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Police investigate Backlund murder reward scandal

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET CITY: Following widespread criticism, the Phuket Provincial Police will set up a panel to reconsider plans to give the family of confessed murderer Akkaradej "Chon" Tankae the 100,000 baht in promised reward money for their help in his capture.

Akkaradej was arrested in Ranong on March 19 and charged with the murder of 26-year-old Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund.

Miss Backlund was stabbed to death at Mai Khao Beach on March 15.

The 100,000 baht in reward money was put up by the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) in the hope of quickly bringing the murderer to justice and limiting damage to Phuket's image among tourists.

In a press conference announcing Akkaradej's capture, police announced that because the suspect's wife and father had provided police with key information leading to his capture, they would be given the reward money.

The police are now reconsidering that decision.

Phuket Provincial Commander Maj Gen Decha Butnampeth told the *Gazette* today that he had appointed his deputy, Pol Col Wittayadej Worradilok, to chair a committee to review the matter.

"Although following standard procedure, police have re-



Swedish Consul Silvia Jurich lights an incense stick at a spirit house set up for the memorial service for Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund, who was murdered on March 15. Looking on is American Christy Sweet, who organized the event.

ceived many complaints from the public and local media that it is unsuitable to reward the suspect's family in this case," Gen Decha said.

"In fact 12 witnesses were questioned in the case," he added.

Col Wittayadej's panel will review the roles of the witnesses in determining how much of the reward money each of them should be entitled to.

Col Wittayadej told the *Gazette* that his committee had yet to meet because officers are still

occupied collecting evidence for the court case against Akkaradej.

"We must carefully consider the roles of all the witnesses, but we cannot rule out rewarding the suspect's family, given their key role in his capture," Col Wittayadej said.

"Police have set policies to follow for the disbursement of reward money, but this fact was not made clear during the press conference on March 19," he added.

Continued on page 2

Phuket MPs declare assets

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: As part of the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) requiring all 480 Members of Parliament to publicly declare their assets, Phuket Democrat MP Tossaporn Tephabuttra and his wife Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra are leading the "MP rich race" in Phuket with nearly one billion baht declared.

Fellow Democrat MP Chalermklak Kepsap declared more than 145 million baht in assets to claim second place, while Rewat Areerob is third with some 60 million baht in declared holdings.

K. Tossaporn declared that he currently has assets totaling 498,102,572.14 baht.

The NCCC also requires MPs to publicly list the assets and debts of all members of each MP's immediate family.

K. Tossaporn listed K. Anchalee's current holdings at 464,090,201.05 baht and that of their 13-year-old son Parama as 1,408,744.90 baht – together totaling 963,601,518.09 baht.

However, K. Tossaporn also declared a total debt of 9,790,238.83 baht, and that K. Anchalee owed 83,666.94 baht, leaving the Tephabuttra household with net assets of 953,727,612.32 baht.

Chalermklak Kepsap declared her current assets as 142,376,766.02 baht and that of her child as 4,396,459.91 baht – totaling 146,773,225.93 baht.

She listed her current total debt as 1,378,344 baht, leaving her with net assets of 145,394,881.93 baht.

Rewat Areerob listed total net assets of 50,090,128.10 baht.

From page 1

Murder reward under probe

On March 22, about 50 people gathered at Mai Khao Beach to attend a memorial service for Miss Backlund, who would have been 27 on March 21.

The service, which started at 11am, was organized by Phuket resident Christy Sweet.

Mai Khao Bungalows owner Sawas Rakrangsimansuk invited six monks from two nearby temples to lead the prayers.

"The girls were staying in a tent because we had no vacant bungalows when they arrived. After a few days one became free, but they decided to stay in their tent because they enjoyed the location's privacy. It is a very sad case, they were nice girls," he said.

Also attending the service was Consul Silvia Jurich from the Swedish Consulate in Phuket.

"It is horrendous for a young woman to meet her death like this. It's incredible that no one heard her screams

"It just goes to show that you cannot just assume that you are safe," said Ms Jurich.

Ice dealer arrested

PHUKET: Police on March 23 arrested a man found in possession six grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

After a tip-off from undercover police, plain-clothes officers searched Phuket native Chalermrat "Chai" Thongwong in front of MK Suki at the Big C shopping mall on the bypass road about 9 pm, said Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Nos Svet-talekha.

Police found 1.7 grams of *ya ice* in his jeans.

Chai was on his way to sell the drug to a group of teenagers, Col Nos said.

However, police failed to find the group of teenagers, he added.

A search of Chai's house in Than Thong village, in Wichit, turned up 4.3 more grams of the drug.

Vanity vehicle-plate auction raises B14m

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Transport Office (PPTO) held its fourth annual car-registration plate auction March 22 and 23, raking in 14 million baht from 301 special plates auctioned off.

The plates for Phuket in 2008, which bear an image of Laem Phromthep, began with the Thai letters จ•, followed by strings of anywhere from one to four digits.

As most bidders were keen believers in Chinese geomancy, the top bid, as expected, was for plate จ• 9999. The winner was local hotel magnate Wanrak Likhidvong, with a bid of 740,000 baht.

All 301 plates on offer were snatched up by luck- and vanity-seeking bidders.

The proceeds will go to the Road Safety Fund, with 40% to Phuket to fund repairs and replacement of road lights, signs and other traffic infrastructure.



Professional presenters, known as 'pretty girls' in Thailand, show off six of the 'luckiest' numbers on offer at the auction.

Seized land marked for botanical gardens

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Land Reform Office plans to establish botanical gardens on agricultural reform (*SorPorKor*) land previously held by three Phuket tycoons.

The land was returned to the state last year in three separate Supreme Court rulings that found the tycoons did not qualify to occupy the land because they were not poor farmers.

Land Reform Office Chief Teerawut Tawornpatanavong told the *Gazette* that his office had issued *SorPorKor* titles to 546 people since August, 1993, when the *SorPorKor* 4-01K program was established by the Democrat government in power at that time.

The program aimed to allow landless farmers to use degraded Royal Forest Department land for farming, but a scandal erupted when it was later found that 11 wealthy Phuket residents were among the recipients, including Phuket MP Tossaporn Thepabutr (see related story on page 1).

The scandal is considered key to the downfall of the Democrat-led government that was dissolved in 1995.

Of the 33,395 rai earmarked

for the project in Phuket, *SorPorKor* rights were granted on 10,769 rai before the program was suspended in Phuket, K. Teerawut told the *Gazette*.

Thus far, the office has revoked rights to 2,676 rai of *SorPorKor* land from 133 people. Many of the revocations followed surveys in 2003 that revealed the land was not being farmed. In many cases, the holders had occupied land beyond the plot boundaries, K. Teerawut said.

In cases such as that of K. Tossaporn, the plaintiffs were able to present documents such as tax payment certificates to show that they or their forbears had occupied the land for some time. However, the documents presented were not full title deeds (*Chanote*) and the "owners" needed court approval to continue occupying the land, he explained.

The boom in the tourism industry and rising land prices have made agriculture less viable in Phuket. Therefore, the Land Reform Office plans to create botanical gardens on *SorPorKor* land reclaimed from K. Tossaporn (98 rai in Karon), Banlue Tantiwit (69 rai in Patong) and Charearn Thavornwongwongse (15 rai in Kamala).

Botanical gardens would help environmental restoration and tourism promotion, he said. "The land formerly held by K. Banlue is well suited for tourism as it is on Tri Trang Beach in Patong, but K. Tossaporn's [former] land is too distant from the road for this," K. Teerawut said.

The Land Reform Office will prepare a budget request and ask for seedlings and other resources needed for the project from the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office, he added.

In total, there have been 42 legal cases regarding *SorPorKor* land in Phuket. Thirty cases were lodged with the Administrative Court by people trying to reclaim *SorPorKor* rights that have been revoked. One case has already been ruled on and another withdrawn, leaving 28 cases, K. Teerawut said.

There are also 12 civil court cases pending, including several claims of illegal excavation, two claims of deforestation near the Kathu Waterfall and four claims of encroachment near Wat Luangphu Supha in Chalong. In all four of these cases, the encroachers have been found guilty and are awaiting sentencing, K. Teerawut said.

Patong vendors nabbed in counterfeit goods raid

PATONG: Kathu Police on March 19 arrested several vendors caught selling counterfeit goods, seizing 300 items of clothing and handbags illegally bearing designer labels including Chanel, Burberry and Prada.

Kathu Police Crime Suppression Inspector Lt Col Worawat Sitthinoon led the sweep along the beach road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, accompanied by Pol Maj Serm Kwannimit and four officers from the Kathu Narcotics Suppression Division.

Pointing out the fake goods to the police was Phubate Mingkhwan, a detective firm hired by a number of international companies to ensure that their trademark rights are not violated.

All vendors were charged with violating Section 273 of the criminal code and could face up to three years in prison, a fine of up to 6,000 baht, or both.

The confiscated items will be sent to the offices of the copyright owners' representatives in Bangkok, then destroyed, Maj Serm said.

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Patong to expand CCTV surveillance

By Janyaporn Morel

PATONG: Kathu Police plan to install about 10 more closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in Patong to increase security and fight crime, the police chief has announced.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak told the *Gazette* that more CCTV cameras are needed in Patong, as the 16 cameras that went into operation there in early 2007 are effective for traffic control, but have done little to aid in criminal investigations.

"The image quality from those cameras still can't help us in crime suppression because they were installed in fixed positions to monitor traffic flow. Only a few of them can zoom in or capture images well enough to help fight crime," said Col Grissak.

The 16 CCTV cameras in Patong were installed by CAT Telecom in early 2007 under a 16-million-baht contract funded by the CEO Governor's budget.

Phuket City and Kata-Karon also got 16 CCTV cameras each under the project.

To improve coverage, Patong Municipality has already approved 4 million baht in funding for about 10 more cameras, but the money is not yet available, Col Grissak said.

A number of businesses are also expected to donate money, though Col Grissak declined to estimate how much the private-sector would contribute.

"We would like to have more cameras on line as soon as possible, preferably before the Songkran Festival for those with private-sector funding, which should come through more quickly. Patong needs a lot of camera coverage because of the crowded conditions and pace of development," he said.

For the second-phase, Kathu Police will seek out improved CCTV technology that integrates well with the existing system, he said.

Kathu Police will also take more measures to improve traffic in Patong and make it safer for pedestrians to cross the roads, he said.

The one-way traffic system put in place in mid-January, 2007 – at about the same time the CCTV network was introduced – has improved traffic flow in Patong considerably.

However, crossing the streets on foot has become more dangerous. The lack of speed bumps, traffic lights or pedestrian overpasses to improve safety for pedestrians has become a major cause for complaint among tourists.

Phummisak named Austrian Consul

PHUKET: Phuket Senator Phummisak Hongsyok, a former Phuket City Mayor and a major businessman on the island, has been appointed Austrian Honorary Consul for Southern Thailand.

K. Phummisak replaces his younger brother Chuchai Hongyok, who has held the position for more than 10 years.

K. Chuchai just wants to retire, K. Phummisak told the *Gazette*.

"I'm very happy that the Austrian Embassy has chosen me to serve the Austrian people because this position helps promote a good image of Thai people and the country to tourists. I'm happy to help in any way that I have the authority to," he said.

His responsibility includes all provinces in Southern Thailand except Prachuap Khiri Kan and Chumphon.

K. Phummisak said that he has known about his appointment for the past two years, but had decided to wait until the necessary paperwork had been approved by the Austria Embassy before making the announcement.

The Austrian Consular office in Phuket can be contacted at Tel: 076-248334-6 or Fax: 076-248337.

Alternatively, K. Phummisak can be contacted by email at h.wanida@gmail.com

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

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Sakoo OrBorTor to take 'no action' on Nai Thon dumping

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

NAI THON: More than a month after being given photographs showing a truck belonging to Vasi Construction Co Ltd dumping trash near Nai Thon Beach, Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) say they cannot press charges because nobody has been caught in the act.

The photos were sent to the *Gazette* in January by a concerned reader. The site is about 200 meters from Nai Thon Beach and about four kilometers from Sakoo *OrBorTor* offices.

Venich Thammawong, chief of Sakoo *OrBorTor* Public Health department, on February 25 told the *Gazette*, "Although we have evidence, we did not catch them in the act, so if we accuse them of dumping they could deny it."

"We keep inspecting the area and waiting to catch someone dumping there, but we've never caught them," he added.

K. Venich said that he believes more than one company has been dumping at the site. "We can't do anything except wait to catch them at the scene," he said.



VASI OR WASN'T HE? Despite seeing these photos, Sakoo *OrBorTor* says it cannot charge Vasi Construction with illegal dumping as they were not caught in the act.

"It doesn't matter whose land it is because dumping trash, or even creating a dump on your own land without permission, is illegal because it affects the health of the local community," he added.

Despite repeated attempts by the *Gazette*, Vasi Construction has continually declined to comment.

Finally, on March 10, Sakoo

OrBorTor chairman Tawik Kuanun told the *Gazette*, "We will fence the site off with barbed wire in the next three days."

On the same day, K. Venich told the *Gazette*, "I have been checking the dump site and the trash pile there is getting smaller."

As of March 25, the *Gazette* had yet to learn of any further action being taken by Sakoo *OrBorTor*.

60 candidates register for OrBorJor election

PHUKET: A total of 60 candidates have registered with the Phuket Election Commission in the race for seats on the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) council.

Of the 60 candidates in the election, 21 are aligned with former *OrBorJor* president and Democrat Party member Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra, while 18 are from the *OrBorJor* Kon Baan Rao party led by former Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising.

There are also 21 independent candidates.

Thirty-four candidates are contesting 15 seats in Muang district, 17 are contesting six seats in Thalang and nine are contesting three seats in Kathu district.

There are only two candi-

dates for the *OrBorJor* presidency: K. Anchalee and K. Paiboon.

The election will be on April 20. An island-wide ban on alcohol sales will go into effect at 6 pm on April 19 and end at midnight April 20.

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Blue Canyon blues leave

To understand the dispute between staff at Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) and the course's management company Murex requires a bit of history regarding the legal battle for control of Murex, which employs about 400 staff and runs both BCCC and real estate projects surrounding the course.

It is only the staff of the golf course who are protesting against Murex, control of which was returned to Singaporean investor Sia Leng Yuen on February 20 after an Appeals Court decision that overturned a previous ruling by Phuket Provincial Court.

The Phuket Court ruling, on October 19, 2006, effectively wrested control of BCCC away from Mr Sia by changing the management structure of the Murex board in favor of board members loyal to Phuket native Rewat Chindapol, who together with Mr Sia was one of the five founders of Murex and BCCC.

The day after the Phuket Court decision was announced as "a victory for Thais over foreign domination" at the Phuket Reporter's Club meeting room on October 25, Mr Sia arrived at the Murex offices accompanied by Region 5 Crime Suppression Division Police Superintendent Pol

For almost a month starting in late February, some 100 employees of the Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) in Mai Khao stood in front of the golf course on Thepkrasattri Rd with protest signs.

The protesters wanted passing motorists to know of their perceived mistreatment at the hands of BCCC's new management under Singaporean investor Sia Leng Yuen.

Gazette staff report about the ongoing labor dispute, which shows little sign of being resolved.

Col Supachai Fuenpanich.

Presenting a search warrant, police carted off boxes of documents to be used by Mr Sia's legal team to win back control of BCCC - which it did with the Appeals Court ruling last month.

Despite the current victory, the battle is not over for Mr Sia. He is fighting no fewer than 15 lawsuits, three of them for fraud, filed in Phuket Provincial Court. He is currently free on bail granted by the court.

As for the workers' dispute at BCCC, which coincided with the Appeals Court ruling, the workers claim that it has nothing to do with who controls Murex.

Protester Prasit Intarat told the *Gazette* during the street protest that 100 staff had been put on forced leave without pay.

The staff, including personnel ranging from caddies to department heads, are happy to work for anyone who will pay them and treat them fairly, he said.

The protesters stood on Thepkrasattri Rd in front of the golf course for a few hours every morning, bearing a variety of signs in Thai and English.

Among the English-language signs are "Don't threaten us", "Keeps cash! Where's the money?" and "New Management brings any good benefit".

Some of the Thai signs appealed for sympathy with the like of, "Mommy, I am hungry for milk". Others appealed to Thai pride with, "We the employees of Blue Canyon don't want foreign management."

"On February 25, we asked the executive board if we could resume normal work, but we have not received an answer. We have also asked for help from the Phuket Provincial Labor Office, (PPLO) but we have not heard anything from them either," K. Prasit said during the protest.

"I just want to know how long we have to wait. They said they will not pay us because they were just reinstated on February 22," he said.

He was referring to the management team led by Thai national Sanit Nakhakitti, appointed as the new Murex general manager by Mr Sia after he regained control of the company.

"We need the management to be responsible because the



staff members have monthly bills to pay. All of the staff who have been put on unpaid leave are really suffering, but the executive board doesn't care," said K. Prasit.

He denied that the protest was meant to besmirch the image of BCCC.

"We are holding a peaceful demonstration and we don't want to discredit the club. Each day we go home and come back the next morning to ask for fairness. I think they should give us some type of answer," he said.

In a fax received by the *Gazette* from Murex while the street protests were still being staged, the company's Public Relations Consultant Jaroon Chujan sharply refuted the protesters' claims.

He wrote that the work suspension is only a temporary measure during restructuring and all the payroll employees have continued to receive salaries and welfare benefits. Murex never re-

ceived complaints from BCCC employees about failure to receive salaries, he added.

Murex management received a list of six proposals from staff representatives on March 7, but none of these included a request to return to work. This supports the company's claim that they were never laid off in the first place, said K. Jaroon.

When Murex met with staff representatives on March 7, both sides signed a memorandum of the issues to be resolved. These details were later altered by the staff members and then distributed to the media, K. Jaroon alleged.

Management negotiated with the protesters in good faith, including on some managerial matters not directly related to their existing employment contracts. Other staff demands included a promise not to lay off, suspend or change the work duties of existing staff for a period of three years, he added.

The company did not ignore



BCCC staffer Prasit Intarat (pictured) says the labor dispute with the new Murex management is likely to end up in court.

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workers in the lurch



CADDIESHAFT? The protesters turned up for a few hours every morning for three weeks after control of BCCC reverted to Singaporean Sia Leng Yuen following an Appeals Court decision.

the workers' request for across-the-board pay increases of 1,000 to 1,500 baht per month, but the matter was still under negotiation through the PPLO, he said.

PPLO chief Anuchon Varinsathien told the *Gazette* that the workers issued their demands during the March 7 meeting attended by PPLO officials and four representatives each from both staff and management.

Those negotiations failed to reach an agreement, so a meeting was scheduled for March 18.

"I don't understand why the protesters said they didn't get any help from us. We can't force the employer to meet the workers' demands. All we can do is help them try to negotiate an agreement in terms of salary and benefits. But they can't ask us to get

rid of the [new] management for them," he said a few days before the March 18 meeting.

After the March 18 talks failed, Murex PR consultant K. Jaroon denied reports received from a *Gazette* reader that Mr Sia had been arrested in Bangkok and was in police custody.

"Mr Sia is working as usual in Bangkok. As for the March 18 negotiations, there was no settlement. This goes back to the same five demands staff continue to insist upon, but which we cannot accept because they are not related to their employment [contracts] with us," he said.

"When the Region 8 Appeals Court gave control of BCCC back to Mr Sia, he named Sanit Nakhakitti as Murex's general manager.

"But the employees at department-head level do not accept the ruling because they do not want Mr Sia to be the company executive, so they are trying to disturb BCCC operations," he said.

Mr Sia has every legal right to administer the company after the Phuket Court ruling was overturned. He just wants to restructure the management accordingly, K. Jaroon insisted.

The new management accepted a staff request to negotiate the terms of their employment, but their demand to deny Mr Sia management control is simply unacceptable, he said.

"They mentioned that Mr Sia had threatened them, but that is not true. Mr Sia is the largest shareholder. How can the employees reasonably expect to deny him his management rights by protesting?" he asked.

After the failed negotiations of March 18, the 100 protestors went on a one-week strike starting from March 20.

"After we were informed by workers of the one-week work stoppage, we told them it was acceptable to us – as long as they accepted not being paid for that week," he said.

It would be the first time that Murex under new management would not have paid the workers, he said.

If staff had not been paid in full for work done in February, it was because his rival K. Rewat had "rented out" management of BCCC to another management company while the court case was still under review.

A Civil Court ruling ordered that not only K. Rewat but any parties engaged by him would have to have to turn over control of all BCCC operations to Mr Sia and his representatives, effective on the date of the Appeals Court ruling on February 20.

By the time Mr Sia returned on February 22, the workers had already been paid by the old management.

As such, there was no need

for Murex to pay the workers twice just because control of the company had reverted to its rightful owner, he said.

"We were made aware of some payment problems with caddies and some other staff members, so we put up a notice advising anyone who had not been paid in full to contact management. Nobody did," he said.

K. Jaroon insisted that Murex is willing to negotiate in good faith with the staff, as long as they accept court rulings that allow Mr Sia to exercise control of Murex as its major shareholder.

"We don't want to fire them, especially as it is still high season," he said.

The striking workers were still on the payroll and could expect to be paid salary and benefits [except for the one-week work strike], even though many have still not been called in to work during the continuing management restructuring, he added.

For his part, K. Prasit said that the March 18 negotiations were a failure because K. Sia did not attend, but rather sent lawyers on his behalf who insisted that negotiations be restricted to six matters previously raised during the March 7 negotiations.

Murex refused to acknowledge the workers' wider concerns about being managed by an individual who threatened them and faces numerous court charges, including fraud, he maintained.

"After the failure of the March 18 negotiations, we held a meeting and agreed to go on a one-week strike. If after that, the employer rejected our requests to meet, we would continue to petition the Labor Office," he said.

Staff members have no more plans to hold street protests and are prepared to take the matter to the Labor Court.

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Queer News

The CCTV firm and the house of Porn

SAMUT PRAKAN: A man was arrested March 15 after police found a wire leading from his house to a tiny camera hidden in the ceiling of the bathroom of the house next door where six women lived.

The camera, which had apparently been in place for five months, was discovered only when the voyeur was overcome with desire and rang up his victims to tell them how good she and her relatives looked when they were bathing.

About 7 pm that day, Capt Mongkol Phreukchat, an investigating officer at Samrong Neua Police Station, received a call from a woman somewhat appropriately named Porn, 44, (the victim requested her full name not be published) saying she had found a camera hidden in her bathroom ceiling.

Obviously somewhat excited by the nature of the call, Capt Mongkol together with station Superintendent Warawat Watnakhonbancha and a number of other police officers rushed to the house in question to investigate the footage of the six women.

At the house, the team of officers were met by K. Porn and her five daughters and nieces aged between 14 and 17 who lived with her.

K. Porn led the officers to the upstairs bathroom and showed them where the camera was concealed.

The officers then followed the wire from the camera and found it led to the house next door, which was home to Digital First and Service Network Ltd – a company specializing in installing

closed-circuit television cameras.

The officers knocked on the door and were met by the owner of the company, Tharathon Mamongkol, 26. The wire from the spy camera led to a computer in Tharathon's bedroom. Officers turned on the computer and a quick look through the hard drive revealed an abundance of photos and videos of his six neighbors.

Tharathon confessed to installing the camera and was initially charged with trespassing, which carries a maximum sentence of one-year imprisonment.

Police also confiscated his computer for more detailed inspection and contacted the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to see if they knew of anything else that they could charge Tharathon with.

K. Porn told police that about five months earlier, Tharathon came to the house asking if he could rig a cable TV wire from her house to his.

As he had previously been a good neighbor, she allowed it. Then on the morning of March 15, a man called the house and said that he had seen pictures of everyone in the house bathing and it was, apparently, so sexy that he couldn't stand it any more, K. Porn said.

This immediately raised her suspicions about how anyone could have seen her and her young relatives soaped up, so she asked everyone in the house to help her search the bathroom until they eventually found the camera.

Source: Daily News



This dump along a stretch of Pracha U-thit Rd in Rassada, near the Baan Rock Garden Bypass housing estate, has been an eyesore for several.

STAMPS

Thai Post to commemorate birthday of Princess Sirindhorn



PHUKET: Thailand Post will on April 2 launch a set of stamps to celebrate Thai Heritage Conservation Day 2008.

Thai Heritage Conservation Day was established to

mark the birthday of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who is an avid conservationist and chairs the King Rama II Foundation to conserve and promote Thai culture.

The stamps represent *twaraban*, or doorkeepers. Traditionally, doorkeepers are those who protected religious places from uninvited spirits. Doorkeepers were usually carved into wooden doors or etched into windows.

There are four stamps in this collection. The first depicts the doorkeepers of the Buddhaisawan Throne Hall at Phra Nakhon National Museum, in Bangkok. The doorkeepers appear as angels holding bows, standing on Rahu, which is believed to be the shadow of the earth caused by the moon.

The second stamp in the series shows the doorkeepers at the southern window of Wat Suthat Thepwaram in Bangkok.

The third design shows doorkeepers from Wat Prasrisanpetch in Ayudhaya

The fourth stamp depicts doorkeepers again carved from wood. This door can be seen in Wat Prasrirattana Sardsadaram, in Bangkok.

The stamps measure 27 millimeters by 45mm and will be available at three baht each, or 22 baht with a special commemorative envelope. Only 700,000 will be produced and the stamps will be available at all 10 of Phuket's post offices.

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Samak vows to go ahead with lottery

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej said that his government would resume the two- and three-digit lottery as soon as possible.

The government is now in the process of studying legal issues related to the lottery and will resume sales once all legal problems are solved, he said on March 21.

PM Samak said a swift resumption of the lottery was needed in order to prevent the underground lottery from thriving.

The lottery, introduced during the first administration of Thaksin Shinawatra, was patterned on the underground lottery it was meant to replace.

It was halted during the military-installed government of Surayud Chulanont amid charges that it was illegally established and mismanaged by the Thaksin cabinet. Earlier this month, the Assets Scrutiny Committee sent an indictment to the Supreme Court charging 47 officials in the Thaksin government in the case.

Among them are Finance Minister Surapong Suebwoonglee, Labor Minister Uraivan Thienthong and Deputy Transport Minister Anurak Jureemart.

Copse and robbers. A park ranger and policeman were shot dead by illegal loggers in the northern province of Tak on the morning of March 23, police said.

Wiroj Chuakhaopim, chief of the Park Ranger Unit of Klong Wang Chao National Park, was shot dead on his way to his office at 7 am.

Park rangers at the office sought help from police in retrieving K. Wiroj's body.

While police were arriving at the crime scene, the poachers opened fire at them and a 10-minute gunfight ensued.

Pol Cpl Anusorn Tuina died at the scene while Pol Cpl Pisit Phoo-im and Pol Sgt Maj Nongprom Saenwong were seriously wounded.

The shooters, believed to be illegal loggers, fled into the forest.

Cops invest in CRIME. Fifteen-hundred police stations throughout Thailand will soon be able to access real-time information on criminal suspects using a new system called the Criminal Record Information and Management Enterprise (CRIME).

The new system will help the Royal Thai Police not only reduce the complexity of access to information, but also help to avoid human error.

Consultant Kraikron Setta-kraikun said the Royal Thai Police will invest 294 million baht in setting up CRIME.

CRIME will allow the police to access information via a web-based system, enabling them to obtain arrest warrants directly from criminal courts by-passing police headquarters.

Diarrhea outbreak. In less than three months, some 4,257 residents of Kalasin province, mostly children, were treated for diarrhea



FAB FROG

A specimen of magnificent tree frog (*Litoria splendida*), which is found only on the northwestern coast of Australia, has been a big hit at Bangkok's Dusit Zoo, now celebrating its 70th anniversary.

Dr Somyos Srijaranai, the preventive-medicine specialist at the Kalasin Public Health Office, said he believed unclean drinking water and the consumption of half-cooked food were the main causes of the diarrhea outbreak.

"We have randomly checked servings at food shops and restaurants in the province, especially those selling *somtam*," Dr Somyos said.

Bangkok bushfires. Anyone found guilty of starting a bushfire in the nation's capital will face up to seven years in jail, a maximum fine of 14,000 baht or both, according to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA).

"If we find any person responsible for a raging bushfire, we will immediately take legal action," said BMA spokesman Thanom Onketphon.

He was speaking after the capital saw 441 fires so far this year.

Oily initiative. Energy Minister Poonpirom Liptapanlop said on March 20 that she would fund a project to convert plastic waste into oil to reduce the country's oil imports and reduce pressure on the environment.

According to the plan, the Energy Conservation Fund will provide loans totaling 105 million baht, from which R&D and pilot projects would receive funding of up to 35 million baht each.

The ministry will also use money from the fund to subsidize oil made of plastic waste and agree to provide investors seven baht per liter for waste-based oil production for five years.

According to research, oil made from plastic waste could offer properties similar to crude oil.

The Energy Policy and Planning Office will start receiving applications for financial support to produce oil from plastic waste next month.

It will also invite state agencies and non-profit organizations, as well as educational institutions, to take part in the project.

One million notebooks. Education Minister Somchai Wongsawat said on March 21 that he would ask the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to provide high-speed Internet access to all 32,434 public schools nationwide.

The Education Ministry will also spend about 12.4 billion baht

during the next four years to develop IT personnel for teaching IT subjects to students, he said.

As part of the project, the ministry will buy one million notebook computers for student use. The computers will be loaned to students instead of being given to them, as was previously planned. A committee has yet to decide whether students will be allowed to take the computers home, he said.

Koh Chang drying up. Hotel operators on Koh Chang in Trad province have urged the government to improve transport infrastructure and water supply in order to boost tourism.

Somkiat Swangswai, president of the Koh Chang Hotel Association, said hotel operators are facing a shortage of water that becomes particularly serious during the peak season.

He is urging the construction of a five-kilometer water pipeline from the mainland to the island to increase supply.

The association will outline problems and propose solutions to officials of Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA), a body of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

K. Somkiat said more than 1,000 rooms are expected to open on the island in the next one or two years.

Most of the new properties will be above three-star level so they need a well-developed infrastructure, he said.

There are 170 hotels and resorts on the island, which was visited by about one million tourists in 2007.

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

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Samui city status on hold



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

HOPEs have been dashed in Koh Samui's wish to be come a city. Surat Thani Governor Vinai Buapradit has asked for a review of the rules that govern the change from sub-district to city status.

False hopes were raised in February when Mayor Varakorn Rattanakorn led a meeting of village leaders who voted in favor of the change.

This was after completing the list of prerequisites including meeting a population count and annual income.

The decision has baffled the Mayor, along with others, who have been campaigning for the move to improve the island by changing its status.

It was hoped the change in status would give the necessary funds for improving vital areas including the island's infrastructure and public works.

"I don't know what the problem is. I have no idea why it seems to be so difficult to make a move for a better island," said the Mayor after receiving the news.

Before the decision was



More than 50 locals took part in a clean-up to rid beaches and ferry port of garbage.

made, the governor had directed Mayor Varakorn to resolve issues that resulted in a petition from some of the district and village heads who wanted the status to remain the same.

Mayor Varakorn said he believed this was due to business interests that may be affected by a change in status, as well as the village heads losing their positions once the change is implemented.

Samui set to vote on second airport. A referendum is set to take place for the people of Samui to consider adding a second airport to the island.

The news comes after months of petitioning by local business owners and residents who claim that the island is not

benefiting from its existing, privately-owned airport.

The Bangkok Airways airport has caused much controversy over the years because of its monopoly on flights to and from the island, causing people to be put off by the high cost of air fares.

Some environmentalists on the island have protested the plans for a new facility, believing that the addition of a second airport would damage the island's fragile eco-system by bringing more tourists.

Seni Phuwasethaworn, president of the Koh Samui Tourism Association, has said that the proposal to build a second, government-owned facility would be complete sometime this month.

"I want Thai people to come to Samui. At the moment

it isn't possible for them due to the high cost of flights," he said.

"We cannot compete with places like Phuket and Krabi because the low-cost airlines fly there but not here, so our tourist numbers have gone down."

Council cleans up. The Nathon council has initiated a clean-up project intended to get residents involved in cleaning the beaches and public areas around the district capital.

More than 50 locals took part in the clean-up to rid the beaches of rubbish that often

piles up on the shores of the ferry port.

The council project is a step toward improving the environment in the port town, which welcomes many new visitors to the island daily.

Controversial developer keeps building. The developer of the scandal-ridden Peak project has announced plans to move forward with a 20-billion-baht mega project on Koh Samui.

Dr Boon Vanasin, the former developer in the 100-rai project that was halted after authorities discovered it was encroaching on public land, says he is going to move forward with other projects.

The decision to go ahead with the second project was made while the Peak project is still involved in legal proceedings to determine rights over the disputed land.

Dr Boon claims that he possesses the correct land deeds that entitle him to the land he purchased.

While the Land Department has halted development on the Peak, Dr Boon has purchased nearby land measuring 300 rai intended for his new development.

His new project, called Himaphan Beach Samui, is based near the South African project, Sun City, and will follow the same concept of being an inclusive resort intended to incorporate activities as well as residential villas.

The project, set to be completed in five years, will comprise a 900-room hotel, 11 international restaurants, a medical spa, international school, luxury villas and many indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

Legal proceedings in the Peak project land dispute could take years to resolve.

It was hoped the change in to city status would give the necessary funds for improving vital areas of the island including infrastructure and public works.

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PM rules out dialog with insurgents

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej on March 18 ruled out direct negotiations with Malay Muslim separatist groups, saying their demands were unacceptable to the government.

Without mentioning what the demands were, he said that six groups involved in talks in Switzerland recently were "trying to internationalize the issue".

He did not elaborate on what he meant by "internationalize", but security officials familiar with the conflict said the separatists wanted to involve the international community, including the EU and the UN, in the process, thus ensuring that the Thai government lived up to whatever promises it made.

"I've read the demands. The position of the Thai government is that this is not an international issue.

"I cannot say at this point in time that we know the identities of those involved, but we do have considerable information," PM Samak said.

Most senior security officials do not agree with talking to the separatist groups, he said, adding that he would not go so far as calling them "sparrow bandits", a term once employed by ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

PM Samak said he was not in a position to say when the bloodshed in the region would end, but insisted that the local community supported the government, because "the insurgents are killing their own people".

He said that a grenade attack on a mosque in Yala that day as an example of the militants slaughtering fellow Muslims.

Deadly force. The brother of a gold-shop owner shot dead one bandit and injured another in an armed robbery in Kiang Sa district in Surat Thani on March 20. Two other robbers and the injured man escaped.

At 3:20 pm, four armed men entered Mae Madee gold shop – the biggest gold shop in the district – and began to smash display cabinets and seize the gold jewelry within.

Yong Wongprasai, 56, older



About one kilometer of the coastal road between Panarae and Yaring in Pattani province was badly eroded following heavy storm waves that coincided with high-tide conditions in the Gulf of Thailand. To travel between the two towns, local residents were forced to take alternative routes through "red areas" where insurgent activity is high.

brother of store owner Monthakan Bunthong, heard the commotion and fetched his shotgun.

He attacked the robbers, shooting one dead and injuring another.

K. Monthakan, 35, was in a furniture shop across the street at the time.

The two other robbers and their injured colleague retreated back to their pickup truck. K. Yong continued shooting until all seven cartridges in the gun were spent.

After the incident was reported to police, Surat Thani Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Thaesa Siriwatho ordered roadblocks set up throughout the province. At 4 pm, police found the Toyota pickup truck used in the robbery abandoned by the side of the Surat Thani-Krabi road in

Baan Nadem district. The back window had been shot out and there was a large bloodstain on one of the seats.

Villagers said they had seen the three men exit the car and then head into the woods by the side of the road. More than 50 officers searched for the men to no avail.

The dead robber was identified by police as Thawatchai Wongsathian, 46.

He had been shot in the face and was armed with an Uzi machine pistol. A .38 pistol presumed to have belonged to the robbers was also found in front of the shop.

After the surviving robbers had fled, the shop was left strewn with gold jewelry from the smashed cabinets. A large crowd gathered outside and had to be

prevented by police from entering the shop.

Hostage havoc. A 14-year-old girl was seriously injured after being taken hostage and having her throat cut by her step-father in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on March 18. The girl's mother, who had recently broken up with the man, was also held hostage.

At 8:45 am that day, police were called to a beauty salon in the city's Tambon Nai Muang, where a domestic dispute was in progress.

At the scene, they found Somjit Phromraksa, 46, with a knife in one hand and an ax in the other.

He was destroying the shop and holding his partner Prayat Khamphong, 42, and her daughter Koi hostage.

Lt Col Niti Bunchan, an investigating officer at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police Station, attempted to negotiate with Somjit, but this only angered him further. He grabbed Koi suddenly and slit her throat.

Officers rushed in to bring the girl to safety but were unable to restrain Somjit, who still held his partner Prayat hostage. Koi was taken to Maharaj Hospital for treatment.

Somjit then led Prayat into the bathroom. Police, unable to see what was happening in the room, decided to risk a charge. Officers kicked down the door and managed to subdue Somjit with no further injuries.

From their investigation, police found that the day before

the incident Prayat had discovered that Somjit was seeing another woman and told him that she was leaving him. Somjit took the news badly and beat her up.

Prayat then took her daughter to stay with a policeman friend and filed charges against Somjit.

The next day when she went to her shop, she found Somjit waiting for her. A violent dispute ensued and neighbors called the police.

Desperate measures. Army Supreme Commander Gen Boonsrang Niampradit said on March 21 that an alarming rate of Rohingya people, a Muslim minority whose homeland is on the west coast of Burma, have been sneaking into Thailand.

"A lot of them have sneaked into the country and the numbers continue to rise.

It is worrying and we have to try to solve the problem," he said while speaking to reporters after meeting with governors of 31 border provinces.

He did not give an estimate of how many Rohingya people were living in the country, but put the total number of illegal immigrants in the kingdom at about 2 million.

Rohingya often entered Thailand illegally by sea. If caught and repatriated, they often tried to enter the country again, he said.

Around the South news round-up is sourced from Kom Chad Luek, aily Xpress and The Nation newspapers.

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By Lana Willocks

Studio brings island glamor back into focus

The striking, purpose-built studio of the production agency MyClip Studios on Soi Parlai 2 in Chalong has created a style zone in an area better known for its zoo and scruffy buffalo fields.

Showcasing style is the business of MyClip and its photographers, who capture the dream of a luxury tropical lifestyle in images for clients around the globe.

On any given day, the crew can be seen primping, priming and snapping away at a beautiful young woman or two, whose images will be seen in magazines and advertisements in Europe, the US and Asia.

Phuket native Apiwat Spondech, MyClip's managing director, said that since the Thai-German joint venture opened two years ago, the studio has handled accounts for such clients as Bader fashion catalog in Germany and the Chinese swimming pool manufacturer Bestway.

About 90% of clients are from overseas, he added.

While most of the models used in the photoshoots are professionals from agencies in Bangkok, Europe and the US, K. Apiwat said that even those not blessed with the genetic makeup of Kate Moss or Brad Pitt can appear in professional photoshoots.

Occasionally, MyClip's clients request "regular people" for their ads and K. Apiwat welcomes local residents to contact the studio and join the roster of models.

At the moment, the studio is seeking foreign models, preferably taller than 170 centimeters, as well as children of all ages.

The pay rate is decidedly "foreign" as well, with children earning between 4,500 and 5,000 baht for a one-day photo session and adults paid from 7,000 to 12,000 baht per day.

Depending on a client's needs, sessions are done either at

A look behind the scenes of photoshoots carried out by MyClip Studios. Models can earn anything up to 12,000 baht for a day's work, even if they don't look like Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie.



an outside location, such as a beach, or at the studio, in which a number of sets have been built.

The high-tech studio also has a large white space with a

vaulted ceiling that retracts if natural light is required.

Through his studio's work, K. Apiwat hopes to promote the island's beauty and give Phuket a

glamorous image that will enhance the tourism industry, he said.

He also hopes to raise the skill level of local photographers so that Thailand can better compete on the world stage of fashion and publishing. MyClip's Thai photographers are trained by experts at MyClip's parent company in Germany.

They have, in turn, trained other professionals as well as students at Phuket Rajabhat and Prince of Songkla universities. The studio has also hosts student interns who are given hands-on training in all aspects of the production house.

A recent photoshoot involving a blond bombshell from Belarus posing in a red dress-suit would have been an unlikely sight on Soi Parlai a few years ago.

While some residents may hark back to the days when buffalo roamed this area as a more idyllic time, having the MyClip team highlighting Phuket's more dazzling side shows the abundant possibilities for island life.

For further information contact MyClip Studios, Soi Parlai 2, Chalong. Tel: 076-380101. Web: www.myclipstudios.com



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Where exactly does the word "tapas" come from? Well, back in the middle ages, long before the better part of Spain's male population were knocking in goals for Liverpool F.C., the tapas tradition was supposed to have begun when Castile's Alfonso the Wise was recovering from an illness.

The piri piri prawn with coriander yogurt is one the many divine dishes on offer. His rather unusual but normal-for-that-time healing regime consisted of boozing and snacking on small dishes between meals.

After he had successfully recovered he reflected that the aforementioned combination of light snacks with wine wasn't such a bad idea for his subjects either, so he decreed that the combination should be a royal order throughout the kingdom's taverns.

And if you believe that, you ought to hear the one about the frog and the princess...

But seriously folks, the Spanish verb tapar means "to cover" (think tarpaulin, or tarp) and so it's sort of logical that another version of the word's etymology claims that, back in the olden days, sweet sherry drinkers used to cover their glasses with slices of bread to keep off the fruit flies and then eat them -

Tapas & Wine: the great cover-up



The piri piri prawn with coriander yogurt is one the many divine dishes on offer.

the pieces of bread that is, not the flies.

Things developed from then on when enterprising tavern owners added extra bits of food to attract more customers.

Still, whichever or whatever way you look at it, the tapas tradition is fun and has even gained such snob status in British and North American wine bars that a single glass of wine costs the

equivalent of a bowl of noodles, a large beer and a dodgy rub-down in Phuket City.

Tapas & Wine in Kata is a new infusion to the ever-boiling teapot of the island's culinary scene and it's deceptively simple in its concept. Tapas & Wine is made up of two adjoining shophouses.

The bar-restaurant features green walls, chocolate-colored tiled floors and a cushion-lined bench affair around its generous perimeter with dark-stained tables and chairs to complement it, along with a wine cellar towards the end and a terrace out front. In the center of the restaurant stands a bar where the dividing wall used to be.

Fans of ex-Watermark chef Scott Flaxman will be interested to hear that he set up the menu and will be helming the project in due course. Meanwhile, in his absence, the team of Thai chefs at Tapas & Wine does him proud.

The whole idea was the brainchild of old friends, Mona Fristedt and Lotta Hansson who, having spent some time in the dive industry here and on Samui, decided that now was the time to open a tapas outlet in Kata.

The menu at Tapas & Wine is seemingly endless but what's so genuine about the place is that, even though situated in a tourist area, it doesn't overcharge.

Each dish clocks in at a reasonable 110 to 135 baht and the tapas range from piri piri prawns marinated in chili, garlic, olive oil with a coriander yogurt dip, smoked chicken tortillas with chicken mango, luscious calamari rings breaded and fried with gar-

lic tioli, smoked duck breast on cristini with a rosemary and mandarin salsa and a whole, whole lot more. They're all beautifully presented and executed.

I sampled this fare with two other food reviewers based in Phuket and they both concurred that it was just great. So there you go: you don't have to rely on just one opinion.

And the wine? For all of you out there who aspire to a King Alfonso diet the news is good.

There are some 50 labels going at Tapas & Wine and I don't know of an eatery on the island with a cheaper wine-and-dining arrangement, unless a bottle of pinard and a hastily arranged ham sandwich in Tesco Lotus's car park appeals to you.

The Spanish rose Esencia V a l d e m a r Garnacha 2005 goes for an incredible 590 baht a bottle and the wine list is complemented by a description of the nature of each label.

Mona and Lotta - both Swedes - are consummate businesswomen who recognize good thing when they see it. So I can vouch that you will get your money's worth in a decidedly Scandinavian-Thai ambiance with great piped-in music.

Tapas & Wine, on the "new road" north of the Club Med, just before Kata Night Bazaar. Tel: 076-284217, 08-48382685. Email: info@tapasandwinephuket.com Website: www.tapasandwinephuket.com

On the menu WITH Sam Wilko Tapas & Wine

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A life illuminated in oil

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul brings a rural eye to urban life. The 37-year-old native of the northeastern province of Surin hails from a family of traders, but now resides in Bangkok.

His large-scale oil and acrylic paintings display the artist's keen eye for aesthetics and urban landscapes.

Since graduating with a master's degree in painting from Silpakorn University in Bangkok in 2003, Therdkiat's work has been displayed in several major cities around the globe, including New York, Seoul and Singapore.

Now his work is on show in Phuket at Dgallery, which is currently hosting his 17-piece solo exhibition entitled *Light of Life*, running until March 29.

One of Therdkiat's latest techniques has been to use oil paint on large aluminum sheets.

Typically his work captures somber life scenes, such as homeless boy and his dogs or a man bedding down on a public bench.

Using oil paints on aluminum gives his work a gritty and aged



A lot of Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul's work focuses on individuals he has encountered in Bangkok. This piece is called *Lonely Year*.

feel, while his skill with the brush successfully captures the form and mood of his subjects and their place within an urban environment.

He feels the technique makes his work unique.

"I painted with oils on canvas during my university years, but I decided I needed to develop

a distinctive and style, which is to paint on aluminum sheets.

"For seven years I have practiced and worked hard to develop this technique. Eroding layers, mixing colors and brush using different strokes are skills I improve on every time I work," said K. Therdkiat.

A lot of his work focuses on

individuals he has encountered in Bangkok, he explained. "My art always addresses people's lives, behavior and environment.

"I want to portray the sometimes subtle difference between how subjects are acting and actually feeling. I use my technique to make a piece look old, so that it feels like a snap-

shot from a moment in the past," he added.

Inspired by real-life scenes, K. Therdkiat isolates everyday moments that normally wouldn't draw a second glance from most people, giving his work added depth and importance.

"I am inspired to work in this style because I was a small-

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K. Therdkiat has recently returned to oils and acrylics on canvas, painting a collection of still-lives, which are also featured in his current exhibition.

town kid who moved to Bangkok to study and pursue my dream of becoming an artist.

"I noticed many differences between my hometown and city life. Many times when I work I am still reminded of life in my hometown," he said.

"For example, my old home was near a train station and I played there as a kid. When I studied in Bangkok I often traveled by train and I spent a lot of time in train stations," he said.

"I became very interested in the people walking past and the groups of strangers congregating in one place to reach different destinations."

Recently, K. Therdkiat has returned to oils and acrylics on canvas, painting a collection of still-lives, which are also featured in his current exhibition.

The pieces are peaceful scenes of aged temple doorways and pigeons loitering on window sills.

His canvas pieces are dominated by the contrast and interplay between dark, complicated shadows and vibrant sunlight, hence the title of the exhibition.

"Since last year I have been thinking about painting on canvas again. I missed and was inspired by the theme *Light of Life*."

"I began spending a lot of time at Buddhist temples in Bangkok, such as those near Sanam Luang, which have wonderful lighting," he said.

Once he chose a scene he wanted to paint, K. Therdkiat returned many times, observing and

sketching the light and shadows at different times in the day.

When he's not laboring with the brush or scouting new subjects, K. Therdkiat enjoys working on classic motorcycles and spending time with friends.

"I have no other job besides painting. In my free time I take care of old motorbikes. Now I have three BMWs.

"I started collecting classic motorbikes two years ago. I love their style and find them to be very beautiful," he said.

"I like to hang out with my friends. It opens my mind to new ways of thinking when we talk and share life experiences. Many of my artistic ideas are sparked by such conversations," he said.

K. Therdkiat has found success in painting, but it has not been an effortless career choice.

His application to the painting program at Silpakorn University – widely regarded as Thailand's best university – was twice rejected before he finally gained entrance.

"The first two times I thought I could get in without previous training or having basic technique. This was not easy, because I was almost completely self-taught.

"So before my last attempt I decided to take some basic art courses and was finally admitted to the famous art university," he recalled.

"I think if you really love or want to do something, you must do your best. I love my job: painting is the only thing for me."

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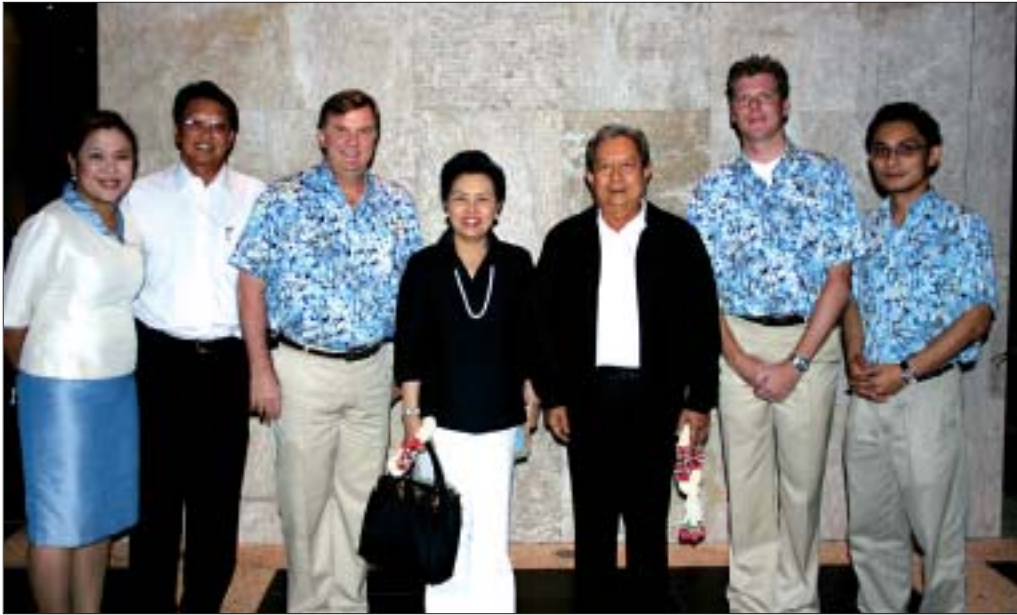
CAFE & TERRACE



PHUKET

This week

WARM WELCOME: General (ret.) Surayud Chulanont (3rd from right), the 24th Prime Minister of Thailand and his wife, Colonel Khunying Chitravadee Chulanont (center), recently visited the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. They were greeted by Phuket Senator to the Upper House of Parliament, Phummisak Hongsyok (2nd from left) and the hotel's general manager, John Kidd (3rd from left).



A ROYAL VISIT: Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited Banthai Beach Resort & Spa on March 11 to preside over the opening of Phufa Thai Handicrafts Shop, which was established as part of the Occupational Incentive Project under Her Royal Highness' patronage to promote rural handicrafts.



CLUB EXEC: Phuket Beach Resort Club hosted the eighth annual Le Meridien Golf tournament on March 15. Pictured are (from left) Rudolf Bourgesius, General Manager of Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, Wayne Buckingham, Managing Director of Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Bangkok, Haruki Yamashita, Managing Director of NTT DoCoMo, and Manager of the Anuphas Honda dealership Montawee Hongsyok.



GOOD THINKING: Arnaud Girodon (center), General Manager of Indigo Pearl Resort, greets Tommy Hutchison (right), founder and CEO of i-genius. Chris Cramer (left), former President and Managing Director of CNN International, was guest of honor at the i-genius World Summit, which was held from March 13 to 16 at Indigo Pearl Resort.



FAST FOOD & FLOWERS: Sawai Sombat (left), General Manager of La Flora Resort, Patong, celebrates the recent grand opening of a new McDonald's restaurant, located at the resort, with Thanin Angsuwarangsi (right), the fast food restaurant's Managing Director.



ARE YOU BEING SERVED? Tanadol Sungthong (back, center), Managing Director of The Villa Service Co Ltd, and staff celebrate the launch of the company's Two Villas holiday service for Phuket on March 13.

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The days of haze are numbered

Happiness Bar in Bangkok is owned by my friend Neill. It's a friendly little bar with good customers and happy staff.

Until recently, the girls had to keep opening the door to let out the smoke and ventilate the room because just about all the regular customers, yours truly included, like a cigarette with a beer.

Now the law prohibits smoking in the bar and at first it was all doom and gloom.

Customers were complaining about the stupid laws and having to step outside for a puff, but I've become used to it and so has Neill. In fact, I think most of us have decided that we actually like it better.

With the clean, fresh air and the prospect of adding a few extra years to their lives, the girls are definitely much happier now, too.

It's not so bad. Even with the imminent arrival of the wet season, when two or three of us will be huddled under an umbrella puffing away with rain water filling our shoes, we'll definitely be smoking less.

The habitual lighting of one cigarette with the other, as is not uncommon when drinking, no longer happens.

There are a lot of question-



able laws in Thailand, one example being the bar licensing laws forcing establishments to close down at 2 am to prevent underage and excessive drinking by Thai kids.

Someone in the government suggested that tourists will learn to go out earlier – tourists who have worked hard all year, who are used to going out and going home when they feel like it when they're on holiday.

In most destinations, they

can, but if they decide to have a holiday in Thailand they have to "learn to go out and go home early"!

The smoking ban is not unique to Thailand and nor is it stupid.

Many countries around the world are implementing laws based on guidelines from the World Health Organization.

There are plenty of other outdated and impractical laws being enforced here, such as

visa runs for people with work permits and closing bars in international hotels during local elections so that a handful of people can cast their ballots by postal voting.

One policeman recently explained to bar staff that girls cannot dance on the bar in the pub, but, if nobody complains, they can dance on the bar. All sorts of laws that can be interpreted in 100 different ways by 100 different officials.

So while we still have plenty to whinge about, I'm supporting the smoking ban for however long it lasts.

A ban on smoking in air-conditioned restaurants was introduced three or four years ago and after a few weeks it was no longer enforced.

As we know, that's how things are done here, but maybe this time it's worth supporting the staff of the bars and pubs to keep the controls in place, even if enforcement of the law is not kept up.

Neill says he is going stick to the smoking ban at Happiness Bar.

Certainly the ban brings the risk of an immediate loss of business for many bars, but according to *The Telegraph*, a recent survey in Australia proves that it doesn't last.

In fact, it actually revealed that while business may have dropped by

up to 30% in the first month after the pub bans, it was up again 12 months later to an average of 21% higher than before the ban.

Perhaps this is an indication that people drink more when they are not smoking.

I used to get drunk faster when I gave up smoking. Instead of a sip of whiskey followed by a puff, I had two sips.

Anyway, the smoking ban benefits everybody, not least the many pretty girls who work in the restaurants and bars here in Phuket.

Support this one, cut the whining and bitching, and get on with it – you'll get used to it. In fact, you might even get used to the idea of living a few extra years.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

I used to get drunk faster when I gave up smoking. Instead of a sip of whiskey followed by a puff, I had two sips.

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Sweet



Sexy



Spicy

After a sweet selection of finger food with an Easter holiday theme, the combined high-energy musical talents of soul sister Bonnie Anderson and discologist DJ Bop had revelers raving last Saturday at Sri Panwa's monthly Sweet, Sexy and Spicy party.

The Easter evening was an exquisitely vibrant mix of tradition and innovation with fruity cocktails and free-form fusion from Bonnie and Bop.

Baba Lounge promises another bash for the Songkran festival.

Sour solution to a better life

By Nick Davies

Apple cider vinegar is one of those ancient elixirs that has a place in every modern kitchen as a health food and should be a part of everyone's diet to compensate for today's acidic lifestyles.

Our bodies function best with an acid alkaline balance of just over pH 7, the perfect balance between the two ends of the scale, which ranges from 1 (very acidic) to 14 (very alkaline). Our bodies work hard to maintain this magic number and small amounts of apple cider vinegar taken regularly can help keep this essential balance.

We demand a lot from our bodies these days, forcing them to adapt to the fast-paced lifestyles and fast-food frenzies that we put them through. Any variation of pH 7.35 in either direction changes the chemistry in the body and leads to all sorts of blood and digestive ailments.

This pH balance is also what is referred to in traditional Chinese medicine as the body's *yin-yang* balance; *yin* being alkaline and *yang* acidic. Too much *yin* or *yang* is seen as unhealthy. Excessive *yin* becomes internal cold and dampness while excessive *yang* is felt as internal heat or dryness.

Everything we eat or drink has its own pH level, subsequently affecting the body's pH levels when consumed. Alcohol, artificial sweeteners and coffee are low on the pH scale, so they are very acidic.

Many of us consume so many acidic foods that our bod-

ies have to work constantly to keep the acid-alkaline balance in check, which affects the blood, cells and digestive system.

Highly acidic blood results in a variety of symptoms, many of which go unnoticed until they become too significant to ignore. Acidic imbalance subtly affects many bodily functions, including our moods and sense of well being. Prolonged imbalance leads to more painfully apparent ailments, such as heartburn and stomach ulcers.

There is a growing selection of apple ciders lining supermarket shelves, but the best are raw and unfiltered.

This sour elixir could be considered one of the world's first manufactured medicines. As far back as 400 BC, Hippocrates was using apple cider vinegar's antiseptic qualities to treat wounds and infections. It was touted as an all-purpose tonic.

Cider vinegar is rich in the vitamins, minerals and trace elements found in apples, especially potassium. By normalizing acid levels in the stomach, it improves digestion and the assimilation of nutrients.

It also helps relieve symptoms of arthritis, prevents bladder stones and clears up urinary tract infections.

Raw, unfiltered apple cider vinegar is packed with numerous nutrients, including vitamins A, B1, B2, B6, C, and E, plus beta-carotene and bioflavonoids, which are the natural pigments in fruits and vegetables that are known to help prevent ailments, such as heart disease, because of their blood fortifying properties.

Coffee is acidic, but it is a



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AN APPLE A DAY: The trick to getting the most health benefits from apple cider vinegar is to buy it in raw, unfiltered form.

tame culprit, with an acidic level around pH 4. Beer is twice as acidic at pH 2.5 and soft drinks, such as cola or even mass-produced fruit juices, are some of the most acidic. They are way down the scale at pH 2.

Acidic levels in the body affect red blood cells. When acidic levels are balanced, blood cells have a healthy negative charge, allowing them to flow around the arteries and capillaries unimpeded.

Sometimes red blood cells have to queue up in order to flow through narrow capillaries. Their negative charge, just like a magnet, keeps them apart and makes them line up neatly before passing through capillaries one at a time.

High acid levels strip red blood cells of their negative charge, causing them to clump together and clog up the bloodstream. The end result: Cells don't get the oxygen they need because the oxygen-carrying blood cells are not getting to them.

As with any "natural" product, it's important to make sure it is still in its natural state. It's easy to find apple cider vinegar in a supermarket, but many brands are mass produced and have been processed by filtering and pasteurization, rendering them void of any nutritional value.

Search the shelves thoroughly and you will find raw, un-

filtered organic apple cider vinegar.

At first glance, raw apple cider vinegar looks unappetizing because it is not as clear as the other processed vinegars.

The cloudiness of raw, unfiltered apple cider vinegar is where the goodness is contained. The clouds are called the "mother" of vinegar. These are naturally occurring strand-like chains of protein-enzyme molecules, still alive and kicking after the vinegar has been made.

This "good" bacteria replenishes the living enzymes that help your system digest food.

If you can stand it, a two-teaspoon shot of straight apple cider vinegar is as refreshing as a cup of tea in the morning. It's also a good calming tonic to take before going to bed, especially if it's been a stressful day with cup after cup of caffeine.

If you don't fancy putting yourself through such a slap-in-the-face wake-up ritual, the vinegar can be watered down or sweetened with equal amounts of warm honey or maple syrup – organic, of course.

Another option is to use apple cider vinegar as part of a homemade salad dressing. Use half a cup of apple cider vinegar with half a cup of olive oil, a dash of honey, chopped garlic and a sprinkling of mixed dried herbs of your choice all blended together to make an exotic vinaigrette.



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By Jeff Heselwood

GranTurismo brings Maserati roaring back

Maserati launched its new GranTurismo at the Geneva Motor Show in early 2007. A right-hand-drive version is available and the automatic GranTurismo is on sale in Thailand, but demand currently exceeds supply.

Styled by Turin's Pinin Farina, the beautiful GranTurismo features a healthy 400bhp V8 engine built by Ferrari in Maranello.

Although Ferrari contributes significantly to both the brand and its models, Maserati now comes under the umbrella of the Fiat Group and its dynamic CEO, Sergio Marchionne.

The GranTurismo is named after a line of cars from Maserati's past. The first GranTurismo in Maserati's history was the A6 1600 launched in 1947.

A two-liter version was added to the lineup, but when production ended in 1957, only 138 cars had been built. Sixty years on, Maserati expects to deliver more than 3,500 of their new luxury sports cars in 2008.

Driving the new GranTurismo, one is immediately impressed with the quality and attention to detail within the car.

The leather is exquisite, the noise from the V8 engine out of this world and the dashboard layout and ancillary controls beyond reproach.

Indeed, the dashboard is one of the best ever produced, with neat, round, analog dials, as well as an impressive digital read-out that gives speed, the time and ambient temperature.

Standard equipment, as well



Launched at the Geneva Motor Show 2007, Maserati's new luxury sports car with a top speed of 285kmh is available in Thailand. You may have to wait a while though, as demand currently outstrips supply.

as all the usual luxury fittings, includes a GPS system that has only recently become available in various parts of Asia.

The suspension is understandably firm, but the sports seats hold the car's occupants firmly in place.

Everything falls readily to hand and while the transmission can be left to its own devices in

full auto mode, paddle shifts behind the steering wheel can be operated for maximum performance.

The six-speed transmission is very similar to that found in the new automatic Quattroporte. The GranTurismo also shares its platform with the Quattroporte, although with a slightly reduced wheelbase and rear overhang.

The magnificent V8 engine is also shared with the Quattroporte and produces a maximum of 405bhp at 7,100rpm, while the torque output is a strong 460Nm at 4,750rpm, of which 75% is available, even at a low 2,500 rpm.

Acceleration from a standstill to 100kmh takes just 5.2 seconds and top speed is 285kmh.

A limited-slip differential is fitted, as is traction control. The Maserati Stability Program also helps keep things steady at high speeds.

A tire-pressure monitoring system ensures the driver is alerted if a wheel loses pressure or sustains a puncture.

Brembo ventilated-and-drilled discs are fitted, with four-pot calipers at the front and rear. The calipers are black but are available in other colors. The discs feature 48 drillings to eliminate noise when braking.

These also have important benefits in terms of braking readiness and efficiency: the holes prevent a film of surface water forming when it rains and revitalize the pad on each braking action.

The GranTurismo is undoubtedly a huge step forward from some of the previous models, although it does owe some allegiance to the 3200GT, which marked the company's resurgence as a luxury sports brand.

Although loosely based on the Quattroporte, this is a stand-alone model that will cement Maserati's reputation as a serious player in the market.

Clearly, its rivals, the Bentley GT, Aston Martin and the other models in this segment, represent serious opposition, but the GranTurismo stands head and shoulders above them.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR **Upcoming events on the island**

Until March 29. Light of Life Art Exhibition.

"Light of Life" features acrylic and oil on canvas by Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwacharakul at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina.

His previous exhibitions were of oil on aluminum sheets.

His landscapes focus on the interplay between shadow and light. Open daily 11 am to 7 pm.

For details, contact Bowie at Tel: 076-360867 or Email: bowie @dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th



Celebrating life on the road, two-wheeled style, Phuket Bike Week is set to bring a bit of va-va-voom to the island.

Phuket Bike Week

April 10-12

Phuket BikeWeek is an annual celebration of everything about motorcycles. There will be exhibitions, bike cruises and weekend parties. The bikers will then celebrate Songkran outside the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa.

For further information email sumon@ridethailand.com or alissa@ridethailand.com or visit www.phuketbikeweek.com

Until April 24. BIS IB Visual Arts Exhibition.

A display of works by graduating students of the British International School IB program at Room Limited gallery on the bypass road.

Open to the public from March 29 until April 24, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Closed during Songkran: April 13-16

Contact K. Gai. Tel: 076-238711-20 ext. 3603. Email: saowarotm@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

March 30. Mac Group Therapy – Chalong.

The first-ever Macintosh Group Therapy meeting will be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong on March 30.

PC users are invited, too, but the emphasis will be on problems folks are encountering with their Macs.

Bring your questions. Bring your computers. Let's see if we can find some answers.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

April 6. PC Group Therapy – Patong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Patong.

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day (Public Holiday).

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the

Chakri dynasty.

April 13-15. Songkran Festival (Public Holiday).

Songkran (Thai New Year), also known as the Water Festival, is held during the driest months in Thailand.

Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a heck of a lot – water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

April 17-20. Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

Winner of prestigious awards from the International Cricket Council and the Asian Cricket Council, the Phuket International Cricket Sixes will be held at Karon Municipal Stadium.

Phuket Sixes attracts club cricket teams from around the world, along with local Phuket sides, to enjoy the competition and camaraderie of cricket.

April 20-24. Phuket Asian Seniors Masters 2008.

Come watch the Phuket Asian Senior Masters 2008, a senior professional golf event. This event will have a full field of

more than 140 senior golf professionals from more than 20 countries.

On April 20 there will be a pro-am tournament; entry is 30,000 baht per team of four golfers.

Play commences each day at 7:30 am. Free Entry for spectators.

For further information contact Prachuab Subcharoen. Tel: 081-6072672. Email: thaiseniorgpa@thaiseniorgpa.com Website: www.thaiseniorgpa.com

April 20. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

April 26-May 17. Soldiers – Art Exhibition.

In his 20 paintings, K. Thaweesak is questioning himself as to what causes wars and destruction, whether it be past wars or current conflicts.

He looks at who is involved in the wars, the instigators and the victims.

He also observes how nonsensical and destructive it is to have wars.

At D Gallery, RPM, daily from 11 am until 7 pm.

Contact Bowie for further information. Tel: 076-360867. Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

April 27. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

May 1. National Labor Day (Public Holiday).

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

May 5. Coronation Day (Public Holiday).

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

May 14. Punchline Comedy Club - Live Stand-up Comedy.

Punchline Comedy Club in association with the London Comedy Store presents another night of live international stand-up comedy.

Three top comedians, two glass-filling intervals and a joke competition will fill a night of fun and laughter.

The comedians performing are Paul Thorne, Tom Wigglesworth and Ian Moore. 8 pm to 11 pm at Holiday Inn Resort, Patong.

Tickets are available from Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

For further details contact Pete. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Web: www.phuketcomedy.com

May 19. Visakha Bucha Day (Public Holiday).

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month of the Thai calendar.

It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the

birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

May 26-29. Phuket Celebrity Golf Tour.

The tour will take place in Patong.

This is a unique event where players of all handicaps can play a round of golf with top football, snooker and entertainment celebrities from the UK.

Each evening you will be entertained by the group of celebrities at the Gracelands Hotel in Patong.

Contact Jeff Ogden for further information. Email: jsogden@talisman-energy.com

May 31-June 1. 10th Phuket International Rugby 10s.

Marking a decade of international rugby on Phuket, this year's Rugby 10s will be played at Karon Municipal Stadium.

For more information contact Patrick Cotter. Email: phuketrugby@gmail.com Website: www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com

June 15. The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another success this year with more than 1,000 participants in the 42km marathon, 21km half-marathon, 10km run, and 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' run.

Registration is available at www.phuketmarathon.com Early bird offers end on March 31. Registration closes June 5.

For more information contact Roman Floesser. Tel: 02-2362931. Email: direct@goadventureasia.com

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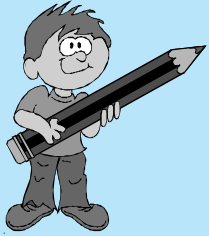
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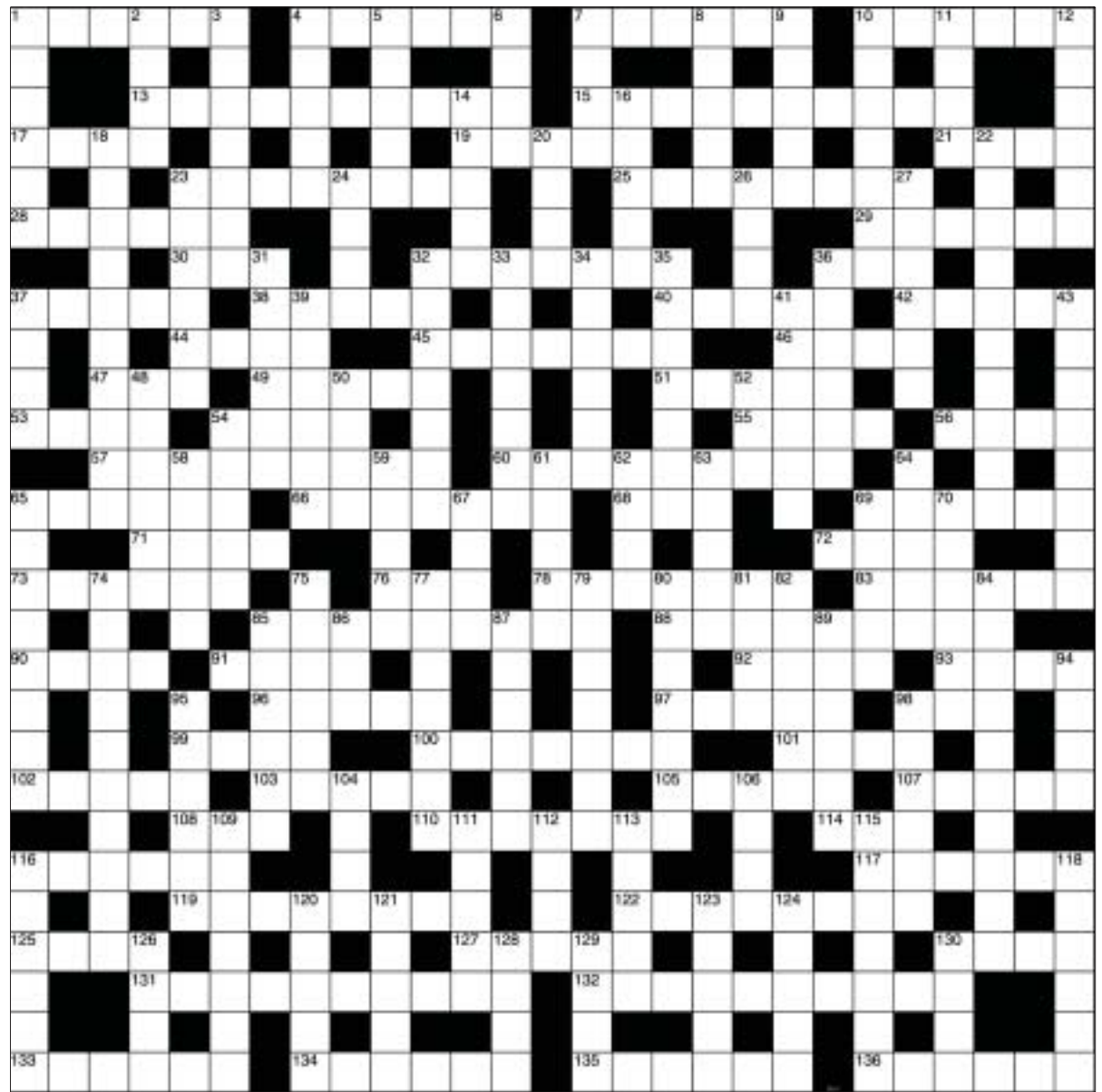
Puzzles

The BIG 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?
Solution on the next page.



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Across

- 1. Sell (wares)
- 4. Treasured
- 7. Dame ...Melba
- 10. Prodded
- 13. Pain-lovers
- 15. Determined
- 17. Computer memory unit
- 19. *The Queen* actress, ...Mirren
- 21. UK police HQ, New Scotland...
- 23. Inhabitant of small town
- 25. Predicaments
- 28. Chit
- 29. Trill
- 30. Born as
- 32. Proclamations
- 36. Typist's ailment (1,1,1)
- 37. Lowed
- 38. Tropical parrot
- 40. Pilgrim's goal
- 42. Adorns, ...the lily
- 44. Singer, ...Redding
- 45. US cotton state
- 46. Puerto ..., W Indies
- 47. Make slip-up
- 49. Non-parole convict
- 51. Gowned
- 53. Poker stake
- 54. Clock face
- 55. Poems
- 56. Sore crust
- 57. CIA's field
- 60. Lack of maintenance
- 65. Smallest
- 66. Slid
- 68. Or near offer (1,1,1)
- 69. Japanese hostess

- 71. Western pact
- 72. Sacred song
- 73. Orderly
- 76. Bar account
- 78. Earphones
- 83. Baffling questions
- 85. Owner
- 88. Rectifies
- 90. Tearful gasps
- 91. Persian ruler
- 92. Golfer, ...Player
- 93. Please reply (1,1,1,1)
- 96. Last Greek letter
- 97. Swashbuckler, Errol...
- 98. Dined
- 99. Grieve
- 100. Most shipshape
- 101. Body's building block
- 102. Stands on hind legs
- 103. Snooker champ, ...Charlton
- 105. Fencing swords
- 107. Sorceress
- 108. Fodder
- 110. Removed from power
- 114. Earl Grey or jasmine
- 116. Actor, Liam...
- 117. Sailor's yes (3,3)
- 119. Levying process
- 122. Stammers
- 125. Over-gratify
- 127. Ganges country
- 130. Jacob's Old Testament twin
- 131. Top class (food) (6,4)
- 132. Uncanny
- 133. Flowering
- 134. Farewell (3-3)
- 135. Layers

- 136. Parisian palace
- Down**
- 1. Investigated
 - 2. US 10-cent coin
 - 3. Bathroom off bedroom (2,5)
 - 4. Outspoken
 - 5. Being untruthful
 - 6. Medicine measure
 - 7. Back of neck
 - 8. Coat collar part
 - 9. Derby racecourse
 - 10. Laughs loudly
 - 11. Competently
 - 12. Plodder
 - 14. A trio
 - 16. Excessive
 - 18. Rev counter
 - 20. Animal den
 - 22. Emergency vehicles
 - 23. Retailer
 - 24. Actor, ...Baldwin
 - 26. Grand in scale
 - 27. Now Ho Chi Minh City
 - 31. Actor, ...Estevez
 - 32. Overshadowed
 - 33. Deadly poison
 - 34. Praises highly
 - 35. Spruce (up)
 - 36. Attacker
 - 37. Spy, ... Hari
 - 39. Koreans & Chinese
 - 41. Money co-op, ...union
 - 43. Solar rays
 - 48. Begrudge
 - 50. Heavy criticism
 - 52. Feather wrap
 - 54. Little tune
 - 58. Bible song
 - 59. Donations

- 61. US Rockies state
- 62. Duty list
- 63. Sheriff's men
- 64. Test runs
- 65. Cabinet member
- 67. Daubs
- 69. Nomad
- 70. Implant
- 74. Having mixed feelings
- 75. Frothed
- 77. Made fizzy
- 79. Pencil rubbers
- 80. Flowed with tide
- 81. Nervous
- 82. Hypnotic state
- 84. Fundamentals
- 85. Pretentious
- 86. Feminine pronoun
- 87. Accelerated (4,2)
- 89. Writer, ...Hemingway
- 94. Orange peel lining
- 95. Outcome
- 98. Ever
- 104. Eating plan
- 106. Radiate
- 109. Word puzzle
- 111. Muppets, Bert &...
- 112. Had to repay
- 113. School composition
- 115. Fleshy ear part (3,4)
- 116. Mafia, Cosa...
- 118. Horse-like
- 120. Hiroshima destruction weapon (1-4)
- 121. Permeate
- 123. Extremely
- 124. Land, ...firma
- 126. Repeat
- 128. Naked
- 129. Mischievous kids
- 130. Catch sight of

su | do | ku

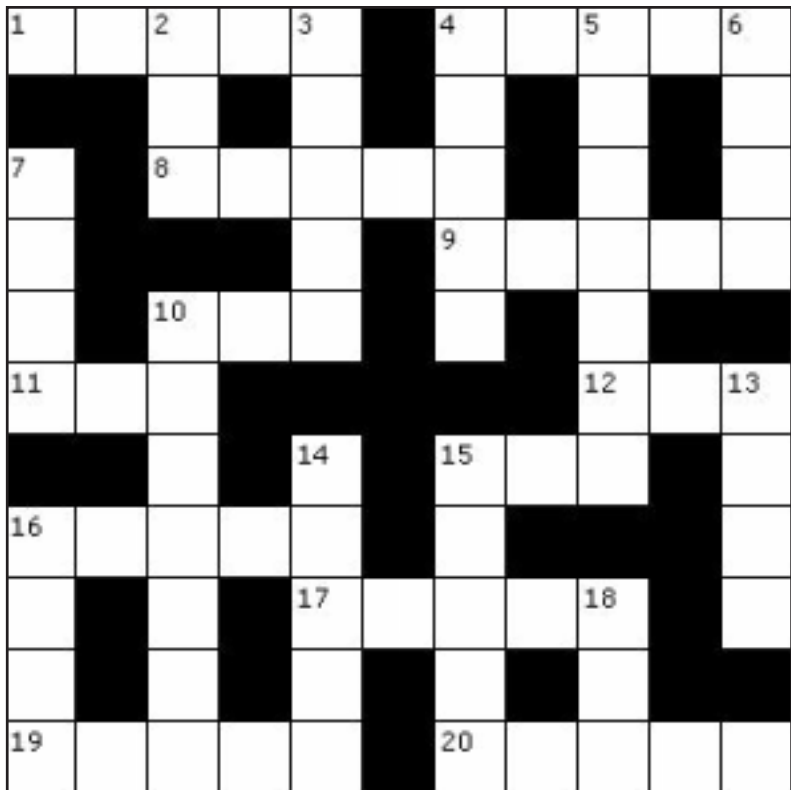
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

		9	5	4		8
				6		5
1				2		9
9						6
	8					1
4	3					9
	7		8			1
3		8		7		
	6		3	9	7	

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. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

Answers on next page



- Across**
- Fizzy drink brand
 - Will Smith movie
 - Fred Flintstone's wife
 - Bird
 - ...and hers
 - Martial arts star Bruce...
 - Everything
 - Sick
 - Indian city
 - Horned animal
 - Chasm
 - Nationality of Socrates
- Down**
- Fresh
 - Book of the world
 - Pumps blood
 - Petty
 - Brass instrument
 - Immortal essence
 - In good shape
 - In an unknown place
 - Winged creatures
 - Added to finish a cake
 - Revered female singer
 - Numero uno

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- What is a more common name for the Aurora Borealis?
- Jason Hatch caused a security breach at Buckingham Palace dressed as whom?
- Which English city stands on the river Nene?
- What were the Christian names of the Blues Brothers?
- What is the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury?
- Who painted *The Laughing Cavalier*?
- What is the name of Derek Trotter's local pub in the British comedy series *Only Fools and Horses*?
- What are Dominican monks also known as?
- Which motorcycle company makes the Road King FLHR?
- What colors are on the Italian flag?
- In which book would you come across a Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster?
- In which city did Anne Frank pen most of her diary entries?
- Who is responsible for the painting entitled *Marilyn*?
- Who wrote the Paddington Bear books?
- Who wrote the poem *The Tiger*?
- What is the name of the British spy featured in Fredrick Forsyth's book *The Fourth Protocol*?
- Which British Prime Minister won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1953?
- How many paintings did Van Gogh sell in his lifetime?
- Who designed a cover for the 2004 Band Aid 20 single featuring the Grim Reaper, only for it to be rejected by executives?
- Which member of the Monty Python team wrote books about Erik The Viking?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

- The Northern Lights;
- Batman;
- Peterborough;
- Jake and Elwood;
- Lambeth Palace;
- Frans Hals;
- The Nag's Head;
- Blackfriars;
- Harley Davidson;
- Green, white and red;
- The Hitch-Hikers Guide To The Galaxy*;
- Amsterdam;
- Andy Warhol;
- Michael Bond;
- William Blake;
- Kim Philby;
- Winston Churchill;
- One;
- Damien Hirst;
- Terry Jones.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

7	2	9	5	3	4	1	8	6
8	4	3	9	6	1	5	2	7
1	5	6	7	8	2	3	9	4
9	1	2	4	5	7	8	6	3
6	8	7	2	9	3	4	1	5
4	3	5	6	1	8	2	7	9
5	7	4	8	2	6	9	3	1
3	9	8	1	7	5	6	4	2
2	6	1	3	4	9	7	5	8

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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



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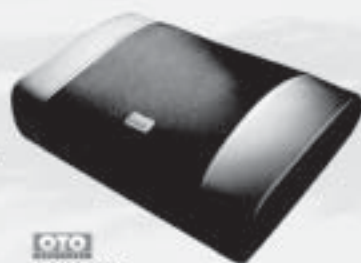
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Taking a look at old teens

Our lives are like a series of steps: we're born, we grow up and we learn from the mistakes we make along the way. Before you know it, you're a teenager, and you have to learn a whole new way of life.

You change from being a child into a young lady (or a young man). Everything becomes fascinating.

You can see this in the eyes of others when they look at you. Boys start talking to you in a different way, and they often can't hide their own embarrassment with the external changes that are going on with them.

Not everything is perfect, however, and teenagers have a lot of problems to deal with.

You start going crazy at the smallest problem. You cry and laugh almost at the same time. I used to think that this was a bit silly.

I have some of these problems myself. I normally offload my unhappiness at home so that I don't fight with my friends and classmates.

I never stay unhappy for long because I always find new things to do, but I have never felt the urge to follow what other people my age are doing, like smoking, taking drugs or having sex. I can find my own fun.

I finished my exams recently and found myself with a few days off to relax. I decided to hang out with a group of older ladies I know. I won't use their real names because I don't want to hurt their feelings.

Some of them can't talk or read English. While I was with these women, I started to wonder what I'll be like when I'm their age.

Normally, the members of this gaggle of women meet in a small restaurant owned by the "Captain", a sweet lady who is separated from her husband and has a small child.

She drives fast while talking on her phone and listening to music. She also has a short memory and when she drives around, she always gets lost and goes the wrong way.

The restaurant we meet at is a quiet place, but when these "old teens" are there, it becomes noisier than the loudest disco in



Miss Teen doesn't want to become one of these 'old teenagers'.

These older women depicted in a drawing by Maria, with nicknames to protect their identity, refuse to grow up.

They love to gossip on their mobile phones about their fast boyfriends, changing them more often than they change their dresses.

the city. The girls know everything about everyone. They love to gossip. There is not a day that goes by when they don't have something to say. Sometimes they gossip about people without remorse and sometimes they gossip about me even though I'm right there. They must think I'm deaf.

"Black Curly" is the one who talks the most. She can out-talk anyone who annoys her.

She's the boss, or at least she thinks she is. She is tall, likes discos and loves sport. She has lots of secret love stories that she likes to share with everyone. Black Curly has a lot of gigs, which means she has guys who are more than friends, but less than boyfriends. Although she will help anyone, it's best not to double-cross her, or else you might end up regretting it.

"Black Snake" at first glance looks like a gentle person, but deep inside you know she's plotting something.

She's just like a snake and when she attacks she is poisonous. She makes her daughter play in the shadows so that she doesn't become exposed to the sun, which she thinks will ruin her daughter's skin, although her daughter is a very pretty, dark girl.

"Strawberry" is 38 years old. She is a generous woman and is always ready for anything you might want to ask her to do. She

loves wearing colorful dresses and she paints her face a bit like a clown. Strawberry is under Black Curly's control, so she normally doesn't do anything or speak without permission. It's sad to see.

Miss "Five Minutes" is one of the funniest women in the group. She used to have a job as a singer. I've never found out why she's called Miss Five Minutes, but I gather that she can get out of bad situations very fast.

I think she says, "Give me five minutes and I'll be back" and then she disappears.

"Darling" is another one under the control of Black Curly. She is sexy, always dressing up and carries herself elegantly.

"Double Fai" ("fai" means "beauty spot") is difficult to talk to because whenever you start a conversation about one thing, she has already started talking about something else.

Double Fai has a way with words that can make you see things in black as white.

The funny thing is that whenever anything happens, even the smallest, most menial thing, the girls are all on their mobile phones relaying the story to anybody who will take their calls.

Seeing these women makes me wonder what I will be like when I get older. Will I be like these gossip queens?

I know that life is exciting and beautiful, but I refuse to believe that I might end up like those ladies, changing boyfriends more often than they change their dresses, talking nonsense, getting bored easily and crying for no reason. There must be more to life than that.

Maybe I'm being too critical, but it's strange to see older ladies acting like teenagers.

Perhaps when I'm 40 there will be a teenager looking up and wondering if she'll end up like me.

All I know is that sometimes we all need to be a little bit childish, otherwise life just becomes too boring.

Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giuletta

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A dynasty ends with a whimper

James Brooke has always been a hero of mine. The young Englishman procured a six-gun, 142-ton schooner and, chock full of pluck, cleaned up the pirate dens in the Sultan of Brunei's outer regions. By 1841 governed a territory the size of England as The White Rajah of Sarawak.

He ruled over a population of one million Malays, Dyaks and Chinese. His dynasty would last over a hundred years.

The end of the dynasty is described in *Sylvia, Queen of the Headhunters* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London, 2007, 362pp). Subtitled "An Outrageous Englishwoman and Her Lost Kingdom", this is the first book by English journalist Philip Eade and tells the story of the rise and fall of Her Highness the Ranee of Sarawak, the wife of Sir Vyner Brooke, the last White Rajah.

The story is often tedious and repetitive because the woman herself was often tedious and repetitive. Her petty intrigues really don't rate a whole book, but the tale of the Brookes can't fail to hold some interest.

James Brooke died in 1868 and was succeeded as Rajah by his nephew Charles. Upon his death in 1929, Charles's

eldest son Vyner took over Sarawak. Both Charles and Vyner underwent the typical cadet training of the day: a posting to a remote outstation, presiding over the affairs of headhunter Dyaks.

Vyner took to sleeping with a great number of local woman, a habit he would pursue vigorously into his eighties. He was at ease with his subjects and enjoyed enormous popularity.

"It was one of the great virtues of the Brooke Raj that the relations between the Rajah and the ordinary people of the land were far closer than anywhere else in the colonies," the author notes.

Vyner was not at ease with English society and would keep to himself when on home leave. But when he reached his thirties, it was time for him to marry an English woman.

Through his mother's machinations, the woman he picked was Sylvia Brett, the five-foot-tall, youngest daughter of royal advisor Viscount Reggie Brett, a short-story writer and friend of George Bernard Shaw and J.M. Barrie.

She was a flapper of the time, a lover of gin, cigarettes and dancing. In the course of a long life she, like Vyner, would



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

take on many lovers while the couple remained the best of friends.

She was popular in Sarawak too, at least among the Malays and Chinese and Dyaks. Polite society didn't think much of her, but there wasn't much of polite society in the capital of Kuching.

In terms of the Brooke dynasty, her only flaw was that she produced three daughters and no son. The daughters would go through a total of eight marriages to such husbands as a band leader, a wrestler and two American officers who roomed with them during World War II.

Sylvia spent a lot of time in Hollywood and on the lecture tour circuit in the United States, playing up her role as Queen of the Headhunters. She also found the time to write eight books. Her last, a second autobiography, finally brought her wealth and fame.

Sylvia intrigued to have the son of her elder daughter installed as the Fourth Rajah in place of Anthony, the son of Vyner's brother. In this she was aided by a Machiavellian district officer named Gerard MacBryan who turned out to be barking mad.

Eventually MacBryan converted to Islam and married a Malay woman who later consorted with Japanese officers and provided "comfort women" during World War II.

The war ended the eccentric dynasty. In a clumsy handover, Sarawak was ceded to the British Empire and thus became part of the new nation of Malaysia. Traces of the old dynasty are few in modern day Kuching. The Brookes have even been removed from the museum.

Vyner died in London in 1963. Sylvia spent her last 30 years in Barbados, partying until the end in 1971.

'Take the cake' stirs family feud

There is an ongoing dispute in my house regarding "bring" and "take". Is there a right choice when saying "I will bring/take a cake to the fair"?

Penny Sweet, Hulls Cove, Maine

Welcome to Word Court, where Barbara Wallraff unravels some of the mystery that shrouds the English language, debunking confusing usage and clearing away the clutter that stops clear understanding - all by answering reader's questions.

Barbara replies:

The simple, traditional rule is that "bring" means toward the person speaking and "take" means away from that person. Often this rule is all that's needed - as in, "Waiter, will you please take away this dirty plate and bring me a slice of cake for dessert?"

But when we're talking about something that someone else is bringing or taking somewhere, the rule doesn't do us any good. For instance, whatever you're doing with that cake for the fair, it's not coming to me or going away from me - so what's the difference whether I say you're "bringing" or "taking" it? In situations like this, "bring" means toward whatever I, the person speaking, am focusing on,

and "take" means away from that focus. So if I were mainly thinking about the fair, I'd say "bring": "Everyone loved the cake you brought to the fair last year. This year, will you bring another one?" Actually, though, I've been focusing on you. So I should say, "How nice of you to take a cake to the fair."

Because the difference between the two words can be so subjective, sometimes it hardly matters which you choose. Only when pretty clearly someone is "bringing" something away from whomever or whatever, or "taking" something toward, is either word truly wrong.

In a recent column, you discussed the family name Rudy.

But how do you sign a card from a family whose last name has an "s" sound at the end?

My concern is with the family name Jones.

Susan Rose

West Bloomfield, Michigan

Barbara replies:

I'm not going to ask why, if your family name is Rose, you're interested in signing cards as if they're from the Joneses. I'm just not. That would be the way to sign them, though: "The Joneses."

M. Gail Geyer Hershey, Pennsylvania

Barbara replies:

If there's a comma before "Inc.," you should put one after it too. But why do you need that first comma - or "Inc."? The *Gregg Reference Manual*, which discusses business letters in detail, says, "The trend is not to set off elements like ... Inc." with commas.

And "in ordinary correspondence, for the sake of brevity and simplicity," it suggests dropping "Inc." altogether from company names.

Barbara Wallraff is a weekly syndicated columnist for *King Features* and a contributing editor and words columnist at *The Atlantic Monthly*, where she has worked since 1983.

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Chalong Marina plans need rethink

Phuket's leaders have long plotted to lure more tourists who have the time and money to sail in on their own yachts. Fair enough. Yachts are money-intensive and require secure bases. Their owners are often wealthy and Phuket is perfectly positioned to cater to such a market.

As a result, a chorus of, "Marinas, more marinas!" echoes through the halls of power, whose occupants find the tune thoroughly engrossing. But others fail to discern the sirens' song. Picture a ramshackle school cafeteria and a motley group, whose most interested members are longtail boat fishermen, listening to a trio of owlsh engineering consultants exposing the virtues of creating a 100-slip marina on the south side of Chalong Pier.

As reported in the last issue of the *Gazette*, the Chalong longtail fishermen think the proposed marina's siting will interfere with passage to the offshore islands, leaving them stranded on the reefs. On the other hand, tour boat operators think a marina that caters solely to arriving yachts is folly when so many other boats already use the bay.

Even the target group, yachtsmen, are unhappy with the proposed facility. Reaction to the project's nearly completed Phase 1, which has slips for more than 40 vessels, borders on disdain. The owner of one 42-foot sailing yacht told the *Gazette* that he would never keep his boat there. Also, there are only a few berths large enough for large, open-ocean yachts under the proposed design.

Obviously, planning should account not only for arriving yachts, but for the tour boats, patrol boats, fishing boats, ferries, longtails and some 200 speedboats clogging the beach and bay on the pier's north side.

Tour operators want better facilities for transporting supplies and passengers and better refueling facilities. Early morning tie-ups at the filling station often last several hours under current conditions.

Yet the Marine Transport Department and Phuket's Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) want to spend 430 million baht on a project whose only proponents seem to be the builders.

To top it all off, plans reveal a charmless architecture. If we are going to build a marina, it should be one that facilitates rather than interferes with operations – and is attractive.

Development is Phuket's curse as well as its boon. Time is past due to think before rushing to pour concrete. Planting eyesores of dubious utility in conspicuous places is not the way to influence visits by the idle rich.

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?
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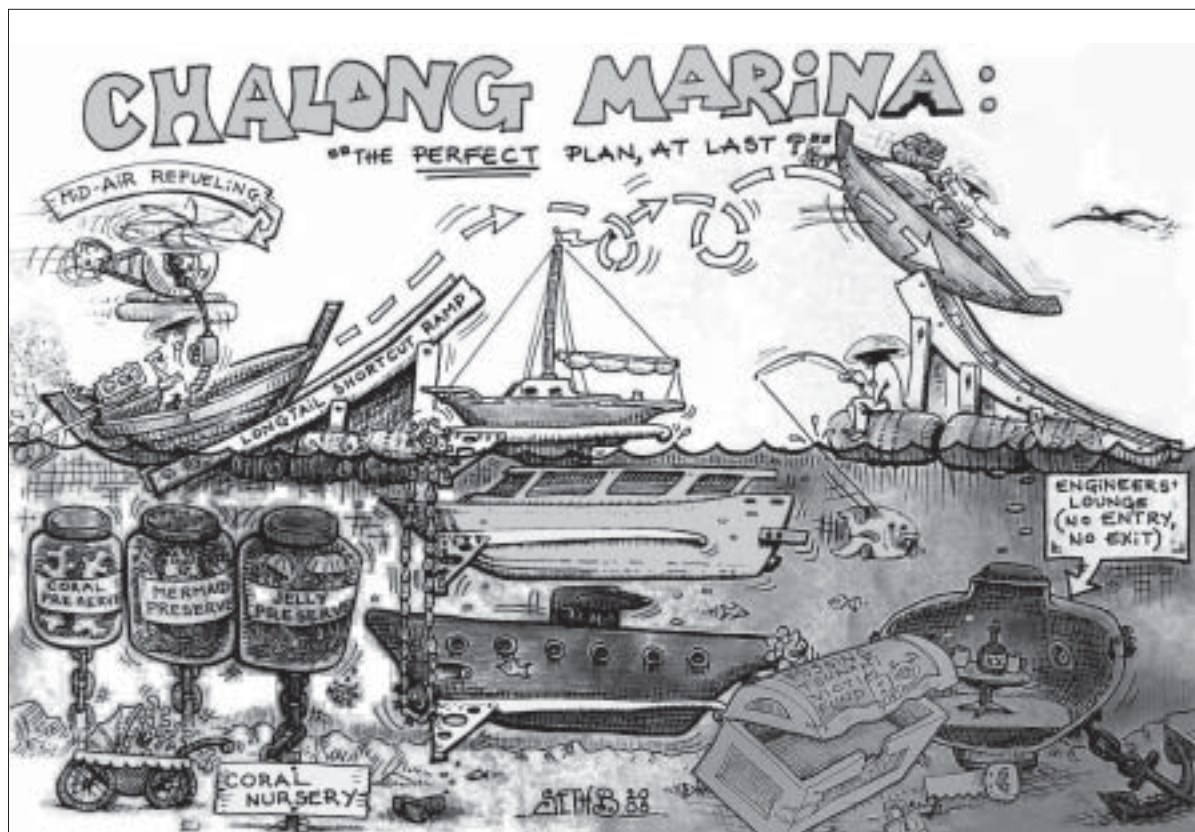
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Letters

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

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

Pregnant women charged double?

This is crazy. My Thai wife is four months pregnant and she recently took a 20-baht motorcycle-taxi ride in Patong.

At the end of the ride, the motorcycle taxi driver demanded 40 baht, saying that the unborn baby was a second rider who had to be charged at the same rate.

This is not a joke; it really happened. What is going on in Thailand?

Ronny Bols
Patong

Patong CCTV offers 'golden' security

If police in Patong really paid almost 16 million baht for 16 CCTV surveillance cameras, then this would have to be the most expensive CCTV system in the world.

I can only assume that the cameras are made of gold.

I work selling and importing CCTV systems in Thailand and there is no way that such surveillance equipment could cost 16 million baht.

Wijittra Nammata
By email

The party's over... switch off the light

I have been coming to Thailand for some 11 years now. I am a musician and have played with many bands in Patong. I quite agree with the bar owners in that foreigners come to Thailand to enjoy themselves, let their hair down and party all night.

Why should we come to Thailand with its new restricted hours? Drugs will go on no matter what. In the meantime, the bar and nightclub owners and all of their staff will lose a lot of money.

When I come to play next month this may be the last time I will visit Thailand. Cambodia is now the place to go where there are not so many rules.

The government will be sorry when everybody stops coming, as happened in Spain once.

Ron Grainger
UK

Let Patong's strays stay – we like them

We are a group of tourists who have visited Patong two times a year for many years and we want to ask the government why they keep removing all the lovely soi dogs from Patong.

We have known these dogs for many years and the dogs know us. It is a nightmare for us when we come back to find some dogs are missing and we do not know what happened to them.

It is wrong to take the dogs away. It's better to neuter or spay them, helping to reduce the population and then return them to the beach.

Many locals as well as foreigners love and care for them.

Please let the stray dogs in Patong live their lives. They did not ask for trouble and haven't done anything wrong.

Nolly Groos,
Maud Hempel,
Therese Huizinga,
Frans Bol
Holland

We call them bins

The kids' play area at Nai Harn lake is money well spent and is well maintained.

However, the area surrounding the lake is a dumping ground, particularly between the lake and the south end of the beach, a favorite spot with Sunday picnickers.

The rubbish collectors sent down to clean up every once in a while do a lousy job.

I thought instead of moaning about the rubbish that has been sitting there for months that I would do something about it, so I dragged my husband down there and we picked it all up.

A week later the plastic bags were already piling up.

There is a simple answer: it's called a bin.

I'm sure there must be a few hundred baht left out of the 40 million it cost to redevelop the lake, to pay for an extra bin and someone to empty it once a week.

Lilly Toms
Nai Harn

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

Olivia L.
Phuket

Governor Niran has high hopes for mega-projects

I visited the 2008 International Tourism Borse (ITB) in Germany from February 29 to March 10. This is an event we participate in every year. Hotel and resort operators from Phuket see it as their job to keep in touch with European customers.

The ITB road show is a world expo with 128 countries joining the event this year. It's a way to keep in touch with old customers and introduce Phuket to new customers and markets.

This year's road show was held in Berlin. Phuket had 18 booths. There were booths providing information about Phuket's marinas, travel destinations, health and spa facilities, and medical services. The first three days of the event were open to international hotel and resort operators and the last seven days were open to the public.

Meeting with the Interior Minister. Interior Minister Doctor Pol Capt Chalerm Yoobumrung has stated that he wishes to speak with the governors of every province in Thailand about corruption and funding.

I have yet to receive any information from the Ministry of Interior about a date for my meeting, although I am ready to talk to him.

Casinos. Recently, Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej announced his idea to legalize casinos in Thailand, which I have yet to form an opinion about because

The Governor's Letter

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit recently visited Germany for the 2008 International Tourism Borse where he helped promote Phuket as a tourist destination.

In this month's "Governor's Letter" he discusses his trip to Germany as well as plans for mega-projects on the island. Gov Niran also expresses his optimism for this year's dry season.



many people agree and disagree with the idea.

MICE. There are a variety of opinions about proceeding with the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions [MICE] project.

On March 25, I will have a meeting with the Treasury Department in Bangkok about the MICE plan, policy and budget.

The last large land plot in Phuket that belongs to the Treasury Department is 250 rai in Mai Khao, so we plan on using that. Land is hard to find in Phuket and it's very expensive. We have to co-operate with the Treasury Department in order to obtain the land needed.

It would be great if the cen-

tral government allowed individual organizations to invest in the project. I think we will reach a conclusion on March 25.

More on mega-projects. I recently spoke with local officials about the mega-transportation projects in Phuket, such as a light rail system and the Patong tunnel. All the mega-projects, such as Ao Phuket and the MICE project, could cost as much as 100 billion baht in total. I worry a lot about the budget because it's a huge amount of money, especially for this economy.

I will push for the MICE project first so that Phuket can host international meetings and conventions. In order to do so, we must inform other countries about

our proposed convention hall and its capacity. We must show that we have the hotels and facilities to support people's needs.

If we don't complete the MICE project, we can't organize any international meetings or conventions and we will lose a lot of opportunities to further develop tourism in Phuket.

I am also looking into dealing with the trash problem, rectifying traffic issues, building a new highway, and resurfacing and expanding Phuket's roads.

It's our job to let the central government know about these projects and obtain the budget from them.

Tah Chat Chai checkpoint. The Phuket Provincial Office recently

handed the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint over to the Royal Thai Police. Although the opening ceremony has already happened, the office is not open to the public yet. However, we are rushing to have the new checkpoint fully operational by April 1.

Plans for dry season. We have made plans to deal with future water shortages, which are a yearly problem.

In the last two years we have been faced with critically low levels of untreated water. Phuket has had only one dam to collect rainfall, leaving less than 200,000 cubic meters of stored water, which is insufficient for the dry season.

Phuket will have two new reservoirs. The first, at Bang Neaw Dum dam in Thalang, will have a capacity of 7.5 million cubic meters and will be operational this May.

The second will be a 5.7-million-cubic-meter reservoir at Klong Krata in Chalong. Construction on the second reservoir will begin immediately after the Bang Neaw Dum dam is completed.

These reservoirs, along with the desalination plant in Karon, should keep Phuket supplied with water during the dry season.

Niran Kalayanamit
Governor of Phuket

What will happen to my visa if I divorce?

I'm currently living in Thailand on a non-immigrant type O visa and one-year permit-to-stay, both issued on the basis that I am married to a Thai.

The problem is that I am having problems with my wife and we have decided to get divorced.

I'm concerned about how my visa situation will be affected. What will happen to my non-immigrant O visa?

Will I still have the right to stay in Thailand until my permit-to-stay expires?

If I marry another Thai woman, can I then be issued an-

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.

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

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other non-immigrant type O visa and one-year permit-to-stay on the basis that I am married to a new wife? What problems could I run into?

Worried farang
Karon

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immi-

gration Office replies:

After you divorce your wife, you will have the right to stay in Thailand until your permit-to-stay expires.

If you the decide to marry another Thai woman, you could apply for a new one-year permit-to-stay on the basis of being married to a Thai.

How can I have a roadside sign in Phuket?

I have seen many signs beside the roads showing the names of property developments and hotels.

I want to put up a sign showing details of my hotel. What procedure must I follow to do this?

A development owner
Patong

Saraj Suwinchai, director of Phuket Provincial Highway Office, replies:

To have a roadside sign showing your hotel's name and location, you must apply at the Phuket Provincial Highways Office.

We usually issue permits only to the island's larger developments, hotels and malls.

We usually don't allow small shops to post signs or other

commercial advertisements. We also allow only a limited range of sizes, fonts and colors to be used.

The permit will specify precise details of what the sign should look like and where it will be erected.

Once you have been issued a permit, you will then have to pay for the sign to be made.

To apply, you must bring your ID card and your business registration documents to the Highways Office.

The fee is 10,000 baht per year, per sign.

For more information contact the Phuket Provincial Highways Office on Narisorn Rd, Phuket City, open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tel: 076-212179.

How Siamized are you?

Currently visiting Phuket is noted anthropologist Dr Antoinette Anthropolopoulos, who is doing a study on a subspecies of human she calls Siamized expats, or *homo expatriatus Siamensis*. I interviewed her at the Rat & Cockroach Pub on Soi Bangla.

Tsow: Dr Anthropolopoulos, what is a Siamized expat?

Antoinette Anthropolopoulos: That's an expatriate living in Thailand, usually a long-time resident who has become so thoroughly acculturated that we can say he's become Siamized.

T: Are there many people like that?

An: Not many. Usually they live upcountry. I'm trying to devise a scale to measure various degrees of Siamization. So far I've identified three: utterly unSiamized, semi-Siamized, and Siamized.

T: Wow. Can you tell me something about each of these categories?

An: Yes. The utterly unSiamized expat is completely unacculturated. He won't touch Thai food, refuses to learn a word of Thai language, hates everything about Thailand and its people and is not shy about letting people know about it.

Perennially loud, rude, impatient and arrogant, he gets angry at the traffic, the heat, the noise and just about everything.

He slops about in shorts, sandals and singlet and is usually covered with tattoos and multiple piercings.

Usually he's a tourist, so Thailand doesn't have to put up with him for long. Extreme examples are skinheads and soccer louts.

T: Whew. Not a pretty picture. What about the semi-Siamized expat?

An: Usually he's been here a while, or he wouldn't have become semi-Siamized. He's learned how to speak Thai, may even know how to read it and has studied several aspects of Thai culture. He loves Thai food but is not too keen on fried grasshoppers.

T: Wait a minute, I know lots of Thais who aren't keen on fried grasshoppers. That's an Isarn delicacy. Aren't you confusing Siamization with Isarnization?

An: Possibly, but eating fried grasshoppers is a benchmark, if you will, for measuring Siamization. It puts foreigners so far out of their own cultural loop that they win extra points.

T: I'm afraid I'm having a little trouble with some of your criteria. Some skinheads or soccer louts might eat a few fried grasshoppers just to prove their machismo.

An: True, but the test is whether they actually like eating them. Let me continue. The semi-Siamized Expat can tolerate the heat, the traffic jams and the noise with-

out complaining. He doesn't mind being in bars where the music is so loud that it ruptures his eardrums. He doesn't get angry unless really provoked and generally maintains a *jai yen yen* mentality. He doesn't get upset when people are late and even watches Thai TV sometimes. When he goes back to his home country he feels a little dis-oriented.

T: And the completely Siamized expat?

An: Hardly any expat ever becomes completely Siamized, but we have some who come close. This sterling specimen speaks Thai fluently and reads and writes it. He's very knowledgeable about

many aspects of Thai culture. Usually he's settled here, is married and raising a family. He sends his kids to Thai schools and contributes liberally to the local temple.

He eats nothing but Thai food and tosses down handfuls of mouse-turd chilies with joyous abandon. He loves eating fried grasshoppers, except for the legs.

The Siamized expat enjoys noise. He adores karaoke bars and is ecstatic when loudspeakers in his village blare *morlam* music at ear-shattering volume throughout the night. He's addicted to Thai TV, too, especially the soap operas and the

slapstick comedy shows. He likes traffic jams, using them as an opportunity to practice meditation. He thrives on hot weather and starts to shiver if the temperature plunges below 35°C.

He expects people to be late and is shocked when they're not. Delays and hassles do not disturb him. He waves aside with a cheery smile every inconvenience, every provocation, for he knows that all is transient. His twin mottoes are *Jai yen yen* and *Mai pen rai*. Whenever he returns to his home country he feels completely out of place.

T: Sounds like a rare bird. Anything else?

An: Yes, I'd like to request feedback from your readers. I may have got some criteria wrong and may have overlooked others. And I'm still trying to develop criteria for intermediate categories like minimally Siamized and almost Siamized.

T: I'll let them know. Let's see what they come up with.

You can send feedback to S. Tsow at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's wondering why Siamized expats won't eat grasshopper legs.



In The Stars

by Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Where work is concerned, you could be setting off down a slippery slope. It appears someone is intent on taking credit for your hard efforts and this underhand behavior needs to be stopped.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A lucky break on Monday means that many of you can set aside a nagging personal worry. It's time that you laid aside your tendency to expect the worst. A reason for cheering comes to light during the first week of April when unexpected cash flows your way.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Some of you will be disappointed

when not everything business-related goes your way. Taking facts for granted when they haven't been carved in stone is the reason for this situation. However, you will learn that Capricorn can be trusted for future negotiations. Romance is rekindled when a reunion takes place this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Stormy clouds could dampen the atmosphere at home this weekend, but most of you will be able to find a silver lining. Pisces, in particular, appears determined to spread his or her negative energy. The best solution will be to remove yourself from the situation until the skies are brighter.

LEO (July 24-August 22): April promises to be even more enjoyable than March. You appear to have found the right balance between work and pleasure, but a little more consideration for family members would be welcomed. Investments made during the coming week are well-starred and your ability to spot a bargain comes in handy during a weekend shopping trip.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A more successful month lies ahead. The astral atmosphere will provide support if you are trying to change career direction and a meeting with Aquarius on Monday could speed up the process.

Use your common sense this week when dealing with bureaucracy, a wrong move could cause problems later.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): April will bring some surprises, particularly regarding family matters. Most of these will be positive, but an event early next week could test your patience. Where love is concerned, blowing hot and cold is not the way to attract Cancer; if you can't decide how interested you are, it's time to back away.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Offering to help a friend could involve more of your energy than anticipated. Those of you with limited time will need to be firm this weekend. Fun is on your agenda this Saturday when an impromptu get-together helps a new relationship to blossom.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): It will be frustrating for you to get facts in black and white this week. On Monday you could see red when someone in authority resists giving straight answers. Work brings extra satisfaction as your efforts become appreciated. Promotion is highlighted during April.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You discover time is on your side concerning a business proposition. You are advised to put your analytical skills to good use before committing. Where relationships are concerned, common sense could be thrown to the wind when you meet an alluring Arian.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is within your reach. As April gets into gear many of you are likely to receive a financial boost. Love is not quite as well-starred as an argument this weekend could rock a new relationship. Allow the atmosphere to cool before reconciling.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Those of you who have been seeking a change of employment will be heartened by a meeting with Leo on Monday that allows new doors to be opened. The stars indicate that relocation will probably be involved, but family members will require convincing. Early next week a cash-strapped Virgo friend welcomes your talents for negotiating a bargain.

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By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

The Regent on track for 2009 opening

CAPE PANWA: The first property in Thailand operated by the international hotel chain Regent Hotels & Resorts is set to open in March next year.

A total of 1.25 million baht is being invested in the construction of the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, which will be on the site of its predecessor, the Panwaburi resort.

The Regent Group has teamed up with local hotelier and developer Methee Tanmanatragul, owner of the former Panwaburi resort who now serves as owner-representative of the Regent Phuket.

K. Methee has been involved with many of the region's resort projects over the past 20 years, including the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, Thai Muang golf

course and Rising Sun Residence.

K. Methee told the *Gazette* that he signed the contract with the Regent group a year ago.

"I could see the potential of five-star management by the Regent after seeing other branches that they manage," he said.

He added that he expects the marketing and management

strength of the Regent to bring profits within nine years of opening. The added expense of 5% to 6% of income for management fees is minimal compared with the benefits of being aligned with a global brand, he said.

The advantage of an international brand, he said, is its strong marketing network and standard procedures that bring consistency to all properties operating under

the brand name, which is trusted by tourists, he explained.

Being under the umbrella of an international chain, he added, also minimizes the effect of any crises that might occur.

While the resort will operate under the Regent brand, many aspects will remain Thai, said K. Methee. "The design concept of the Regent will be Southern Thai. I would like to show the real Southern style," he explained.

"The one thing that Thailand can beat every country in the world in is its 'Thainess' because being Thai is a very strong point of the tourism market," K. Methee said. "You can see this from the feedback from questionnaires when tourists leave the hotels."

Construction of the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa is about 60% complete. Only about 20% of the original Panwaburi structures were preserved; the remaining 80% will be new construction.

Located on 45 rai, the resort will comprise 48 terrace rooms, 22 deluxe villas, 35 pool villas and one presidential villa.

Facilities will include a 55-meter swimming pool, tennis court, health center and spa, as well as two large function rooms for meetings, parties and events.

The resort will employ about 200 people.

K. Methee said that the main target markets will be Europeans, Japanese and other Asian travelers, as well as honeymooners.



The Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, about 60% complete, will be the Regent group's first foray into the Thai hotel market.

Other Regent Hotels & Resorts in the region include the Regent Beijing and the Regent Shanghai, both ranked among *Travel + Leisure* magazine's top 500 hotels in the world. Regent will open the Regent Maldives

on Maalefushi Island in 2008 and a second Thai property, the Regent Bangkok, in 2009.

Regent Hotels & Resorts is part of the Carlson group, which operates several major brands in the travel, cruise, hotel, restaurant and marketing industries.

Martin Rinck, president and managing director of Carlson Hotels Worldwide - Asia Pacific, told the *Gazette*, "Carlson's strategy for its luxury Regent brand is to grow in key gateway cities and resort locations that match the exclusivity of the brand.

We have identified several resort locations in the region, which include Phuket, Koh Samui, Bali, Maldives and Tahiti.

"Thailand is a growth market for us where we have seven hotels planned over the next three years," he added.

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Total passengers	554,751	652,468	+17.6
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ON THE MOVE



Churoor "Nui" Prasarnkarn, 28, has been appointed Hotel Manager of Stoney Monday Oasis Hotel. K. Nui is from Phang Nga and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Natural Resources at Prince of Songkla University, Haad Yai campus.

She worked with Stoney Monday Oasis Hotel as Assistant Hotel Manager for three years before her promotion to Hotel Manager.



JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa has announced the appointment of **Shannon Creado** as Director of Marketing.

A native Indian, Shannon has been working with the Marriott group for more than nine years. His first position was as Sales Manager at Goa Marriott Resort. His experience includes being the Project Director of Marketing for Marriott Thailand's new Courtyard properties in Phuket and Hua Hin.



Calvin Teo, 34, from Singapore has been named Assistant F&B Manager of Indigo Pearl Resort.

He holds a diploma in F and B management from the American Hotel and Lodging Association, USA, as well as a diploma in food-hygiene management from the UK.

Before joining Indigo Pearl Resort Calvin worked as Assistant F&B Manager for Jebel Ali Golf Resorts & Spa Dubai, UAE.

How much further can the US dollar fall? The fundamentals for the US dollar have been worsening for some time and at present there is no end in sight.

Consistent trade and current-account deficits show little hope for improvement. Certainly a weaker dollar is a boost to America's export sector, but many of the gains being made in that area are being offset by higher import costs for oil and other commodities.

Eventually it will become a matter of confidence and the current situation in the US gives little reason for optimism – at least in the short term. The US in facing a recession has little option but to continue to reduce interest rates. It is this very action that makes the dollar an increasingly unattractive destination for investment in its financial markets. It is becoming a downward spiral – the more the dollar falls, the higher oil prices rise.

Foreign central banks, especially those from countries that enjoy a trade surplus with the US, are continuing to increase their holdings in the dollar. This is merely to prop up the dollar, which, if left to the not-so-tender mercies of currency markets, would fall further – sharply.

The US is not just facing a recession at some distant point in the future; it appears to have already started. The accepted defi-

Sinking markets have yet to hit the bottom

inition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth. The last quarter of 2007 still reflected economic growth in the US but the situation has deteriorated rapidly in 2008.

Warren Buffett, the legendary investor, who according to *Forbes* magazine has displaced Bill Gates of Microsoft as the world's richest man, stated that by any common-sense measurement the US is already in recession.

Various polls taken among economists found an increasing number agreeing with this negative point of view.

America's central bank, the US Federal Reserve, attempted to change market sentiment in March by offering to buy tranches of dubious-quality mortgages in exchange for US Government Bonds. This encouraged markets for about one day before

they resumed their downward trend.

The fact that the Fed was effectively injecting US\$230 billion into the economy was soon regarded as immaterial. Interventions by central banks can sometimes reverse market trends, but the current intervention, which was also backed by the Canadian, British and European Central Banks, shows that when markets have a strong directional bias, central banks are powerless.

One of the most important factors at present is that markets are aware central banks are trying everything in their power to improve matters. This at least shows to markets that central banks are aware of how serious the situation is and that they are committed to improving matters.

However, as much as most people would like to see a quick fix, it is more likely that markets

need to find a bottom before any improvement can be expected.

The first market that needs to reach a bottom is the US housing market. This is going to take time, as the supply of unsold homes is at a high level: an estimated 10 months of sales.

The credit crunch has still to disappear and some banks, such as Bear Stearns, are reporting that their balance sheets are rapidly deteriorating.

The Bear Stearns case is only one of many; banks are still wary of "toxic" assets hidden in their counterparts' balance sheets.

Quite simply, they do not trust each other. The fact that this is also the situation in Europe shows that this crisis has crossed continents.

The concept of the housing market in the US having to find a bottom is only one area where markets are trying to find ultimate lows or even highs.

Many markets (credit, commodity, stock, currency and so on) are traded by technical factors and much trading is of the emotionless variety where decisions to buy and sell are made by computers, often without any human intervention.

Regardless of the style of trading, participants want to see markets hit bottom, which often has to be retested to prove it is a true bottom.

It is at this stage that markets can reach capitulation, which, in real terms, means that matters are so bad that all weak holders have sold.

It is from the bottom that money is made on the upside – usually when every sane person does not want to invest.

Paul Donovan, deputy head of global economics at Swiss banking giant UBS, said of the situation, "Economic indicators will not keep falling forever."

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com



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More than 50 teams took part in a pétanque tournament organized by Cherng Talay OrBorTor.

Pétanque teams win big at local tourney

CHERNG TALAY: The fourth annual pétanque tournament organized by Cherng Talay OrBorTor was held March 15 at Baan Cherng Talay School.

In General Division 1, Cherng Talay 5 took first place, winning 11,000 baht in prize money and a trophy.

In General Division 2, Cherng Talay 8 won the 1,500-baht first prize and trophy to go with it.

In Division 1 for under-15-year-olds, Cherng Talay Youth took top honors and walked away with 5,000 baht and a trophy.

In Division 2 for under-15-year-olds Saphan Hin Sport Club came away with 1,500 baht and the winner's trophy.

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New sports club opens in Rawai

By Alin Boonkrungthong

CHALONG: Phuket Sports & Tennis Club is set on four rai of old rubber plantation land in the leafy green hills of Rawai. It may not be impressive in size or as flashy as other sports clubs on the island but it is a popular venue for people of all ages to play sports or simply relax with family and friends.

One of the main attractions is the club's beach volleyball court. It offers beach-like conditions and is equipped with floodlights for night-games.

The club also has an international-standard tennis court and a separate practice court with an adjoining wall. A resident tennis coach is available three days a week for children and young

adults who need advice and guidance.

Outdoor badminton can also be played and a customized croquet lawn is currently being laid. A fishing lake with water features is also under construction. People will be able to rent fishing equipment from the club.

To keep kids entertained while parents play more serious sports there is a playground and a peacock cage. Families will also be able to enjoy the barbecue area together, where fish caught in the club's lake can be grilled. Meat for the barbecue is also available at the bar if the fish are not biting on the day.

The Outback Bar offers cold beer, fresh juices and health drinks. Thai and European food is also available there.

Indoors you'll find one of Phuket's few indoor bowls venues. This British version of bowling on a carpet rather than linoleum or parquet lanes. The clubhouse also has a snooker table, two dart boards with electronic scoreboards and a small gym equipped with fitness machines. For lighter exercise, there are board games, such as chess and backgammon available, too.

Membership is currently free of charge, although plans are in place to start charging 300 baht per hour for use of the tennis courts, and 200 baht per hour for use of the beach volleyball court.

Phuket Sports & Tennis Club is located 1.2 km from Viset Rd that runs from Chalong to Rawai.

Island Cricket Club pummel PCA

By Mark Whetton

PHUKET: The Island Cricket Club (ICC) continued their winning streak in the Island Furniture cricket league when on March 2 they took on the Phuket Cricket Association (PCA) for the second time in two weeks at the Cherng Talay Wittayakom School oval.

ICC captain Anand won the toss and elected to bat. Although ICC lost opening batsmen Sonu (4) early in the innings with just seven runs on the board, ICC made a superb recovery and notched up 251 runs for the loss of just three wickets from their 35 overs.

An outstanding innings of 98 not out from Dimple off 40 deliveries (7 sixes and 9 fours) earned him the Man of the Match award.

He was aided by Sameer, who scored 36 not out, and Surrender, who chipped in with a handy 25.

There were no standouts in the PCA bowling lineup, with eight bowlers used. However, PCA skipper Feroz took two wickets while Sachin took the other.

On the previous encounter between these two sides, PCA managed a tally of 109 runs, so they needed to pull something special off to score 252 to win. Unfortunately, it was not to be.

A short spell of resistance from Robin, who scored 31 runs, slowed down the onslaught, but not for long. Apart from Robin, no other PCA batsmen managed to score double figures – and five of them were out for ducks.

Only 15 overs were required

by the ICC bowlers before PCA were all out for 59 runs, handing ICC a win by 193 runs. Nearly all the ICC bowling lineup grabbed wickets, with Kamblesh being the pick of the bunch with figures of 6-2-12-3. Others of note were Tannu, 3-0-7-2, Yash, 2-0-4-2, and Dimple, 2-0-9-2.

A convincing win for ICC showed a side that is growing stronger as the season goes on. This win handed them 20 points, which shot them up the points table to within five points of Patong Cricket Club (PCC), although PCC have one match in hand.

For PCA, this season's problems continued as they walked away with just two points to take their tally to 18.

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Samui sailors dominate first junior regatta

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

AO YON: The inaugural Island Trophy Optimist Regatta was held March 22 and 23 at Phuket Yacht Club with children from Samui Yacht Club and Phuket Yacht Club racing around Ao Yon in Optimist dinghies, which are about 1.6 meters long.

Twelve sailors, seven from Samui and five from Phuket, aged between eight and 14 years old took to the bay to compete in five races on day one and one race on day two of the event.

The first day's racing decided the team competition, while individual honors were settled on day two.

First prize in the team competition was awarded to Samui Yacht Club.

In the solo race, sailors set off at 10:30 am, finishing the course about 1 pm.

There were three clear contenders in the division who enjoyed some close racing throughout the course.

In the end, the title went to Nakarin "Beer" Kaewpradit, 13,



GONE SAILING: Twelve sailors, seven from Samui and five from Phuket, aged between eight and 14 years old took to the bay to compete in the first Island Trophy Optimist Regatta.

representing Samui Yacht Club.

Beer said that he had been practicing his Optimist sailing for only one month before the competition.

"There was not much wind so I had to tag behind the others and it took a long time to complete the course," he said.

Second place went to Martin Zach, 12, also representing Samui Yacht Club. Martin began training in December.

Third place went to Amanda Daquil Lennartsson from Samui. Although just 10 years old, Amanda has been training for about one year.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With just five darters, Queen Mary stretched their winning streak to 29 matches with a 7-2 home win over Sick Buffalo.

Piccadilly moved to within two points of the leaders with a three-point win over Valhalla.

Beach House moved into a tie for sixth place with Dogs Bollocks after swiping all three points from them on the road, while Simply Red had their second win of the season, over Offshore.

At Shakers, Andy was the hero when he flipped in a X1 to checkout the exciting final doubles match to give Shakers a 5-4 win over Market Bar.

Send match results to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this weekly report.

March 18 results: Queen Mary 7 Sick Buffalo* 2; Dogs Bollocks 4 Beach House* 5; Piccadilly* 8 Valhalla 1; Offshore* 4 Simply Red 5; Shakers* 5 Market Bar 4 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (28 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (26); 3.= Shakers, Offshore (14); 5. Sick Buffalo (13); 6.= Dogs Bollocks, Beach House (12); 8.= Valhalla, Market Bar (11); 10. Simply Red (9).

April 1 match-ups: Queen Mary v Valhalla; Dogs Bollocks v Simply Red; Piccadilly v Market Bar; Offshore v Shakers; Beach House v Sick Buffalo (home team first).

A hard day's work



More than 100 children and adults took part in an annual mini-marathon organized by Plookpanya School on March 9.

The kids' course took racers around the school on Satun Rd in Phuket City to Phuket Thai Hua School on Wichit Songkram Rd and back.

Pictured are students of Muang Phuket Municipal School who received medals after completing the 3.5-kilometer course in about one hour.

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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel



This artist's impression shows the view from one of the 19 estate villas. Construction of the villas began last year and phase one of the project is 20% complete.

Nai Thon development will offer high-end living

NAI THON: Construction of the first two villas in Phase 1 of a high-end project by Malaiwana Park Development Co Ltd is now 20% complete. Located on the road from Sakoo to Layan, the development is set on 33 rai of hillside by Nai Thon Beach.

The Malaiwana project will comprise 19 estate villas, a secondary phase of pool residences and a third phase of a seafront beach club. More than one billion baht is being invested in the project.

"We started selling our villas in December 2007 and have received a warm welcome from the market. Seven villas have been sold [off plan] so far, which is fast at this level of property," said Sitt Polcharoen, general manager of Malaiwana Park.

The 19 hillside villas in Phase 1 are targeted at foreign retirees and the island's growing

expat community. The construction of Phase 1 began in the second quarter of 2007. Four villas will be built in April and the entire phase is expected to be complete by the end of 2010.

The villas in Phase 1 will be set on land plots ranging from 1,411sqm to 3,218sqm. The construction area is approximately 1,000sqm.

Units will be two-story, four-bedroom villas, designed in contemporary Thai style. Prices range from 90 million baht to 130 million baht.

Phase 2, comprising an undecided number of low-rise two- and three-bedroom apartments with an average size of 200 square meters, will be built on a 7,000sqm plot, although it is currently still at the design stage.

Construction of the beach club is expected to begin within two months. "The beach club will

play a key role in attracting buyers to the project. We estimate that the beach club will take a year to complete and will be finished before the villas," he said.

"Our draw card is the views and open social spaces. We can tailor a property to fit individual buyers who can choose the size of the swimming pool. It can measure from 15 meters by 4m to a 25m-long lap-pool. Buyers can also add a roof garden to the villas," he said.

The development will also feature a 50-seater restaurant and a spa.

For more information contact Malaiwana Park Development Co Ltd, 28/10 Village 4, T. Sakoo, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Tel. 076-316225. Fax. 076-316241. Email: info@malaiwana.com Website: www.malaiwana.com

Roadworks to be completed by end of April



Work on improvements along a stretch of Pracha U-thit Rd is expected to be complete within one month.

RASSADA: Phuket Provincial Rural Road Office (PPRO) is close to finishing work on a drainage system along a one-kilometer stretch of Pracha U-thit road, opposite the Phuket Provincial

Juvenile and Family Court, near Baan Tungkha School. Work started in February and is expected to be completed by the end of April at a cost of about one million baht.

Several other projects underway on the same stretch of road, including road-expansion work, road-surface paving and the installation of lane guards, are also expected to be completed by the end of April.

The work is being handled by contractor Chaiyakorn Co Ltd as part of a series of initiatives aimed at improving driving conditions for users of Phuket's roads.



The Malaiwana development is set on 33 rai of hillside by Nai Thon Beach.

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Home of the Week

Rawai

Two Villas property in Rawai to be resold

This three-bedroom pool-villa, part of the Two Villas development three minutes' walk from Rawai Beach, is back on the market once again.

The property is a Balinese-style courtyard villa with a private infinity-edge swimming pool measuring 9 meters by 3.3m.

Situated on a landscaped plot measuring 450 square meters, this home features an L-shaped design that ensures living areas and bedrooms have views of and direct access to the pool.

The kitchen is fitted with timber cupboards, an extractor, stove, double-basin sink, dishwasher and plenty of kitchen-bench space.

The floors are clad with gloss ceramic tiles and the color scheme throughout is charcoal-marble with gray-white ceramic tiles.

The two main bedrooms are spacious and have bathrooms en suite, as well as built-in wardrobes.

Bathrooms have quality, modern fittings. The master bathroom has a whirlpool and separate rain shower.

The third bedroom is a pavilion separate from the main house that offers garden and pool views making it suitable as a guest annex.

All furniture is included and



The garden of this property surrounds the pool, which and features a sala ideal for alfresco dining.

is from the original package offered by the developer.

Amenities include telephone, mains water and a covered carport attached to the property.

Electricity is earthed and

the property also features a central boiler and dimmer switches.

The garden surrounds the pool, which features a sala ideal for alfresco dining.

The roof is tiled and the property can be accessed through

a stone and timber Balinese-style entry gate.

Located in Rawai, this property offers comfortable living in a quiet and largely residential expatriate area.

This pool-villa is available

freehold with Chanote title deed for 13.35 million baht.

For details contact Patrick Lusted. Tel: 076-288908. Email:patrick@siamreal estate.com

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Design

by Suganya Semacote

Where high-tech meets high style

With stylish and contemporary architecture by Fredo Taffin, whose other acclaimed creations include the chic Kudeta and Downtown Apartments in Bali, the developers of The Residence are back for a third round.

The third phase of the development comprises 15 townhouses built in the same contemporary Thai-Balinese concept style as the sold-out second phase.

Local materials are used extensively throughout the design of the town homes. Each unit has an upper-level sala, a landscaped tropical garden and a swimming pool located just outside the open-plan living room.

A rooftop sala with a barbecue area allows for outdoor dining and entertaining, while water features create a refreshing environment. The inside and outside are separated by five folding doors that allow easy access between the lounge and pool areas.

"We always incorporate the folding doors," said Nathaniel Bibby, sales and marketing coordinator of the developer the Richmond Group. "It gives you a feeling of openness when you are in the house. It merges the inside and outside into one big living area. This is emphasized by the



LIGHT LIVING: Homes at The Residence are designed to give a sense of openness by playing with light.

use of the same natural homogeneous stone indoors and out.

"The feeling of being in one continual space is enhanced by

the pool and a sala areas," K. Nathaniel added. "In the evening, the pool lights illuminate the garden."

The simple design approach has been extended to the garden, which matches the look of the living areas. It also avoids over-land-

scaping, which could detract focus from the visual effect of the main structure and design.

Touch lighting in the living room and bedrooms allows residents to easily set the room's ambiance by adjusting all the lighting at once with programmable settings. "Light adds to the atmosphere. We want our clients to be able to play around with the mood of the lighting," K. Nathaniel explained.

Other tech details include state-of-the-art home automation technology, surround-sound music in every room with touch-pad central control as well as Wi-Fi Internet access.

In addition to the living room, the townhouses comprise two bedrooms, one on the main level that opens up to the decked pool area and one upstairs, connected to a terrace. The terrace gives access to the upstairs spa-style bathroom with a rain shower and bathtub.

The bathroom is clad with stone-style, matte Cotto tiles in earth tones.

"Our experience tells us that people love our simple yet detailed design. When you first see the development, it looks quite small, but you discover that it is actually quite spacious. That's because we play with the natural light, letting it open up the space," he added.

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If you've got a swimming pool, spa or landscaped pond, you will at some point have to deal with the ever-present threat posed by the dreaded leak. Much worse than the bland vegetable (leek), a hole in your pool can be a real headache. An unrepaired hole the size of a pencil tip can result in the loss of hundreds of gallons of water every day. Fortunately, effective leak location and leak repair solutions are available.

The most common leak-indicator is when the water level is dropping faster than what is attributable to evaporation or splash-outs.

If you suddenly find that your pool has dropped several inches overnight, you need to determine if it is normal water loss. You may notice that there is excess algae growth, which occurs because the new water that's being put into the pool is untreated.

Wet, mushy or unusually healthy spots on your lawn could be a sign of underground plumbing leaks. Structural damage, cracks and settling to the deck or pool may also be indications of leaks. The best way to find out if your pool is leaking is to do a bucket test:

1. Fill the pool to its normal level.
2. Fill an empty bucket with pool water to about one inch from the top of bucket.
3. Place the bucket on the first or second step of the pool. To keep it from floating away it may be necessary to place a few bricks or rocks in the bucket. (By placing the bucket in the pool water you are ensuring that the water temperature is the same).
4. Mark the water-level on the inside of the bucket.
5. Mark the water-level of the pool on the outside of the bucket, on the pool wall or skimmer face plate.
6. After 24 hours compare the levels. If the pool water (outside mark) goes down more than the inside water level, there is probably a leak.

Beat the leak



A hole in your swimming pool can be a real headache. An unrepaired hole the size of a pencil tip can result in the loss of hundreds of gallons of water every day.

If left unrepaired, these problems can become serious. The longer a leaking pipe, liner or pool shell is left unrepaired, the more costly the eventual fix will be, so once you know you have a leak, immediate action is recommended. You have several options.

Some pool leaks can be easy to find and fix yourself; others require the assistance of a qualified and experienced pool technician.

Here is a guide to checking for pool trouble:

Check the pressure. Regardless of whether the leak is suspected to be in the plumbing or the structure of the pool, a pressure-test should be done by a swimming pool technician to confirm the location of the leak. This

is important because it allows the technician to provide you with the assurance that leak has been found and will be fixed.

Visual inspection. Assuming there is no problem with the plumbing, the only place for the leak to be is in the main structure of the pool. Although sophisticated detection systems can be used to find leaks in vinyl liners, finding leaks around fittings or lights in granite pools requires a visual inspection.

Dye testing. A dye-tester is a syringe that holds a concentrated dye. It has several advantages over simple test bottles commonly used in this procedure. First, it uses a long nozzle that allows precise application of the dye without creating unwanted water currents. Second, the syringe allows the dye to stay concentrated even when used while diving.

The investigation of a concrete pool should start at the tile line and move downwards. The

skimmer and any joints or cracks inside the skimmer itself, as well as at the point where the skimmer bonds to the pool wall, should be checked.

Release the dye around the lights and along any visible cracks in the pool. To completely survey all parts of the pool, it will be necessary to take the plunge and go in the water. Diving equipment will allow your swimming pool technician to survey areas in the pool below what is reachable from the deck.

Electrical leak detection in vinyl-lining pools. Another option is a portable, battery-operated electric scanner that works by putting a small electrical charge into the pool through a float that

is positioned near the middle of the water. An earth connection is made outside the pool at a ladder anchor or a piece of conductive metal pounded into the ground.

The electricity will spread from the float and seek a way to complete its circuit and get into the ground. The electricity is drawn to any conductive penetration through the liner, creating a flow of electricity in the pool that can be detected with a probe attached to a telescoping pole.

When the probe is pointed in the direction of the leak, a beeping noise is emitted. As the probe is moved closer to the leak, this beeping noise will increase in frequency.

Should you fix your own pool?

This depends on whether you are a dab hand at DIY. There are some useful tools you can pick up at hardware shops, such as Home Pro or Bangkok Hardware:

Nitrile rubber-based flexible sealer provides a strong adhesive bond to any material found around a swimming pool. Apply directly onto pool material. Flexible sealer will skin over in seconds allowing it to be smoothed with a wet finger.

Another option is Butyl Tape, hand-moldable rubber gap filler that can be applied underwater without the need for messy caulk guns.

If the problem becomes more serious I recommend contacting your pool-construction company or try contacting a company like Waterworks Warehouse. They will give you further independent advice.

Prevention is better than treatment. Every pool has a concrete structure and you should always keep an eye on it. If the concrete is not well waterproofed, moisture will affect the construction steel inside and cracks will appear. I recommend using concrete-crystallization technologies like Xypex or Penetron. These products can help repair gaps.

Even if you do not have any structural problems with your pool, you can use a clear crystallization solution like StoneeXtreme as a preventative measure. It seals all the joints in your tiled pool. Don't hesitate to contact me by email for further advice.

Andreas Ruthe is managing director of Technical Construction Materials Asia Co Ltd (TCM Asia). He has lived in Phuket for six years and consults with hotels, developers and homeowners in using modern construction materials to solve environmental problems and reduce costs. He can be contacted at ruthe@tcm-asia.com



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By Andy Ruthe

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35sqm. Furnished, TV, pool, parking, freehold. 2.1 million baht. Email: guntnit@aol.com

PHUKET TOWN CONDO

Corner condo unit overlooking pool. Great location opposite Tesco, near Big C and Central. 42sqm, plus two balconies in a modern-design building. TV, stereo, aircon, washing machine, furniture all included. Will be finished by mid-2009. 3 million baht obo, but the price will increase near the project's completion. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette



DESIRABLE

unique and elegant home/office. This property located ideally on Samkong Rd, Phuket City, represents the ultimate in a comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of more than 4 million baht, this property is now available for discerning home buyers. The home consists of: master bedroom with balcony, elegant en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and ensuite bathroom, and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property has a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast, comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle car port. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

ON THE BEACH
2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE
in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

LAND FOR SALE
11 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com



BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND

5 mins to Phuket Airport, close to the beach. 10 rai, 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com



KARON LAND FOR SALE

15 million baht per rai, Chanote. Hillside, panoramic sea views, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI
at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

3.6 MILLION RENTAL INCOME
4 pool-villas near Laguna. 48 million baht. Tel: 086-9520772. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

NEW RAWAI POOL-VILLA
2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 300m from the new pier. 3.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: than que4@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE
10-min drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80 rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. Nice location, just 300 meters from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY
Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale - one on half a rai of land and another on 1 rai. Both are located in a good residential area 5 mins from Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more info. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th



Detached House for Sale

- In Chalong
- New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title
- 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 with jacuzzi), 3 toilets, 1 living room and Western kitchen (with microwave, dish washer, big cooler, electric hot plates), 1 stock room.
- Car(s) park
- Ornamental pond and jets of water which maybe fitted out in swimming pool
- Big underground septic water tank
- Frontal view of a small lake
- Quiet, well-situated and exposed
- Near all commodities
- Telephone line
- Internet ADSL, Cable TV

Price: 7.5 million baht. Must see! Tel: 087-2709093 Email: allservices29@gmail.com

3-STORY SHOPHOUSE, KATHU
Brand-new, 5-meter-wide shophouse, excellent location on Wichit Songkram Rd, near Anuphas Golf Ville. Tel: 081-6065772. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

THAI-STYLE HOUSE
near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, living room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

LAND FOR SALE
Manik-Bangjo land, Chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW TOWNHOUSE
in Tan Tong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

AIRPORT & BEACH-AREA LAND
1 rai (1,600sqm) with four 2-bedroom houses. Includes 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, communal swimming pool, Internet. 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com



COCONUT ISLAND LAND

for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.



HEAVEN ON EARTH

5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Beautiful, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, Western kitchen, aircon, 191sqm, pool, 225sqm of land. 6.4 million baht. Call Tel: 087-3863388 or Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, visit our website: www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets



ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LAND

in Khao Lak, Phang Nga. 400 rai. 4 million baht per rai. Chanote. Separate plots at 6 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

APARTMENT PATONG BEACH
Now commencing construction of 4 top-quality, poolside, open-plan, 1-bedroom apartments. On a very quiet natural site in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. 2 mins from the beach and center of Patong. Road access and good water supply. Starting at 4.9 million baht. For full details contact Andy. Tel: 081-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

80 RAI, BEACHFRONT
At Bang Sak Beach, 10 mins from Khao Lak, 340m of beachfront. Chanote, good road. 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

BEACHFRONT LAND
Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180 meters of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 6.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.



LAND & HOUSES PARK

at Parichart Village 35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. Chalong area. Urgent sale! 4 million baht, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679, 087-2681341. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

SALE BY OWNER
Last corner unit, new 2-story townhouse. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park, built-up 113sqm. Between monument and Laguna. Reduced from 1.95 million baht to only 1.8 million. Tel: 087-3863388. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, please see our website: www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets

URGENT SALE!
Hotel in center of Patong. Fully equipped with shops, spa, bar, swimming pool. Great revenue. For quick sale. Contact K. Kris. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: director@purimasproperty.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE
near Mission Hills. 1.7 rai. Only 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2699206. Email: phkt51@yahoo.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Property Gazette

SHORT SALE B2M



Moo Baan Chao Fa Thani. Detached house, 260sqm of land, communal pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

SAI YUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



Two-story house with additional living space in the attic. Seaview, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. Few minutes to Naiharn Beach. For more information call Tel: 084-8475700, 087-8987642. Email: morn_48@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



Small plots from 1 rai up to 100 rai with very good sea view. Few minutes from center and the beach. Land is with Chanote. Road, electricity & water supply. Price from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2642308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com



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VILLA FOR SALE

Foreign freehold in Thalung near Surin. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 en suite. Living area, kitchen, aircon. Private parking. The street is secured by an electric gate operated by a personal card swiping system. Includes company papers and Chanote. 2.1 million baht. Contact Lee. Tel: 084-3078407. Email: thai.prop@yahoo.co.uk

LAND FOR SALE

in Rawai 85sq wah. 1.5 million baht. Also have 1 rai at 5.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 084-6268105.

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

Boat Lagoon luxury 3 bedroom waterfront townhouse. Roof top jacuzzi and, marble floors. 10.7 million baht or best cash offer. Contact K. So. Tel: 081-8622962.

KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote (can be divided). All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Price from 6 million per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

RAWAI, 3 BEDROOMS POOL

220sqm living space, newly built, 700sqm land. Sauna, Jacuzzi, top-quality interior, saltwater pool, PVC window doors. Resale, original price: 10.9 million baht. Save 3 million baht. Now only 7.9 million baht. Top bargain. Come and see now. Tel: 089-6525664.

LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1 rai up to 5.5 rai. Good road & electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Price from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

THE COCO VILLAS SALE B6.5M

2 bed and 3 bed units in a tranquil area. High-quality materials, private pools. Tel: 086-2823616, 086-2746886. Fax: 076-367068. Email: thecocophuket59@yahoo.com

KATA SEAVIEW LAND

Best land in Kata, 1, 200sqm. 3-phase electric, Chanote, easy access, building plans for 19 units. Net profit of 60 million baht. Great deal! Company transfer. Only 12.5 million baht, includes plans. Tel: 089-6525664.

HOUSE WITH POOL

Land and House Park. 2 million baht down-payment 5 million 3 years. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH

14th floor of Phuket Palace. Best offer over 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7974532.

11 NEW BIG LUXURY VILLAS



in Kamala with private pool. Modern Thai-Balinese style. 24-hours security in a gated community. Exclusive location a few minutes from beach and center. Built in natural surroundings on flat land with a very good hill view. Chanote. 4 bedrooms. Big top modern kitchen fully fitted. All bedrooms with separate toilets and built-in cupboards. Jacuzzi. All rooms have air conditioning. Freehold or leasehold. 2 show homes fully furnished. Ready now. Prices from 21 million baht. Tel: 076-279289, 086-2742308. Email: kamala.paradise@yahoo.com For further details please see our website at www.kamalaparadise.com

SEA VIEW IN KAMALA

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Price from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@kamalaparadise.com

BANG WAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural lagoon behind Bang Wad Dam. Approx 26 rai, sloped land, access road, water and electricity. Good for residential project. 2.5 million baht per rai (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

2 plots. 500 and 1,000sqm land located between Rawai and Nai Harn. Chanote title. Price: 2.5 million and 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7284005.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www.phuketproperties.com. If you are a real estate developer or owner you may list your properties with us. Contact K. Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

PATONG CONDO

Motivated seller. Growing family has bought land to build on. Selling, smart, modern 1-bedroom condo. Furnished, parking, tennis court, 40m pool, lush tropical garden. Asking good fair price. 3.8 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Duplex renovation project directly on the 15th fairway. Newly reduced price. Visit www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994. Email: tomkat@phuket.ksc.co.th

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARGE POOL

Nice villa with large swimming pool. Very safe and quiet location with security. Available for long-term or holiday bookings. Tel: 076-378361, 081-6764849. Fax: 076-263919. Email for full details. Email: info@etwood.com

AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad viewpoint. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE

59/9 for sale. 4 bedrooms, golf course and lake view. Only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

PRIME SLOPING LAND FOR SALE

20 rai, asking for 20 million baht per rai. Behind the Government Savings Bank, Patong. 400 meters from the Phrabaramee Rd. Suitable for condo/serviced apartments. New, wide access road. Quiet. Contour done. Real owner available for discussion. Contact Songpan. No brokers please. Tel: 081-7378662.

KATA GUESTHOUSE

New, 7 rooms, swimming pool. 18 million baht. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

KOH YAO YAI

Quick sale, 4 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, 5 mins to beach. 500,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-8928208.

NEAR GOLF COURSES



For sale in Kathu, 2-story house. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, garden, 488sqm land. 7.5 million baht, fully furnished. Tel: 083-3953976. Email: kawthai@hotmail.com

TROPICAL POOL-VILLA

in Chalung. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Villa-style, 3-bedroom house located in good position within Villa California. Extended, air-conditioned master bedroom, with mirror-door wardrobe included and large en-suite bathroom. 2 air-conditioned bedrooms and separate bathroom. Lounge with aircon. Dining area, utility room. Extended and modern European-style kitchen with 4-ring hob oven and washing machine included. Connected to main water and sewage lines, no septic tank. Viewing recommended. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-2891502.

KAMALA CENTER CONDO

1 bedroom, 65sqm, serviced, common pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

CHALEYKERE VILLAGE IN KATHU

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-9347637.

LAND FOR SALE

Cherng Talay area, Chanote, 1.1 rai. 7 million baht. Contact Ms Tanaka for more details. Tel: 081-8927721. Email: ytrland@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE B2.6/RENT

Quiet, 1 bedroom, 264sqm of land, cable TV, Internet, and telephone. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

BUILDING FOR SALE

in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach



- 4 stories, first floor has large area convenient for restaurant or bar.
- 8 apartments on floor 2, 3, 4.
- Chanote title, electricity
- 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price: 50 million baht.

Call 087-2709093, 081-8687676

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN CHALONG



Fully furnished house for rent in Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 aircons, set in the quiet and beautiful Baan Maneekram Estate. Private garden, TV, DVD, fridge, microwave, washing machine, telephone line and Internet access, etc. Rent: 16,500 baht a month, minimum 6-month contract. To view the house, call 087-8874659 after 7 pm. Email: marchusted@yahoo.com Website: www.phuketchalong.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

Furnished, 12mx4m pool, close to bank. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

in quiet and safe area, long or short term. 5 km from Laguna. Furnished, True TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. Only 16,000 baht per month, or 13,000 baht if you pay lump sum for 1 year. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 086-682-9804 (Thai).

LAND AND HOUSES PARK

house for rent. Chalong, new, fully furnished, nice decorations, 3 bedrooms, safe. Tel: 085-7863213. Email: fabelemo@yahoo.fr

LAGUNA TOWNHOME

Long-term rent, best unit. Golf and lake view. 173sq wah. 4 bedrooms with option of 1 more. Many upgrades. Tel: 081-0503275.

FOREIGNER-OWNED

house in Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terrace, aircon, ceiling fans. ADSL, True TV, alarm system, fenced-in garden. Car park, 100sqm storage. Quiet area. Furnished: 28,000 baht/month. Unfurnished: 26,000 baht/month. Long-term rental. Tel: 076-388194, 085-4767318. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

SOI NAYA



Beautiful villa, 180sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, aircon, ADSL, garden, pool. Tel: 081-9683702.

HOUSE FOR RENT



at Chalong in Land & Houses. New single house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5697068. Email: sirio@tisco.co.th

SHOP IN PATONG, SOI FOODLAND

Townhouse shop, now used as a restaurant, with kitchen. Best location, available June. Ready for 3 years' rent. Tel: 076-340920, 081-8928526. Fax: 076-340920. Email: peter@phuketbesthomes.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool and gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837.

LAND AND HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished, European-style kitchen. Contact Nichaboon Sutiboun. Tel: 076-371600-611.

2-BEDROOM MAI KAO VILLA

Weekly or long term, 2 mins from golf course, beach, airport. European standards, aircon, True TV, Internet, garden and antique furniture. Tel: 081-7197015, 089-4708926. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

KAMALA VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, everything included, private estate, security. Long-term rent for low season. Tel: 086-9437598.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



in Soi Ban Krang, Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished with aircon. 23,000 baht. Tel: 084-8746270.

PATONG TOWER CONDO: A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280m panoramic views of the sea, hills and town below. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available now. Tel: (011) (86) 13816344147. Email: txxtz@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.patongtowerrental.com

BIS SCHOOL HOUSE

Close to BIS. Luxurious 4-bedroom house with pool and kitchen in quiet neighborhood. Tel: 076-239707, 081-8779292. Fax: 081-2963413. Email: prakai sriraj@hotmail.com For details see our website at www.gracegardensphuket.com

2 RAWAI POOL-VILLAS

3 or 4 bedrooms, furnished, near beach. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Near Neramit Villa, Thalang. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 60sq wah. 19,000 baht. Tel: 087-2839181.

BRAND-NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent near Boat Lagoon and British International School. Fully furnished and air conditioned. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-9405187 (English), 086-9522070 (Thai).

POOL-VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sat TV, Internet. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

FURNISHED HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen & telephone line. Tel: 081-5379878, 089-7298472. Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon, True TV, ADSL, furnished. 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

QUIET GUESTHOUSE

in the center of Patong. Rooms for rent, pool, sauna, gym, lovely garden. Tel: 081-0843415. Website: www.unter-palmen.ch

RAWAI POOL HOUSE

for rent. 4-bedroom, 500sqm house. 10m pool, high end and newly built. Fully furnished. Big garden. 5 mins to Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 089-6525664.

FOR RENT, 3-BEDROOM

house with pool in Rawai. Great fully furnished house, newly built, 12-meter salt-water pool, big garden, in secure area. Tel: 089-6525664.

PATONG APARTMENT

56sqm. New. Furnished, pool, parking. 400m to the beach. Tel: 081-0341908.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

Phaethon Company
Need help finding property for rent?
081-777-4-799
www.phuketeasyrent.com

PHUKET VILLA, DAORUNG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2709093.

THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong. New 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht/month. Contact K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.

APARTMENT SALES & SUB LETTINGS

in Kamala, Surin and Bang Tao. 1- & 2-bedroom modern apartments. Sales and short- & long-term sub lets. Tel: 081-5372018. Email: matt@phuketwest.com Website: www.phuketwest.com

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162-sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 22,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

NEW FURNISHED VILLAS



Close to Laguna. 300sqm, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and pool. Long- or short-term rent. Tel: 081-7344324. www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

CONDO FOR RENT IN CITY

Condo in best location in Phuket City, with pool and parking. Fully furnished, aircon, TV, kitchen. Long- or short-term rent. 6,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-7197015.

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

SEAVIEW LAND WANTED
2 to 5 rai, preferably in Kata-Karon or Kamala up to Nai Thon. Zoning must be suitable and legally entitled for condo project according to Building Control, City Planning, National Environment Control and Maintenance acts. Email: cfmcap@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAND WANTED
in Kata-Karon, Chalong or Phuket City. Between 150 and 800sqm. Call for more details. Tel: 086-1203660.

LAND WANTED
300-400sqm of land for lease, located anywhere in Phuket but must be on a main road. Please contact for more info. Tel: 089-7807558.

LAND IN RAWAI - NAI HARN
Looking for a plot between 200 and 800sqm to build a house. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-7955383.

LONG-TERM RENTAL
wanted for family. Location: Patong, Kata or Karon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8989274.

ABOUT 1 RAI WITH SEA VIEW
at a maximum of 6 million baht. Kata, Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn. Contact me with details. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

Property Services

HOUSE FROM WELLTA
Houses from Wellta. You want to rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.houseinphuket.com

PHUKET TECHNICIAN SERVICES
Electrical-system installation, repairs, maintenance. Plumbing and painting is also provided. Contact for info. Tel: 081-5384989 (Engl), 086-9487489 (Thai). Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

VILLA CALL-OUT SERVICE, 24-HR
What happens when a pipe breaks in your roof at 2 am? What happens when you rent your villa and something breaks? Who can you call? We offer a complete call-out and inspection service. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 027-281327, 081-8954480. Email: handyman@loxinfo.co.th

LOOKING AFTER YOUR VILLA
Property Care Phuket. We offer a complete range of villa services - cleaning, management, renovations, rentals, meet and greet services, etc. We are a Western-run company with a long history in Phuket. We speak most languages. Email: info@pcphuket.com

Accommodation Available

ROOM FOR RENT
Daily or monthly basis. Great sea views. Patong. Tel: 084-6265999.

LOFT-STYLE APARTMENTS
in Kathu. Secure, convenient location. For long-term rental. Email for photos. 8-9,000 baht per month. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

KATA BEACH
guesthouse with free Wi-Fi in 8 beautiful rooms. Best value. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 081-8948446. Please visit our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

APARTMENTS NEAR LOCH PALM
Golf Club. 1 apartment, 85sqm, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, swimming pool, fan/aircon, telephone, Wi-Fi Internet. Available for rent. Short term: 800 baht/day. Long term: 15,000 baht/month. 1 apartment 58-sqm, 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, terrace, pool, fan/aircon, Wi-Fi Internet access. Available to rent. 600 baht/day short term; 12,000 baht/month long term. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

NINA GUESTHOUSE
11,000 baht per month. Swimming pool, aircon, hot shower, new room. Located on Nanai Rd. Please contact for more info Tel: 081-7100007. Website: www.atnina.com

Building Products & Services

KATA SEAVIEW APARTMENT
1 or 2 bedrooms, aircon, kitchen, cable TV, ADSL. Daily or long-term rent, from 16,000 baht/month. Contact for details. Tel: 084-8381421, 089-8749147.

PATONG APARTMENT & ROOM
Long- and short-term rent from 800 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-2909567. www.brommathaihouse.com

FREEDOM APARTMENTS
Soi Khuan Yang. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV. 7,500 baht per month, available from April 1. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

QUIET SERVICED APARTMENTS
in Chalong from 9,000 baht/month. Free Wi-Fi, maid service, bed-linen service. Fully furnished studio suites in modern building. Rooftop pool. 1 superior room, available end March; Standard rooms avail mid-April. Special low-season rates for contracts of 6+ months. Tel: 086-2826221. Email: info@phuket-apartment.biz Website: www.phuket-apartment.biz

PATONG STUDIO
Centrally located (opposite Patong tower). Size: 50sqm. 17,000 baht per month. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-292672. Fax: 076-292407. Email: desy@patongtower.net

Household Services

TAM CONSTRUCTION
Quality building services, all jobs done by qualified staff with English-speaking boss! Fair prices and free estimates given. Renovations, shopfitting, electrical and metalwork, built-in furniture and more. Tel: 087-6270261. Email: tamjai_06@yahoo.com

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Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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Construction, renovations, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, aircon servicing, sandwash and cleaners. Call for more information. Tel: 084-1935124.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.
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12-meter Marine Plywood Speedboat with 2 Yamaha 200 HP engines. Complete overhaul in October 2007. Commercial book, license for 17 passengers + 4 staff. Fitted for diving: 36 tanks, 20 life jackets, 600L gas tanks, 150L freshwater tank, toilet, radio, CD player, storage room. In excellent working condition! 940,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 075-684603, 087-0552554. Fax: 075-684603. Email: lars@palm beachdivers.com

BARGAIN! FISHING BOAT

The owner says sell now! Priced at of real value. Call Andrew. Tel: 081-8941530, 083-3927150. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

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Small fibreglass speedboat with 15hp Yamaha outboard in good condition. 14 feet long, newly restored and painted. 120,000 baht, including launch trailer. Can be seen in Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-321203, 081-9681975. Email: leonbowles@gmail.com

NORWEGIAN YACHT

470 Sea Jeep. Unused fiberglass boat with 50hp Tohatsu engine. High freeboard, self draining, 3 lockable stove-rooms, running lights, etc. 30 knots. Boat price: 360,000 baht. Engine price: 180,000 baht. Can sell boat without engine. Tel: 089-2878941. Email: arottes@frisurf.no

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

12.90-meter wooden speedboat with two 200hp V6 Yamahas. Capacity: 22 passengers + 3 crew. Comes with 7 different inflatables, snorkeling equipment, life jackets, etc. Revised and repainted 8 months ago. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 081-8914381. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

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Hobbies: 20, 17 or 16ft on trailers. Jet-ski, Seadoo 130hp, 78 hours of use and on trailer. Inflatable, RIB, Gemini, 3.1 million baht, Hyperlon, as new. Tel: 086-2697138.

DEMO FISHING RIG

MakoCraft company boat. If it stays in Phuket, then it's a great deal! Contact Andrew. Tel: 081-8941530, Tel: 083-3927150. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

SEA-DOO SPEEDSTER JET BOAT

Excellent condition. Twin 85hp. Reconditioned Rotax engines. Super-fast fun, includes new legal road trailer. 420,000 baht. Tel: 081-0888271. Email: capt@loxinfo.co.th

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For sale, European quality. We take new trailer orders. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6891568.

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4.6-METER NOVA MARINE

Rigid-hull inflatable boat with steering control, Yamaha 40hp + trailer. Cheap: 170,000 baht. Also, 1 unit, 12ft aluminium boat with Marina 15hp, trailer and canopy for 90,000 baht ono. Also, Yamaha 40hp with low running hours, cheap sale: 80,000 baht. Contact David. Tel: 074-731198, 087-2995130.

STAINLESS STEEL DOLPHIN FOR SALE

Handmade stainless steel dolphin (1.80 meters long) for sale. 20,000 baht. Please contact for info. Email: info@klausharbauer.com

STARSHIP YACHTS

Bringing the best of Europe to Phuket! Tel: 076-273378, 084-4425460. Email: phuket@starshipyachts.com For further information please see our website at: www.starshipyachts.com

DIVE-TOUR BOAT IN KRABI

Twin 135hp Hinos, 20kw generator, new electric, GPS, radio and dinghy. Gear boxes reconditioned. Toilet. New top canopy. Email: pspearing@hotmail.com

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with the *Frog*, a fast Firefly catamaran. Experienced and novice sailors. 1,950 baht per person, inclusive of fees, drinks and barbecue. Call Andaman Sea Club. Tel: 086-0454634. Email: chris@andaman-sea-club.com

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Yamaha outboarder, 15hp, new 4-stroke engine, only 15 hours of use. 75,000 baht. Tel: 081-8917064.

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For Sale at 6.900.000,- THB ex VAT



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The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 801 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
Email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina, Jambien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 0817879408
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Find more classified ads
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Island Job Mart



Richmond Group is one of Phuket's leading property-development and resort management companies through its sister company Phuket Resort-Management. We are a young, energetic company looking for fashionable service-orientated staff to join our continued expansion. We currently have the following positions:

- ⇨ GENERAL MANAGER, HOSPITALITY SERVICES
- ⇨ ACCOUNTANT, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
- ⇨ PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MD
- ⇨ SECRETARY
- ⇨ SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR
- ⇨ SALES SUPPORT
- ⇨ NIGHT RECEPTIONIST, THE RESIDENCE
- ⇨ QUALITY SURVEYOR, CONSTRUCTION




Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Richmond Group or send your resumé with expected salary package and recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
100/30-35 Moo 5 Bangtao Beach, Srisoonthon Road,
Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-326130-4, Email: hr@richmondth.com



We are a well-established and high-profile stylish Thai-cuisine restaurant. We are seeking motivated and dynamic professionals to join our sales team in the position of:

SALES MANAGER

Must possess at least 3 years' related experience. Knowledge of Phuket's hotel and tourism markets a definite advantage.

Applicants are invited to apply in person or in writing with full CV stating present and expected salary to

Silk Restaurant • Bar

The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 66-76-271241 Fax: 66-76-271242
Email: hr@paradisep Phuket.com
www.silkphuket.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Operations manager required to manage daily production in small but busy office in central Patong. The successful candidate will probably be at least 30 years old and have proven management ability. He or she will quickly learn all aspects of the business and assume responsibility in ensuring a smooth operation. In particular, he/she must be able to use initiative in dealing with problems as they occur and also be comfortable in managing other staff. An excellent command of both spoken and written English is necessary for communicating with the foreign owner and foreign clients, ranging from walk-in customers to five-star hotel managers. An attractive salary is offered, with possibility of earning additional commissions on sales & marketing for a particularly outstanding candidate. Above-office accommodation is also available if desired. Please submit applications with current CV and recent photo. Email: aplarke64@hotmail.com

STAFF REQUIRED



Owners and guests staying in luxurious villas are world travelers who value convenience and service. To ensure their utmost satisfaction and experience, Phuket Villas & Homes is currently seeking applicants to occupy the following permanent positions:

Executive Assistant Manager (Koh Samui)	Villa Operations Manager (Koh Samui)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ideally a Western applicant ● Hotel experience essential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsible for all staff training and implementation of villa-operating procedures
Villa Operations Supervisor (Phuket)	Estate Managers (Phuket)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervise villa staff ● Co-ordinate villa operations and guests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Property management or hotel experience ● English speaking, organised and able to supervise
Estate Secretaries (Phuket)	Villa Managers (Phuket)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support and assist Estate Manager in the day-to-day operations of the estate & accounting (good level of English required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day operations of a large 4-5-bedroom villa + staff
House Keepers / Maids (Phuket & Phang Nga)	Engineer / Technician / Handyman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Required for housekeeping and cleaning duties ● Positions in Khok Kloy, Koh Pilai and Kamala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vocational or higher in technical / mechanical ● Systems-maintenance experience essential
Thai Chefs / Thai Cooks (Phuket)	Reservations Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full-time and part-time chefs / cooks for live-in and non-live-in positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ideally an English-speaking native with reservations experience. Thai applicants will require very high levels of English

All positions offer an attractive salary package & benefits including service charge. Applicants are invited to apply in writing with full CV stating present & expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo to lek@phuketvillasandhomes.com or 089-8662796 or 076-270155



www.lagunaphuket.com

Laguna Property, based in Phuket is currently looking for self-motivated and enthusiastic individuals to fill the following managerial positions:

ASSISTANT MARKETING MANAGER	1 POSITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thai male or female, age between 26 - 37 years ● Bachelor's degree in Marketing or other related field ● At least 2 years' experience in same position or related fields 	
SALES MANAGERS	2 POSITIONS
SALES MANAGER (CHINESE)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chinese-speaking male or female, age at least 25 years ● Excellent written and spoken Chinese ● Bachelor's degree in sales or other related field ● Previous property-sales experience required 	
SALES MANAGER (RESALE PROPERTY SALES)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thai/foreigner male or female, age at least 25 years ● Bachelor's degree in sales or other related field ● Must be technically literate ● Previous real-estate sales experience required 	
SENIOR PROJECT COORDINATOR (CRM PROGRAMME MANAGER)	1 POSITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thai male or female, age at least 28 years ● At least 3 years' experience in project management-technical field ● Bachelor's degree in information technology or related field ● Previous Microsoft Project experience is an advantage 	

FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE POSITIONS:

- Proficiency in MS Office
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Service minded, hardworking and able to work under pressure
- Friendly personality, positive attitude and must be a team player
- Good leadership
- Active listener

Successful candidates will be offered attractive working conditions and excellent remuneration and benefits packages.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels Office, or send your detailed English resumé stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthon Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: (66-76) 271298-300 Ext. 32 Fax: (66-76) 271718
Email: monudees@lagunaphuket.com

SEEKING LIVE-IN MAID

Seeking maid for long-term employment in private luxury house (Thai & farang) in Kamala. Duties: cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping and cooking. We offer: 1st & 2nd month, 10,000 baht; then 12,500 for good work. If you are female, aged 25 to 38, have hotel experience and speak English fluently, contact us by phone or email. Tel: 086-1727974. Email: surat.rattana@romsai.ch

LHP FOUNDATION

is seeking a Thai national with prior social work and experience caring for HIV patients and other health conditions. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-614060. Email: areasufehome@loxinfo.co.th

MAID WANTED JULY/AUGUST

Farang male on Phuket wants maid from July 7 until August 18. Cleaning, shopping, sometimes cooking and looking after children. Must speak English. Driver's license needed. Lodging is provided. Salary: 15,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-302600, 084-4406856. Email: sten@proetica.se



ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - FRB
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm

HOSTESS FOR BOOTH

We are looking for a friendly and outgoing lady with a good appearance and social skills to represent our company at our booth in Jungceylon. Must be able to learn quickly and speak English well. We provide training, good salary and commissions. Thai nationals only. Please contact for additional details.

Tel: 087-8822856.
Apply by sending Email to: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

JAPANESE NATIVE SPEAKERS

Work in Bangkok. Translators, writers, reservation agents needed.

- Degree in hotel & tourism management.
- Good communication skills in Japanese and English.
- Minimum of one year's experience in hospitality and tourism or customer service.
- Experience in an online travel company is a plus.
- Able to work day/night shifts.
- Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply. Email: hrmanager@wdtravel.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES

Phuket Ocean Villas are looking for motivated individuals to join their team. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai, and have excellent computer skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527565. Apply by email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht-charter company is looking for a technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

MASSAGE AND SPA

We are looking for a manager, cashier and massage lady. Must be service-minded. Contact K. Pui for more information. Tel: 076-293046, 081-0862342.

TIMESHARE JOBS IN HONG KONG

Absolute is looking for 4 English-speaking, sensible, experienced, cold-line and in-house sales staff to join its newest sales center in Hong Kong. Excellent product, potential and package. Sales manager is John Parnell, training starts March 9. Don't miss this opportunity! Email: bl@marbella.net Email your resumé or apply online at www.clubabsolute.com/fivestar

CHEF & WAITRESS - JUNGCEYLON

Chefs and waitresses wanted for a restaurant/cafe opening soon at Jungceylon shopping center. Good location! Contact K. Oh. Tel: 087-8810300. Email: thommm@online.no

Island Job Mart

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Reporter

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555



GOLF IN THAILAND CO LTD

Golf in Thailand Co Ltd is looking for Thai national, male or female, age between 25 to 35. With good English communication skills and enjoys meeting people. Experience is not necessary as training will be provided. Excellent basic salary + commission.

Please send your resume to Franklin@golfinphuket.com or for further inquiries please call Tel: 076-319019 Monday to Friday from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Location 96/1 Vichitsongkram Road, Moo 7, Kathu, Phuket 83120, Thailand.

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We pride ourselves on our customer service and personal approach when it comes to brokering property sales in Phuket. To be successful in this role, you will ideally have:

- Thai nationality.
- A proven track record in property sales.
- Knowledge of the Phuket property industry.
- Highly developed communication and negotiation skills.
- Ability to work towards and exceed targets.
- Be driven by goals and results.
- Be highly motivated and a self-starter.
- Own transportation.

This is an excellent opportunity for career and personal development within a supportive working environment. A competitive package is offered with excellent future remuneration prospects.

Please send a CV with photo by email to info@phuketrealty.net or drop into our office at the entrance to Laguna Phuket, 55 Lagoon Rd, Cheung Talay, Thailand.

PHUKET REALTY & ASSOCIATES Co., Ltd
Tel: 076-325411 Fax: 076-325413
www.phuketrealty.net

HOUSE KEEPER/ COOK

for Private house in Kathu. Experience essential. English speaker. Good salary. Use of motorbike. Female 23+. Please contact K. Ning for more info. Tel: 076-304073, 081-0803414.

QSI SCHOOL

of Phuket, an American-style school, has the following anticipated vacancies for the 2008/09 school year: pre-school teacher and a high school English teacher (not ESL). Successful candidates will be native English speakers, have at least a bachelor's degree and hold appropriate teacher certification. Letters of interest may be emailed to alansiporin@qsi.org Please include your resume and references and be prepared to document qualifications.

PEARL ISLAND PROPERTY

Sales and Marketing. 2 positions. Qualified candidates, age 25-35, must have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of one year's experience in property sales and marketing. Must also be fluent in English (written and spoken), have a driving license and be proactive with good presentation and computer skills. Tel: 076-362600, 081-970 4173. Fax: 076-362602. Please contact by email (as above) and enclose your CV. Email: joop@anchanvillas.com For further details please visit our website at www.anchanvillas.com

CHALLENGING & REWARDING

Thai national required to manage small but busy Patong-based printing and distribution company, which is part of an international organization.

The position will appeal to a capable, self-motivated multi-tasker looking for a new challenge with a growing company looking to expand further.

Applicants must have excellent English skills and a pleasant and confident personality. Must be able to handle responsibility, show initiative, think independently and exert authority when required. Basic computer skills are necessary, while additional basic accounting skills, sales and marketing awareness would be a distinct advantage.

Basic salary + overtime should take the monthly salary above 30,000 baht most months. Apartment accommodation in central Patong is available for the right candidate if desired.

This is an opportunity to impress and to get an early step on the ladder to a successful, rewarding and exciting future! Contact Andrew. Tel: 081-3962235. Please reply in the first in-

ENGLISH- SPEAKING LADY

to help morning and afternoons. Must have motorbike or car. Must be honest and smart. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

Mackenzie Smith Law is a well-established British-Thai law firm. We are now looking for lawyers to join our Phuket office At: Royal Place 96/14 Moo 1 Chalemprakiet Road Kathu, Phuket 83120

Junior Lawyers and Senior Lawyers.

Qualifications:

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- Ability to work and handle cases independently
- Commitment to a team work and firm organization
- Computer literate
- Excellent command of English both in spoken & written is a Must !!

We offer a nice and friendly working environment with a good salary package and remuneration to the successful candidates. Please send a cover letter with a full resume stating present and expected salary together with a recent photo to: hr@macsmlaw.com For more information, please visit www.macsmlaw.com

WORK CUSTOMER SERVICE AT HOLYCLOTHING.COM!

Have you got customer service experience? Are you Thai, hard working and computer savvy with fluent English? Tel: 085-7899249. Email: graham@holyclothing.com or visit www.holyclothing.com/workcs.html

MARKETING

Fly Adventure Phuket is looking for a creative and responsible person with an outgoing personality and experience as a travel agent to join our sales-and-marketing team. Tel: 085-3632325.

REPUTABLE LAW FIRM SEEKS

1. Executive Assistant
 - Good English
 - Excellent organizational skills
 - Translation skills
 2. Junior Assistant
 - Good English
 - Ability to work in a team
 3. Junior Accountant
 - Ability to comprehend simple accounting data.
- Salary and benefits subject to experience. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-1618251. Email: siripansa_pond@hotmail.com

TROPICAL HOMES REAL ESTATE

Would you like to be part of a rapidly expanding team in a professional property market and sales agency? We urgently require motivated sales representatives.

Qualifications:

- Good command of spoken and written English.
- Second language in Russian, French or Swedish would be advantageous but not essential.
- Smart and pleasant personality.
- Previous experience in real estate would be an advantage.
- Driving license essential.
- Foreigner or Thai national would be considered. Tel: 076-326125. Fax: 076-326126. Please send CV, photo and expected salary via email: info@tropical-homes.net

SWEDISH FEMALE SALES PERSON

We are an expanding travel agent located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish female, age 25+, for an internet sales position. Computer knowledge essential, as is past in the travel industry and good knowledge of Thailand. Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Please apply by email to: andersp@loxinfo.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

New international school in BKK is looking for early childhood teachers. Please contact for more information Tel: 02-6426386, 081-8690566.

SALES EXECUTIVE WANTED

Sell advertising space in *Adrenaline Sports and Lifestyle SE Asia* magazine. Qualifications: Between 28-42 yrs old. 5 years experience in marketing and sales to big companies. Excellent personality, interpersonal, communication, negotiation and problem solving-skills. -Good written and spoken English. Please contact for more info. Tel: 075-637754, 086-697 0379. Email: niikii.k@gmail.com or visit our website: www.adrenalineseasia.com

SALES STAFF REQUIRED

Club Asia, Phuket's leading fitness center celebrating 10 years of fitness-requires Thai sales staff. Thai National, English speaker. Experience in sales would be an advantage. We offer excellent benefits and commission. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-354027. Email: info@clubasiaphuket.com For further details, please visit our website at www.clubasiaphuket.com

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Wine Connection is looking for sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wineconnection.co.th

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MONITOR FOR SALE Fujitsu Siemens 17" CRT monitor for sale. 1,000 baht, in Khao Lak. Tel: 076-443149, 086-2811945. Email: mike@ethailand.com

BANG TAO GYM Secondhand gym equipment for sale. Good price. Tel: 081-5250078.

MONGOOSE Rockodile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink refrigerator, 2ft x5ft: 4,000 baht. Desktop computer, Compaq: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-6288450.

GOLF CLUBS AND NEW BED Full golf set with bag: 10,000 baht. New double mattress with iron-frame bed: 5,000 baht. Tel: 087-3858898.

ARTIST'S EASEL FOR SALE Oil/watercolor wooden easel for sale. As new. Bought for 15,500 baht 3 months ago. will accept 12,000 baht. Watercolor board has adjustable stretchers allowing canvas height of up to 114cm. Only serious inquiries. Please contact via by email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

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 - 4) Dishwasher
 - 5) Grill
 - 6) Walk-in cold room
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 - 8) Ice cream freezer
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GYM MACHINES 3 exercise machines for sale. Very good price. Tel: 081-3670991.

2-BURNER GAS GRIDDLE 730mmx550mm x390mm. Nearly new. 12,500 baht ono. Tel: 086-9495255, 080-0968301.

SALTWATER FISH TANK 16"x16"x30" saltwater fish tank with stand and sub-filter tank (also 16"x16"x30"). Includes Bio Ball waterfall filtration, charcoal filtration sub pump and protein skimmer, plus extras. 17,000 baht. Tel: 087-2800659. Email: galinskig@yahoo.com

RELOCATING Furniture bought from Index for sale, only 2 months old:

- Red L-shaped sofa
- White computer workstation with matching bookshelf, plus 2 matching book units
- 2 red office chairs
- Samsung washing machine
- Noble king-sized mattress

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DIVE GEAR FOR SALE

- 2 new APEX regulators CTX 50 with octopus and manometer. 30,000 baht for both.
 - 1 BCD Poseidon Besen WZO S/M, 15,000 baht.
 - 1 BCD Seaquest Fusion S/M, 15,000 baht.
 - 1 Panasonic video camera, MV-GS 17 mini DV, almost new. 10,000 baht
- Moving to Europe. Tel: 085-4767314.

Bulletins

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Business Opportunities

NIGHTCLUB IN KATA CENTER One of the only nightclubs in Kata-Karon/Chalong is for sale at 3.5 million baht or 50% partnership. Contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

BAR FOR SALE ON NANAI RD Bar with large kitchen and pool table, fully equipped and ready to run. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht. Price: 790,000 baht. Please contact Mark. Tel: 087-3822302. Email: m_saundersuk@hotmail.com

BOAT: FISHING/DIVING LIFESTYLE Charter boat. As new. Under 900,000 baht. A bargain! Contact Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE Well-established restaurant and bar for sale in fast-growing Kamala. Good parking, seats 45, has accommodation, easy conversion into guesthouse. 1-year + 2 extendible lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-385530. Email: thipchlepporn@yahoo.com

BAR AND RESTAURANT FOR SALE Fully equipped bar and restaurant with pool table. Only bar on Nanai to serve English fish and chips. Has good local trade. Please contact K. Larry. Tel: 085-7919844. Email: lonpon123@yahoo.com

BEAUTY SALON Near Tai Pan Disco, loyal customer base. Perfect small shop for your wife or girlfriend. Very low rent. Price: 250,000 baht obo. Tel: 081-6064467 (Thai/English). Email: arto.titinen@tramigo.net

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RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN KATA 2-floor restaurant, 64 chairs, fully equipped. 2 rooms on 3rd floor, fully furnished. Tel: 089-6546001.

MONKEY'S NUTS Well-known successful bar in prime location for sale. Very low price, no key money. Contact Raymond for full details. Tel: 084-8494562. Email: curtains_unlimited@hotmail.com

SOLID SAUNA BUSINESS Owner will sell shares or all of business. Minimum of 1 million baht. Call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-730190. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE Great Patong location. Contact Kevin for more information. Tel: 084-7300190.

RESTAURANT ON NANAI RD Urgent sale. Near 7-Eleven, 2 floors, 5-year contract. Rent: 13,500 baht per month. Buy: 800,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-512111, 084-8528286, 084-4463256.

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE Bargain, 4-story shophouse with Chanote. Fully equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Valued at 6.7 million, now priced at only 5.5 million. Have to move out. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8915602.

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- Hotel for sale: 55 rooms in 5-rai area, small luxury resort located in the quiet end of Patong. New construction, clean and great atmosphere.
- Hotel for rent: best location in Phuket City. Please contact via email for an appointment. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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- phuketvillarent.com
- ridephuket.com

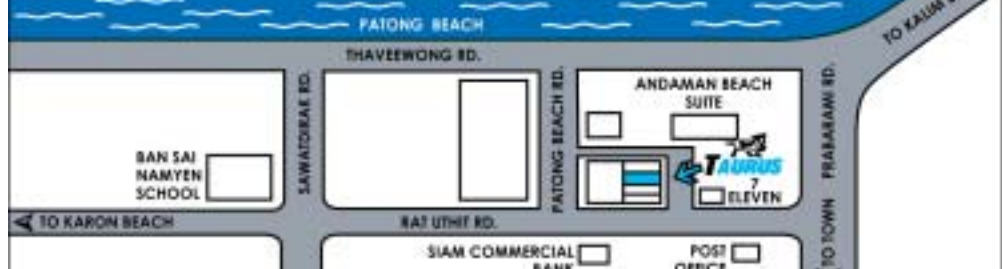
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| Earth Language School
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City | Tel: 076-232398/9
Fax: 076-232398 |
| Sin & Lee
Thalang Rd, Phuket City | Tel: 076-258369
Fax: 076-211230 |
| Taurus Travel
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong | Tel: 076-344521/2
Fax: 076-344523 |
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near airport on 4 rai of land. 38 million baht. Industrial. Tel: 085-7839062.

RESTAURANT RAWAI

14-year contract, 8,000 baht per month. Fully equipped. Price: 2.1 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 085-8843610.

DESIGNER SHOP-HOUSE

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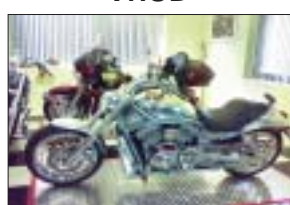
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