

The TT has been around since 1998. The original suffered an unfortunately high rate of high-speed accidents, mainly in Germany, prompting a recall to fit an electronic stability program (ESP) and a small rear spoiler.

This was a little unfair on Audi, because in normal driving - that is, by normal people - it was difficult to get into trouble with the TT. The new car, however, will benefit from unique magnetic dampers, with the viscosity of the special magnetorheological oil controlled by an electro-magnetic field. Simple but effective. The concept car has advanced ceramic brakes, but it is likely these will give way to conventional steel discs in production models.

The little Audi sports is actually assembled in Győr, Hungary, with chassis being sent overnight by train from the company's

headquarters in Ingolstadt, Germany. Győr is very proud of the fact that it has an Audi plant as, seemingly, not a lot else happens in the sleepy Hungarian town, half way between Vienna and Budapest, where the rivers Danu, Raba and Rabca converge.

It is not yet known where the new Shooting Brake, or TT, will be built, but it is expected to

make its debut later this year and go on general sale in early 2007. The original TT was an outstanding success, and the new version - with increased space and a radical new design - is expected to continue that tradition.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigator.com



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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Kittiyaporn Kruenarong and Jakrawut Heepetch were married in the Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 11.



Natalie Bates and Leon Looyenga from the UK married at the Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa retreat on Koh Bon on March 26.

Meet the

You might think that stepping into the shoes of James Batt, “Mayor” of Laguna for the past 10 years, would be a daunting prospect, but Michael Ayling, who becomes Managing Director of Laguna Resorts and Hotels (LRH) in June, is plainly comfortable with the idea.

Mr Ayling, born in the Garden of England, Kent, started his expatriate life with accounting and consulting giant KPMG at the age of 25, working in Papua New Guinea, where he gained experience in transaction services. He subsequently moved to Sydney, Australia, to run KPMG’s auditing division there.

“Then I came to a crossroads in my career – I was looking for another overseas posting – and this came out of the blue; to be, effectively, Assistant Vice-President of Finance [with LRH], working closely with James [Batt]”. He was 34 at the time.

“It was a big step, but it was the right step – alternatively I was going to become a partner in KPMG, but then you’re tied in for 10 years, which I didn’t fancy.”

He settled in at Laguna’s offices in Phuket, happy to be handling the company’s finances. “I’m a finance guy and very happy to be a finance guy.”

He had no thoughts of taking over from Mr Batt, but about a year ago, the boss, plainly planning a long way ahead, asked whether he wanted to stay in finance or go more into operations.

“He persuaded me that I had more potential than just using a calculator and counting money. That got me thinking. Then I was promoted to Deputy Managing Director in February last year, doing more outside the finance field.”

What will be the biggest challenge?

“James won’t be here. I’ll be the public face of Laguna in Phuket. James has done such a good job of that over the years.”

But this challenge is not something, he says, that worries him overmuch.

“It’s not that much of a change; we [already] manage the business together.

“It’s now a case of taking overall responsibility for the destiny of the company. Although James is leaving, I’m inheriting a good team. I’m very fortunate that I’m taking over a very good team.”

“You learn. It doesn’t make me nervous. I am my own man and I have my own opinions.”

Will his management style be different? Should employees and suppliers expect big changes?

“I think [James and I] are quite similar in a lot of ways, hence my promotion. Our management style is very much consultative, developing a team, so I imagine that the changeover should be pretty seamless.

“I want to keep the status quo and keep everything moving in the right direction. I’m taking over from James at a very good time, because the rebound [from the tsunami] is definitely underway and it’s a great time to be in the property market.”

He does see changes, however, in the nature of the business: “As [property] sales develop we’re becoming more of a community.

“Previously we’d been very much a resort company. Now we’re selling much more lifestyle as well, and it’s going to be a drain on the facilities of our hotels.

“So now we have to provide more ‘town planning’ – if I can exaggerate to make the point.”

This sounds a much more serious undertaking than the average developer’s promise to provide 24-hour security and cut the grass regularly.

“We have to do more,” Mr Ayling says. “We’ve got a lot of land, and the challenge and opportunity is to build a community where people want to live because it provides a good level of service.

“I think we have managed to differentiate ourselves already from many of the other developers.

“As more and more quality developers come in, we have to continue to differentiate ourselves.

“Also, the land is less prime – we’re [building] further away from the beach – so it’s more of a community challenge.



Gazette Managing Editor Alasdair Forbes talks to the man taking over from James Batt as the Managing Director of Laguna Resorts and Hotels.

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new Mayor of Laguna

“I’m very fortunate that I’m taking over a very good team... It doesn’t make me nervous. I am my own man and I have my own opinions.”

MICHAEL AYLING



“The business is evolving. We’re growing in the hotel side [LRH recently bought the Banyan Tree in Bangkok and is de-

veloping another Banyan Tree in Lijiang, in southwest China], and we’re growing in the property side.

“In 2004 there was about a 70-30 split [between hotels and property]. I see that moving toward 65-35, perhaps.”

There are obstacles to business, he notes, including the continuing lack of direct flights to Phuket, particularly from Hong Kong.

“The challenge of building 60 to 100 buildings a year is another. It’s tough – you talk to any developer. We’re getting more big contractors coming to Phuket now, so that will make our lives easier.”

But there are also opportunities. The inability of foreign buyers to get mortgages led Laguna to offer payment terms of up to five years, but the lack of bank mortgages has not, he says, been an obstacle in the past.

“Is it an opportunity in the future? Definitely. It’s a way of expanding the market. We’re working with Bangkok Bank on this and hoping to work with Siam Commercial.

“We thought that was going to be the ‘big white hope’ but people are buying without the mortgages anyway, so there’s a lot of money out there.”

Political upheaval has the potential to damage business, he admits, “if Thailand is ever seen to be unsafe or uncertain”. But, he adds, “We haven’t seen any

impact from the current political uncertainty.”

Will he be in the hot seat for 10 years, like Mr Batt? “I tend to look in five-year horizons,” he replies. “I certainly want to be here five years from now.”

What will Phuket be like then? “Phuket’s changed a lot in my five years here so far. You hear a lot of people say, ‘Overdeveloped, overdeveloped,’ but we went up in a helicopter a couple of weeks ago and what struck me looking from the air was the amount of green.

INFRASTRUCTURE

“I think one of the big challenges is the infrastructure. There’s going to be a lot more high-end products, but infrastructure – roads, water supply – is a bit of an unknown. It could be a very comfortable place to live or it could be a lot more messy.”

As head of the largest private enterprise on the island, and the boss of more people than anyone apart from the island’s Governor, Michael Ayling is now in a position to put considerable pressure on those responsible for infrastructure to get it right.

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WE WUZ FRAMED

By Nattamon Ratcharak

For those who are fed up with booting up the computer, firing up the picture viewer and then locating the photos they want to show to a friend, Philips Electronics may have the answer.

The new Philips Photo Frame allows you to put photos back where they belong – on the mantelpiece, piano or desk, where they can be enjoyed by everyone.

It is the first digital photo frame to offer a level of sharpness and brightness to rival printed photos, says Philips.

The device has a 14x9-centimeter LCD screen in an attractive frame. The high-density 133-DPI panel can display images in full color and with print-like clarity.

The Photo Frame can store some 50 pictures of up to 12 megapixels in its internal memory or read direct from a camera, a computer or a memory card. This means that photos can be put

straight on display with no printing required.

The device is compatible with Compact Flash Cards, Memory Sticks, SD Cards and MultiMedia Cards and also has two USB ports to allow a computer or camera to be connected to it.

It can display single photos in landscape or portrait mode, as thumbnails, or as part of a slide show with the order of photos being programed by the user.

A built-in timer allows the screen to be turned on and off automatically at preset times.

The screen has a resolution of 720 by 480 pixels and, unlike many LCD screens, can be viewed from off to the side. The brightness level can also be adjusted to suit surrounding light conditions.

The frame has an internal battery which lasts for up to 50 minutes, or it can be plugged into the main power supply.

It can be left on continuously for 1,000 hours without damaging the display.



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Bartender Aran Pradabetch gets to work on a new day.

Sun Rise down at the Bay Hotel

By Janyaporn Morel

Down toward the southeast of Phuket at Makham Bay is a great place to escape the hot weather and crazy traffic of the town, by relaxing and enjoying a cocktail.

Staff at Uncle Nan's Italian restaurant at the Bay Hotel at Cape Panwa welcome guests with their exotic, pink Sun Rise cocktail. The name, as you may have guessed, comes from the beautiful view that can be seen from the hotel every sunny morning.

While early starters can come and see the sun rise from the terrace, for those who prefer a lie-in it is also a pleasant place to have a drink and watch the sun set over of Chalong Bay.

Sun Rise is a refreshing cocktail. Many subtle flavors come together to give it its distinctive taste – sweet from the grenadine syrup and pineapple juice, a bit of sourness from the

lime juice and a soft bitterness from the alcohol.

Wirat Poommai, Food and Beverage Assistant Manager, and Aran Pradabetch, bartender, provided the recipe.

Ideally, this cocktail should be served in a tall glass along with a heart-shaped piece of pineapple and an orchid for decoration.

Uncle Nan's has many other cocktails such as Mai Thai (Rum, Orange Curaçao, mixed fruit juices and grenadine syrup), Nang Fha (an exotic concoction of Thai whisky, gin, Blue

Curaçao and lime juice topped up with soda), Panwa Sunset (the house cocktail, made of bourbon and Cointreau shaken with pineapple, lime juice and Grenadine) and Dee Jai (a sweet blend of rum, Malibu and Amaretto with banana, pineapple, coconut milk and vanilla ice cream).

For those who look forward to a meal after their cocktail, Uncle Nan's also serves seafood and Italian staples such as pasta and pizza.

The restaurant is open daily from 6:30 pm to 11 pm.

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This week



NORTHERN EXPOSURE: (From left) Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura congratulates Torbjørn Norendal, Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Phuket, and Alf Karlsson, Consulate-General of Sweden in Phuket, at the April 26 grand opening of the two countries' shared consular premises in Rawai.



THERE NOW: British Ambassador to Thailand David Fall opens the 'Almost There' exhibition of art by the British Curriculum International School (BCIS) International Baccalaureate students at the Thai Hua Museum, in Phuket City, on April 28. BCIS Headmaster Prof Dr George Hickman (left) and Phuket Vice-Governor Pongsak Praivet (2nd from left) assist.



ENLIGHTENED: Canadians Lisa and David Rudd (2nd and 3rd from left), owners of the new Oriental Wicks candle store on Wiset Rd in Rawai, celebrate the store's grand opening with guests on April 26.



YAHOO YAMU: Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima (center); Ian Henry (right), Director of project developer Campbell Kane, and guests take part in the May 1 ground-breaking ceremony at the Cape Yamu development in Pa Khlok.



BAYSIDE BASH: Dawn DelVecchio (right), Associate Editor of *Asia-Pacific Tropical Homes* magazine, joins Lies Sol (center) and a friend at Phang Nga Bay Regatta Thank You Party held at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club April 29.



ANOTHER LEVEL: Reid Ridgway (rear, 4th from left), Managing Director of the Ecotourism Training Center (ETC) in Takuapa, Phang Nga province, joins first year graduates – including 13 new Thai dive masters and four open-water scuba instructors – and staff at the ETC's first graduation ceremony on April 20.

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Patong Hospital To Be Upgraded

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May, 1996

PATONG: The Public Health Ministry has announced that it will provide 70 million baht to enable the Patong Hospital (also known as Kathu Hospital) to make major additions to its facilities. It will be the first district hospital in Thailand to be developed to international standards.

A new building will be built; the number of beds will be increased from 10 to 60; and sophisticated new equipment will be installed.

Patong Hospital currently treats about 190 new patients a day. Including patients appearing for on-going care, the hospital handles more than 420,000 patient visits a year. Of these, roughly 10% are foreigners.

Hospital staff are currently receiving English language and computer training, and email facilities have been installed so that doctors can communicate with medical staff in other hospitals.

4 found dead in port area within 24 hours

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May 1-14, 2001

PHUKET TOWN: On April 9, the body of a man and the skeleton of another were found on Soi Si Sena. Neither has been identified but both are believed to be Burmese fishermen, and to have been murdered.

Police Capt Chaum Kaosrisuwan, of Phuket Town Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the skeleton was found among mangroves near the entrance to the fishing port.

Police believe the man was killed somewhere else about two months ago and his body dumped at the scene.

"It was discovered by someone intending to use the mangroves as a toilet," Capt Chaum said.

The body of the other man, who had been stabbed to death, was found near the entrance to the new Rassada port.

The man had been stabbed several times in the stomach, back and neck, and his cheek had been smashed.

That victim was estimated to have been 30-35 years old, and is thought to have died at least

eight hours before his body was found at 10 am.

The following day two more bodies were found in the same area. Pol Maj Thanet Puangmanee told the *Gazette* that the first man, as yet unidentified, appeared to be from the Indian subcontinent and was estimated to have been between 25 and 30 years old.

He is thought to have died at least four hours before his body was found at 1:30 am. "The victim died from seven stab wounds in his chest and five stab wounds in his back," Maj Thanet said. "The wounds appear to have been inflicted with a sharpened steel reinforcing bar."

That afternoon, another body, believed to be that of a Burmese man, was found near the Saeng Arun pontoon on Soi Si Sena.

Capt Chaum said that this man, also as yet unidentified, is estimated to have been 30-40 years old, and is thought to have died at least 12 hours before his body was found at 3.30pm.

"We could find no injuries on the body," Capt Chaum said, adding that it was therefore assumed that the man had died of natural causes.

THE TIME machine

News from the past

PHUKET DIARY of coming events

May 13: Le Meridien 6th Golf Tournament.

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort is organizing its 6th Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 13, at the Phuket Country Club.

The entrance fee of 2,700 baht for local residents and 3,500 baht for non-residents includes the green fee, caddie fee, a polo shirt and awards-ceremony dinner.

The tournament will start at 7 am and will be followed by a prize-giving dinner at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

For details, contact K. Punjaporn at Tel: 01-7473036 or K. Narumon at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort Tel: 076-340480, or K. Sirichai at Phuket Country Club, Tel: 076-321038.

May 20: The Jamie O' Trio at Watermark.

Another great night of live music at Watermark bar and restaurant at the Boat Lagoon, this time when The Jamie O' Trio take to the stage for a full acoustic chillout vibe in the vein of Jack Johnson, Ben Harper, Coldplay and CCR. You can expect them to pick up the pace later on with U2, the Stones, The Jam & other classy covers. Watch out as the knickers go flying when these

young boys cook it up. If you want dinner, then book early as this is bound to be another full night. On stage 8:30 pm-11:30 pm. Happy hours and drinks promotions.

For more information contact Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-7376184, Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com

July 2-30: British Curriculum International School Summer Camp.

Sports & Adventure Camp organized by BCIS. For details see the website at www.bcis.ac.th/sport2006.asp

July 10: Asarnha Bucha - public holiday.

Asarnha Bucha marks the anniversary of the Buddha delivering his first sermon at the Deer Park in Varanasi, India, more than 2,500 years ago.

July 11: Khao Phansa - public holiday.

Beginning of Buddhist Lent. This is the beginning of the "Rains Retreat" - known in Thai as Phansa, hence the Thai name for the holiday, Khao Phansa Day - during which many Thais join the monkhood for three months.

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Nakalay Spa, located at the Thavorn Beach Village Resort & Spa, was one of the first spas in Phuket. A Thai pavilion surrounded by plants giving cool patches of shade, the spa gives the feeling that I am far from the hustle and bustle of nearby Patong. The walkway from the the hotel is lined with flowers, I began to feel relaxed even before reaching the spa entrance.

Manager Kanyanee Pensuwan, has more than 14 years' experience working in spas. She said that Nakalay Spa has been open about nine years and is well known on the island. It was forced to close for six months last year after the tsunami, but is now fully open again.

K. Kanyanee escorted me around the pavilion, which has 10 rooms, including four double bedrooms, three single rooms, two scrub rooms and a Thai massage center. They also have an outdoor relaxation area with magazines for customers to read after enjoying the spa.

All therapists here must complete extensive in-house massage training before they are allowed to start work. They use Jurlique products from Australia and also promote Thai herbal treatments, which are becoming increasingly popular with customers.

The spa's customers are both hotel guests and island residents. Treatment costs start from 1,500 baht for a 30 minute massage rising to 8,500 baht for a three-hour full-body package.

HEAVENLY

K. Kanyanee said she loves her work at the spa because it allows her to be creative. She enjoys spending large amounts of time dreaming up new treatments and packages for her customers. She suggested that I try the 2½-hour Lightening Package. This package includes a sauna and Jacuzzi session, a scrub, a white-mud

White Lightening

Spa MAGIC



By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn
Nakalay Spa

wrap followed by one hour of anti-stress full-body massage. The cost of this package is 4,200 baht for one person or 7,900 baht for two.

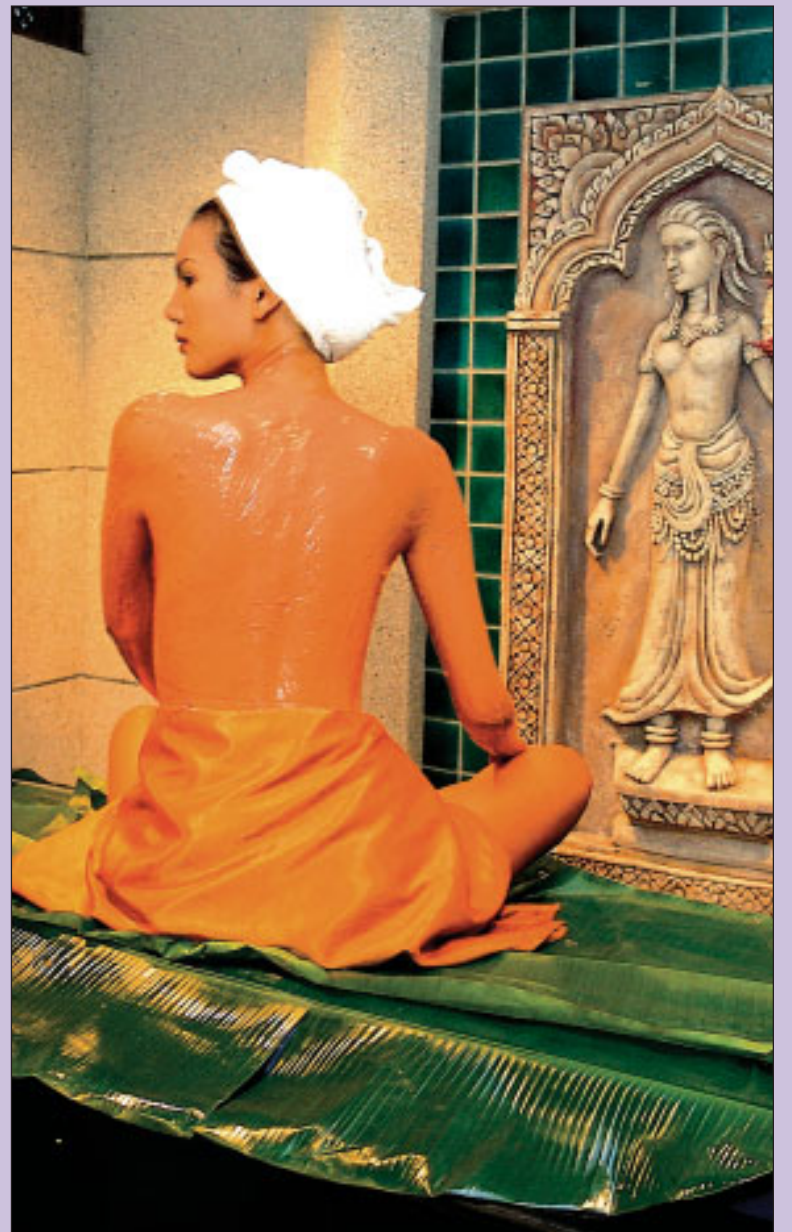
Sunan Tantiwatcharaphan, the Spa Trainer, was my therapist. Before coming to work at the Nakalay Spa, she worked at the Banyan Tree Spa for seven years.

When I asked her what benefits I should expect from the package, she explained that the white mud is good for the skin and can help lighten the complexion.

She also said that the package is perfect for people wanting a break from the pressures of work and home life. Just right for me, I thought. I was particularly excited about the lighter-skin part and couldn't wait for the treatments to start.

The rooms are cleverly designed and each include a bathroom, toilet, sauna and Jacuzzi, so there is no need to leave your own personal area. Each room can be

'Eventually I drifted off to sleep, and when it was over I took a shower to wash off the honey mixture. My skin felt soft and smooth.'



used by up to four people. I found sitting in the unusual square-shaped Jacuzzi here very calming. The gentle trickling of the water in the background and the dark-wood finishes give the room a natural atmosphere.

I started my program with a sauna. Unfortunately, I was on a bit of a tight schedule so couldn't appreciate it for as long as I would have liked.

After the sauna, K. Sunan began to scrub me with a mixture of honey and white sesame, which is rich in vitamin E. The sweet smell of the honey was accompanied by an odd, sticky feeling as the mixture was spread over the whole of my body.

After scrubbing my back, K. Sunan covered it with white mud, made with calcium carbonate and Thai herbs. The mud felt cold and damp on the skin. After the mud treatment I was wrapped in plastic and towels

and told to relax and not move for about 15 minutes. I felt sticky but I would have to endure it if I wanted beautiful white skin.

AWAKENING

Eventually I drifted off to sleep, and when it was over I took a shower to wash off the honey mixture. My skin felt soft and smooth.

Then it was time for the anti-stress full-body massage. Good name I thought, wondering if it would release me from my troubles for a while.

My masseuse, K. Nan, started to knead my back, pressing at the nerves around my neck. Her hands felt experienced and confident as she massaged me, applying pressure strongly and evenly over my body. The gentle aroma of the oils combined with K. Nan's expert touch encouraged me to relax. I even stopped

worrying about having lighter skin for a while.

I truly enjoyed K. Nan's massage technique. She was very professional, applying just the right amount of pressure to all the right spots. I felt my stress levels begin to fall and the pile of work waiting for me at the office started to seem a little less pressing.

It was over all too soon but I felt refreshed and energized by the experience. I would recommend the treatments at the Nakalay Spa to anyone who feels the need to pamper themselves and escape the worries of everyday life for an hour or two.

The Nakalay Spa is located at the Thavorn Beach Village Resort & Spa in Patong. Open daily from 10:30 am to 7:30 pm. Tel: 076-290334-40 ext 601-602. All prices are subject to 10% service charge and 7% VAT.

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Within days of reading about the horrors of the tsunami devastation, Canadian Jo Burgess was on a plane to Phuket to join Hands on Thailand, a volunteer group.

A master logsmith, timber-smith and stone mason with his own company in British Columbia that specialized in the building and restoring of ski lodges, it was Jo's first visit to Southeast Asia. Forsaking the sub-zero temperatures of the ski slopes for tropical climes was quite a challenge for him.

In those early weeks of 2005, Jo rebuilt homes, workplaces and markets, and taught the city slickers among the volunteers the finer points of construction work – like how to lay a brick.

He had hoped to return home a few weeks later when his Good Samaritan's job was done, but Jo had not allowed for Cupid's arrow. He met and fell in love with Bang Tao Beach restaurateur, Preeyapa Hedley, or Nok as she is better known to her family and friends.

COINCIDENCE

In the evenings, he and the other volunteers would eat at the only restaurant open in the area at the time, which happened to be run by Nok. Within weeks, both of their lives had changed.

In mid-2005, Nok and Jo returned to Canada just long enough for Jo to sell up his company. The couple had opted to pool their professional resources, return to Phuket and open a restaurant together.

On December 26, 2005, one year to the day after the tsunami, Nok & Jo's restaurant and bar opened for business. "It was pure coincidence that we opened on that day; we had been hoping to open about three weeks earlier," said Nok, who moved to Phuket in 2001 after 20 years in Bangkok.

Ubon Rachathani-born Nok ran a restaurant in the capital and, on the break-up of her marriage, heading to Patong and a short while later to Bang Tao Beach, to start afresh.

Jo describes the 80-seat restaurant as part Thai and part Canadian in design, and his personal touch is unmistakable – the structure is made out of *mai son* trees with a thatched roof. How-



Above: Good times to be had with Nok (right) and Jo (center).

Left: Nok & Jo staples – Pad Thai and beef fillet steak with peppercorn sauce.

EAT AT NOK & JO'S

ever, the menu has Nok's signature written right across it.

Word traveled fast, and from the first week of opening Nok & Jo's exceeded all the hosts' expectations.

Plans are already afoot to expand the restaurant to more than double its current size and to add a second kitchen.

While Nok's role is to please the palate of her customers from the open-plan kitchen, Jo, as house manager, well, just pleases.

A little girl asks for her favorite ice cream. It is not on the menu. Rather than disappoint, Jo escorts the young girl, with her mother's permission, on the back of his motorbike to the nearby minimart. Result? Another satisfied customer.

A Russian couple unable to speak English struggle with the

menu. Five minutes and a few hand signals and animal noises later, the order is placed with the kitchen staff. They are pleased, and for the remaining nights of the vacation they bring their friends along; happy in the knowledge that Jo's version of charades topples any language barrier.

Nok says their goal is to provide good quality food at reasonable prices in relaxed surround-

ings. She has succeeded on all counts. Relaxation is ably assisted by unobtrusive music from the 70s and 80s.

Recommended dishes include Sambucca prawns (350 baht), beef fillet steak with peppercorn sauce (330 baht), fish fillet with white cream sauce (300 baht), whole fish with garlic and lemon sauce (255 baht) and what my wife described as the best *Pad Thai* in Phuket (55 baht or 75 baht, depending on whether it is chicken or prawn).

For my review, I chose steamed fish with ginger root and a medley of fresh vegetables. The fish, a white snapper, was purchased by Nok at the market – about 100 meters away – that morning. The tender white flesh fell away from the bone, the ginger teased the taste buds and vegetables were done to perfection.

This was accompanied by a glass of Chilean white house wine (125 baht). Now it must be said that the wine list is limited to say the least, but Jo is working

on that. "We aim to have a far better and wider selection later in the year," he said. But the "house" itself was perfectly quaffable.

Dessert was a very filling banana pancake (65 baht).

Nok & Jo's have a reasonable selection of cocktails (150 baht) and if beer is your bag there is Chang (50 baht) and Corona (120 baht). No draught is available.

There is also a twice-weekly bargain barbecue – all you can eat on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 190 baht – with curries, salads, chicken and beef kebabs, German sausages and much more.

As Jo said with a sideways look at his beaming partner, "Who said nothing good came out of the tsunami?"

Nok & Jo's restaurant and bar, 37/1 Moo 3, Bang Tao Beach road (1 kilometer north of Surin Bay). Tel: 01-5382110; 07-2796532. Open daily from noon until midnight.

On the menu

WITH Barry Grindrod
Nok & Jo's

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WOODED BY WUXI

Now a tinless wonder

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Tally 3,500 years of history as one-time capital of the Wu kingdom, numerous beauty spots around Tai Hu lake – which is more of an inland sea – and a city center that’s a thriving hub even by PRC standards – and you’ve got Wuxi in a nutshell.

That’s if you don’t include that Wuxi, which is in Jiangsu province, is also bordered by the 1,800-kilometer Grand Canal, the longest canal on earth.

If you thought some of the Buddha images in Phuket were large, wait till you clock the bronze-plated, 88-meter-high statue at Lingshan on the shore of Tai Hu. It’s swathed in incense smoke and besieged by pilgrims from all over China. Ironically some of the middle-aged ones must have been Red Guards in their youth, a bunch of yahoos who were never especially noted for religious reverence.

Built for commercial as well as religious reasons, there is no denying that the Buddha is a stupendous sight. Once fully completed, the surrounding complex will include a Buddhist holiday camp, a monastery, various pagodas and a – ahem, secular – 18-hole golf course.

The shores of Tai Hu lake are fringed with pagodas, gardens, thick woods and picturesque villas.

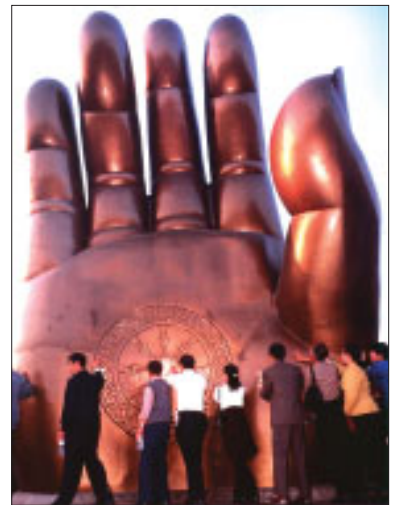
The two best places to take a ramble are Mei Yuan, with its orchard of 4,000 plum trees, and the island of Yuantou Zhu.

For a really idyllic excursion, get out on the water – there are simple rowing boats as well as rather more dire pedalos shaped like swans for the romantically-addled.

Elsewhere round Wuxi, a



Wuxi's inhabitants are friendly, though shy at first



Devotees make offerings at a ground-level sculpture of the hand of the remarkable 88-meter-high Lingshan Buddha.

number of theme parks – Europe World, Asia World, Tang Dynasty World and City of Water Margin – have been constructed on the city outskirts.

These would be instantly missable if they weren’t so hilariously kitsch, and overseas visitors will find they are treated as something of an attraction themselves. But going to just one of the quartet is probably quite enough for a lifetime.

Wuxi sorta rhymes with sushi, and while “gastronomy” is probably stretching it a bit, there are some interesting places to browse. Wuxi’s spareribs are probably overhyped, but every

eatery of any status serves them. Rather better is the Wangxingji Restaurant’s “three fresh” wonton soup, made with pig’s legs, shrimp and eggs. It’s at the corner of Zhongshan Lu and Xueqian Jie, and they also do a fab steamed bun stuffed with crab.

Jiangsu specialties such as crispy fried eels and turnip pancakes head the menu at Zhongguo, just by the railway station. Also, the plum cake at Huang Ting Delicious Food City (no false modesty here) in Chongan Temple is to be reincarnated for.

If you’re looking for somewhere to kip, the Sheraton is probably the best of the international hotels, with the kind of facilities one would hope for after a hard day’s slog on the tourist trail.

The cheapest decent rooms in Wuxi come at around RMB 150 in the quaintly named Qinggongye University Foreign Experts Hotel – paying in cash is the only expertise required. The Wuxi Grand could easily be renamed The Last Resort.

If you feel you’re running out of things to do in Wuxi, the tourist hubs of Suzhou, Hangzhou and Nanjing are all within striking distance, and well worth a day or more’s excursion.



Traditional lanterns brighten up the environs of Wuxi. The area grew prosperous through its once-abundant supplies of tin, which led to the town receiving its first name, Youxi – ‘Has Tin’. However, supplies of the ore were depleted enough by around AD 25 for the settlement to receive its current name, Wuxi – ‘Without Tin’.

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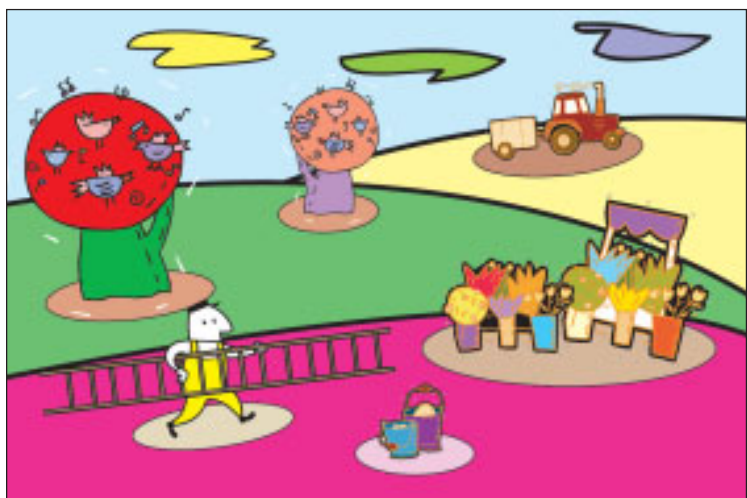
PUZZLES

The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference

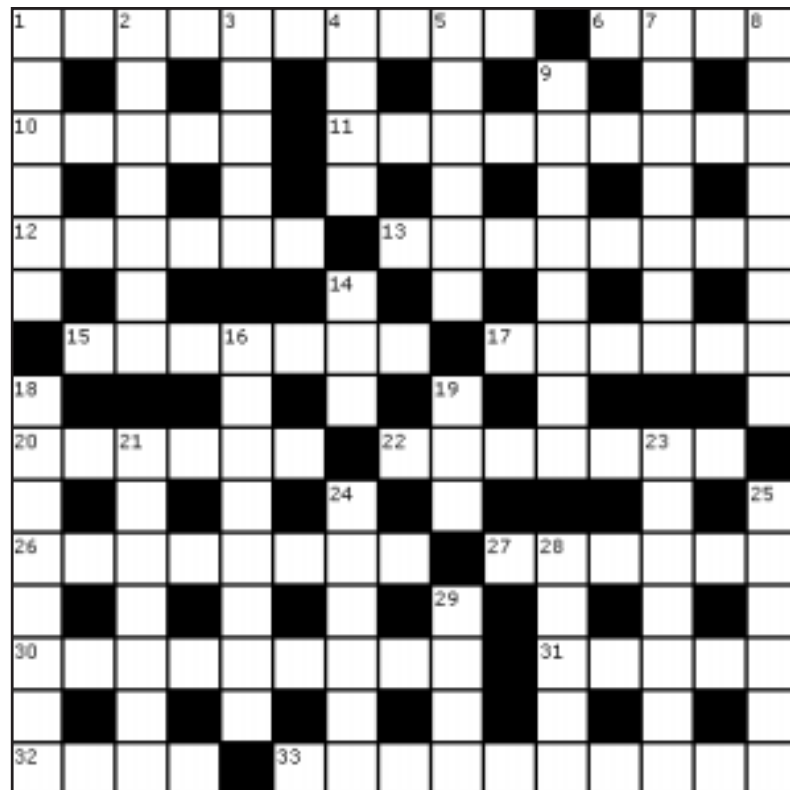


Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



ACROSS

1. Inert crabs scramble to rewrite (10).
6. Indian dish I make for artist. (4)
10. Gas mob – I have student. (5)
11. French rebel may love 2,000 and 1 in heart, maybe. (9)
12. Groom no saint for the French river. (6)
13. Having ambition, I take painkiller with note. (8)
15. Piece of film in mobile home. (7)
17. Bounce off Ann in study. (6)
20. United? Not quite undone. (6)
22. Plastic part of bird on part of floor. (7)
26. Plants this shirt on Les. (8)
27. On the tip of the tongue, Al holds 12 points. (6)
30. Declaration is obvious to none. (9)
31. Knock out rodent in city. (5)
32. Used a horse in cowboy event, nearly. (4)
33. Equals take right form for actors. (10)



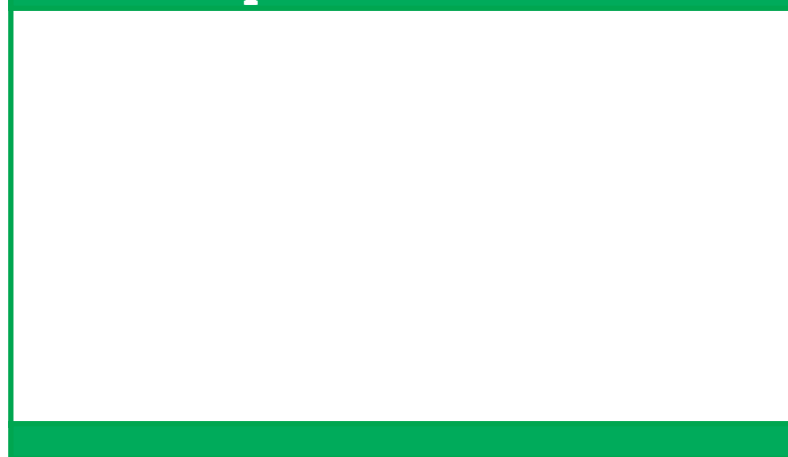
Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

DOWN

1. Two boys make drum. (3-3)
2. Judge rare bit badly. (7)
3. Five in successful pitch for ointment. (5)
4. Compete in swift water. (4)
5. Be inspiration to bewilder. (6)
7. Cajun current commercial for Ian. (7)
8. In 501, gentleman is poor fellow. (8)
9. Contemplating cow. (8)
14. We, quietly, back into church seat. (3)
16. I make depression. If yes, give it a name. (8)
18. Practice with queen for client. (8)
19. Either way you look at it, it doesn't work. (3)
21. Diluted skinny Edward. (7)
23. Crop from Swiss lake? (7)
24. Tenant minus a couple of points. (6)
25. Music makers for Champagne vessels. (6)
28. Mean fellow – fish, right? (5)
29. Bark texture. (4)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

		7		
4	1			
	7	1	6	9
	8			1
		9		
4	5			8
1	6	5	4	3
7				5
			3	

The principle of Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.

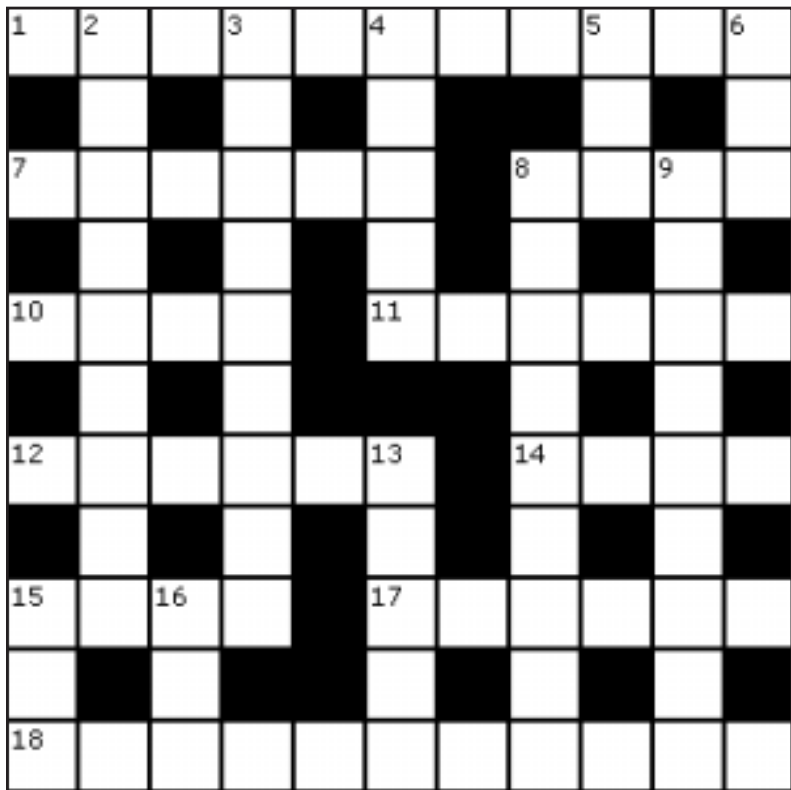
EZ Trivia Quiz

1. What do people from Sydney, Australia, call themselves?
2. What have people taken to calling the couple Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes?
3. What language do Chileans speak?
4. What does "Casablanca" mean?
5. Oslo is the capital of which country?
6. Which movie won the "Best Animation" award at this year's Oscar's?
7. Which Japanese car manufacturer's name means "Three Diamonds"?
8. What is George Orwell's famous book about farm animals called?
9. Actor Andy Serkis played Gollum in *The Lord of the Rings*. What other well-known beast did he recently play?
10. What is the biggest fish in the world?

Answers on next page

Brain Buster

Rachinee, Somboon, and Jaroon were each picking up their fast-food orders – a burger, a plate of fries, and a slice of pizza. "Who ordered what?" asked the girl at the counter. Somboon said, "I didn't order the pizza." The boy who ordered the fries said, "Oh, I thought you did." That was all the girl at the counter needed to know. Who got which order?
Answer on next page



Quick Crossword

- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Official document | 2. What schools provide. |
| 7. Court verdict. | 3. Communication device. |
| 8. Horse control device. | 4. Entrance hall. |
| 10. Stinging insect. | 5. One in cards. |
| 11. Moscow is its capital. | 6. A long time. |
| 12. Japanese garment. | 8. Water storage place. |
| 14. Saving Private ****. | 9. Copy. |
| 15. One time. | 13. Not under (2,3). |
| 17. Cancer or Capricorn. | 15. Often, in poetry. |
| 18. See-through | 16. US spy agency. |

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Roberto Concina, famous for his trance hits <i>One & One</i> and <i>Children</i> , performs under what name? | 8. Which film ends with the line "Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship." | 14. Who was the 16th President of the United States? |
| 2. Igor Sikorsky became the first man to pilot what on May 13, 1913? | 9. Which poem by Felicia Hemans begins with the line "The boy stood on the burning deck..." | 15. Where and when did Sigmund Freud die? |
| 3. Who attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981? | 10. Yerevan is the capital city of which country? | 16. What was Snoop Dogg's debut album called? |
| 4. Who, in the Roman Catholic Church, is the patron saint of editors? | 11. What recently released Spanish-language song has drawn ire in the United States? | 17. What is the leading cause of death among firefighters in the US? |
| 5. The Scarlet Pimpernel is the nickname of which foppish character from the novels of the same name? | 12. When was the English-language version officially adopted as the US anthem? | 18. Which <i>chanson</i> is recognized as being the oldest major work in French literature? |
| 6. Who wrote the novels? | 13. Which manufacturer won the very first Grand Prix? | 19. Whose latest CD on Capitol Records is called <i>Friendly Fire</i> ? |
| 7. The Rev Donald Caskie, a Church of Scotland minister, was given what nickname for his World War II exploits? | | 20. What bone did football star Wayne Rooney recently break, thus jeopardizing England's chances in the World Cup? |

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

- Robert Miles;
- A four-engined aircraft;
- Mehmet Ali Agca;
- Saint John Bosco;
- Sir Percy Blakeney;
- Baroness Emmuska Orczy;
- The Tartan Pimpernel – he helped some 2,000 allied service personnel to escape occupied France;
- Casablanca*;
- Casabianca*;
- Armenia;
- Nuestro Himno* ("Our Hymn" *The Star Spangled Banner* in Spanish);
- 1931;
- Renault;
- Abraham Lincoln;
- London, 1939;
- Doggystyle;
- Heart attacks;
- La Chanson de Roland*;
- Sean Lennon's;
- The fourth metatarsal in his right foot.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



EZ Trivia Answers: 1. Sidneysiders; 2. TomKat; 3. Spanish; 4. "White house"; 5. Norway; 6. *Wallace and Gromit, The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*; 7. Mitsubishi; 8. *Animal Farm*; 9. King Kong; 10. The whale shark.

Brain Buster Answer: Somboon got the burger, Jaron got the fries, and Rachinee got the pizza. We know Somboon didn't get the pizza, so he could have gotten the fries or the burger. But someone else got the fries, so Somboon had to get the burger. Furthermore, we know that it was Jaron who got the fries, because he is the only boy in the group besides Somboon. So that leaves Rachinee with the pizza.

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution



OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello, and willkommen to Lis Kinswoman's wacky world of bloggers, moaners, misers and no-smoking beds. A world in which good Samaritans go to jail and Thailand goes invisible. Don't know what I'm on about? Then read on...

Hit the road, Jack: "If you have ever imagined yourself partaking in any grand-scale road race, then Phuket is your kind of place to visit. Road rules, I think, were never actually instilled or taught to these people. Nor do I think they ever played Traffic Officer at nursery school.

"You are risking your life each and every time you get on the road to go somewhere, be it the 7-11 or for your monthly shopping at Tesco.

"This is a country where animals are used to symbolize everything that happens and reincarnation is not a myth, but truth to these people.

"What I'm trying to say is, the natives' attitude is that one certain thing about life is we all die and then we come back to do it all over again – so if the driver in front of you sends an unsuspecting cyclist to the Happy Hunting Grounds, he probably won't even blink an eye. It's all part of the cycle of life.

"The animal connotations made to giant cement trucks, barely touching the

Welcome to Phuket and the Happy Hunting Grounds

tarmac as they zoom past you, might best describe the pecking order of commuting. The cement truck is the elephant, and the little motorcycle vying for some space on the road (lined with street vendors and hawkers, please note) is the dog.

"Now I'm sure there's no question in your mind or mine as to who would win this battle – the dog, or the elephant on a rampage? So when you see a cement truck roaring next to you and behind you is a string of fellow cyclists on their mopeds, close your eyes and hope for the best. Perhaps you'd like to swap the full-faced helmet for an armour-plated car." (1)

Incredibly unseen: "It seems the 'thing to do' amongst Asian tourism authorities these days is to add an adjective in-front of their name and use it as a marketing slogan – you have Incredible India, Unseen Thailand, Uniquely Singapore, and a few I can't remember but am positive exist for South Korea and Japan." (2)

The wrong arm of the law: "A Gold Coast man hailed a hero for saving more than a dozen lives during the tsunami disaster has been arrested on home invasion charges on his arrival back in Brisbane.

"The hero's homecoming for Thomas David Connell turned sour when police detectives greeted the 32-year-old businessman, dubbed 'The good samaritan of Patong Beach', with handcuffs as he arrived at Brisbane Airport.

"Connell, who earned the title for his rescue role during the tsunami disaster in Phuket, Thailand, was charged with assault occasioning bodily harm while in company and entering a dwelling with intent.

"The charges stem from his alleged involvement in a home invasion on the Gold Coast in 2002. 'To be a life saver, saving 20 people, and then come back to my own country and I'm going straight into a bloody jail cell with hoodlums all day, I'm not a bloody hoodlum,' Connell told Channel 10.

"Police said they recognized Connell, whom they had been hunting for two years, after he'd given a television interview which aired last Monday." (3)

Non-smoking beds and the like: "After arriving at the hotel and attempting to check in, I was informed by the staff that the non-smoking king size bed I requested, and later called to confirm, was not available. This hotel may have 4-star services but is worse than a 2-star guest house. The walls allow all noise to penetrate, and

my penetrating neighbors kept me up all night." (4)

Stingy, stubborn and proud: "I quite often heard Thai people who could speak English referring to other Thai people being stingy in a derogative manner. In fact my former Thai girlfriend referred to me as being stingy, that usually makes me very proud, as to refer to me as being stingy is the ultimate compliment, as I'm proud that no one can get a free ride off me.

"But because my former Thai girlfriend was calling me stingy in a derogative manner, that made me even more stingy as I was not going to let her get away with her derogative attitude." (5)

This way, right? "Phuket is an island off the west coast of Thailand and its beaches were affected by the Tsunami all those months ago. To look at it, you'd never guess – aside from the brand new 'Tsunami Escape Route' road signs, which very informatively point you in the opposite direction from the sea front. Just in case you couldn't figure that much out. Yes, folks – run away from the big wall of water." (6)

1. <http://community.iexplore.com/planning/journalEntryFreeForm.asp?JournalID=26957&EntryID=14894&n=Survival+Tips+for+Living+in+Phuket>
2. <http://matthewfong.com/archives/category/my-life/>
3. <http://www.redcliffeonline.com.au/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=index&catid=&topic=4&allstories=1>
4. http://www.mytravelguide.com/hotels/reviewdisplay-201601-11-CDT-Thailand_reviews.html
5. <http://www.thailandqa.com/forum/showthread.php?t=9148>
6. http://www.moshtour.me.uk/2006_04_01_archive.html



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

You're going to the moon, Alice! If you don't recognize this line with a smile, you're too young. The phrase was Jackie Gleason's trademark in his *Honeymooners* TV comedy show back in the 1950s.

Ann-Marie MacDonald resurrects this line and many others from movies and pop music in her magnificent *The Way the Crow Flies* (Vintage Canada, Toronto, 2003, 810pp). The time is 1962, and the place the Canadian Midwest. A family of four is in a Nash Rambler traveling from Nova Scotia to an air force base called Centralia. It is a time of innocence and boundless optimism.

The novel opens: "The sun came out after the war and our world went Technicolor. Everyone had the same idea. Let's get married. Let's have kids. Let's be the ones who do it right."

The car trip is intricately described through the eyes of eight-year-old Madeleine McCarthy. Her father Jack is a

A new Canadian literary giant

handsome Canadian Air Force officer, her mother Mimi a beautiful French-speaking Arcadian, and her brother Mike a pest. They're on their way to a new posting after four years in Germany.

"It is possible in 1962, for a drive to be the highlight of a family week. King of the road, behind the wheel on four steel-belted tires, the sky's the limit. Let's just drive, we'll find out where we're going when we get there. How many more miles, Dad?"

MacDonald has an amazing eye and ear for detail. The car trip alone to their new home takes 43 pages of dense trade-paperback print. But it sets the pace and tone of the rest of the narrative, plunging the reader deep into the hearts and minds of the four family members. It is an old-fashioned Dickensian novel, and nothing short of a masterpiece.

As Madeleine navigates the perils of new friends, new school and new neighborhood, her father takes the reins as second-in-command of the air force base. *The Way the Crow Flies* turns into a spy novel as Jack is approached by his old RAF flying instructor, now an MI6 operative based in Washington, to become a minder for a German defector from the Soviet space program. The defector turns out to be a surly character with an unsavory Nazi past.

In another 20-page set piece, an impromptu barbecue in Jack's back yard, we are introduced to the other characters in the novel. One of the few civilians is socially-awkward high school teacher Henry Froelich, a Jewish survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, whose slovenly house with its family of five adopted kids squats opposite Jack's. Madeleine comes to befriend the tomboy Colleen and the teenage "dreamboat" Ricky, everyone's favorite kid.

The novel turns sinister as Mr March, Madeleine's teacher, starts keeping a few girls after class to molest them behind his desk. The shame and humiliation keeps Madeleine and the others quiet.

MASCOT

The class mascot is pretty little Claire McCarroll, with her gentle manners and Virginian accent. Her American father has been seconded to the base. The class outcast is Grace Novotny: "Why is there always one kid in the class who smells? Whom everyone shuns?"

The book becomes a murder mystery when Claire goes missing and is found strangled in a field near the base.

Circumstantial evidence points to Ricky, who is convicted in a riveting courtroom scene. Jack McCarthy knows Ricky is

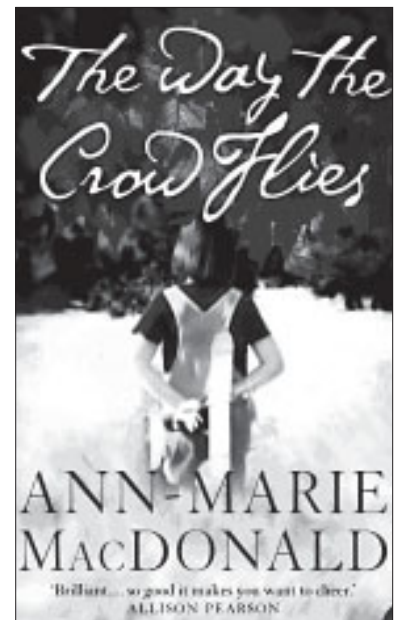
innocent but can't testify on his behalf without blowing his cover as a spy.

Then, in a sudden amazing shift, the last quarter of the novel shoots forward to 24 years later. Madeleine is a successful television comedienne and committed leftist, living in Toronto with her lesbian lover.

Starting at a stand-up benefit, she begins suffering spells of severe disassociation – so severe she has to stop driving a car.

In a mix of desperation and anger, she begins seeing a psychiatrist, who helps track down her childhood trauma with Mr March. Now *The Way the Crow Flies* turns into a psychological thriller, as Madeleine chases her past to a shocking conclusion that opens an abyss of unexpected and horrible evil.

This is an epic book that succeeds on many levels. Ann-Marie MacDonald is the next great Canadian novelist.



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Time to reclaim Phuket's roads – with forethought

With fuel costs rising ever closer to 30 baht per liter, urban planners are looking at ways to improve public transport options. Unfortunately, attempts to establish safe, low-cost public transport options in Phuket have long been hindered by the intractable problem of collusion among local transport syndicates, which keep fares at artificially high levels that have little to do with actual operating costs – such as the price of petrol.

If ever there were a time to tackle the island's lack of public transport, it is now – especially as there appears to be no end in sight to the ongoing rise in oil prices.

For a start, the province should do as much as possible to promote public use of the "Green Bus" in Phuket City as well as the Airport Bus service. Neither of these relatively-new services can be described as a success, as evidenced by the number of empty seats that may typically be seen on the vehicles.

Part of the reason for this may be that the majority of island's middle- and low-income earners who would otherwise have stood to benefit from these services had already invested in cars or motorcycles by the time they were established.

However, another reason is the services themselves. In both cases, arrivals are too sporadic for most commuters to rely upon. One alternative that could be tried to increase use of the services might be to put all of the Green Buses on a short, single inbound-outbound route to ensure that passengers never have to wait more than 10 minutes for a bus.

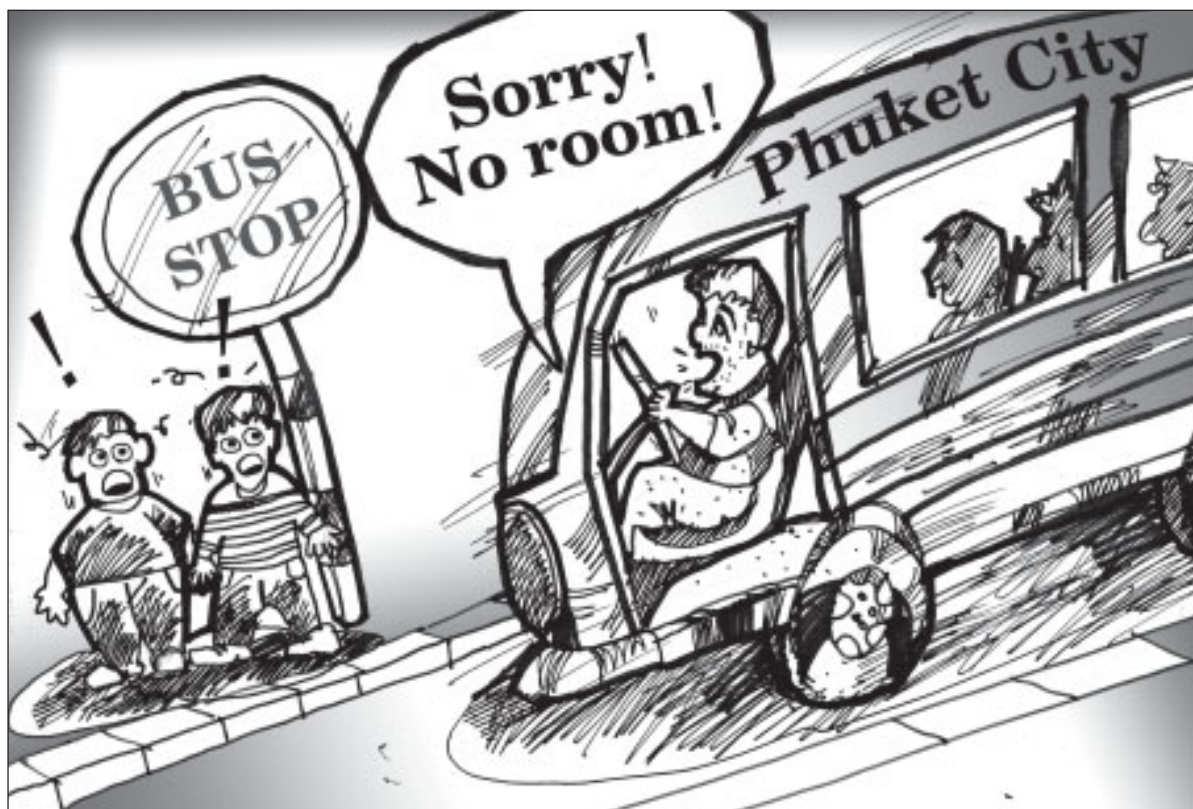
For the Airport Bus, it is worth remembering that it took both years and a great deal of experimentation before the those bus routes became popular in Bangkok, where inbound buses now typically fill to capacity before departing the airport.

That being said, if the Airport Bus service to Phuket City does not catch on soon enough, perhaps it could be re-routed to Patong and Kata-Karon, where it could also serve as a long-overdue public transport option connecting those popular tourist destinations.

Another trend in Bangkok directly related to oil price increases is a boom in the sale of bicycles. It is shameful that cycling does not play a larger role in personal transport in Phuket. To a large extent this is because existing conditions make this transport option too dangerous.

Unfortunately, this is yet another problem that can only be solved by a major change in local driving habits and law enforcement practices.

– The Editor



Letters

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

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

Poor endorsement

Here is something that absolutely blew my mind. When I was on the plane from Bangkok I picked up the airline's tax-free magazine and could not believe what I saw: A half-page ad in which a Bangkok China Town restaurant (opened in 1950) proudly offered dried and packaged shark fin soup.

I wonder how many sharks have been killed to supply this restaurant for the last 56 years? I wouldn't be able to sleep a wink if I started to count.

I love Thailand and I believe that this country earns a good income from tourists coming here to dive and see sharks in their natural environment. Yet it seems to me that some people don't give a damn about their country and its natural resources as long as they can eat tigers, monkeys, rhinos, elephants, whale sharks and other unusual and endangered species. I suppose I could end up getting shot for this, like the other protectors of the forest and marine creatures. Still, I am sorry, but just how could Thai Airways and the Tourism Authority of Thailand even consider something like this? I am speechless. Will somebody please do something?

Name & address supplied
Kathu

Red square

The suggestion that some tuk-tuks are blue and/or green but the majority are red is wholly incorrect (Issues & Answers online).

I have personally traveled in some that are yellow and even in a white one. So could someone please explain how these "rebels against conformity" can get

away with such individuality? Better still would be an explanation as to why the majority drive around with the sole intention of overtaking every other tuk-tuk in sight and with scant regard for passengers' thoughts or safety. The point being that color is irrelevant as long as we arrive safe and sound.

Andrew
UK

Delighted with Nai Harn Lake progress

As a tourist who has recently returned to Nai Harn, I was delighted to see the big improvements around Rawai and Nai Harn Beach, especially the work around the lake and the car parking area.

However, I noticed that rubbish is beginning to accumulate in one corner of the Nai Harn Lake. Do you know what plans are in place to ensure that the lake is kept clean, as well as the beach area in general so that it remains attractive to tourists?

Caroline Reeves
Via email

Turat Tanpongcharoen of Rawai OrBorTor answered: We are currently constructing a car park, accommodation and a fitness center in that area. It may be a little disorderly at the moment, but we will bury some of the rubbish and truck the rest away.

For a good sign

If the posting of signs and adverts without permission is illegal, then it wouldn't take the world's greatest sleuth to track down the perpetrators and to stop them from

fouling up Phuket's roads and by-ways.

All the police have to do is to go to the address of the advertiser.

Elementary, my dear Watson.

James Moriarty
Kathu

Gumball 'joyriders' not above the law

I was frankly amazed to note that the *Gazette* wrote such a jaunty, upbeat piece about this year's Gumball 3000 rally.

Please tell me if the *Gazette* condones the gratuitous flaunting of traffic and safety laws? Is it acceptable to threaten other people's safety in a lethal machine driven at obscene speeds all because you're rich enough to do so? Are the "stars and celebs" you glibly mention above the law? I think it highly unlikely.

All this while the rest of us worry about ever-increasing fuel prices, as reported in the *Gazette* recently.

A few years ago you featured a car review in which the vehicle was driven at almost twice the speed limit on a test drive in Phang Nga Province.

Leading by example? Perhaps you should have joined the Gumball 3000's strutting dandies in a Daihatsu Mira.

However, knowing the limitations of those vehicles – hair-dryers for engines, for example – the only way to make one of those cars break the speed limit would be to push it out of an Antonov An-124 – sans parachute – at 30,000 feet preferably over the Gumball 3000 party in LA.

Frank Lee Amazed
Rawai

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Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

Putting the "I" back into Phuket's MICE industry

Having lived and worked on the island for the past 17 years, I have, for the most part, promoted the island overseas as one of Southeast Asia's premier destinations for holding special events and conferences to corporate clients.

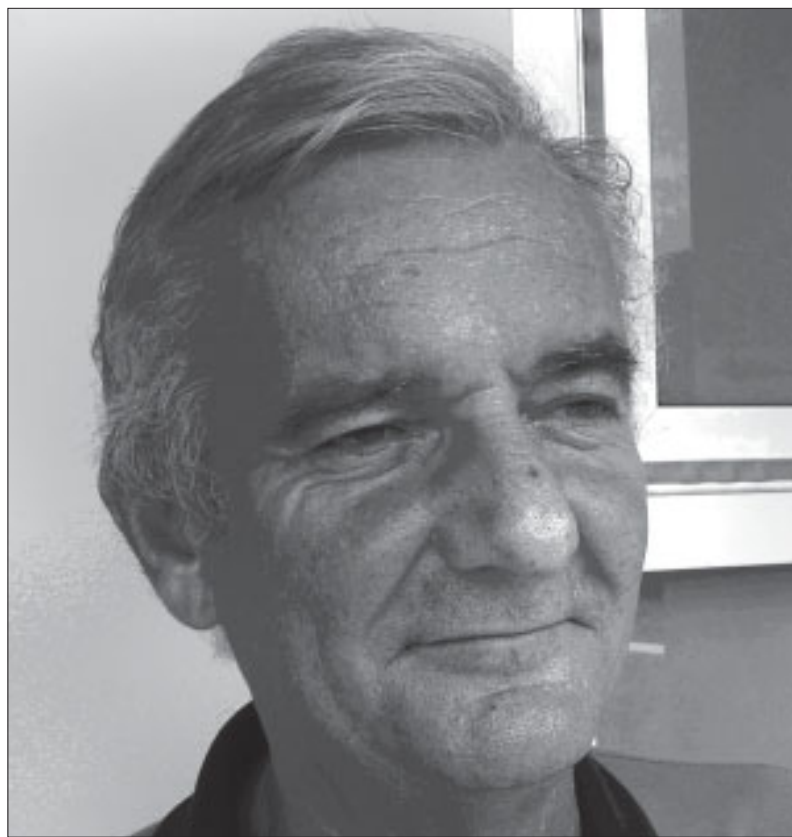
Despite the commendable efforts by many on the island working in the industry, I am still surprised by the shortsightedness and lack of understanding by many of our local government and other agencies.

Reading a recent editorial in *Gazette* (April 15) – about the future development of the island's Mice business – I was amazed to see that the story of the International Convention Center (ICC) is again rearing its head. The editorial, illustrating the vast amount of business brought into Phuket by the Hagemeyer group recently at the Laguna Phuket, seemed to totally miss the point.

Yes, major conventions such as the Hagemeyer conference, certainly bring in well-deserved revenue and assist greatly with the development of the overall economy.

Yes, the island certainly does now have strong infrastructure that could adequately handle such increases in business.

With the current additional development at the airport, the island will be capable of handling an increased number of flights. The island's excellent road systems can handle the extra traffic, and the varied restaurants,



FIRST PERSON

Bill Owen, a veteran of the travel industry, has worked in Phuket since 1989, when he established The Travel Company. He has since worked as a senior manager for Diethelm Travel before setting up Oriental Leisure with Worapot Subua, three years ago.

Here, in response to a recent *Gazette* editorial, he speaks about Phuket's burgeoning Mice (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions) industry, its history and its future.

hotels and other tourist-related services could also easily supply all such associated services.

Yes, with its many pristine beaches, its outlying islands, stunning locations such as Phang Nga Bay on its doorstep, Phuket is still capable of delivering the all-important "Wow Factor".

The editorial correctly noted the high financial risks inherent in the building of such centers, and used the Langkawi Center as an example.

Another exemplar is the

Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall, built and completed six years ago, which has yet to make money.

Yes, successful convention centers are to be found throughout Southeast Asia, but they are all located in and around major conurbations such as Hong Kong and Singapore. The newly completed Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre and even now Bangkok's Queen Sirikit National Convention Center are all successful and making money.

Upon closer investigation, however, these centers don't profit from major international conventions alone.

Far from it, in fact, as their bread-and-butter business is found in more mundane domestic trade shows and events – something which Phuket, due to its size, will simply never achieve.

The emphasis for post-tsunami Phuket and the development of its Mice business, should therefore be five fold:

Formulation of island-wide

policies for the protection of our natural resources and the island's natural beauty, with the careful policing and control of building projects.

Development of a well-designed destination marketing campaign that not only delivers information on the island's quality services, its facilities and infrastructure, but also assists service companies in their marketing and promotions overseas. Many of the small specialist suppliers on the island are in urgent need of such services.

Major expansion in specialist staff training initiatives.

Checks and controls on the quality of all tourist services – especially with regard to health and safety issues.

Upgrading of existing Mice facilities in resorts.

I feel, personally, that for the island to truly prosper, careful investment of both time and finances must be made now. Phuket will then be in a much stronger position to continue to provide the all important "Wow Factors" which are certainly vital for attracting such international events.

But an International Convention Center? Let's forget that and simply spend time talking less but carefully nurturing what the island is and always has been famed for; its natural resources.

It is high time to make a concerted effort to put the "i" back in the Mice business on the island.

It will be good for all of us.

Divorce in Thailand

My wife and I were married in Indonesia. Is it possible for two foreigners who are living in Thailand to divorce in Thailand? If so, what are the steps?

MC
Phuket

Suksan Siang-Ake, Kathu District Chief Administrative Officer, replies:

Yes, it is possible. Normally divorces are handled by the District Office but in this case the two parties must apply to the local Provincial Family Court. Each must have a lawyer representing them.

Sam Fauma of the International Law Office notes:

Thai law states that the parties to a marriage can normally file for a divorce at any District Office. In this case, however, this is not possible – the parties must apply to the Family Court in the province where they reside.

The couple must have a genuine reason for divorce. Such reasons include infidelity, violence, failure to support the family or estrangement.

The court can also rule on a divorce settlement in cases where the two parties cannot agree on who gets what, though the decision will be limited strictly to the couple's assets in Thailand.

Applicants must each be represented by a lawyer. The court also requires that applicants file a translation into Thai of the relevant law (Indonesian, in this case) in order to try to ensure that the judge's decision does not conflict with the laws of the country where the couple were married.

Such a conflict between Thai and foreign law will not necessarily rule out the possibility of divorce, but may have some bearing on the judge's decision or details of that decision.

The procedure may take several months to complete.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

'No water for 45 days' – What can be done?

We have been without water in our house for 45 days. Every time I call the [provincial] Water Department at 076-321515 they say the same thing, "Give us your number and we will send someone to check." But no one ever comes.

We are really fed up of having to buy water from private water suppliers – often it is muddy.

How are we to survive? Please advise us what is to be done. To add insult to injury, although we receive no water, we are still getting water bills.

Disha
Kata

Pichai Wetrangsee, Chief of Production of Bang Wad Water Supply, replies:

Currently there is rising demand from Kata, Karon and Patong, while the basic supply remains the same. As Kata is at the end of our distribution pipeline, supply there sometimes can be poor.

At times there is not enough pressure to deliver water, but the supply never actually stops.

We recently installed a new pump system to improve things, but this will depend on a steady power supply.

We will produce more water supply from a reverse-osmo-

sis (RO) desalination plant, which will convert seawater into freshwater. The plant is scheduled for completion in June.

Until the RO plant is working, if you do not have enough supply they will have to supplement it by buying water from private sources. Everything will improve in June. As for the water bills, anyone linked into our system must pay a minimum of 85 baht, even if they use no water.

I do not believe you have received no water at all for such a long time. That is impossible. If that were the case, we would have had many complaints by now, but we have not.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

Who wants to go to Patong, and for what? "It's such a dump," people say. "The girls are not attractive in Patong, and the racket – the noise of all those bars playing different music at loud volume. There's nowhere to park. And too many katoeys," and so on.

Apart from all that, Patong is still the busiest place in Phuket, and still has by far the largest number of hotel rooms on the island. While it's not everybody's cup of tea – Mrs Miller, who played the organ in the church in my hometown wouldn't have liked it at all (she didn't like hot weather, you see) – Patong is what makes Phuket different from most other holiday destinations.

Take Patong away and you have the same as any other holiday island in the world, nice beaches, palm trees nice hotels and restaurants – but no spark. Nothing to complain about and most importantly, no place to go where you'd rather not admit you've been.

RELEASE

Many people who live on Phuket whine about Patong but still seem to find a reason to suffer "the dump" on a fairly regular basis, and that during leisure time.

Then there are those who like Patong and its vibrant night-life, the restaurants, the entertainment and the company. If you've been working in the middle of the desert or the middle of the ocean on an oil rig you need a release, a bit of action, noise and fun.

But enjoying a night out in Patong and living there are two different stories.

There's definitely a market for those who like to socialize in Patong, but don't actually want to live in the middle of it. Neither do they want to risk life and limb and the safety of others, not to mention their driving license and possibly even their status in Thai-

Patong from a new perspective



The southern headland behind the Amari Coral Beach Resort provides both a great ocean view during the day and a vista of the bright lights of Patong by night



land every night by driving a long way home full of sherbets.

The perfect solution is to live nearby or, even better, above it. The southern headland behind the Amari Coral Beach Resort provides both a great ocean view during the day and a vista of the bright lights of Patong by night.

Bluepoint Apartments, one of the new generation of Phuket developments, is perfect for this market niche. With four modern, luxurious one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments and a swimming pool high above the ocean, this boutique project is just right

for the party person with good taste. It is only a short tuk-tuk ride from the heart of Patong, or if one felt a health and fitness attack coming on, one could walk back from the heart of the action in about 15 minutes.

There's quite a lot going on up there on the headland; new roads, villas and even the odd restaurant. There's a couple of pleasant little beaches down the other side of the bluff – one looking back at Patong, showing quite a different perspective. It's worth jumping in the car and going up to check it out.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): If it's your birthday this week you can look forward to a magical year. Benevolent astral influences will ensure you realize many ambitions, and romance should take off in a big way. This week you will gain a clearer perspective of a situation that has caused you some anxiety. You will realize that Aries was right all along. The color lilac encourages creativity to flow more freely.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): This could be a frustrating week for you. Business doesn't go as smoothly as you were expecting, but problems shouldn't be taken too seriously – there's really no need to lose any sleep. Your tendency to be a couch potato is slowly taking its toll. Look into ways of getting exercise more regularly to boost your energy levels. The number 7 is lucky on Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): New career avenues are opening for many Cancerians. Nothing ventured is nothing gained, and you should be prepared to expand your horizons. You are capable of much more than you believe, and this year will see progress in leaps and bounds. An old love is poised to reappear, but you will realize the flame of romance has burned out. Wear the color ivory to encourage a calm mood.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You will feel most comfortable in your lair this week. Unfortunately, your partner will have itchy feet and want you to do some serious socializing. A certain amount of compromising will also be necessary early in the week when a business agreement is finalized. If you're single, spread your wings and you may come into contact with the person who is your soul mate.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You will receive motivation if you are ready to leave behind the safe – but boring – life you've created. Romance remains exciting; absence makes your heart grow fonder, but there are signs of an imminent reunion. At work, the advice is to move into new areas. You will meet and impress someone who can help you. A dream you have on Sunday has special significance.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your heart of gold could be taken advantage of this week. You should put the brakes on your generous nature before financial favors get out of hand. Property matters are set to take off. Schedule important appointments for midweek to avoid unsettled planetary influence. Wednesday is the best day for communicating with Capricorn. The number 4 is lucky on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If a loved one's bad habits get you down, find a way to show him or her how much more pleasant life could be if these are given up. This weekend you will have the right tools to get the message across in a subtle way. If single, you may need to lower your standards if you want to meet the partner of your dreams. There's every chance of a mutual attraction on Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A well-meaning friend's advice rubs you up the wrong way this weekend. You know that his or her heart is in the right place, so bear this in mind before saying something you'll regret. If you are tiring of a personal problem, make a radical decision soon. In romance, Leo would love to receive a sign of your interest. The number 5 is lucky on Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): The heat is on if you must finalize a business deal before the end of the month. During the coming days you will have the right approach in dealing with stubborn colleagues. A romantic interest you pursued to no avail earlier this year is about to reappear. Things could work out this time if there is no excess emotional baggage in the relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A long-standing ambition could be fulfilled before the end of the month. Those on the ball will see a golden opportunity during the coming days to get a head start. After an emotional roller coaster ride last week, a new relationship looks set to become more serious. But not everyone will be as enthusiastic – watch out for Scorpio's sting on Monday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If the heat is getting you down, find the coolest possible place to chill out this weekend. If your energy is low, do not push yourself too hard at the moment. Those who have been involved in a secretive relationship will have reason to make it more public. Expect work progress to be made in small steps for the time being, as others are not as cooperative as you might wish.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): There is no good reason to make waves on an otherwise calm sea. If you are tempted to stir things up you may regret your impulsiveness. Those who are content to be single should beware of seemingly innocent advances made by Taurus – who would like something more than a platonic relationship. Finances are well-starred, and you will hear of a solid investment opportunity.

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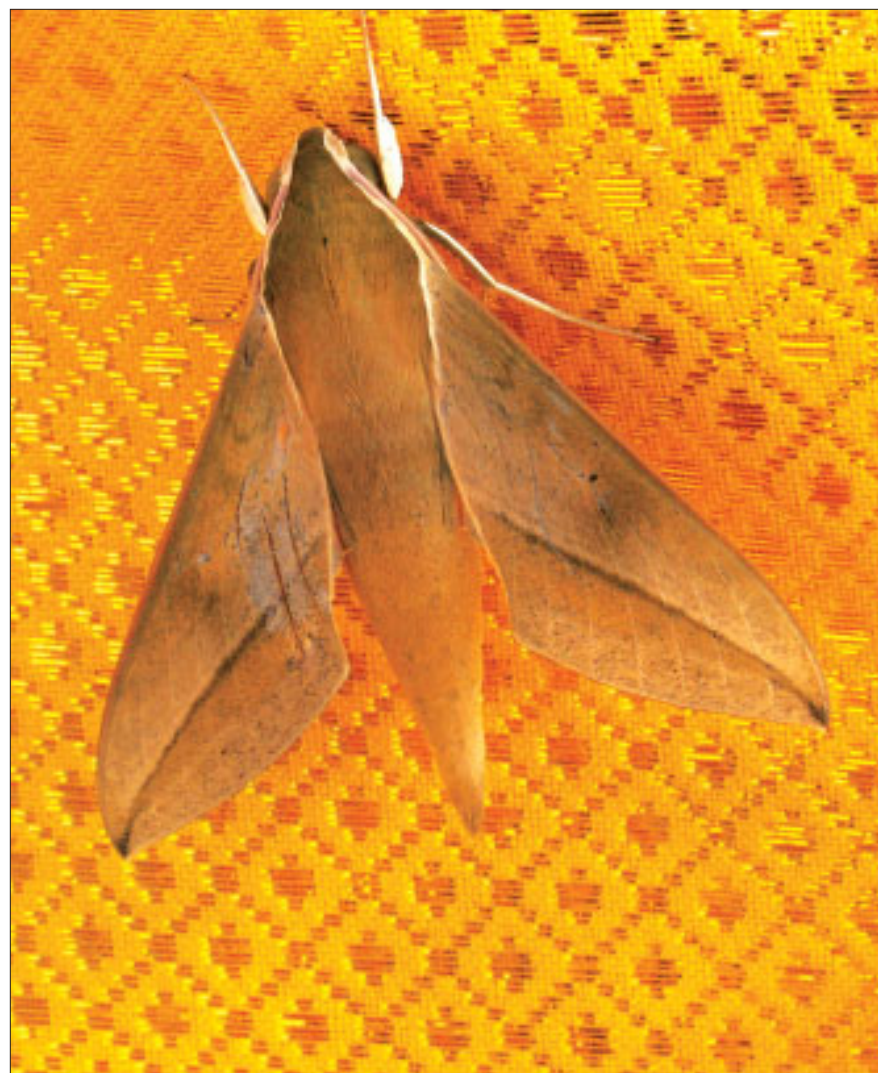
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Two Sphinx moths: below, *Daphnis hypothous hypothous*, and right, *Theretra clotho clotho*. These are big insects; they can have a wingspans as wide at 20cm.



A million baht? Do the moth-myth math

Many people are adamant that they have seen hummingbirds here in Phuket. "I'll bet you a million baht," they say.

Unfortunately, they're wrong, but you can't really blame them for the mistake, as there is a family of moths on the island that looks very similar to hummingbirds.

Sphinx moths (family *sphingidae*) are also called hawk moths or hummingbird moths.

They can hover in one place while sucking in nectar through their proboscis (a long, slender sucking tube).

CONFUSION

What's more, these moths have a wing flight pattern that is similar to that of the hummingbird, and, adding to the possible confusion, they can fly backwards.

Sphinx moths have wingspans ranging from five to 20 centimeters while the proboscis can exceed 25cm in length in some species.

There are approximately 200 species of sphinx moths living throughout the length and breadth of Thailand, and about 165,000 species worldwide.

They are among the fastest-flying of all insects, and their great speed – as much as 50kmh – necessitates the intake of great deal of energy; this is why these moths feed exclusively on nectar. This simple sugary carbohydrate is the ideal sustenance for the busy sphinx.

Sphinx moths are important flower pollinators. They pollinate orchids, as well as other flowers, by sucking nectar with their probosces. As they do so the tiny

NATURE NOTES

By Dave Williams

hairs around their faces pick up the pollen, which is spread to other flowers they visit.

There are four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Many species produce one batch of offspring per year, while others are capable of having several batches. Adult lifespan ranges from as short as a few days up to several months.

What's more, there is no such thing as a baby moth. All moths are adults. They will not grow any larger. They grow as caterpillars and once they emerge from the pupa, they are fully grown adult moths.

As to the hummingbird, it is native to the Americas. There are, however, plenty of other beautiful nectar-eating birds in Thailand such as sunbirds, flowerpeckers and spiderhunters.

These birds also spice up their meals by eating some insects and – as the name suggests – spiders.

So, now that we've established the fact that there are no hummingbirds in Southeast Asia, if someone tells you that they've seen a hummingbird, go ahead and bet them that they're wrong. Perhaps a million baht is a bit over the top, though.

Why do I get the feeling that I'll never get paid?

Dave Williams runs eco-expedition company Paddle Asia. For details, visit www.paddleasia.com

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Confession is good for the soul, right? All right. I confess. I have been known to go to less than respectable websites. Do it all the time. Cracker sites. Pirate download sites. File-sharing sites. Tweaker sites. Newspaper sites. Political sites. You name it, and I've probably surfed it.

I bet you have, too.

Some of those sites ask you to sign up by providing your email address, or sometimes more, in return for some sort of bonus. Many such sites offer files for download. That's where you start to get into trouble. Give up your address and you may get spammed for the rest of your life. Install a bad file and you may suddenly start seeing ads where they don't belong and "helpful" Web search toolbars that only serve to spy and report.

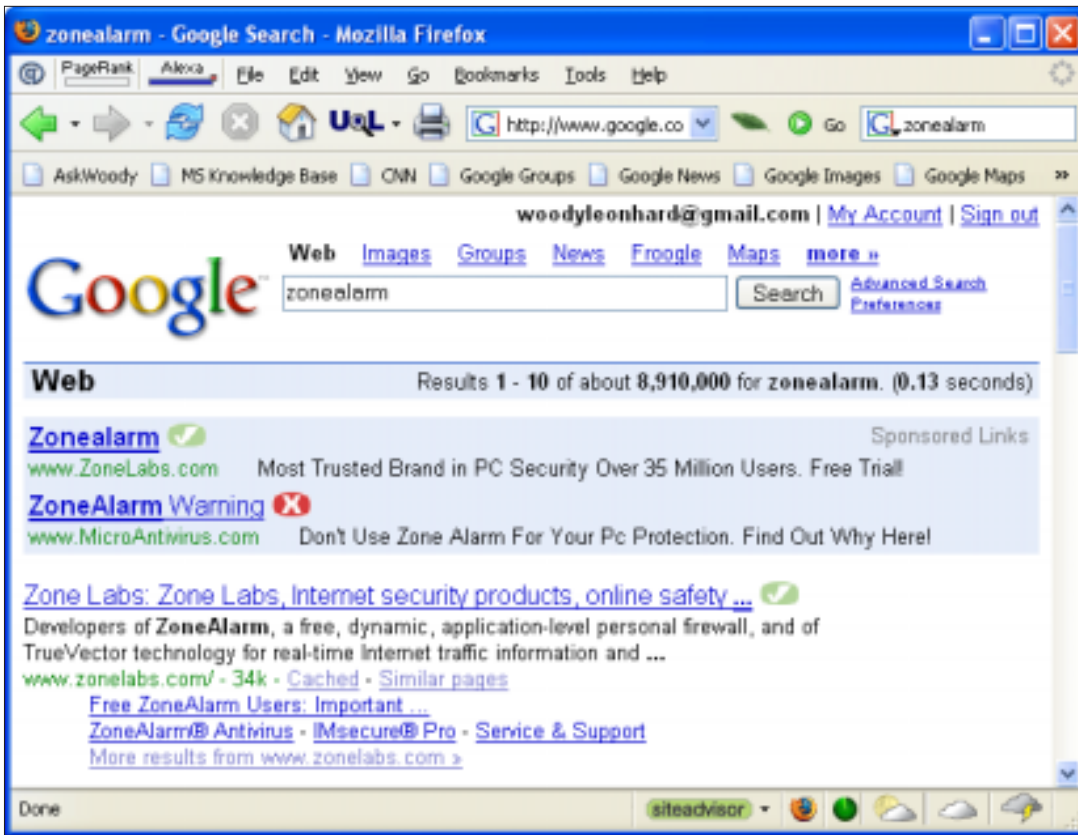
If you're really unlucky, you could accidentally install a rootkit that subverts your computer, turning it into a zombie that spews a thousand pieces of spam an hour. It's a jungle out there.

I'm a big boy. Literally and figuratively, but I'm protected up the yin-yang with state-of-the-art, mostly free, anti-this and anti-that software. I keep my free firewall (ZoneAlarm, www.zonelabs.com) going full-time. Same with my antivirus software (AVG Free, free.grisoft.com). Firefox (www.firefox.com) runs rings around Internet Explorer, blocking all sorts of junk.

I run Microsoft's free Windows Defender to keep the spies at bay (www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.mspx) but I don't like Microsoft's lax attitude, so I also run Webroot SpySweeper (1,200 baht from www.webroot.com).

Drive-by infections don't worry me. Even with all of my surfing to unsavory sites, I've never been infected by simply visiting a website. Worms, Trojans and viruses don't worry me either because AVG Free works the way it should, and I never double-click on downloaded files without running an AVG scan. SpySweeper does a great job catching wayward pieces of scumware and bad ActiveX controls.

With all that protection, though, there's still a problem: I don't want to waste my time with scummy websites. I don't want to download a file and discover



Surfing past slimy sites

later that it has a piece of 180solutions or Gator scumware inside. I don't even want to go to a site that asks for an email address, then uses that address to spam me. I don't like doing business with slimy companies, and I definitely don't want to add to their hit counters.

I'm also getting more and more worried about phishing sites – the places that look like they're PayPal or Wells Fargo, but in fact ask for sensitive information and ship it off to bad guys in Kabukistan. I've come very close to clicking on links in email messages to go check on an account, only to discover at the last moment that I was headed to a phishing hole. The guys who put together phishing sites and their come-on messages are getting better at their craft.

A few weeks ago I stumbled onto an article by anti-scum researcher Ben Edelman called *Deciding Who to Trust* (www.benedelman.org/news/121905-1.html). Ben writes about a free product called SiteAdvisor (www.siteadvisor.com). He liked it so much he joined their advisory board.

SiteAdvisor sends spiders out on the Web, subjecting each site they come

across to a multi-pronged probe. First, SiteAdvisor looks to see if the site has a form that asks you to provide your email address. If so, the spider fills out the form with a unique address — and then sits back and waits to see if any spam arrives.

Second, SiteAdvisor looks to see if there are any files available on the site. If there are, the spider downloads the files and examines each for scum.

Finally, SiteAdvisor also examines links on the site, to see if the site attempts to get you to go to other scummy sites.

SiteAdvisor works as an add-in to Firefox, or even Internet Explorer, if you're still stuck in that quagmire. It sits in a small corner of the toolbar. When the SiteAdvisor icon appears green, you're in good company. When it turns red, watch out. And if it stays gray, SiteAdvisor has no opinion — which is a telltale sign, if you're about to enter account or credit card information. Click on the icon, and SiteAdvisor gives you full details on the site you're visiting and its trustworthiness.

SiteAdvisor also hooks itself into your Google (or Yahoo or MSN) search results. I was using Google to look for the ZoneAlarm site. At the top of the Google

HOW DOES IT WORK?

SiteAdvisor sends spiders out on the Web, subjecting each site they came across to a multi-pronged probe

results page there are two Sponsored Links – in other words, two ads. The first ad is from Zone Labs, the people who make ZoneAlarm. It's fine.

The second ad, though, says "ZoneAlarm Warning" and states, "Don't Use Zone Alarm For Your Pc Protection. Find Out Why Here!" Pure poppycock. SiteAdvisor has a big red "X" next to the site's link on Google – a sure sign that the people who placed the ad have nefarious intentions.

If you click on the Google link, you get routed through a site called xorleinaad.microa.hop.clickbank.net, and end up at microantivirus.com. Click on the red SiteAdvisor icon, and SiteAdvisor says it's flagging microantivirus.com because it links directly to a slimy site called platinum partner.com.

There are plenty of reasons why I would flag microantivirus.com as pure scum. The site says it's "the world's No. 1 Virus Protection Software" but I've never heard of

Micro Antivirus, and I can't find any reviews of it.

The site also says "As a Micro Antivirus customer, you benefit from the expertise of Micro Antivirus Anti Virus Emergency Response Team (AVERT), an international research team..." but AVERT is a registered trademark of McAfee, which certainly has nothing to do with this slimy group.

Finally, while MicroAntivirus purports to be an antivirus product, it doesn't even claim to do any fire-walling, thus it doesn't compete with ZoneAlarm. The Google ad is pure sensational garbage, designed to make you click, nothing more.

I think SiteAdvisor made a good call.

Last month, McAfee announced that it's buying SiteAdvisor. Good decision. Although McAfee says that SiteAdvisor will continue to be free, right now is a very good time to drop by the SiteAdvisor site and install your copy.

– Woody Leonhard

Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) writes *no-bull books about Windows and Office, including Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies, Windows XP Timesaving Techniques For Dummies, and Special Edition Using Microsoft Office.*

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ON THE MOVE

Kanittha "Gem" Thanthanasap, 29, from Loei, has been appointed Public Relations Manager of Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket. K. Gem has a diploma in cultural studies from Richmond Adult Community College in the UK and a degree in English from Khon Kaen University. Before joining Dusit, she was the Editorial Coordinator for *Asia-Pacific Tropical Homes* magazine.



Somwong "Wai" Smarn, 39, from Phuket, has been promoted to Room and Guest Service Manager at Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket. K. Wai holds a degree in French and English from Srinakharinwirot University (Prasarnmitr campus) in Bangkok. Before her promotion, she was Assistant Room and Guest Service Manager at the resort.



Marcella Mocci, 28, from Italy, is the General Manager of 2 Gusti restaurant at Central Festival Phuket. A tourism management graduate, she has worked for the Max Mara Fashion Group in Italy, was Reception Manager at the Free Beach Hotel in Sardinia, as Guest Relations Officer at Delizie d'Uggiano restaurant in Paris and as PR Manager at the Country Club, Carrickmacross in Ireland.



My recent article on South Africa as an investment destination provoked a rush of emails from South Africans still resident in that country. The general theme was that South Africa was the last place on the planet that one should consider for investment.

Having lived in South Africa from 1975 to 1997, I appreciate their sentiments; that is why I live in Phuket and have no intention of ever returning to South Africa – even for a holiday. In my opinion, it is a country with no long-term future except for crime, poverty and chaos.

That said, many of the world's most attractive investment destinations are not the best tourist destinations. What I did point out in my article was that the Orbis Africa Fund had, as of April 17, 2006, gained 1,291.7% since its inception on June 30, 1998. That is an enormous return.

There is no suggestion of buying a house in South Africa, just portfolio investment. Anyone monitoring commodity prices will have noted the huge increases taking place, not only in the more glamorous areas of gold and platinum, but also in copper, zinc and coal.

The reality is that making substantial profits often involves investing in countries that investors would normally shun.

South Africa heads north; US dollar weakness not all gloom



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

According to Bloomberg, Thailand has seen a decline of 52% in new investment proposals – foreign direct investment companies are concerned about the political situation, and uncertainty naturally creates hesitation

Russia is another prime example. South Africa has huge problems, but it also has some great short-term advantages over Russia. Company management, stock market regulation and company accounting practices are years, if not decades, ahead of Russia.

In Thailand, however, portfolio investment is a different

story. According to Bloomberg, Thailand has seen a decline of 52% in new investment proposals. Foreign direct investment companies are concerned about the political situation, and uncertainty naturally creates hesitation. This is long-term investment that cannot be withdrawn at the push of a button. However, the Thai stock market overall is not feeling the same effects – it may not be booming, but it has still risen modestly.

One topic recently featured in this column was the negative outlook for the US dollar. This is now starting to become a reality and it is likely that the currency will fall further. For most American residents this will be of little interest. However, the investment community will be much less relaxed about the scenario.

The US problem is basic. Americans are living beyond their

The reality is that making substantial profits usually involves investing in countries that investors would normally shun

means, both in domestic and international terms. America requires US\$2.5 billion in net foreign capital just to balance its current account deficit; this deficit is approaching 7% of GDP – Gross Domestic Product. History is littered with examples of countries that have found themselves in similar situations. One of the main causes of the Asian financial crisis of 1997 was unsustainable current account deficits.

The American situation offers no easy solutions. In an ideal world, the US dollar would simply depreciate in value, which would inhibit imports and encourage exports, and the situation would automatically resolve itself. In the real world that is not an option, especially with China as a major trading partner. China is holding the value of the yuan in line with the US dollar. It did allow some appreciation in the sec-

ond half of 2005, but made it abundantly clear that any further currency appreciation will be very modest and over long period of time.

China is primarily interested in its domestic issues. It is fully aware that if it allowed the yuan to trade freely, its value would rise substantially. China has the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world, more than US\$900 billion, now ahead of Japan's US\$ 800 billion plus.

China's economy is very dependent on exports. A substantial rise in the value of the yuan would lead to a slowdown in exports, which would hurt the economy and have other developing manufacturing countries gaining market share and new foreign investment.

America is not in a good position to pressure China because foreign companies operating in China are responsible for about half of China's exports, and the largest source of foreign investment in China comes from US companies. India is keeping the value of the rupee virtually tied to the US dollar, too, as are many other countries.

The currencies most likely to appreciate against the US dollar are the euro, the pound sterling and the yen. The timing of recent US Dollar weakness is not accidental. The US Federal Reserve has made it clear that it is close to the end of its interest rate tightening cycle.

Surprisingly, amidst US dollar gloom, US stock markets may well have a reasonable 2006. With interest rates close to their peak, more money is likely to move into this area. Corporate profits are still strong and overall economic growth is likely to be around 3% in 2006.

It may well be others that feel the pain of US dollar weakness, but the overall situation is still positive.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel: and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

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Pawn shops doing a roaring trade

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: It is a generally-held belief that pawnshops can be viewed as a economic barometer, the argument being that if the pawnshops are seeing an increase in business, then the economy must be in decline.

It is perhaps more accurate to say that the business of pawning items – where a person's possession is held as collateral against a loan – may be seen as an indicator of the relative health of certain sectors of an economy.

There are, after all, pawnshops in Beverly Hills, catering exclusively to the rich or famous, where Rolex watches, Cartier jewelry or paintings by the old masters are held as surety.

There are both pawnshops and private money lenders operating in Phuket. There are three pawnshops, one each in Phuket City, Patong and Cherg Talay. All are run by the local municipality and charge low interest rates.

Pichaiyot Lensen, the Manager of Phuket City's pawnshop, told the *Gazette* that the number of people borrowing money from his pawnshop has increased every year since opening in 1966.

FUEL PRICE

K. Pichaiyot attributes this rise down to the ever-rising number of people on low incomes coming to live in Phuket.

"Once they move here, they realize that the cost of living is higher than they expected – higher perhaps, than where they came from," he said.

"The rising price of fuel, with its knock-on effects, is also hitting people hard."

March this year saw more than 4,000 people visiting the pawnshop, an increase, according to K. Pichaiyot, of 14% on March, 2005.

Items most commonly put up as collateral are TV sets, stereo systems, DVD players, hand-held construction equipment such as electric drills, and gold.

"I'd say that about 90% of all items pawned fall into those categories. To give you an idea of how much we lend, currently one baht-weight of gold [equivalent to



Pichaiyot Lensen, Manager of Phuket City's pawnshop, with some of the many power tools that have been pawned. Most items are redeemed, he says, thanks to the low interest rates charged.

0.482 troy ounce] will allow a person to borrow a maximum of 8,000 baht, though this might change as the price of gold rises.

"The central government must approve any adjustment that municipal pawnshops want to make to the lending rate," he added.

March is traditionally one of the peak months for pawnshops, he explained, because parents need cash to buy clothing and other items for their children ahead of the new school term.

"May, when university students begin their new academic year, is another peak time and, based on previous years, I expect to see an increase of around 30% in the number people using this service at that time," he added.

He explained that the central government released an additional 25 million baht to the Phuket City pawn shop to assist parents during these busy pre-term periods. "We still have around 10 million of this left, which should be enough to tide us over through the remainder of May."

The Phuket City pawn shop, he explained, has the highest revenue of any government pawn shop in the southern provinces and ranks fifth in the nation.

"The Phuket City pawn shop has seen profits rise substantially in recent years," he said. "In

them away from private money lenders and loan sharks," he said.

"Our main income comes from two areas. The first is the interest paid on loans and the other is the money made from the sale of items that have not been redeemed, which are auctioned off.

"Most of our income," he noted, "is from the interest paid. I'd say that only around 2% of items pawned end up being auctioned. Auctions, by the way, take place on the second Saturday of each month."

K. Pichaiyot said that he believes that the low number of items put up for auction is because of the low interest rates charged on loans. "Some people just forget to repay the loan," he added.

Interest on loans is charged according to a sliding scale.

"For loans of up to 3,000 baht, customers must pay 0.75% a month. For loans of 3,001 baht to 50,000 baht, the rate is 1% a month and for loans of 50,001 baht up to 100,000 baht, it is 1.25%.

"Compare this with the 3% to 20% a month typically charged by loan sharks and illegal pawnshops and you can see that we

offer a better, fairer and safer service.

"I estimate that up to 3 million baht a day crosses the counter in this pawn shop – monies lent and monies received in part or in full – so business is good.

"Some people say that this pawnshop is busier than a bank," he added.

Adul Rumrassamee, manager of Cherg Talay pawnshop, which opened two years ago, also said that business was increasing.


"We see about 80 people per day coming in here, both those pawning items or redeeming them, or paying interest. Peak times of the year see around 600,000 to 700,000 baht a day crossing the counter.

K. Adul said that business increased dramatically after the tsunami.

"Many people who live in this area – and most of our customers – work in the tourism industry. Some are still struggling after the effect the tsunami had on them and their finances.


"Pawn shops help people to survive," he said. "Simple as that."



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'Tri Ballistic' kids perform well in Sentosa aquathon

SINGAPORE: A team of 25 "Tri Ballistic" kids represented Phuket in the recently-held 5th Inter-Collegiate and Schools Aquathlon Challenge on Sentosa Island, Singapore, with some outstanding results.

The event consisted of swimming and running over varying distances for different age groups. The overall prizes were awarded to the team with the best combined score from both individual and team categories.

EXCELLENCE

There were some excellent team performances; in particular Roman Henry and Marcus Gotz, who paired up to win the eight-years-and-under team event.

In the same category, Taj Jones and Angus Hamilton came third.

In the girls' competition, teammates Bianca Gotz and Tasha Peters won the 10-years-and-under age group, with Alysa Bebbington and Jacqueline Or-

chard finishing third. Jordan Smith and Zachary Henry put in a huge effort to place fourth in their category.

In the individual 12-years-and-under category, Amy Henthorne finished the swim in the top group and followed up with a strong run to place third.

It was these results, as well as other solid individual performances by team members Shannon Smith, Josh Henthorne, Teisha Jones and Manisha Lama that helped the Tri Ballistic Junior team to come second overall in the girls' category and third in the boys' competition.

In the senior divisions, strong individual performances saw Timana Hossack, Julie-Ann Orchard, Karnika Porter and Tim O'Leary and the team combination of Matthew Porter and Ben Coffin finish well against some tough local competition.

The Tri Ballistic team will represent Phuket again at the end of May in the Bintan International Triathlon in Indonesia.



The swim start for the 12 and under age group.



The two youngest Tri Ballistic team members, Angus Hamilton (left) and Taj Jones (right), win third place in the 8 and under age group.

Golf challenge at Blue Canyon

THALANG: Starting on May 30, the Nike Golf Canyon Team Challenge will provide out-of-office competition for 10 businesses on the island, and will be held every second week over six weeks at Blue Canyon Country Club.

Teams will be awarded points based on how they rank. The top team of the series will be crowned the "Nike Team Challenge Champions". A leader board will be set up in the Golfer's Terrace for the duration of the three-month event with the winning team taking home a replica trophy to display in the office. The annual perpetual trophy will remain on display at the clubhouse.

The event will be played on the Canyon Course with men playing from the blue tees and ladies from the white. Each week will feature a different format of play.

Prizes for the winning team will be awarded "nearest the pin" and "longest drive" awards.

Dates: May 30 (Stroke Play), June 13 (Scramble), June 27 (Stableford), July 11 (Best Ball), July 27 (Scramble), Final Aug 8 (Stroke Play). Play will start at 12:30 pm.

The competition is open to all businesses on Phuket. Entry costs 7,000 baht per team per week, but teams must register by May 25.

For further information call Jamie or Tim at Tel: 076-328088 ext 186, or Email: jamie@bluecanyonclub.com

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: The outcome of the Patong Darts League is still too close to call. Didi's are now three points clear at the top and do have a walk over in hand but they must take points from the remaining games if they are to stay ahead of the closely trailing pack.

May 2 results: Amigos* 3 Queen Mary 6; Piccadilly* 6 Dog's Bollocks 3; Coyote Bar* 4 Shakers 5; Offshore* 8 Valhalla

1 (* winner of beer leg). **Standings:** 1. Didi's (42 points.); 2. Offshore (39); 3.= Queen Mary, Piccadilly (38); 5. Dog's Bollocks (37); 6. Amigos (36); 7. Coyote Bar (32); 8. Valhalla (28); 9. Shakers (25); 10. The Boss Bar (17).

May 16 match-ups: Dog's Bollocks v Offshore; Amigos v Piccadilly; Valhalla v Queen Mary; Shakers v The Boss Bar (home team first).

Phuket shines in senior doubles tournament

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

SAPHAN HIN: Phuket Tennis Club held a seniors' tennis meet from April 29 to May 1 to commemorate His Majesty the King's 60th year on the throne.

The tournament, open to players 30 years of age or older, was held at Phuket City Youth Tennis Court Center at Saphan Hin.

There were three levels of competition: men's doubles with the combined ages of not under 80 years, men's doubles with combined ages of not under 100 years and mixed doubles with combined ages of not than 80 years.

Participants came from Phang Nga, Krabi, Nakhon Sri

Thammarat, Songkhla, Bangkok and Phuket.

Winners received a trophy and a gift voucher from West One Salon as well as a voucher to stay at Nai Yang Cottage. Runners up received a Nai Yang guest-stay voucher.

RESULTS

Men's doubles (under 80): Withoon Khunjaroen (Phuket) and Chatree Mahatthanadul (Songkhla).

Men's doubles winners (under 100): Sompong Kiatkong (Krabi) and Wichai Atthakornanurak (Krabi).

Mixed doubles (under 80): Sirisopa Uthit (Phuket) and Worapot Akkasinthawangkura (Phuket).

Phuket OrBorJor denied hatrick in takraw tourney

SURAT THANI: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), two-time takraw champions in the annual Southern OrBorJor Cup sports tournament, failed to make it three in a row at the 6th Southern OrBorJor Cup hosted by the Surat Thani OrBorJor at Koh Lampu Park from April 25 to 29.

Phuket OrBorJor Vice-President Suthep Thepsakul said after the competition that the Phuket OrBorJor had sent officers to compete in beach football, volleyball, beach volleyball, pétanque, takraw, basketball, futsal (seven-a-side football), and more light-hearted competitions, such as sack race and tug 'o war.

Phuket OrBorJor was denied a hat trick in takraw by the Prachuap Khiri Khan OrBorJor.

The Phuket contingent also won silver in the woman's volleyball tourney as well as in the men's basketball and pétanque, and came in third in the sack race.

The 7th Southern OrBorJor Cup will be hosted by Krabi and will be called "The Kanarbnam Games", named after a local hill.

- Natcha Yuttaworawit

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Win (right) loses under an onslaught from Pornrob Ao-Tong.

It's not a knockout for Rawai boxers

By Janyaporn Morel

RAWAI: "International Women's Muay Thai Champion" Charon lost her title belt to a young Thai boxer from Surat Thani at the 3rd Original Thai Boxing Competition, organized by Rawai Tambon Administration Organization, on May 7 at Muang Phuket School.

UK-born Charon, 28, from Rawai Thai Boxing camp, was at the meet to defend her championship in the 140-pound division against Thai challenger 18-year-old Somsatarn Lookporkun.

However, Somsatarn dominated from the start, forcing Charon to withdraw in the first

round due to an injured arm.

In the 130-lb division to decide the Woman's Patong Boxing Stadium Championship, defending champion Nong Ann A. Samrit, 15, took five rounds to defeat challenger 20-year-old Saynamdoy from Technic Trang boxing camp.

Winning the inaugural Men's International Thai Boxing Championship title fight, for fighters weighing in at 126lb, Pornrob Ao-Tong, from Trang, knocked out Italian "Win", also from Rawai Thai Boxing camp, in round three.

The evening's proceedings saw boxers from all over Thailand dispute a total of 11 fights.



Nong Ann A. Samrit (in pink) defending her title.



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Home of the Week

Rawai

This 235-square-meter condominium is situated on 64 acres of landscaped tropical gardens at the Evason Phuket Resort & Spa in Rawai. Designed to blend in with the tropical gardens, the condo is built using dark woods, a touch of Mediterranean style, soft lighting and natural ambience.

The resort's facilities, including four restaurants, four swimming pools, a spa and massage center, a gymnasium, tennis courts as well as access to the beach and Koh Bon, all adding to the luxurious resort-lifestyle experience.

The condominium's location makes it an ideal choice for guests seeking the privacy and tranquility of a secure, up-market boutique resort, while just minutes from Nai Harn, Rawai, and Kata Beaches.

There are two bedrooms with king-size beds. Both bedrooms have open views to the gardens plus views of Phang Nga Bay and nearby islands, air conditioning, a 20-inch flat-screen TV with a surround-sound system and cable TV.

The condo features two bathrooms – one en-suite in the third-floor master bedroom. Both bathrooms feature the distinctive style of the resort with modern facilities.

The fully-fitted kitchen comes with electric cooker and electric oven, big refrigerator, mi-



Life's a beach at Evason

crowave, double sinks, electric kettle, a full set of plates, bowls, glasses, mugs, cooking utensils, pots, pans and cutlery.

In the dining room, a large wooden dining table seats up to six. Large surrounding windows open to scenic bay views.

There is also a spacious

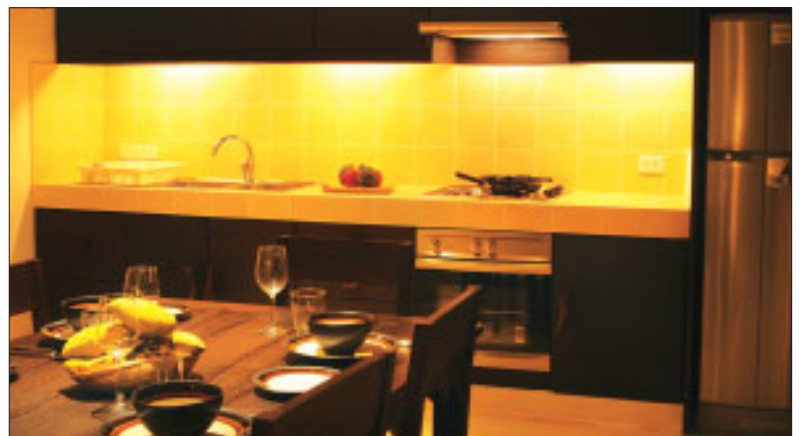
open-plan living room with cool floors and wooden border trims, an L-shaped sofa with cushions and a large day bed.

The living room is also equipped with an entertainment system featuring a 43-inch flat-screen TV with surround sound, plenty of movie VCDs and DVDs, music CDs, books, games and Southeast Asian art pieces.

Two large roof decks are easily accessed via the main staircase or by a staircase. These feature a teak dining table with four chairs on the first level and four teak sun deck chairs and an outdoor shower on the top level. Phone and Internet can be accessed on the top deck.

The condominium is priced at US\$525,000, or 21.525 million baht

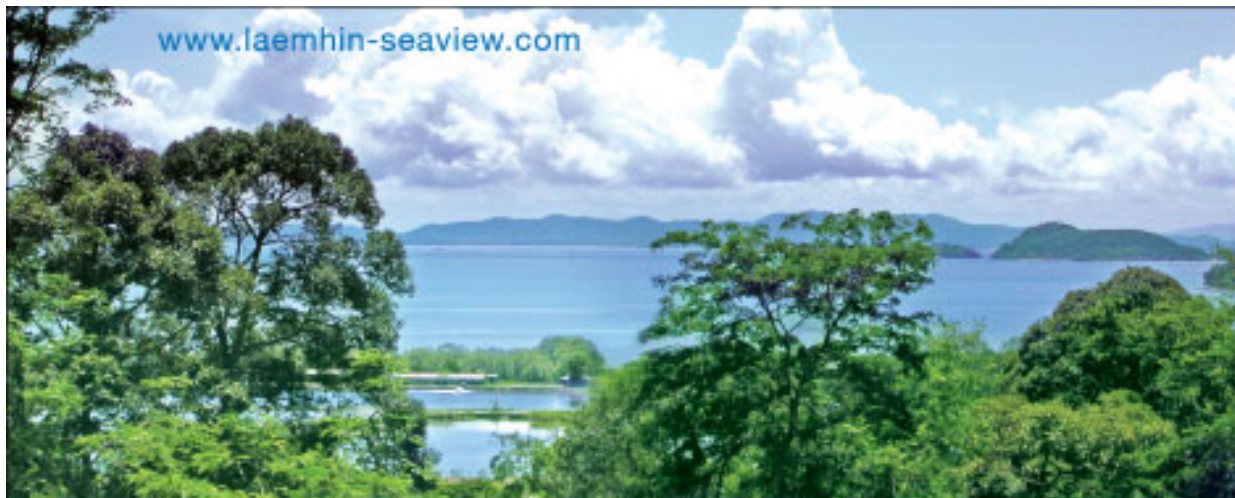
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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Brass, or *thong luang* (yellow gold) as it is known in Thai, is an alloy of copper and zinc. First brought to Thailand in the junks of Chinese merchant, it quickly gained in popularity more than 600 years ago, during the age of Ayudhya period.

In the past, brass, because of its price, was mainly a commodity of the aristocracy. Nowadays, however, it is also popular among the less-well-off and is often also used to make monks' trappings such as alms bowls and ladles.

Thong Luang is a specialist brassware shop on Yaowarat Rd, 300 meters from Tesco-Lotus. The owner, Apple Chienprasong, a 36-year-old Phuket native, said, "I have liked brassware for a long time as my family have a brass shop in Surat Thani.

"I realized that in Phuket there were no brass shops so I decided to open one here myself."

The shop has been open for two months now. Most of the merchandise is ordered direct from the factory in Suphan Buri. There are many designs of brassware in the shop, and the items are not expensive."

Featuring both antique and new products, the store has a range of items, including betel box sets for 2,730 baht, pumpkin sets from 2,700 to 3,200 baht and candlesticks from 950 baht.

Among the more unusual designs in the shop are antique clothing irons for just 950 baht, and miniature brass cannons, available in three sizes, from 540 baht.

"Brassware can be cleaned by first scrubbing with dish-washing liquid mixed with tamarind flesh and then polishing with a clean, dry cloth.

"Alternatively, you can buy a commercial brass-cleaning fluid," K. Apple added.

Thong Luang is open daily from 9 am to 9 pm. For more information call K. Apple at Tel:01-6932791 or at 01-3971377.



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All this combines to make The Beach Pool Villa one of the best-designed two-story homes with a pool in the Kata area.

The unit is 13.25 x 21.50m on an area of 14 x 25m. Usage area is 415sqm with swimming pool included.

Each unit comprises:
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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Improvement of fishing port is almost complete

The Fishing Port Hygiene Improvement Project (FPHIP) at Phuket Fishing Port is now around 90% complete and is scheduled to be finished in July this year. The project was started in March 2005 following recommendations from the European Union (EU) to the Thai government that fisheries hygiene standards be improved.

The proposal was drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and approved by the Cabinet, in November 2004. The project will cost some 299 million baht. Work has also begun in 12 other fishing ports including a number in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Samut Prakan and Narathiwat Provinces.

Pramual Rakjai, chief of the Phuket Fishing Port explained that the FPHIP was implemented to improve the cleanliness of the fish processing procedure so that it is in line with EU standards.

"The main objective of this project is to control fish transfer procedures – from ship to shore – so that they are hygienic, with contamination from microorganisms minimized in accordance with EU regulations," K. Pramual said.

Because of the increasing quantity of Thai fish exports to European countries, the EU has been pushing the Thai government to improve hygiene in all stages of the fishing process.

The main principles of the improvement project include ensuring that water used for cleaning fish is uncontaminated and providing wastewater treatment. Another main aim is to institute good manufacturing practice in fish processing, especially at the selecting table and during storage, to help prevent the spread of microorganisms.

K. Pramual explained that the Phuket project is composed of three main works. The first part is the renovation and expansion of the existing port from 180 to 840 meters in length, and renovation of the entrance road.

"This is the only part of the project still to be completed," said K. Pramual, noting that the original 180m-long wharf is 20 years old.

"There has been little disruption to the fishing fleets [while work has been in progress] because boats were still being moored at the old section while the new 660m length was being built. Now that the new section



The main objective of the project is to control the fish transfer procedure from ship to shore so that it is hygienic, says K. Pramual (right).

is ready for vessels, the old section is under renovation.

"We have around 30 fishing boats a day mooring here," he said.

The second part of the project is the water processing plant, which is now complete and able to produce up to 500 cubic meters of cleaned sea water every day.

"We need to use clean sea water for processing fish. This will be provided by the water plant, which will take seawater from Klong Tah Chin for treating," K. Pramual explained.

Work on the other major component of the project, the wastewater treatment plant, has also been completed. Located about 300 meters north of the port, and can treat 1,000m³ of wastewater a day.

"Other minor works to be installed include tables for selecting fish, closed-circuit TV and cranes," he added.

K. Pramual told the *Gazette* that the project will not only ensure that fish exports comply with EU rules, but will also benefit local Thai people.

"The fish processors have to consider how to carry out their role as quickly as possible. If the



fishing boats can find the closest port for transferring the fish to the consumer, and also follow good manufacturing practice while processing, then local consumers will gain access to high-quality, fresh fish," he said.

"Phuket is close to tuna fishing waters and has an international airport to export fish within hours of it being landed.

When the new port is finished, we will share port space with both Thai and international fishing boats. We will have

many tuna fishing boats, especially from Taiwan, coming to moor here.

"This will provide more employment opportunities for local people," claimed K. Pramual.

The contractor for the Phuket Fishing Hygiene Improvement Project is Port and Marine Co-operation (PAM) Co Ltd, the subcontractor for the sea water cleaning system is Sys Server Co Ltd and the subcontractor for wastewater treatment plant is Uni San Pol Co Ltd.

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Let's talk about sex. That has to be one of the most unlikely first sentences of a gardening article ever. You may think I'm going to drone on about the "service" industries available in Patong, or massage parlors where everything is available except a massage.

You're probably expecting me to complain about how ladies of the night besmirch the reputation of Thailand, or how they lower the tone of certain Phuket haunts. But I'm not going to drone on about that.

I'm not exactly a regular on Soi Bangla, but when I do pay that location a visit, I have to say that it's a lot of fun. And that's exactly the point. The detractors of Soi Cowboy and its ilk have probably never tried strolling down there with an open mind.

We all know the intentions of the ladies with Cheshire-Cat grins on their faces who grab you by the arm as you try to saunter past their bars.

Succumb to their pleas and they're only too happy to bring you and your companions a beer, and then give you a sound thrashing at "Connect Four", or that daft dice game where you flick up the numbers. Party-poopers would probably even criticize the ridiculous game with a hammer, in which you have to drive a nail into a log in one hit.

You'll never win at any of these activities, but that doesn't really matter. They are fun – a fact that many commentators miss. They also ignore the fact that it's not all sleaze down there. I've even taken my old mum to Soi Bangla, and she loved it. Having said that, I'm assured that more adventurous services are indeed available should one wish to avail oneself of the opportunity.



HELLO PRETTY: Flowers, usually the most attractive part of a plant, also contain the essential elements for reproduction.

Anyway, on to the point of this week's ramblings. Many people consider plants to be a bit like that spotty youth stuck in the corner of teenage party, the one wearing black, over-sized glasses and with his feet pointing slightly inwards. You know the sort. Wallflower

But plants are really quite sexual beasts. Seriously. If they were human, they'd be like David Beckham and that floozy from the Spice Girls rolled into one.

The flower is actually the reproductive organ of most seed-bearing plants. Flowers carry out the multiple roles of sexual reproduction, seed development and fruit production. Many plants produce highly visible flowers that have a distinctive size, color or smell.

Almost everyone is familiar with more striking flowers, such as the blossoms of hibiscus, orchids, and heliconia – the zig-zag one. But many plants, including trees, fruits, leafy-looking things and grasses, have small green or gray flowers that often go unno-

ticed. However eye-catching – or not – they may be, all flowers produce the cells required for sexual reproduction.

Flowers are also the site of fertilization, the union of a male and female sex cell to produce a fertilized egg. Flower nooky, in other words. The fertilized egg then develops into an embryonic plant, which forms part of the developing seed. Nearby structures of the flower enclose the seed and mature into a fruit.

So what are all the naughty bits in a flower called? Well, flowers typically comprise four main sections, usually arranged in concentric rings attached to the tip of the stem. From inner to outer, these parts are, in order, the pistil, stamens, petals, and the sepals. There'll be a test at the end of this, by the way, so do pay attention.

Right in the middle of the flower is the pistil, the female reproductive part. The stigma, a slightly flared and sticky structure at the top of the pistil, functions by trapping pollen grains, the

sperm cells necessary for fertilization. Are we at the TMI (too much information) stage yet?

The style is a narrow stalk that supports the stigma. The style rises from the ovary, a slightly swollen structure at the base of the flower. Depending on the type of flower, the ovary contains one or more ovules, each of which holds one egg cell.

After fertilization, the ovules develop into seeds, while the ovary enlarges into the fruit. If a flower has only one ovule, the fruit will contain one seed, as in a peach. The fruit of a flower with a number of ovules, such as a tomato, will have numerous seeds.

The next section consists of the male reproductive structures – a number of stamens arranged around the pistil. A stamen consists of a slender stalk called the filament, which supports the anther, a tiny compartment where pollen forms. As the flower opens, the filaments lengthen and hold the anthers higher up, so that the pollen grains are more likely

to be picked up by visiting animals or the wind, which then carry the pollen to the stigma of an appropriate flower.

The placement of pollen on the stigma is called pollination, which kicks off the process of fertilization.

Petals, the next section out, surround the stamens and collectively form the corolla. They generally have no other purpose than to attract the animals that carry out pollination.

The petals of many species are also the source of the fragrances that attract pollinating animals. In such species, the petals house tiny glands producing oils that vaporize easily, often releasing a distinctive aroma. One flower can make dozens of different oils, which all mingle to yield the flower's unique fragrance.

The sepals, the outermost section, mainly help when the flower is still a bud.

In this initial phase, the sepals tightly enclose and protect the petals, stamens, and pistil from rain or insects. The sepals unfurl as the flower opens, and often resemble small green leaves at the flower's base. In some flowers, such as orchids, the sepals are colorful and work with the petals to attract pollinators.

So it's not just the ladies in the some of the less salubrious parts of Phuket who dress to impress – flowers are also pretty good at it. Perhaps it's just as well that they don't have the same "Connect Four" skills, though. That would just be embarrassing.

By the way, I lied about the test.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NICE POOL VILLAS FOR SALE



In Kata, Nai Harn. Prices start from 7 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com More pictures of nice villas can be seen at: www.chokechaiproperty.com

RAWAI HOUSE + GUESTHOUSE



Distinctive 2-story house plus large, Thai-style guesthouse on a half-rai, with walled, tropical gardens. Private pool, woodland views. Chanote title. 10.8 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-2730141. Email: howells_sue@yahoo.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE PLOT

in Nai Harn. Owner is selling a 3-rai plot with Chanote, with a 450sqm home and separate guesthouse, enclosed pool, a well-maintained garden, garage and 2 phone lines. Ideal for a private housing project. Only 5 minutes to beach. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 01-8942733. Email: jasminconsulting@gmx.net

CHUAN CHUEN

Close to international school, 3-4-bed/bathroom house. Built-in furniture throughout, excellent condition. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 04-8376440.

2-BEDROOM HOME

Nai Harn. For sale by owner: a lovely 2-story, 2-bedroom home in Nai Harn set on more than 1/2 rai of landscaped gardens. ONLY 6.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-2826221, 01-8938592. Email for pix at: saneroad@yahoo.com

exclusive properties for the discerning

For Sale/Rent

t: 076-319-070 m: 09-908-1880

APARTMENT IN PATONG



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury apartments (61sqm) for sale or lease (60-year lease). Located in Soi Playboy just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. All apartments are fully furnished with a built-in kitchen and bathroom. The bedrooms are equipped with high-quality hardwood floors. The apartments further offer air conditioning, safety box, 24-hour security, high-speed Internet, telephone and cable TV connections. The common area includes: garage, elevator, corridors and garden. The construction will be completed by December 2006. Prices start at 2.6 million baht. Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes.com

NEW HOUSES IN PATONG



3 new connected deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Thamdee, for sale. Ground floor: garage and separate one-room apartment with toilet. Second floor: 2 bedrooms and bath, balcony. Third floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. Fourth floor: big roof garden with Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht. (US\$155,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-8928526. For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

FREEHOLD APARTMENT



Phuket Palace Condominium, 300m from beach. Fully furnished, 1- or 2-bedroom, 1- or 2-bathroom, with kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.9 million baht. Tel: 09-8719739.

LAND FOR SALE

in Rawai. 1, 2 and 4 rai at 4.5 million baht per rai, and 3 rai at 9.9 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

BEAUTIFUL

character. Recently-renovated beach house. 2 mins to Kata Beach. Great price for quick sale. Tel: 04-8405834.

NEW HOUSE

New 3-bedroom house with pool in Cherng Talay. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

BEACH APARTMENTS

Spacious, modern, 2-bedroom apartments, some with a sea view, a 2-minute walk to the beach, gardens, pools, clubhouse, gym, sauna. Prices start from 8.5 million baht. On-site sales office. Tel: 06-2806624. For further details, please see our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

HOUSE & LAND

for sale. House and land for sale just 2 minutes from beautiful Nai Thon Beach. Call the owner at Tel: 07-2811995 for details.

www.knightfrankphuket.com

Knight Frank



Andara "luxury villas and spa"

- just 24 private luxury residences, all with sea views
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- each Thai style villa includes an 18-meter infinity edge pool



Djinnah Santi "outstanding views"

- just 11 premium villas overlooking Kalim Bay (all with sea views)
- award winning international architects and interior designers
- open floor plans that maximizes sea views in just about every room
- tropical lush landscaping, privacy assured.



Freehold seaview apartment at Karon Beach "live at the beach"

- 167sqm, 2 bedrooms, commanding sea views from every room
- 3 km views of the coast, just 2 minutes' walk to the beach
- minutes from restaurants, luxury hotels, entertainment establishments and spas
- common pool, fitness center, tennis and squash courts, Jacuzzi
- cool and refreshing sea breezes all year round
- perfect holiday apartment, stress-free.



Allamanda Condominiums "attention all investors"

- one bedroom (82 sqm) apartment with golf course views
- management by Allamanda Laguna Phuket
- proven solid returns
- golf membership included in the sale
- fully furnished kitchen, dining and bedroom
- fittings & furniture upgraded
- minutes from the beach!



Laguna Villa for long-term rental "live the view"

- spacious 4 bedroom residences available for long-term rental
- stunning Laguna fairway and water hazard views
- private infinity edge pool, huge outdoor verandas, great shade
- fully furnished, Western style appliances, very affordable rental
- peaceful surroundings, secure estate
- full time management services by Knight Frank.



Immaculate Laguna Villa (Resale) "exclusive residence - opportunity beckons"

- direct golf frontage, approx 450sqm built-up area on a 1,100sqm land plot
- 3 "master" bedrooms, study, formal living and dining areas, pool, maids-quarters
- teak finishings, well-appointed furniture
- tropical landscaping, picturesque views of the fairways
- secure and peaceful location in the heart of Laguna
- ideal residences for retired couple or the astute investor
- Laguna benefits & privileges included in the sale.

The local office with a global network

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 Masae Ono (Sales) +66 (0)1 956 6321 masae.ono@th.knightfrank.com
 Amy (Rentals) +66 (0)1 970 8304 wanaporn.suwahiran@th.knightfrank.com

RAWAI HOUSE

New house for sale in Rawai. Owner leaving Thailand, and therefore needs to sell house quickly. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a large garden with views of hills. Located in a quiet residential area. Will sell to the best offer. Tel: 076-220190, 01-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLAS

Affordable, luxury pool villas. 6.2 million baht. Four boutique pool villas. Luxury, affordability, simplicity, elegance and style. 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom villas built in an elegant L-shaped form around an infinity-edge pool. Tel: 01-087-5828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com or visit at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330030

AUTHENTIC BALINESE

-style luxury villa complex. 8 villas w/private pools and Jacuzzi. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's quarters w/bathroom, storage room, laundry room, garage for 2 cars and Balinese-style gardens. 17.9/19.9/24 million baht. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com Please see our website at www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330182

PATONG SEA VIEW

houses. Fully furnished and in lovely locations. Prices from 8.6 to 12 million baht. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

LAND NEAR MISSION

hills. Gentle slope, partial sea view, 23 rai. Price: 1.8 million baht per rai. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

EARTH HOUSES

holiday homes. Sea view Ko Maphrao from 1.5 million baht. 1-36 rai Chanote from 2.6 million baht. Email: info@maphrao.com



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WOW! What a Deal

HOTEL DEVELOPMENT SITE IN KHAO LAK FOR SALE

This superb, 60-rai beachfront site was being developed as a 5-star resort hotel and is now for sale at 348 million baht. There are over 160 meters of excellent white sandy beach and coconut groves on level land ideal for a resort hotel development.

We have much more prime land for sale!

Property Gazette

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



Brand-new, deluxe house, with a swimming pool, on a Patong hillside, on Soi Maneesi. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room, guest toilet. Second floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuketbesthomes.com

RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (US\$113,000). Please contact K. Peter for more information at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuketbesthomes.com

NEW HOUSE PATONG BEACH

Located on small development in the hills at the north end of Patong beach, very quiet and natural setting, and only 2 minutes to the beach. Only 5 out of a total of 8 plots left. House can be custom built, by an English mastercraftsman builder to your requirements. We are so sure of our quality, if you can show us a better-built house, in our price range, we will give you a house for free. Price range from 10 to 15 million baht. Contact Andy. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

SUPERB BUNGALOW

Single story, 3 bedrooms with aircon, all en-suite, garden, Chalong, 1,908sqm of land. Total covered living area is about 250sqm. Very quiet location and very central. 4 years old May 2006. 10 mins to Chalong Bay, 15 mins to Rawai, 15 mins to Nai Harn, 10 mins to Central, 15 mins to Lotus, 25 mins to Patong, 20 mins to BCIS, 40 mins to airport. Only 11.5 million baht. Tel: 01-7473000. Email: admin@thaiservers.com For further details, please visit: www.villasinphuket.com/sale.htm

Courtyard Homes

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2 detached bungalows
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PHUKET CITY CONDO

32sqm, freehold, brand-new, furnished, 550,000 baht. Close to Central Festival. Tel: 01-4763623. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

CHAOFA THANI

2-story, fully furnished, semi-detached house in secure estate. 45 talang wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, study, small garden & big storeroom. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 01-893-6630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

27 rai on Koh Lanta, Krabi (no brokers). 40 minutes from Krabi Airport. 13 rai on a hill with a panoramic sea view and an adjoining 14 rai below. Absolute beach front of 235 meters in length. Asphalt road and electricity. 2 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-5350060. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

LAND + HOUSE

for sale. Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, newly decorated and furnished. Offers around 6 million baht. Tel: 06-2790837.

LAND FOR SALE

1.34 rai – with Chanote title – 50m from Mission Hills Golf Course 2.5 million baht. Tel: 07-8979511.

RAWAI SALE/RENT

2-story house. 130sqm living space. 5,000 baht per month or will sell for 850,000 baht. 400 meters from beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PATONG SEAVIEW

2-bedroom apartment for rent. Fully furnished and with UBC, etc. Lovely location with private parking and a 20-meter swimming pool. 45,000 baht per month. Chalong/Rawai villas for sale. Large beachfront villa: 23 million baht. Villa in Chalong countryside: 14 million baht. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

33 RAI, KHAO SOK

Surat Thani. River, public road, house, fruit, rubber, jungle. Near Khao Sok National Park. Nor Sor 3 Kor title. 550,000 baht per rai. Please call. Tel: 01-7284821 for more details.

RAWAI: SALE/RENT

New detached villa: 10,000 baht/month or will sell for 5 million baht. 400 meters from beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW

apartments, brand-new, 121sqm. Lovely location with pool etc. Priced from 4.2 to 6.9 million baht. Tel: 01-924-1447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

APARTMENT

for sale. Between Surin and Bang Tao Beach. 2 bedrooms, furnished. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com



SAEHAN REAL ESTATE



Ao Por 8 rai (1 rai=10 M.)
8 Rai of gently sloping hillside land with real character and breathtaking sea views. Located above the beautiful Ao Por.



Soi Sainamyen 7 rai (1 rai=6.5 M.)
7 rai of mountain land with magnificent view over to Chalong beach. It is located just 15 km from Phuket Town. Price is reasonable for any investor with the foresight to see the potential of this area.



Kamala (Lam Son) 15-2-92 Tarangwah (Total 120 M.)
The plot comprises of beach and gentle-sloping mountain land. It is overlooking the picturesque Kamala Bay, surrounded by rich, pristine rainforest, offers privacy and tranquility. Enjoys stunning sea and beach views and is minutes from many of the island's best restaurants, boutiques, resorts, world-class golf courses and other attractions.



Kamala (Lam Son) 11 rai (1 rai=12 M.)
This 11-rai plot, is an excellent investment opportunity. The beach land comes with 300 sqm frontage and sloping hillside land just behind. The land has picturesque sunsets over the Kamala beach. Ideally suited for development of luxury villa or hotel & resort.



Palai 4.30 rai (Total 25 M.)
This fantastic land is an excellent investment opportunity. With 200 metres of beach frontage, it is beyond investors wildest dreams. The view from the front is absolutely breathtaking looking out towards the mainland.



Near Phuket Fantasea 5 rai (1 rai=5 M.)
Located in the popular resident area of Kamala Bay. Full infrastructure including concrete government road, water and electric. Ideal for villa development or for a single beachfront home or small project.



Makham 17 rai (1 rai=3 M.)
Beautiful flat land located in a quiet area. Ideal for new developments.



Makham 24 rai (1 rai=12 M.)
Very beautiful beach land, with a nice view, 150 metres of beachfront gives investors a great chance of building something really exclusive whether commercial or residential.



Luxury & Modern Home 14 Million Baht
This 5-bedroom house is located in one of Phuket's premier developments. 5-star communal facilities. An excellent investment or dream holiday home. Sold fully furnished.



The Ultimate Luxury-Suite Estate 14 Million Baht
24 apartments, all with stunning sea views, & built around a large swimming pool & resort-style tropical gardens. Facilities will include a large restaurant, service shop & children's playground for the convenience of our guests.



A modern resort home 11 Million Baht
This luxury Villa located at Karon is a unique tropical paradise. It is an exclusive community of contemporary tropical style villas within 500 metre walk of Karon Beach.



A boutique Residence near Town 17 Million Baht
A boutique gated community, a very short distance from British Curriculum International School, Phuket offering secure 4-and 5-bedroom villas in the heart of one of Asia's most enchanting islands.

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Property Gazette

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- 3-4 b/r modern Thai style villas
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- 800 m. from Bang Tao Beach

Baht 29.7-34.7 Million



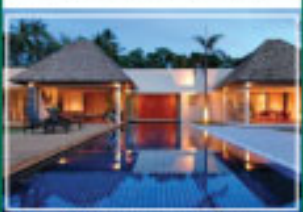
- Latest Raimon Land project on Kata Hill, 3 b/r condo, fitted
- Sea views, large common pool
- Some units with private pool

From Baht 17.45 Million



- 20 rai of land on Karon Hill
- Panoramic sea views
- Chanote & Nor Sor 3 Kor title
- Concrete road access

Baht 8 Million / Rai



- Luxury 3 b/r villa
- Fully furnished, private pool
- 2 km. from Laguna Phuket
- 5 min. walk to Layan beach

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HOUSE FOR SALE, KATHU



3-bedroom, furnished, one-story house, 203 sqm, in Kathu. Price: 6.9 million baht, or 7.1 million baht with tiled 10mx4m pool. Tel: 01-4945423.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Cozy, secluded, 3 bedrooms, 2½ bathrooms. Living area: 143sqm. Land area: 340sqm. All bedrooms have air conditioning, walk-in closets. Large living room, dining room, built-in European kitchen, large 60sqm covered veranda, beautiful garden area with outdoor shower, IPstar Internet connection, direct phone line, UBC and more. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com For more information please see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0150004

LAND FOR SALE

Perfect investment. Lovely 500sqm plot in quiet residential area near Don's Café. Mature trees, and water & utilities, in place. Tel: 01-8924098. Email: brill@loxinfo.co.th

10 RAI, RAWAI

Villa area, only 5.5 million baht. Great views. Electricity. Top for small resort. Tel: 06-2670898.

1,800 SQM, RAWAI

Top land location, Chanote, road, electricity. Perfect for house. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

2 RAI, CHALONG

Includes 3 houses. Perfect for spa. Aircons, tropical gardens. Unbelievable price at 12.9 million baht. Sale by owner. Tel: 01-5376866.

BEACHFRONT LAND

in southern Phuket. Live on the beach boat on front 1 rai. Sale by owner. Call after 5 pm. No brokers. Cheap and stunning. Tel: 06-2670898.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT

50m from beach. Electricity, road, golf course views. Bargain! Great for apartment building. Tel: 09-6525664.

1 RAI, YANUI

500m from beach, stunning view. Only plot with Chanote, perfect for small resort or big villa. Tel: 06-2670898.

ISLAND FOR SALE

1 million baht a rai. Buy this paradise from owner to build a resort. Call K. Lek at Tel: 07-8938747.

RAWAI CONDO

sale/rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell for 450,000 baht. 400m from beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PRANGTHONG VILLA

2-story villa in secure, landscaped estate between Phuket City and Chalong. 64 talang wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open living room & kitchen, separate maid's room. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 01-8936630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE

3km from Cape Panwa. 2 bedrooms, aircon, bath, shower, kitchen with breakfast bar. Some furniture available: fridge etc. 1.1 million baht neg. Tel: 07-2147867.

SEAVIEW LAND

for sale. Rawai, half rai with perfect sea view. Asking price 3.5 million baht or one rai 7.5 million baht. Finance available from owner. Need to sell fast. Tel: 04-6268105.

1 RAI, CHALONG

200m from beach, open views of the bay. Chanote. 4 million baht. Private sale, no brokers. Tel: 07-8938747.

10 RAI, RAWAI

Best area. Great for the development of successful projects. Last big plot for this price. Tel: 01-5376866.

KATA SEA VIEW

Most stunning view, best plot, guaranteed success. 3 rai. Asking 5.9 million baht. Road, electricity, Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

1 RAI, KARON

Sea view, road, electricity, Asking 6 million baht. Chanote. Tel: 09-6525664.

SMALL PLOT - RAWAI

Perfect for small villa. Chanote, road, electricity. 200,000 baht. Don't wait. Tel: 01-5376866.

1 RAI, CHALONG

2.4 million baht. Road, electricity, Chanote, great spot. Tel: 09-6525664.

3 RAI, RAWAI

Chanote, road, electricity. Top spot, great price: 3.2 million baht. Call Tel: 07-8938747.

700-SQM VILLA

Newly built, Bali style. Valued at 25 million baht, selling at 19 million baht. Stunning sea view. Kata. Tel: 01-5376866.

LUXURY SEAVIEW

apartment. Urgent sale, 2-bedroom, luxury seaview apartment, in Kata, fully furnished, 14.5 million baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 076-32 5411, 01-979-3369. Fax: 076-32 5413.

10 SUPER-CHEAP PROPERTIES FOR SALE



- Kamala. 10-, 2- and 3-rai plots. Walk to beach, road access. 3.5 million baht per rai.

- Kamala. 2 rai, sea and waterfall views. Only 5.5 million baht per rai.

- Kamala sea views. 7 rai, old trees. Only 4 million baht per rai.

- Cherng Talay. 24 rai, 1.2 million baht per rai. Next to golf course.

- 50 rai, near the Heroines' Monument, amazing sea, golf, hill and lake views. Only 2 million baht per rai.

- Patong sea view. 21 rai. 5.5 million baht per rai

- Laguna area. 6 rai. 5 million baht per rai.

- Layan. 16 rai, 5 million baht per rai. Contact for more details. Tel: 01-816-2066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com

'STEAL' THIS HOUSE DESPERATE SALE!



Must sell immediately! Price reduced by 50%, highest house in Patong with the best panoramic sea views in Phuket. Excellent location, only 14 million baht. Thai style, 70 talang wah, Nor Sor 3 Gor title. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, parking, sala, garden, rooftop deck. Somebody jump on it. A real bargain. A great investment. Tel: 01-816-2066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com

APARTMENTS

for sale in Patong. Fully furnished, secure complex, pool, quiet hillside location close to Nanai Rd. Priced from 4.2m - 4.5m baht. Private seller, no agents. Tel: 07-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG SHOPHOUSE

Commercial real estate. Safe, secure returns. Would suit small investors willing to invest up to 4 million baht. Tel: 07-0170135.

CHERNG TALAY VILLA

New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on 305sqm corner plot. Ready Sept, secure estate close to Laguna, Surin Beach. 2.5 million baht. Chanote. Tel: 04-7468607, 09-8750530.

KAMALA - FOR SALE/RENT



Thai style, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid's room, balconies & carport. House: 350sqm, gardens: 750 sqm. Attractive, breezy, cool house. Must be seen to be appreciated. For sale: 10 million baht; rent: 40,000 baht per month. Call Zep at Tel: 09-2907583 or Oily at Tel: 01-8291122. Email: zep@kallithairealestate.com

DETACHED MODERN

bungalow for sale. 260sqm living area, 3 beds, 2 baths, full kitchen. Fully furnished. Safe and secure. Freehold title. 10.9 million baht. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

in Cherng Talay. 130 talang wah. Soi Pasak, nice view. Sale by owner. Call K. Ann at Tel: 01-8933571.

Properties For Rent

UNCLE CHAI



Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. One bedroom. Long lease preferable. Average 15,000 baht per month. Chalong Area. Please call. Tel: 01-4926883. or visit www.unclechaihome.com

HOUSE & BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms. 11,000 baht/month. Located at Palai Green, Chalong Bay. Tel: 01-8924311.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short- or long-term. Please call Tel: 01-8920038.

KAMALA SEAVIEW

condo at The Plantation. Brand-new, 240sqm. 2 bedrooms, 1 den, 3 baths, huge patio overlooking Andaman Sea, outdoor bath. Tastefully furnished with appliances. Pool and gym in complex. 75,000 baht/month. Short term OK. Tel: 852-9451-9793. Email: jkam@pobox.com

STUNNING SEA VIEW



A villa with 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, plus a maid's room. Location: Cape Yamu, elevated, east coast, providing some of the prettiest views in Phuket. Furnished, Internet, a pool and gardens in a very quiet, exclusive estate, 10 minutes to BCIS/Laguna. Asking only 80,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-279-6283.

2 HOUSES IN NAI HARN



We have two 3-bedroom homes for rent. Fully furnished, swimming pool. Good location. Tel: 01-7974197. Email: dannie@dvas.dk

NEW HOUSE

for long-term rent. Chalong area. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Phone line, car parking. Tel: 09-7288311.

PATONG BLUEPOINT

Furnished 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Baan Suan Kamnan, a residential area just outside Patong. If you like the beaches, fun and nightlife, but prefer to sleep without the traffic noises, then this is the place. Yes, if you like green and nature, this is the place where you'd love to be. Prices from 16,000 baht long-term only. Tel: 06-786-6350.

APARTMENTS

for rent. 2 mins from Nai Harn Beach, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, cable TV, wireless Internet, swimming pool and daily maid service. Tel: 09-0491785. Email: eltonkirk@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS

for rent, Patong. Long-term rental apartments. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon with good sea view. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

FOR RENT

Two buildings on Thalang Rd ('Old Phuket Town' street). Good condition. Contact K. Sinprasert. Tel: 09-0002209.

Property Gazette

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



New house for rent at Land and House Park in Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet area, 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

DETACHED HOUSES



Four new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-851-6115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS

in Patong. Fully finished, for long-term rent, 2/56 Soi Khuanyang, near Wat Patong. They each have a small kitchen, refrigerator, a European-style balcony, air conditioner, cable TV, fan, hot water, and a bathroom. Asking 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

KATA LUXURY

2-bedroom furnished apartment. Aircon, teak kitchen, 2 bathrooms, huge covered terrace. Short- or long-term let. Quiet location. Parking. En suite. Nice garden. Tel: 09-5926890.

EXOTIC KATA

sea front. Aspasia: luxury 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom apartment. Spa, pools, gym, ADSL, quiet area. June to December. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.koumbele.com/kata2

SPACIOUS HOUSE

for rent. Near Don's Mall. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen/diner, lounge, terrace. Large private garden. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8924098. Email: brill@loxinfo.co.th

FULLY-FURNISHED

apartment in Kata. Has aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden near beach and swimming pool. 9,000 baht per month. Furnished room with cable TV, balcony, swimming pool. Near beach. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-5333589, 06-2766597.

OFFICE FOR RENT

2 rooms, 60sqm, bathroom, aircon. Best location Karon. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2718254.

CHALONG

New house for rent. Appealing Western-designed house. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon and telephone. Tel: 076-280466.

FOR RENT IN KATHU

3-bedroom home near Loch Palm Golf Course & British International College. Swimming pool, telephone line with ADSL internet, fully furnished, UBC TV, garden & pool maintenance included. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-6498703.

APARTMENT

in Kata. Elegant one-bed apt on quiet hillside. Absolutely all mod cons including WiFi, aircon, fans, hot shower, cable TV, bed linen, etc etc. 12,000 baht per month. 10,000 per month long term. Tel: 07-2675376. Email: w.gabrielle@gmail.com

Property Wanted

HOUSE WANTED

in Kata, Karon or Chalong. I am looking for a house with 2 to 3 bedrooms at a maximum price of 3 million baht. If you have one, please contact me. Tel: 01-8948588. Email: bennob@diveasia.com

GARAGE WANTED

I am looking to rent a garage in Patong. Please email me with location and price. Email: sainamyen@hotmail.com

5-10 RAI WANTED

We are interested in buying 5 to 10 rai of land in Phuket. Email us with details at: micle9@yahoo.com

Accommodation Available

2 NICE HOUSES

One in Kata, another in Rawai. 6 months plus. Low-season bargains. Serious inquiries only. Tel: 09-063-3185. Email: friendlyfrog43@yahoo.com

APARTMENTS

with pool in Patong. Large apartments and studios at the best hillside location. Quiet and cool. Fully furnished, TV, DVD, kitchen, parking lot, security, swimming pool. Studios start from 9,000 baht per month, apartments from 12,000 baht. Daily rates on request. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-344707, 01-6916147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de. For further details please see our website at: www.phuket-patong.com

ROOMS TO LET



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Standard room just 6,000 baht per month or 500 baht per day. Deluxe room is 8,500 baht per month or 700 baht per day. Tel: 076-202585 or 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to beach, clean and comfortable, with air conditioning, TV, a big fridge, double bed, pool and parking. Please call Tel: 01-0825707. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

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in Kata. in quiet location. Fully furnished, bathroom with hotwater, bedroom with aircon and safe. 1 TV room/office, 1 living room/kitchen on open terrace. Prefer to let long term. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. For further information, please see our website at www.capt-horst.com

NEW DOUBLE SHOP

unit, Kathu. Wichit Songkhram Rd, 96 sqm. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. New aircon, carpets, shop front, fans, etc. 150,000 baht. Tel: 076-321-402, 01-9683120. Email: nikki.indigosiam@gmail.com

HOUSE IN VILLA

California. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 living & dining room. Fully equipped (ceramic cooking stove, central water heater, 3 air conditioners, insulated windows and built-in furniture. Monthly rent: 18,000 baht. Tel: 01-893-4012. Email: michael@helvethai.com

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twin home. 3 bedrooms, 3 bath, 150sqm home in exclusive, closed-in, guarded development. Swimming pool, sauna, 5 minutes to beach. New furniture, aircon, fully fitted out. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-3753970, 04-1590501. Email: honaunau69@yahoo.com

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apartment. Patio, lounge, full kitchen, bedroom, en-suite shower/toilet. Cable TV, phone, WiFi. See website for details. 12,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel/ Fax: 076-342601, 01-270-5374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th or visit our website at: www.orcella.com

PATONG LUXURY

apartments. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. For information and photos email: suites247@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

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in Kamala. Swedish family looking for accommodation in Kamala for December 2006. Prefer access to swimming pool. Reasonable rates. Please contact with full details. Tel: +46-243235193, 07-07570063. Email: asa.johansson@hotmail.com

1 OR 2 BEDROOMS

wanted from Dec 6, 2006 to Jan 25, 2007. Any area considered. Please advise availability and costs. Email: alansimpson75@hotmail.com

1-BEDROOM APT

Looking for a one bedroom apartment (not a studio) in the Phuket City area. The closer to the centre of town the better. Some furnishings and Internet would be nice, but not necessary. Long term resident, quiet lifestyle, no bar girls (or boys). Willing to pay up to 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-0340651. Email: ajanlogan@gmail.com

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WASHER

LG 6kg. Fully automatic top-loader. Just 8 months old. Warranty until February 2007. 5-year motor warranty. In perfect condition. I've still got the box and foam to transport it in. New price: 8,000 baht. Will sell for 6,000 (or best offer). Please call. Tel: 04-8445422.

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47 Ft	1997	Beneteau Oceanis 481	US\$	198,000
43 Ft	1994	Beneteau Oceanis 430	THB	4,500,000
42 Ft	1987	Westsail 42	Euro	60,000
40 Ft	1991	Steel Sloop	US\$	90,000
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Assistant. English-speaking Thai woman with good Word & Excel skills required. Written English & basic accounts skills an advantage. Tel: 076-206-704 Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com

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Business Manager

* Male or female, not over than 40 years old, Thai national preferred

* Hotel, hospitality or related bachelor's degree

* Modern hospitality industry knowledge of more than 5 years' experience. Construction and Real Estate experience.

* Excellent command of both spoken and written English. Other foreign languages would be a plus

* Excellent computer and organizational skills and able to work independently

* Pro-active, entrepreneurial, leadership skills, motivated team player. Responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills; good social connections.

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Requirements:

* Female Thai national, over 22 years old.

* Hotel hospitality or related bachelor's degree

* Modern hospitality industry knowledge

* Excellent command both spoken and written English. Other foreign languages would be a plus

* Excellent computer skills, especially in Fidelio program

* Pro-active entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills, motivated team player. Responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills.

Please submit CV with salary expectation and a current photo by email to: agm1@clubbamboo.com

For more information:

Tel: 076-345345-7

Fax: 076-345099

Email:

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Needed: female; age 21-35; college or bachelor's degree in accounting, hospitality or related field; Windows, Excel, Word and work experience required. Good command of written and spoken English. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-292073, 06-3418781. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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needed. Hiring: pizza cook; waiting staff; bartender; cooks; manager. Great pay. Will train. Please send your CV and photo or contact for more information. Tel: 076-388681. Email: j.r.vinton@gmail.com

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* Female, 21-35 years old.
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Please contact. Tel: 076-385758, 04-1871068. Email: smash.consulting@gmail.com



Sabana Resort, ideally located on Nai Harn Beach, is seeking young and dynamic individuals for the following positions:

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
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TEL: 076 289333 Email: hrm@sabana-resort.com

FINANCIAL MANAGER

World Concern, an international relief and development organization, will hire a Thai national who must be qualified to supervise and manage all financial, accounting transactions and monitor records and exchanges and advise on financial planning for our tsunami-related project located in Phang Nga. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-423757. Email: yohuncp@gmail.com

TRAINER/ BODYGUARD WANTED

Lady, 23, 163cm, 45kg, fit and very pretty, looking to hire black, white, Thai, or any male who is physically strong to be coach/trainer/bodyguard. Please email photo and description. Pay is negotiable. Email: cylu@pacific.net.hk

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- CUSTOMER SERVICES
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We are looking for a competent and highly-motivated person to join our advertising and media business in Phuket City. Must be a Thai national with good spoken and written English, driving license, car and motorbike, and computer skills. Previous experience required. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-236637-8.

ADMINISTRATOR

- Female, Thai national
- 22-28 years old
- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Internet and Outlook)
- Excellent written and spoken English

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-273379, 09-4741246. Fax: 076-273379. Email: mick@octopusasia.com

COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate requires a British copywriter for property listings. Experience not necessary - if you have writing skills. Work from home with computer. Hours flexible. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

CLEANING STAFF

for guesthouse in Karon. Must speak some English. Tel: 06-2718254.

TEACHERS WANTED

Satree Phuket EP (English Program) Department. Positions: Math teacher (native English-speaker), Science teacher (native English-speaker), German-language teacher (native German-speaker). Required: related degree. Contact K. Amnuay. Tel: 01-3675870. Email: satreephuketep@yahoo.com

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FOR SALE COMPLETE

4-foot fish tank. Cost new 12,000, sell for 4,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-1466622.

FOR SALE TEMPERED

glass dining table. Cost new: 12,000 baht. Sell for 4,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-146-6622.

COCKTAIL FRAME

Black. For hanging brandy cocktail glasses etc. 10ft long. Would look good in a bar. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-477-8744.

PIZZA OVEN SALE

5,000 baht. In good working order. In the piano cafe in Karon next to temple. Contact Tony or Noy. Tel: 01-4778744.

SONY PLAYSTATION2

PS2 in very good condition. Comes with games. 5,500 baht. Tel: 01-7577733.

FRIDGES FOR RESTAURANT

Brand new undercounter fridges, freezer and chiller. Please contact Mr Alex. Tel: 01-4954761.

KING BRAND 5-BURNER

pizza oven for sale. Size: 178cm x 78cm. 14,000 baht. Deep-fryer, twin, with stainless-steel baskets: 15,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4452333.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS

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HOTEL SAFES

18 electronic hotel safes, 4-digit personal code, Safe Place brand, cream color. 1 Override Unit with different-password operator managing levels. Everything extremely easy to manage and maintain. Dimensions: 35cm wide x 22cm high x 40cm deep. Reason for sale: Company converting from hotel into apartments for sale. Sale price: 3,000 baht each plus 5,000 baht for the Override Unit. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8933077. Email: dudone@hotmail.com

AIRCON FOR SALE

Very good condition, 30,000 BTU. Offers from 18,000 baht. Tel: 076-333423, 07-2680490.

WASHER

LG 6.0 kg. Fully-automatic toploader. Just 8 months old. Warranty until February 2007. 5-year motor warranty. In perfect condition. I've still got the box and foam to transport it in. New price: 8,000 baht. Will sell for 6,000 (or best offer). Please call. 04-8445422. Email: joyphuket@yahoo.com

Bulletins

SIAM TOURIST MAPS

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Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

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Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

Patong
Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
012732053 (Scandinavian),
018954763 (English) or
018912895 (Frank)

Business Opportunities

MAP PROMOTION

Now YOU can show YOUR customers exactly where your business is located! 100% cartographically correct map now on the Internet with direct links to your company! Email: info@siammaps.com

SHOP FOR RENT

Best location Karon, busiest street in Karon, about 1,350-400 MTR, complete bathroom, electric water heater, aircon, No key money, 25,000 baht a month. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-2718254.

INVESTOR SOUGHT

Housing project in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Site already has roads, electricity and water supply, plus planning permits. Project already has 30 million baht invested, and has 3 houses sold. 6 remaining plots. Looking for silent partner for investment of 15 million baht. Please contact Andy for more information. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296-160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

SERIOUS INVESTOR

Looking to invest in new business. Email: siam.int@gmail.com

50% OF WEB BUSINESS

I would like to sell 50% of a new Web business. Great potential! 800,000 baht, negotiable. Contact me for further details. Email: lekman762000@yahoo.se

BIKINI SHOP

Kata beach. Well established bikini and surfwear retail outlet located opposite main entrance of Club Med for sale/rent. Large inventory of quality imported beachwear available at heavily discounted prices. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-607 9020, 01-8235410. Fax: 076-383401. Email: frank@bathline.info

SMALL INVESTORS

Commercial property Patong. Great returns. Be part of Phuket's property boom. Freehold. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8817600.

2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to a dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht per year. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8924311.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
- a tour agency
- a 60-seat restaurant
- a rental business
- an Internet cafe

Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-082-0039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan_75@hotmail.com

CHEAP BUSINESSES

Visas for Thai people great profit only 700,000 baht. Bar/restaurant best location Patong. 1.1 million baht. Charter boats party boat from 1 million baht. Please contact Brian for more info. Tel: 07-0673360. Email: batone86@hotmail.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Nice office located in a business area. 50sqm, fully furnished with all office equipment and ready to start. 1.8 million baht. Company car is available if required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8750017. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

in Patong. Part of the Andaman Bazaar, close to the beach. Rent 52,000 baht. 3-year contract plus option for 2 more years. Asking price: 400,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2706297.

TWO BOUTIQUE

hotels for sale and/or rent. Turnkey, brand-new. Many purchase options. Please call Tel: 01-0875828 for further information, or please see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0310186/#0310189

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SALON FOR SALE

Good location in Kata center. Call Supom. Tel: 09-5944633.

SAMUI RESORT

for rent. Well-known beach resort in the north of Samui for rent. Fully operational. 11 air-conditioned bungalows, restaurant, pool and owner's house. Lease = / + 24 years at very low monthly rent. Key money: 15 million baht. No agents please. Email: m_rombaut@yahoo.com

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Taurus Travel Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-344521/2 Fax: 076-344523
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Japanese teacher (TEFL) is seeking a full- or part-time job at local schools in Phuket. I speak & read Thai. Private lessons welcome too. Please contact. Tel: 076-282542, 01-476-7806. Fax: 076-282542. Email: hiromi_niederhauser@hotmail.com

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Notice

Public Notice
This notice is to inform the public that as of February 20, 2006, Mrs Duangkamol Khaochatr (Mod) has no further involvement and is no longer associated in any way with The Surin Bay Inn Hotel.

Personal Services

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in the Cherng Talay area for children 6-8 years old. Math, English, Thai. 5 days/week. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

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UK MAN SEEKS THAI GIRL
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BACKGAMMON
Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

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Motorbikes

BMW 1150CC FOR SALE



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AUCTION: 125cc HONDA DREAM

A powerful bike, as good as new. 5,400km. 16 months old, registered in January with 3-year warranty. 1 owner. For sale to best offer starting from 24,000 baht. Tel: 07-2798520. Email: waikikidivecafe@hotmail.com

SUZUKI GSX-R 750K

118hp, 1989 model, registered in 1994. 73 tkm, 3 owners only in 12 years, not a rental bike (used in BKK only). 748cc short-stroke, oil-cooled engine. Tax and insurance paid until October 2006. Transfer papers for Phuket taken care of. Genuine green book, unlike so many big bikes that have a Honda Wave Green book. New fairings and paintwork, complete Yoshimura exhaust system including headers (retail 50,000 baht!). Removable single seater cowling, racing compound front tyre (perfect for the slippery Phuket roads), polished frame, footrests, fork, etc. Full maintenance done, and I mean Farang style. Carburetors rebuilt, adjusted, and synchronized, and injectors optimized for new exhaust system spark plugs, oil and filter, brake fluid, valve adjustment, chain tension, lube and alignment, all bearings checked or changed. Powerful, modern styling. Loud, yet affordable. Must see to truly appreciate! Why settle for a lame 400cc with only 60hp or pay upwards of 300,000 baht for an R1 or CBR 900R when you can have the same fun for 1/3rd the price? Selling price: 120,000 baht. Tel: 09-9087350. Email: jacek_fi@hotmail.com

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HONDA WAVE 125i

Honda Wave 125i (injection) for sale. 2 years old. Price: 25,000 baht. Can be viewed in Khao Lak. Tel: 076-443149, 06-2811945.

HARLEY 2002 CUSTOM

This bike started out as a 2002 Heritage Classic. Below is a list of what I have added to make the bike what it is today: 1550 upgrade kit with Branch heads (Andrews Cam), duel Mukni carburetors, top-of-the-range ignition module (this bike goes fast), Performance Machine (PM) Phatail (240 kit), PM wheels, PM 6 piston front brake with PM rotor, PM 4 piston (drive side) rear brake with PM Rotor, PM Contour forward controls, PM Contour switches and handle bar accessories, PM Mirrors, corbin Seat (ostrich leather), Harley Oil Cooler, temp gauge and oil pressure gauge, Paul Yaffe X Pipes and completely chromed. Bike can be seen at Nicky's Handlebar in Patong. Price: 1.8 million baht ono. Tel: 076-240042, 01-9792264. Email: stroker106@csloxinfo.com

KAWASAKI KAZA

112cc. Silver, 1 year old, 13,000km, like-new condition. Price: 18,000 baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 09-4701000. Email: guru66@wp.pl

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