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INSIDE



John Gordillo

British comedian gets fundamentally funny with Gazette News Editor Dan Waites ahead of his upcoming appearance in Phuket. See pages 12-13.

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Ban on cement trucks extended after accident

KATA: Following the January 12 protest in Kata Center that left traffic paralyzed for several hours, Chalong Police Superintendent Chinarat Rittakananon held talks with tourist business representatives Tuesday morning and agreed to extend by two hours the time cement trucks are prohibited from local roads.

The protest followed an accident on January 11, when a cement truck, allegedly speeding through the busy Kata Yai - Kata Noi intersection, collided with a parked van and motorcycle, injuring two people.

Previous regulations stipulated that large trucks should not be on the road from 7am to 9am and from 4pm to 7pm. Now the ban will be extended from 4pm to 9pm during the high season, which ends in April.

Big trucks are already prohibited from using Thaina Rd, even during the low season, because the steep incline there increases the likelihood of traffic

accidents due to brake failure, Lt Col Chinarat said.

Karon Mayor Thawee Thongchaem said, "From now on there will be police surveillance of the intersection. We are also planning to set up a police box there shortly and erect four large signs warning people about the trucks' operating hours."

Chalong Police Investigator Boonlert Onklang said Chalong Concrete, which owns the cement truck, has agreed pay compensation to the victims.

Van driver Ekachai Choonan, 22, suffered a badly bruised leg and is asking for 60,000 baht for medical treatment and 250,000 baht for damages to the van.

The injured motorcyclist Pongphan Ruenpha was still in Bangkok Hospital Phuket at the time of going to press, where doctors are trying to save one of his arms from amputation. His treatment charges have exceeded 600,000 baht and he plans



CRASH COURSE: The costly damage to people and property caused by this cement truck prompted angry protests. Photo: Vivien Faye.

to ask for an additional 300,000 baht in compensation on top of his total treatment fees, Lt Col Boonlert said. The cement truck driver, 28-year-old Karan Wong-

thongthae, was caught by villagers soon after the accident and turned over to police. He will be charged with reckless driving resulting in the injury of others.

PHUKET CITY: A Malaysian firm has agreed to build a second power-producing incineration plant at Saphan Hin.

The announcement came at a press conference by Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwan-supana, Phuket Vice Governor Worapoj Ratthasima and Dato Tan Say Jim of PJT Technology Co Ltd on January 8.

Currently the island generates more than 500 metric tonnes of waste daily, an amount that has been rising by 7% annually and is expected to reach 1,000 tonnes per day within 10 years.

All 19 of Phuket local administrative districts are required to send their waste to the municipality's incineration plant

New incinerator planned

at Saphan Hin for disposal. The plant, completed in 1999, was designed to incinerate only 250 tonnes daily - less than half the amount the island currently generates. The remainder is land-filled in a 120 rai area behind the plant.

Already more than 1 million tonnes of trash has collected in the area, which is surrounded by coastal waterways, mangroves and fish farms.

A study commissioned by the city found that using private sector investment to build a second power-producing incineration

plant near the existing one was the best solution to the problem.

The provincial administration then authorized the city to seek private-sector investment to build the plant on a nine-rai site of Forest Department land.

Under the contract, the plant will burn a minimum of 300 tonnes of waste daily for a period of 15 years. PJT Technology will be paid 300 baht per tonne, plus income from the sale of electricity generated and sold to the local grid. The company would also be able to request a rate increase not exceeding 7%

in any three-year period.

PJT, which has completed a similar project in Malaysia, submitted technical specifications that would see the trash burned at temperatures exceeding 950 degrees celsius and pollutant emissions kept within government standards.

The plant will produce 5 megawatts of power by burning 600 tonnes of trash a day. The total investment is estimated to be about 1 billion baht. Mayor Somjai said the project will handle the island's waste for at least 15 years with no cost to the state.

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Benign jellyfish plague Phuket



The Crown Jellyfish, in contrast to the potentially deadly Box Jellyfish, is quite harmless.

PHUKET: A smack of jellyfish is plaguing a number of beaches on Phuket's west coast, preventing hundreds of holiday makers from entering the sea.

Beaches in Patong, Kata, Karon and Nai Harn have all reported instances of the unwelcome visitors – affectionately known as “snotties” – washing up on their shores.

In 2008, Phuket witnessed an unexpected bloom of the potentially fatal box jellyfish.

This season's visitors however, are quite harmless.

Dr Somchai Bussarawit, speaking on behalf of the Phuket Aquarium, told the *Gazette*, “We have taken the jellyfish to the aquarium for analysis and have identified it as the Crown jellyfish, which, although not dangerous, could prove uncomfortable to some should they suffer an allergic reaction to a sting.”

It is believed that the late rains that fell on Phuket, which resulted in a proliferation of plankton off Thailand's Andaman coast, may have led to mass breeding of the jellyfish. The jellyfish consume zooplankton

through filter feeding.

This is the first time that so many jellyfish have been seen on Phuket's beaches.

A meeting has been scheduled for January 21, when officials will decide on the course of action to be taken.

Dr Somchai added, “This is a relatively new problem for Thailand and we need to determine the most appropriate way to inform people how best to deal with potentially poisonous organisms.

The Ministry of Public Health has teamed up with its counterparts in Australia to find out how to best manage the situation. Australia knows the best way to deal with jellyfish but people in Thailand aren't familiar with them and so no one can give us the right answer.”

Dr Somchai informed the *Gazette* that he had been asked by Governor Preecha Ruangjan to give a radio interview at 9 pm on January 13, to reassure people that the jellyfish do not pose a threat.

People seeking further information are advised to contact Dr Somchai on 076-391126.

Gable Apex raising ceremony held at Nai Harn Temple

NAIHARN: A gable apex lifting ceremony was held at Nai Harn Temple at 3pm on January 11.

Public Health Minister Wittaya Kaewparasai, joined Phuket governor Preecha Ruangjan to observe the merit-making ritual in Rawai, which was led by Rawai Mayor Arun Soros.

After being granted permission from the Theravada Buddhist Association, members of the local Buddhist community constructed a large temple hall (Ubosot), which is now about 80% complete.

The raising of the gable carries great symbolic significance in the construction process and signifies the moment when one reaffirms one's Buddhist beliefs.

Another important aspect in the ceremony is the opportunity to make merit

From January 7 to 11, local Buddhists made merit by donating money to the temple to support funding for construction of the temple hall.



Phuket prisons to rehabilitate inmates

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Prison discharged a total of 360 prisoners in 2008 and the inmate population now stands at 1,100.

Prison Director Paisal Suwanraksa said none of the inmates were released under Royal Pardons. They had simply served out their time or been granted release on parole.

Of the 1,100 inmates, 110 are female and 20 are foreigners, all Europeans. Almost half of the current inmate population were convicted for drug-related crimes.

Statistics released by the prison revealed an annual recidivism rate of about 4%.

The ex-cons returned to crime due to a poor education and a lack of job opportunities on the outside, a recent report issued by

Mr Paisal concluded.

In the report, Mr Paisal commented that “simply increasing the number of prisoners does not mean that drug-related crime will decrease. We need to educate people so they can secure honest jobs, become self-sufficient and not feel the need to lapse back into a life of crime.”

Phuket Provincial Prison has a program to educate offenders in a bid to help them secure gainful employment following release. In 2008, five prisoners obtained their upper secondary-school equivalency degrees through an outreach and self-study program offered by Srinakharin University.

Upon release, each ex-convict is assigned a parole officer who observes all aspects of his or her life – job, family and soci-

ety interactions – to help ensure successful reintegration into society.

In Cherng Talay, a low security prison on 100 rai of land in Baan Bangjo houses 40 prisoners, all male. It serves as a minimum security facility to house prisoners who displayed good behavior and are nearing the end of their sentences. Inmates there receive training in agriculture and livestock management before being released.

In 2002, the Justice Ministry announced plans to close down the the 107-year-old Phuket Provincial Prison and build a more modern facility at Baan Bangjo, but funding for the project has yet to materialize.

Coming Soon: The Gazette Guide 2009. Details here next week.

PHUKET VILLA PATONG BEACH

A project under Phuket Villa Group, a seven-storey condominium building in Modern Tropical style houses 201 units - furnished with elegant internal decorations. Varying in eight styles and in space options - from 42-83 sq.m. the design focuses on transparency to allow light to thoroughly reach every corner in your room. The best location on Patong Beach. Located only 5 minutes walk from the beachfront and nearest to places of convenience, including Jungceylon Department Store, the largest and the best in Patong, as well as Bang La Street and Walk Street Patong, a popular pedestrianised street.

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Koh Phi Phi island qualifies in search for the new 7 Wonders of Nature

Koh Phi Phi island has qualified to represent Thailand in a global survey to officially name seven new wonders of nature. The results were announced on January 7 by the New7Wonders Foundation after the first phase of voting, in which organizers claim millions of voters took part.

Koh Phi Phi (winner of the national qualifiers), along with the Mekong River (multinational participant shared by Thailand), Khao Yai National Park and Phang Nga Bay were among 441 sites around the globe initially nominated for the campaign.

Koh Phi Phi and the Mekong River have both qualified for the second round of voting, whereas Khao Yai National Park and Phang Nga Bay failed to make it past the first phase, which reduced the nominee sites to 261.

Voting in the second phase will continue until July 7, 2009, to select the Top 77 sites. From that pool, 21 official finalists will be chosen by a panel of experts led by former Spanish Director General of UNESCO Dr Federico Mayor Zaragoza.

The finalists will be announced on July 21, which marks the start of the third and final phase of voting. Voters then have approximately two years to cast their votes for the Official New7Wonders of Nature, which are to be revealed in 2011. More than 1 billion votes are forecast, say the organizers.

Other international nominees for the New 7 Wonders of Nature, representing a total of 222 participating countries, include iconic locations such as the Grand Canyon, Loch Ness, Mount Fuji and the Black Forest, along with the Amazon, the Danube, the Dead Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, the Kalahari Desert, Mont Blanc, and Niagara Falls.

Tia Vierung, Head of Communications for New7Wonders, said, "We congratulate the successful qualifying locations from Thailand and wish them the best of luck in the second phase of voting. We also at this time highlight the strong and enthusiastic participation of the other national nominees that are not proceeding - many have already benefited from a significant increase in worldwide awareness, which in itself is a recognized important benefit for all involved in the New7Wonders campaigns."

The New7Wonders non-profit foundation was established in 1999 by Swiss-born Canadian

filmmaker, museum curator, aviator and explorer Bernard Weber with the aim of beginning a modern campaign based on the concept of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, originally compiled by Philon of Byzantium in 200 BC.

"The ancient and world-famous list, compiled by an individual was made up of man-made monuments, namely: the Lighthouse of Alexandria, the Temple of Artemis, the Statue of Zeus, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus and the Great Pyramid of Giza. Today, only the Pyramid remains. Philon's selection of wonders was essentially a travel guide for fellow Athenians, and its stunning sites were all located around the Mediterranean basin, the then-known world," said Mr Weber.

"The New7Wonders campaign not only recognizes that our modern world is much larger and more diverse than that known to the Greeks 2,200 years ago. This time, the New 7 Wonders of the World will not have been chosen by one man, but rather by millions of people across the globe - from every single country in the world.

"The New 7 Wonders are the people's choices, and they will be drawn from a list of finalists that includes structures from the earliest time that humankind walked upon the earth through the 20th century," he added.

People can cast their votes for The New 7 Wonders at www.new7wonders.com.

Yacht inferno in Ao Yon

AO YON, PHUKET: A yacht moored in Ao Yon was burnt to cinders yesterday, much to the chagrin of its British owner Jonathan Hare.

The initial value of the yacht, *Felidae*, was estimated by police at around 2 - 3 million baht, but furnishings and diving equipment on board at the time meant the fire caused at least 10 million baht's worth of damage.

The blaze broke out on the 18 meter vessel at around 12.30 pm. It took the combined efforts of Mr Hare, officials from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Wichit office (DDPM-Wichit), Phuket Marine Police and the Royal Thai Navy two hours to extinguish.

Nobody was injured in the incident. The owner and three friends were having lunch onshore when the inferno broke out.

The fire was discovered by a long-tail boat driver, Aroon Thaodang, who saw flames and smoke coming from the bridge.

Mr Hare, 33, was informed



Police estimate the *Felidae* to be worth at least 10 million baht, including furnishings and equipment.

of the fire and attempted to put it out with the help of DDPM-Wichit officials by spraying sea water over the blaze, but was unable to dampen the flames.

Phuket Marine Police and the Royal Thai Navy Third Fleet brought additional help, but due to the yacht being moored 300-400 meters from land and high winds, the flames quickly spread below deck, setting fire to oxygen tanks, diving equipment and electronics, as well as the passenger room.

Pol Lt Col Prasert Sri-

khunnarat of the Phuket Marine Police said "We'll have to wait for the owner to get over the shock of the loss and for police forensics experts to investigate before we can determine the cause of the fire. But our first guess is a short circuit."

Commander Narong Orapakdee of the Royal Thai Navy Third Fleet told the *Gazette* he suspected that a problem with the kitchen's gas supply may have been the original cause of the blaze.

Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

Gazette Online smashes visitor records

PHUKET: With 82,882 visitors to its news pages in the 24 hours ending at midnight on Monday, January 12, the Gazette Online set a record for single-day traffic since the site was launched in September 1997. The statistics are prepared independently and published daily on the home page of the newspaper's website.

In last week's record-breaking log, the leading contributors to the site's traffic were the United States, with 32,152 visitors; Thailand, with 24,511; France with 9,072; Sweden with 3,669; and Russia with 3,540.

The order of magnitude of visitor contributions by country has remained basically unchanged over the past couple of years, but the statistics for these 'virtual visitors' to Phuket rarely reflect or

anticipate the contributions of real-world visitors as reported by the TAT. The United States is a notable example. Consistently ranked number one on the Gazette Online's daily scoreboard, Uncle Sam ranked 14th as a supplier of real-world tourists to the island in 2008.

Of particular interest in the virtual visitor rankings is Sweden, which, with a population of only nine million people, has been a fixture in fourth place in the Gazette Online's traffic tables. In this case there is a precise correlation with the TAT numbers, which also put Sweden as the fourth highest source of visitors to Phuket last year.

Contributing to the rising traffic on the Gazette Online are the site's robust rankings in

Google under all Phuket news-related search terms; the continuing top-level ranking under the term "Phuket"; and a recent surge in the newspaper's presence in the Google Alerts, with one-to-three stories picked up and announced to the world almost every day.

Also likely to have contributed to the increased traffic has been an editorial policy adjustment in which crime, though not swept under the carpet, is now given a lesser weighting in the *Gazette's* story mix, with recreation, sports, property and business assuming a greater role.

To view the Gazette Online's daily traffic statistics, and to know how many people are on the site with you at any given moment, see PhuketGazette.Net/Statistics.

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Improving fire safety standards at Phuket's entertainment venues

Following the fire at Santika nightclub in Bangkok that killed 64 people on New Year's Eve, Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan and a number of government inspectors carried out fire safety inspections at several prominent Phuket nightspots on January 9.

Daytime inspections at popular Phuket City nightspots Blue Marina, Timber Hut, Fantasia and T2 revealed a number of serious safety issues. In every pub inspected, fire exits were not sufficiently accessible, with large objects like refrigerators and popcorn dispensers blocking the way out. In one case, the fire exit was locked.

Speaking to reporters after the inspections had been completed, Governor Preecha said, "The [Santika] fire is big news in Thailand and we will repeat our order for every pub to improve fire exits."

Every venue inspected had fire exits, but none were completely up to standard and many



DDPM-Phuket's head of prevention and operations Udomporn Karn: "We're setting up the standards and systems to prevent disasters here. We have equipment ready for instant deployment."

needed to be widened, he said.

Inspections will continue for a week, after which time officials will meet again, he said.

Governor Preecha earlier said nightclub owners would only be given a short period time to comply after the inspectors make their recommendation, and those who fail bring their venues up to standard will face legal action.

Daytime inspections allow officials to examine the premises for structural and design faults, while upcoming nighttime inspections will examine whether fire exit signs, fire alarms and other safety equipment are sufficient should a fire break out during operating hours.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of-



Governor Preecha Ruangjan points out a partially blocked doorway at one of the entertainment venues during his inspection tour.

Phuket (DDPM-Phuket) is responsible for disaster prevention - including fires - throughout five Andaman region provinces: Phuket, Ranong, Phang Nga, Trang and Krabi.

The department, which collects statistical information on disasters and accidents of all types after they occur, uses the information to try and prevent future incidents. Each district has its own disaster prevention office, but if events spiral beyond their control, DDPM-Phuket provides extra assistance.

Udomporn Karn, head of prevention and operations at DDPM-Phuket, told the *Gazette*, "We're setting up the standards and systems to prevent disasters here. We have equipment ready for instant deployment."

"In the cold and dry season, fires can start and burn very fast. We train, prepare fire engines and get fire authorities and volunteers ready, but this is still not the best solution. The best approach is prevention.

"The weather in Phuket has

changed; it can be windy, cold and dry, which can cause fire. People should be careful and check lights, gas and electronics. We also have detailed information on house fire prevention. Please take the time to learn what you need to do to prevent fires," he added.

Discussing the Santika fire, Mr Udomporn said, "Normally when fires break out, if people aren't packed too tightly in a small area we can help them in time. The Santika in Bangkok was too full. According to Thai law, there should be one person per square meter at most, but in Thailand, you often get 1,000 people crammed into 500 square meters

"Government focus is now on improving fire exits and making sure there will be enough space to escape. There are inspections by government officers, construction engineers and the DDPM every year. The governor's office also has plans and the budget to improve fire prevention and training," he added.

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Abbyssan YOGA Opens its 2nd studio in Boat Lagoon

On November 15th, 2008 - Abbyssan YOGA & Wellness Center, established in September 2007 in Bang Tao, opened a new studio at Boat Lagoon. The new Yoga studio will also embody the concept of "Wellness", the ultimate combination of exercise, meditation and a variety of yoga styles. Many group exercise classes will be offered each week along with New Body, Mat Pilates and Yoga Core! We also teach Kids yoga and Teens yoga.

Yoga enthusiasts will be offered the opportunity to practice yoga under the direction of Dr Abhishek, certified and registered bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic sciences from Bangalore and Post graduation in Wellness Management from Apollo hospitals, INDIA.

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Red Cross societies designate Saphan Hin as site for new regional blood bank

A joint venture by the Thai and Finnish Red Cross Societies is co-ordinating the construction of a central blood bank for the Andaman region.

Due to open at the end of 2009, the center will provide services to seven hospitals and a number of smaller facilities in the six Andaman coast provinces of Krabi, Phang Nga, Ranong, Satun and Trang as well as Phuket.

Before completion of the center some time in the middle of this year, a new mobile blood collection program starting out with a single van will begin collecting blood in public areas like shopping malls to provide to regional hospitals.

The Finnish Red Cross is contributing the equivalent of 120 million baht for construction of the center, a two-storey building located near the employment office off Kra Rd in the Saphan Hin area.

The generous funding also covers equipment, expert counseling and the launch of the mobile blood services. In support of the regional blood service system, the Finnish Red Cross has subsidized the employment of six staff members to assist in the recruitment of donors and distribute information.

Thailand currently employs a mixed system, where blood services are controlled by the larger hospitals and the Thai Red Cross. As a result, quality of blood varies across the country and hospitals are often short of needed supplies due to a lack of government legislation and licensing requirements.

One of the goals of the



Finn Marko Lahikainen has been a key co-ordinator of the regional blood bank project, the first of its kind in Thailand. Source: Finnish Red Cross (FRC).

project is to secure the availability of blood for day-to-day use in local hospitals and to ensure sufficient supplies of each blood type

are obtainable should another disaster akin to the 2004 tsunami strike. Upon completion, the new center at Saphan Hin will be

Thailand's first regional full-service blood supply center, providing blood services, collection and production of blood components



as well as performing tests on blood components and delivering supplies to hospitals.

In addition, the center will improve the quality of the blood stored in the region and improve testing of first-time donors for blood-borne diseases, including HIV/Aids.

Currently government hospitals collect and process donated blood, but upon completion of the Red Cross Center the Thai Red Cross Society will assume responsibility for collecting blood and making it available throughout the six provinces.

Project co-ordinator Marko Lahikainen said the center represents considerable progress in the advancement of the Thai Red Cross Blood Services and that new technology will be implemented to improve collection, transport and storage procedures.

The new facility will offer a range of services including patient testing and consultation, as well as training medical staff on the use of blood components and blood transfusion therapies.

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Bang Wad Dam gets first Cleanup Day



Conceived by the hash members themselves they plan to make "Cleanup Day" an annual event.

KATHU: Saturday December 20 saw the Phuket Hash House Harriers descend on Bang Wad Dam for their traditional Christmas run and their first annual "Cleanup Day".

Setting out from the dam, a convoy of pickups dropped volunteer rubbish collectors around the reservoir at selected spots. They picked up large quantities of rubbish, before continuing on their weekly run, followed by lashings of beer and copious quantities of traditional turkey and ham in the picturesque setting of the dam's well-known picnic spot.

Conceived by the Hash members themselves, the clean-up was organized by the current Grand Master of the Phuket Hash, Swiss-born Australian Eugen Holenstein. "The Phuket Hash members derive a lot of pleasure from being able to go out and run in the beautiful coun-

tryside of Phuket," he said.

"We make a concerted effort not to damage the environment or litter but there are inevitably occasions when an odd bottle or bit of rubbish gets left behind when we run. We felt that by going out and doing something positive, we would make amends for any littering we may have done and provide a positive impact on the environment," he added.

The Harriers plan to make "Cleanup Day" an annual event. "It is only by example that people learn how to conserve the environment and we hope that more groups will follow our example. After all, there is no shortage of rubbish to be collected in Phuket," Eugen explained.

The Phuket Hash House Harriers is a fun-running club with membership open to all. Members are like-minded people who see exercise in a convivial social environment as a good

way of staying healthy. The club caters for all levels of fitness and incorporates members from all walks of life, both foreign and Thai.

The club was originally founded by Alan Cooke MBE of Island Furniture in 1986 when Alan was working on the Phuket Deep Sea Port project. Since then, Alan has served a long term as Honorary Consul for the British Embassy here, and was awarded an MBE for his services during the 2004 tsunami crisis.

The club has now completed nearly 1,200 runs and meets every Saturday afternoon in a different spot on the island. A bus service is provided to and from the run site, leaving from the Expat Hotel in Patong at 14:30 and returning at 19:30. Anyone interested in joining the club or going on a run should look at www.phuket-hhh.com, where run directions and times

Nok Air flies again

BANGKOK: Nok Air has confirmed the airline will resume its Bangkok-Phuket service from February 20, with 11 weekly flights.

Nok Air suspended the route mid-2008 and at the same time reducing staff and its fleet in response to rising fuel prices.

The daily flight is scheduled to depart Don Muang at 8:20 am and arrive in Phuket at 9:40 am. The return leg departs Phuket at 10:10 am and arrives in Don Muang at 11:30 am.

There is another scheduled flight to operate on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, departing Don Muang at 6:50 pm arriving in Phuket at 8:10 pm. This will then depart Phuket at 8:40 pm arriving in Bangkok at 10:00 pm.

Despite the slowdown in the global economy and disruptions to Bangkok's air services at the end of 2008, there are reports stating tourists wishing to travel

Nemo dives in to help clean Patong

PATONG: Volunteers celebrated the launch of the Diving for Cleaning Patong project, sponsored by the Burasari resort and Yamaha.

It is hoped that 'Patong Conservation Day' will become an annual fixture of the Phuket Carnival in a bid to establish an environmentally conscious community.

Adding a touch of glamor and celebrity, the clean-up was attended by popular singer and actress Sasikarn Apichartvorasilp.

Organizers chose a giant "Nemo" clownfish to promote the event. Clownfish live in a mutual symbiosis with their anemone host and the organizers felt that it was the perfect icon to symbolize what they're hoping to achieve, suggesting that people who live in or visit Phuket need to adopt a harmonious co-existence with

Queer News

Bat-ting the cold, Isarn style

KALASIN: While temperatures of 10 degrees Celsius may not seem so cold to expats from more northerly climes, for poor Thais living in unheated shacks without warm bedding the cold season is still a real trial.

Every year charity appeals are launched to find warm clothing for poor families in the North and Northeast. Villagers in the Isarn have developed alternative methods to fend off winter chills. Many Isarn people believe certain foods have warming properties – and this year bats are all the rage.

In Kalasian's Yang Talat district, where temperatures can drop as low as eight degrees in the hills and 12 degrees on the plain, markets have begun to fill up with stalls selling live bats and bat-based dishes.

As well as helping to keep the cold at bay, bat meat reportedly does wonders for one's libido if eaten regularly.

Riang Phukhana, 47-year-old resident of tambon Buaban, said that every cold season he and his neighbors arm themselves with nets and head out into the palm and banana plantations to catch the fruit bats that feed there. Once caught, the flying rodents are cooked straight away to ensure the meat is nice and fresh.

Mr Riang explained that as the bats feed only on fresh fruit, all of their meat and organs can be eaten and are an excellent source of nutrition. Some people eat the whole animal, as it is both a traditional medicine and a source of food. Others choose to use the bats as the main ingredient in various dishes which include bat laap, stir-fried bat, bat curry, or crispy bat crackling. However you eat it, bat helps to keep the body in good shape, Mr Riang explained.

Bat fat is especially good for warming the body in cold season, he continued.

Eaten regularly, bat meat will put an extra spring in your step and do wonders for your sex life, Mr Riang added.

Source: Khao Sod

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Health Ministry to speed up registration of health volunteers

BANGKOK: The Public Health Ministry will accelerate the approval of a 4 billion baht budget to support the activities of 830,000 health volunteers nationwide. "I expect health volunteers across the country to receive this money on March 20, in order to celebrate National Health Volunteer Day," Public Health Minister Witthaya Kaewparadai said. Out of this budget, 498 million baht will be spent each month from March to September to provide each volunteer with a 600-baht allowance for personal expenses, including travel costs. The volunteers have dedicated themselves to providing primary care and looking after people in their areas without receiving any stipend since the project was launched 30 years

ago. They have had to use their own money to work with the ministry, Mr Witthaya said. In a bid to accelerate the process, Mr Witthaya has asked the Health Service Support Department to survey and select eligible health volunteers to register with the ministry, so they can receive the money from the ministry. The department should also develop the capacity of health volunteers, instruct primary health units to keep them informed about government policies and listen to their demands so that the ministry can draft regulations to fulfill their needs, said Mr Witthaya. Such a plan will be put before the Cabinet as soon as possible, he said. Health Service Support

Department director-general Dr Somyos Deerasmee said the volunteers would work with primary-care units to provide services to the public, with each responsible for about 1015 households. Boonthong Boonprasert, 52, chairman of the Health Volunteers Club in the Northeast, said he was worried the ministry could not meet the March deadline. Only 35% of volunteers across the country had been registered with the ministry so far and the rest are still waiting to register so they can receive the monthly subsidy, he said. "I don't understand why they have to speed up the process to be finished within two months. They should take a year to register health volunteers around the country," he added.



SORRY SIR: Thaweewut Tonkham, 21, salutes a police effigy he stole from an intersection in Bangkok recently. Police arrested him and demanded that he salute the plastic policeman as a gesture of apology. Photo by Khanathit Srihirundaj.

Children's Day turns to tragedy at show in Isarn

ROI-ET: A ten-year-old girl was fatally injured when an army skydiver accidentally landed on her during a skydiving show as part of Children's Day celebrations on January 10. The tragedy happened at the Sixth Infantry Division army camp in Sri Somdej District at 10 am. Children were treated to a skydiving show as part of Children's Day celebrations. During the show, a skydiver lost control due to strong wind and landed among the spectators, hitting the girl. She died later from injuries she sustained.

PM's Office files B18.8m property damage complaint against PAD

BANGKOK: The chief lawyer of the PM's Office, on January 9 filed a police complaint against the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), blaming it for the loss and damages of assets worth 18.8 million baht. Mongkol Saenghiran, director of the central legal office of the Permanent Secretariat of the PM's Office, filed the complaint at the Dusit Police Station. He handed over evidence and lists of witnesses against the PAD to the police station. Mr Mongkol said his office checked and found that the assets worth 18.8 million baht had been either lost or damaged during the occupation of Government House by the PAD.

Stargazer not bullish on Year of the Ox

BANGKOK: Things aren't likely to get better with the Year of the Ox that starts on January 26. In fact, one Thai astrologer has predicted that gloom will cast a shadow over the country during the year. Political conflict will worsen and the economy will suffer, with recovery being slow, says Paweena Vasaranueng-uk, who recently graduated with a diploma from the Hamburg School of Astrology.

The symbolic planet Admetos, which stands for blocks, death and parting, will "settle in the kingdom" for quite a while, said the stargazer. "If you think the airport closures and mobs were bad, then next year will be worse," Ms Paweena predicts. She warns people to be self-sufficient, control their emotions and choose their words carefully. "Everything must be taken into account when anything is said, as

small problems or petty arguments could escalate into chaos." "Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva will face the most exhausting mission in his life. "There will be things happening to him that he can't possibly control," said the pessimistic prophet. Given the influence of Admetos, special projects will take a long time to develop. And no matter what, the economy will worsen - like a sick tree that can't grow, she predicted.

Tooth decay rife among Thai youngsters

BANGKOK: Over half a million 12-year-olds have skipped school because of toothaches, Public Health Minister Wittaya Kaewparadai revealed on January 8. Recent records show that about 57% of primary school students aged 12 are suffering tooth decay, he said. The number of primary school students missing classes due to dental caries has increased from 422,000 in 2001 to 515,000 in 2007.

"Rotten teeth threaten our young children's health and disturb their daily lives," he said. Tooth decay is a disease where bacterial processes damage hard tooth structures. These tissues progressively break down, producing cavities. If left un-

treated, the disease can lead to pain, tooth loss, infection, and, in severe cases, death. Today, tooth decay remains one of the most common diseases worldwide. Mr Wittaya has instructed the Health Department to work closer with the Education Ministry.

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Indict soldiers over imam death: HRW

NARATHIWAT: New York-based Human Rights Watch has urged the Thai government to indict soldiers who tortured an imam to death last year.

After an inquest the Narathiwat Provincial Court ruled on December 25, 2008, that Imam Yapa Kaseng, 56, was tortured and killed by soldiers during interrogation in March 2008 at a military camp in the province.

Prosecuting the soldiers will be a test of the administration of Thai premier Abhisit Vejjajiva, who has vowed to bring justice to the Deep South, Human Rights Watch said in a statement released on January 8.

"The court gave a brave and unprecedented verdict in the inquest, putting its finger on torture and other abuses committed by Thai security forces," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The inquest determined that the cause of Imam Yapa's death was blunt force trauma, including rib fractures from the front, side and back that punctured his lungs.

The same day, army chief Gen Anupong Paochinda said the proposed new administrative body for the trouble-plagued southernmost provinces would "watch over" the existing agen-

cies, including the army-dominated Internal Security Operation Command (Isoc) and the civilian-run Southern Border Provinces Administration Center.

Gen Anupong did not elaborate on the question of whether the army would lose its leading role in the Deep South. He would only say the existing mechanisms would remain in place and that the proposed administrative body would focus on cultural, educational and economic development in the region.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has said past administrations tended to focus too heavily on security and not enough on other issues, such as cultural considerations and the identity of the local community. He promised to return responsibility for the Deep South to civilians.

At present, the government is working on the final details of a comprehensive legal bill for the Deep South.

The news followed another day of violence in the area. On January 6, three people were shot dead in three separate incidents in Narathiwat and Yala provinces. The victims were named as civilians Nukifri Karim, 36, and Muhammed Saisu-sareh, 30. Also slain was Pol Sen Sgt Maj Thanat Kuhamook, 51.

Peacemaker killed in argument

TRANG: A man was shot dead at a house-warming party in Na Yong District on January 8 after trying to stop an argument among a group of youths.

Aroon Ketdam, 45, was taken to Trang Hospital in the early hours of that morning with a shotgun wound to the lower abdomen, and later died from his injuries.

His wife, 37-year-old Klaphit Jon-grak, told police that while guests were singing karaoke together, a girl aged around 20 walked up to a group of youths sitting at the next table and started hurling abuse at them.

A heated argument then broke out among the youths, who had been drinking heavily. Mr Arun tried to calm them down, but a scuffle broke out. Following a gunshot the youths all ran off leaving her husband lying bleeding on the floor, she said.

Police believe Mr Arun was hit over the head with the butt of a gun, and suspect he was shot mistakenly in the fracas. Statements were taken from guests at the party, but witnesses had not as yet been forthcoming with information. Police are still unsure as to the identities of the youths.



Villagers in Tambon Khlong Khamao, in Krabi's Nua Khlong District, display a huge vulture they caught after it got stuck in a shrimp farm where it was seeking food on January 7. The bird has a two-meter wingspan and weighs 15 kilograms.

Train goes off the rails

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: A cargo train derailed in Phibun District in the early hours of January 4, causing major delays to trains on the Southern rail line.

No one was injured in the incident.

Train 762 was heading to Bangkok from Padang Besar on the Malaysian border when it came off the track between Thung Song Junction and Ron Phibun stations.

A train had to be sent up from Haad Yai to help clear the tracks. Railway officials said the accident was likely to have been caused by a combination of poor track conditions, with rotten sleepers, and heavy rain.

The stretch of track where the derailment occurred was the site of several accidents last year.

Four youths arrested in rape-murder case

SATUN: Police have arrested four youths for the brutal rape and murder of a woman, whose corpse was found lying next to a shrimp farm on January 5.

A second victim, a 15-year-old, survived the attack and is recovering in hospital.

The arrests were announced on January 7 by Satun Provincial Police Commander Gen Seri Wilailak.

The names of three of the suspects, aged 18, 17 and 16, cannot be released for legal reasons.

The remaining suspect was named as Amdan Yalam, 20.

Maj Gen Seri said that the four had been arrested in a rented house in Satun Town at 6 am that morning. Police believe the four were preparing to go and hide out in Malaysia.

The arrests came following an attack on two young women two days earlier.

Jaruwan Namcharoen, 20, and Tassani Hongwihok, 15, were

found lying near a shrimp farm in Tambon Na Khae by a passer by.

Miss Jaruwan was already dead, but the passer by took Miss Tassani to Satun Hospital, where she is now reportedly out of danger.

Both of the women had been raped, beaten and stabbed.

Police said that they believe the four suspects tricked the two women, who were riding on a motorcycle together to Satun Town, into following them to the shrimp farm, where they set upon them.

The four suspects all confessed to the attack and have been charged with murder, attempted murder and rape, Gen Seri said.

He praised Satun Muang District Police, especially Superintendent Col Prasit Chansawang, for quickly arresting the suspects.

He also warned parents not to let their daughters go out alone at night.



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Fun and games for Phuket's Children

Youngsters enjoyed free games, activities, stage performances and food and drink around the island on Saturday January 10 for Thailand's annual Children's Day. Events dedicated to giving kids a good time took place at shopping malls, military installations, government offices, schools, hospitals and public areas all over the island.



Star performers at Jui Tui Shrine in Phuket City.



Fun with friends at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.



Popular cartoon characters dropped in to perform at Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong.



Budding young soldiers have some hands-on fun at the 3rd Naval Area Command, Makham Bay.




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Iconic Lotus returns in the shape of the Evora

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

Lotus means different things to different people: the hugely successful Formula One team of the sixties and seventies that took Jim Clark to two world titles; the world's first and so far only posthumous world champion with Jochen Rindt in 1970; Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi's first drivers' title in 1972; and Graham Hill's second in 1968, following Clark's death.

Mario Andretti also became champion in a Lotus, in 1978, while other luminaries to sit behind the wheel of a Lotus F1 were Nigel Mansell, Mika Hakkinen and the late Ayrton Senna.

Lotus also means iconic sports cars such as the legendary Elan, or the supreme touring car, the Lotus Cortina that was such a formidable foe on the race tracks.

But now there is a new Lotus: the sleek Evora. The first all-new Lotus since the Spartan Elise made its debut in 1995, the Evora enters the sports car market as currently the world's only mid-engined 2+2.

Powered by a Lotus-tuned 3.5-liter Toyota V6 engine producing 276 bhp (203 kW), and weighing just 1350 kg, the Evora promises breathtaking performance. During preliminary testing around the famous Nürburgring, the Lotus chassis engineers reported that it was exactly what they had set out to produce: extremely agile and great fun to drive.

Beneath the skin, the entire front-end structure is a high-tech aluminum modular unit, attached to the main extruded aluminum tub. This modular unit is designed to deform for maximum safety, and to reduce repair costs in the event of a frontal impact.

Group Lotus managing director Mike Kimberley says, "Looking to the future, we will continue to research, develop and produce lighter, more efficient vehicles which are linked to our extensive and well-regarded work on all aspects of future fuels, alternative engines and electric and hybrid vehicle solutions



During preliminary testing around the famous Nürburgring, the Lotus chassis engineers reported that the Evora was exactly what they had set out to produce – extremely agile and great fun to drive.

for the future. We all have an environmental responsibility to future generations and the Evora is another example of where Lotus is seen to make significant steps toward improving the efficiency and sustainability of the motorcar, keeping Britain at the forefront of the high technology motor industry."

Aerodynamic considerations for drag, down force and cooling had significant but posi-



The entire front-end structure is a high-tech aluminum modular unit attached to the main extruded aluminum tub.

itive influence on the overall form and details such as air intakes.

A desire to create balanced down force, that increases cornering performance, led to the adoption of the now 'signature' top exit radiator vent, the race car inspired diffuser, and the 'floating rear wing'.

Drag limitation drove the dramatic tear-dropped cabin layout and the curvaceous plan view has given the car a more muscular rear shoulder, and conveys a level of sophistication appropriate to the market segment.

The Evora's chassis is an evolution of Lotus's cleverly designed aluminum frame that allows low volume production but advanced levels of stiffness and safety. This chassis improves on the bonded and riveted technology used in the Lotus Elise range. Another advantage of this type of construction is ease – and cheapness – of repairs.

Suspension parts are also in aluminum, with forged aluminum wishbones, while high-perfor-

mance Bilstein dampers are used all round. There is a switchable traction control system, which is generally active above 8 km/h, but can be deactivated if required. Ventilated and cross-drilled discs are fitted front and rear, along with ABS. This, though, is set with high thresholds and operates so progressively that drivers are often unaware it has kicked in.

Group Lotus is majority owned by Malaysian conglomerate Proton, for which inevitably the company carries out a great deal of development work, but Lotus Engineering, part of the overall group, aids and assists many other manufacturers in the development of their vehicles.

The Evora, if you like, is something of a showcase for the company's talents. It is not for everybody, but you have to admit it's quite an impressive package.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netnavigator.com.



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Cheap Kanom Chine



Traditional Kanom Chine dishes come in many flavors and colors at the Thong-pan-chang restaurant in Samkong.



For those who like it sweet, try this traditional desert *Kao Maak* (rice wine pudding with coconut milk).

The dish *Kanom Chine* is Thailand's version of spaghetti. Here, the thin, white rice-flour noodles are usually sold together with a range of savory sauces and curries to choose from. It is one of those dishes that has been enjoyed by people at every level of Thai society for many generations.

They eat *Kanom Chine* in the North and the South, where it is sold at roadside vendors as a quick and cheap meal, but it can also be dressed up and elegantly flavored to be served as royal cuisine.

Most Bangkokians consider the noodle curry as something for lunch or as a light evening meal but you'll see Phuketians tucking into hot and spicy *Kanom Chine* concoctions much earlier in the day. Different provinces have different *Kanom Chine* recipes and those of the South are known to be extra potent and spicy.

At the Thong-pan-chang restaurant in Samkong, Phuket Town, *Kanom Chine* is the main dish and is served in a variety of ways. As well as a range of enough curries to try a different one each day of the week, the noodles come in different colors.

The natural colorings of the noodles come from herbal ingredients, such as turmeric (yellow) and sweet pea flower, which gives the noodles a tinge of purple.

Despite the elevated status of these colorful *Kanom Chine*, each serving at the Thong-pan-chang restaurant is just 30 baht for a bowl.

Thong-pan-chang is located behind the local Family Mart near Phuket Villa 1 on Samkong Road.

Getting a taste of Phuket's past



There are six dishes that have their origins in Phuket. *Mee Hoon Ba Chang* combines traditional Phuket noodles with pork rib soup. Legend has it that *Mee Hoon Ba Chang* takes its name from a large Chinese woman who used to sell the soup. "Mee Hoon" is the name of the traditional white noodles from Phuket that are used in the dish and "Ba Chang", literally translated, means (comically) 'the big body of a Chinese woman'.

Three hundred meters from the Bangneaw Municipality School, opposite the Por Tor Kong Chinese temple on Soi Tonpho, Phuket City, sits the *Mee Hoon Ba Chang* restaurant, a small, street corner coffee house. Somjai Khorkittipaiboon, born and raised in Phuket, established her restaurant in 1992, naming it after the popular dish. She inherited the recipe for the soup from her great grandmother who lived in the Xiamen (Hokkien) area of China before emigrating to Phuket.

The dish has six main components: traditional Phuket white noodles, soy sauce, fried garlic, pork ribs, Thai leeks and soup. Making *Mee Hoon Ba Chang* is a time consuming process. The ribs and the stock need to be boiled for six hours. The noodles are fried in a little oil and soy sauce which gives them a brown hue.

The noodles themselves are quite sweet but when combined with the soup you have a very mellow flavor. It is enhanced with Chinese herbs, which not only make it delicious, but also very healthy. At thirty baht a bowl, it is great value for money. And to truly experience Phuket, it's a must for visitors.

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Fundamentally funny



A comedian friend of mine threw an aphorism at me today that's really pertinent to writing comedy: feel deeply but think lightly. I don't know where that comes from but it makes total sense to me.

Punchline Comedy Club returns to the island on January 20 for an evening of Anglo-Antipodean stand-up by comics Kitty Flanagan, Roger Monkhouse and John Gorrillo. The *Gazette* managed to catch up with Gorrillo in advance of the gig and attempted to figure out what sort of comedy Phuket can expect from this self-confessed son of a mouthy, hot-headed Spanish communist.

Gorrillo is a successful theater and comedy director in his native UK – he directed, produced and edited Eddie Izzard's "Unrepeatable" and "Live at the Ambassadors" shows and has been nominated for the prestigious Perrier Award – and recently returned to stand-up after a six-year break.

Never having been to Thailand before, Gorrillo is yet to mine these shores for comedic potential (though he admits to secretly enjoying saying the word "Phuket"). So what can audiences expect from his upcoming show? "A monk, a punk and a chick in a kick ass flick," he says. Joking aside – or is it? You can never tell with comedians – John continues. "Er, it's all pretty fluid at the moment – writing a lot about my relationship and general inability to relate to my girlfriend and my genuine awe at the way women communicate with each other."

Anything else? "I just wrote some stuff about the Jerry Springer show – which obviously is a horrendously out-of-date subject, but I just saw it again a couple of weeks ago, not having seen it for a few years and my god! I didn't know it'd be possible to watch Jerry Springer and find myself yearning for the discerning editorial standards of old, but there it is. Just when you think there's no more to scrape out of the barrel, they find some more sludge," he says.

As a busy writer/director/comedian, John is of course working on other projects. "I'm currently trying to find out who's responsible for a 250 pound phone bill I received for December. I live with my girlfriend and her 14 year old daughter... wait a minute... I hear a penny dropping."

What are John's biggest comedic influences? "Letterman till 1994/95, a little after he went to CBS, Howard Stern, Richard

Pryor, Louis CK, Dan Kitson, Mort Sahl at one time, Jackie Mason, Woody Allen... in fact all Jews. Especially Ehud Olmert – what a cut-up."

A lot of comedians get their laughs by saying the hitherto unsayable. Is there anything John wouldn't joke about? "No," he says, "I wouldn't want to make jokes that endorsed rape or racism or whatever, but that's a point of view thing. The subjects themselves are legit for comedy, it just depends what angle you come at them from."

"There are certainly subjects I don't know *how* to make jokes about, like...well... most things, come to think. Most attempts at joke writing end in failure I find. There are very personal things in my life that are messed-up and hilarious to observe if you're not me. But being me, I either don't have that dispassionate eye on myself or seem to know how to make them funny. Yet. You need distance – either temporal or psychological, cause to make a joke about something always undermines the thing somehow."

"It depends on the kind of comic you are I guess – you can deal with *really* dark stuff but it has to be lightly-done, otherwise it's too much to laugh at. A comedian friend of mine threw an aphorism at me today that's really pertinent to writing comedy: Feel deeply but think lightly. I don't know where that comes from but it makes total sense to me. It's hard to make jokes about something when you're actually laboring under the pain of the thing – you have to get over it."

John's last show was "Divide and Conga", a show about "fundamentalism, extremism and being the son of a Spanish communist". If funniness is hereditary, should we be worried? It is, after all, sometimes said that people on the far-left have no sense of humor. John disagrees. "My dad and other communists I've met do have a sense of humor, it just tends not to be about their beliefs. But I don't see that that makes them different from most people," he says.

"My dad is a fundamentalist though – which I think is different from being a communist or socialist or whatever. I think the thing with fundamentalists, whether religious or political, is they're explicitly emotionally/psychologically-driven – there's a

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need to see their philosophy as the *only* answer to *everything* – including things that barely pertain to the philosophy, but it doesn't matter, it all goes through that one filter. And in dad's case I think it narrows his reaction, it limits what he'll allow in, which is a shame cause he's a very smart, sensitive guy," he says.

John explains that a friend of his committed suicide a little while ago. He told his father, as they had met each other once. "Dad's reaction was to go, 'Please! Don't waste my time with this middle class shit!' Which stunned me because I couldn't see what class has to do with it. So I asked him, what do you mean? And he answered that basically the working class of the world are so busy with their day-to-day struggle, they don't have the luxury of committing suicide.

"Suicide as a luxury is hilarious to me, but obviously he can't see it. But I don't think it's the communism that drives this kind of reaction, I think it's the fundamentalism – i.e. the emotional need in him to see communism as the answer to the problem. I think he was probably having a bad day, felt a bit shitty, maybe even threatened by what I told him about my friend, and hid behind the ideology. It's safe," he explains.

But what does this rabid fundamentalist think of John's material? "To his eternal credit, he's seen a few of the bits I've done about him on tape, where I basically characterize him as the



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mouthy hot-headed fundamentalist that he is, and he finds it really funny and has been totally generous and supportive about me doing it. He recognizes there's truth in it and my intentions aren't malignant.

He really didn't have to take it that way, and it's a mark of the man and his love for me that he's been able to see that. And for that and many other fine qualities that I didn't talk about in the show, I love him greatly."

And one final thing. How does John feel about hecklers, many a comedian's *bête noire*? "As I understand the word, 'hecklers' are people who want to mess with the show or think the night needs their interjection, and they get to show off in front of their mates and this is dull as chives. It's always frustrated ego and people who think they are essential to helping the night, which they're not. Ever. They think having a go at the come-

dian is part of the whole thing of going to comedy. And the audience always finds it tiresome. But [that kind of heckler]'s rare.

"Most of the time, when people in the crowd talk to you, you're not being barracked so much as dealing with their specific reactions to things, or they throw in a tag to your joke which they think is funny (it usually isn't) but to me this is totally legit and fun. Often you can engage people from the stage and you end up

having these slightly elevated conversations and I love that. People in the audience who *aren't* trying to show off and are just being funny and honest or random or heartfelt or getting into the spirit of it are great. But I don't think of those people as hecklers.

"So despite where this answer started out, I think I love them." So, a thoughtful and clearly funny comedian who loves hecklers. The *Gazette's* expectations are running high...



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CREPE SOULS: Casual dining venue Crepes Village opened for business in Nai Harn on December 20. Pictured are the restaurant's owner Ms Gerry Mangubat (left), Rawai Mayor Aroon Sorod (4th from left), and Fred and Jane Lavorel (at right).



FRESHLY PICKED: Tesco Lotus launched Royal Projects Festival on January 9, which is designed to highlight the store's relationship with Royal Projects, from which it buys fresh produce worth over 50 million baht a year. Pictured are (from left) Senior Communications Manager Ms Montacha Sudampan, Royal Projects Foundation Vice Marketing Director Acharn Seubsak Navachinda, Tesco Lotus chairman Mr Sunthorn Arunanonchai, and Trading Manager - Produce Mr Sathaporn Phuwitwaraporn.



LOOK THUNG LOOKALIKES: Staff at Bangkok Hospital Phuket pose at a special media party held at the hospital's King Carl Gustaf Conference Room. Reporters and other media from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi attended the fun event, all dressing up for the 'look thung' (Thai country) theme. The hosts were hospital Customer Service Manager Nantawan Sriputha (2nd from left) and Domestic Marketing officer Kosol Bothong (2nd from right). Also pictured is Domestic Marketing officer Chompoonut Yodsri (left).



GIVE IT AWAY: The Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket and the Phuket Red Cross co-hosted a blood donation at the Dusit Laguna Hall on December 12. Laguna Phuket's associates and Dusit Thani guests were invited to join in donating blood to help save lives. The organizers hailed the event as a great success, with a total of 126 blood donors participating in the event.



WINNING BRUNCH: The Hilton Family Sunday Brunch offers the opportunity to win prizes with a lucky draw every Sunday plus a monthly grand prize. The lucky winner in December was Ms Sorada Kultawatchai (center), who received her prize of a weekend stay at the Hilton Singapore with return flights for two people. Making the presentation is Director of Sales and Marketing Mr Shafar Jamaludin (right).



WHITE NIGHTS: Catch Beach Club hosted a White Night party on Saturday January 10 at Surin Beach. The uber-trendy beach bar sparkled amidst a sea of white-clad party-goers who were entertained by a four-hour set from DJ Wout. Among the revelers at the party (pictured from left to right) were Jack Adams, Alex Zold, Spencer Smith and Sasson Mansoori, all from the UK.

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Silk artist weaves her magic

An exhibition entitled "The Tear of the Sea" by Thai artist Kachama K. Perez was launched at the VG21 gallery at Surin Plaza on December 19. Kachama found her inspiration for the collection following a visit to Koh Chang, situated in the Gulf of Thailand.

While visiting a local village, she observed a large number of dark-colored, dirty seashells littering the beach. Taking a trip to a nearby island, she discovered shells that were identical in every way bar one; the shells were a pristine white. Noting that the darker shells were the result of the localized pollution, Kachama felt motivated to encourage others to protect the precious environment we inhabit.

The pieces for this exhibition are all original designs, crafted using traditional Thai weaving techniques. The materials came from Chiang Mai and the shells were collected from the beaches of Thailand.

To produce the artwork, Kachama worked with a team of three to four people, all contributing different skills. Once the designs were finalized, a professional weaver set to work on the pieces, but their creation was carefully monitored by Kachama, who has become so adept at the weaving techniques she can tell when something goes amiss in the process simply by listening.

Kachama was born in Bangkok, but left Thailand to study at the Tokyo Mode College, an institute of art and design in Japan. Upon graduation, she stayed on in Japan securing work as a designer, but remained loyal to her Thai roots, using materials imported from Thailand to create her pieces.

Her work was published in the Japanese design magazine "AN AN" which miscredited her as an American designer whose work was made in the United States. Furious and shocked by such a basic error, she confronted her boss who informed her it was no mistake; to credit her as a Thai national would degrade their product.

Disillusioned by what she heard, Kachama left Japan and traveled to Chiang Mai where she lived with the indigenous hill tribes of northern Thailand.



It was during this time that she came to learn the weaving techniques she employs so successfully in her work today.

Kachama's next project remains a closely guarded secret, but she did profess a desire to increase Thai understanding and appreciation of the arts.

In Europe, she noted, many people took an interest in her creations and understood what she was trying to achieve, but on a local level it has been more difficult to get the message across.

Kachama aims to inspire a new generation of Thai artists by offering her pieces to museums. "The next generation of artists must follow their heart and work from within. Let it be your inspiration. Don't think too much about money," she says.



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Tai Chi Timeout

Welcome to the third in a series of Tai Chi Timeouts. Each timeout takes you through a single, easy-to-follow *Tai Chi-Chi Gung* exercise.

One of the aims of Tai Chi is to develop the intrinsic energy (*Chi*) within the body through slow, rhythmical breathing exercises known as *Chi Gung*.

The ancient martial art exercises naturally relieve tension from stress, and aches and pains from stiff limbs.

Perform them whenever you want to unwind and loosen up, but they are particularly beneficial in the early morning when the *Chi* is especially clean and light, relaxing and energizing the mind and body for the start of a new day.

In this exercise, inhale through the nostrils with a slow,

even, steady breath, while you raise both hands to chest height. As your exhale, slowly turn the body to the left while raising the right hand and lowering the left hand.

As you inhale again, turn your body back to the center with hands held chest height. Then slowly exhale as you turn your body to the right while raising the left hand and lowering the right hand. Inhale and exhale each time to a slow count of four.

Please note: as you raise one hand with a sense of floating in air, the other hand has an equal and opposite sense of floating on water. Without an experienced instructor to guide you, it's up to you to experiment and to 'feel' the sense of movement within the body.

This exercise has the added benefit, apart from loosening the tension in the neck, shoulders and hands, of exercising the left and right hemispheres of the brain as

you counter-cross your body and hands in seemingly opposite directions. Before beginning, release the tension in the neck and shoulders by slowly rolling the shoulders forward and backward. Then roll your head in a circle, keeping your neck loose, first to the right, then the left. Once you've completed five of these rotations, place your hands over your center (*Tan Tien*) and relax into a comfortable, forward-facing posture.

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Sequence

Step 1: Place your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, hips tucked gently under the spine (back straight). Relax your shoulders and hold up your head, but keep your neck relaxed. Inhale while you bring your hands up to shoulder height; neck and shoulders relaxed.

Step 2: While you slowly exhale, turn your body to the left while raising your right hand and lowering your left hand. Keep your hands soft but with a sense of awareness.

Step 3: Continue to exhale until your left hand is alongside the left-side of your waist and your right hand is in line with your left knee. Pay close attention to a smooth movement of your waist and hands without over-rotating.

Step 4: Inhale as you turn your body back to the forward facing position with your hands held at chest height.

Step 5: Now, slowly exhale and turn your body to the right, while raising your left hand and lowering your right hand. Be aware of any tension in the neck, shoulders and hands.

Step 6: Continue to exhale until your right hand is alongside the right-side of your waist and your left hand is aligned with your right knee.

Step 7: Inhale as you turn your body back to the forward-facing position. Continue the exercise for fifteen minutes while you pay close attention to keeping your neck, shoulders and hands relaxed with a calm, steady raising and lowering of the abdominal breathing technique.

Step 8: To complete the exercise, cross your hands over your *Tan Tien* and gather the *Chi* within.

Rick Attix has been studying Tai Chi Ch'uan for over twenty years with masters from China, Malaysia and the US. Rick holds regular Tai Chi classes in Kamala on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting at 9 am. Tel: 081-7289980. Email: serenethai@yahoo.com. Website: www.taichiphuket.com.

Experimenting with ancient inks and acrylics

American artist Kathy Manthei left California in 1996, and has been living abroad ever since, making Phuket her creative space since 1998. Her work is exhibited internationally, attracting private collectors throughout Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the United States.

Kathy likes to experiment with different materials and the natural or chemical reactions caused by their interaction. Her unique repertoire of acrylic mixed media paintings on canvas is enhanced by layers of acrylic paint, Chinese ink, metals (especially copper and gold leaf) and paper.

Recently she began working with encaustic (an ancient painting technique using molten beeswax) and acrylic transfers. Full of symbolism, each piece tells its own story of peace, contemplation and beauty in its simplicity.

The collection of work on show at the Boathouse Gallery, all produced in recent years, highlights peaceful natural surroundings as a metaphor for the inner landscapes of the soul and mind.

Using rich, iridescent colors, especially metallic oxides, Kathy starts with an abstract background painted directly on canvas. Images are drawn on sheets of natural rice paper and then layered onto the canvas. Painting over these produces a ground base with a favorable texture to work on.

The imagery is brought out like a photo negative due to layers of



thick dry paint. Applying solutions to reactive metallic paints produces the rich lustrous patina blue and green,

as seen on the bamboo pieces on show. Lately, Kathy has been working with original images from her childhood, creating

acrylic transfers directly from them. This has infused her pieces with an appealing whimsy and childlike innocence. Kathy's path as an artist has led her to become involved in various creative projects within her local community, helping others explore their creativity.

A graduate of the University of California at Davis, Kathy taught art to homeless and low income women at the Wisdom Project in the United States.

Through a grant from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission in 1995, she organized a series of self portrait making workshops for children in California. She has also taught street children in Cambodia as part of a self portrait workshop, combined with an exhibition of her paintings in 2001. Since 2002, Kathy has been the volunteer Arts Program Co-ordinator at the Life Home Project, a shelter for HIV positive women and their children in Phuket.

In 2005, together with the women of the Life Home Project in Phuket, she set up Project Neptune, an expressive arts therapy program for survivors of the 2004 tsunami, throughout Thailand's affected provinces. Currently, Kathy is a teacher of Art as well as a Creative, Action and Service Co-ordinator at the British International School, Phuket.

Kathy's exhibition will be on show at Mom Tri's Boathouse in Kata until February 9.

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Let's Dance

LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

Kingdoms lost and found

For many, the founding of Sukhothai as a kingdom marked the start of the Thai nation in history. The city of Sukhothai, which broke off and declared independence from the reigning Khmer kingdom, came into existence as a kingdom early in the 13th century.

Later that century, some southern kingdoms on the peninsula, including Nakhon Sri Thammarat, began sending tributes to King Ramkhamhaeng, ruler of Sukhothai, as a way of showing allegiance to the new kingdom and its sovereign. At this time it was unlikely that Phuket had any significantly large towns or settlements. Early documents referred to Phuket Island as Junk Ceylon.

It is briefly worth discussing the relationship between Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Junk Ceylon. Perhaps as early as the 2nd century Anno Domini (AD), the largest city that grew closest to Junk Ceylon was Nakhon Sri Thammarat, also referred to in ancient maps as Ligor.

Over the centuries, Ligor may have remained independent for a brief period, but fell and became part of many kingdoms in the region that rose and fell over the years. Junk Ceylon, being a territory in its immediate vicinity, would have been claimed by the ruler of Ligor. As a result, whichever kingdom ruled over Ligor would have had jurisdiction over Junk Ceylon. The island, during the period before Sukhothai, was a territory of several ancient empires for many centuries before finally being recognized as part of Siam.

Sukhothai's king managed to invade the peninsula for the first time during the 13th century. Before that, the northern and southern parts of what is now the modern Thai state formed separate kingdoms.

The last great empire of the north was the Khmer empire,



Replica of Avalokitesvara found in the ancient Srivijaya city of Chaiya, now Surat Thani. Avalokitesvara (Lord who looks down upon the world) is a revered deity, or *bothisattva* in Mahayana Buddhist beliefs. This replica is on exhibit at the Thalang National Museum.

which lasted until the 13th century, while the south, consisting of the Kra Isthmus and the Malay Peninsula, throughout the centuries saw the rise and fall of many successive kingdoms.

The earliest known kingdom, possibly the first civilization that existed in the peninsula, was that of Langkasuka. Malay historical records suggest that the rulers of Langkasuka may have crossed the Bay of Bengal from India, traveling east in search of new land. Remnants of this ancient empire are rarely found anywhere today. A lot of what we know about Langkasuka comes from ancient Chinese texts and records.

Monks from China had

been traveling to Langkasuka from as far back as the 7th century in order to obtain Mahayana Buddhist scriptures. It is possible that the empire may have come into existence as early as the 2nd century, with its capital city blossoming on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula. Moving to Pattani, it flourished in trade and diplomacy with other kingdoms in the region, particularly China.

Langkasuka may have also held the city of Ligor under its authority. However, it is also possible that, during this same period, the city may have flourished by itself as the center of another kingdom. Some archaeologists and historians sug-

gest the existence of a kingdom called Tambralinga, with Ligor as its capital. If this is true, Junk Ceylon may have been part of this ancient kingdom. Unfortunately, scant archaeological evidence remains for us to study these lost kingdoms.

By the 7th century, much of what was Langkasuka had been absorbed by another rising Indo-Buddhist kingdom, Srivijaya. The empire expanded to include most of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Western Java and the kingdom lasted for more than five centuries. Again, very little evidence remains to be studied from the Srivijaya era. We know that the kingdom was administered from the city of Palembang in Sumatra.

The city of Ligor, modern day Nakhon Sri Thammarat, would have certainly been a vassal of Srivijaya. Ruins of an ancient stone temple, built displaying Srivijayan architectural characteristics, still stands today in Chaiya Town in Surat Thani province. Some historians believe Chaiya was a city of great significance to the Srivijaya empire and may have even served as its capital at some point.

Srivijaya was a maritime empire characterized by long coastlines, estuaries and rivers. Its coastal geography made it an important center of trade and maritime commerce in the region. During the centuries of its existence, the kingdom came into conflict many times with neighboring kingdoms in the region.

During the 10th century, the Chola Dynasty that ruled southern India prepared an invasion force and sailed across the Bay of Bengal to attack Srivijaya. After the Srivijaya kingdom was defeated, the Chola king ordered the sacking of the capital and plundered many other cities in the kingdom.

The reason Srivijaya faced so many conflicts during its time

may have been because of the kingdom's control over one of the most important trade passages in the region. Throughout history, trading vessels from India and Arabia, sailing to eastern countries like China, inevitably had to pass through the Strait of Malacca, where most passing ships would have stopped to gather supplies at one of the major ports along the coastline.

During the few centuries that Srivijaya existed, its splendid geographic position gave it control of the Malacca Straits. Hence, the kingdom benefited enormously from the commerce that passed along this ancient and vital trade route, making it the envy of most regional powers.

Srivijaya's influence faded sometime around the 13th century with the rise of another great power on the peninsula. The kingdom of Mahapahit soon annexed whatever was left of the kingdom.

By this time, the Sukhothai kingdom had already begun to expand under the rule of King Ramkhamhaeng. Some of the territories that belonged to Srivijaya became part of the new Siamese kingdom. Most notably, the rulers of Nakhon Sri Thammarat submitted to the king of Sukhothai. The territories near the city, including Phuket, also became part of the new Siamese kingdom.

The kingdom of Mahapahit continued to exist further south below Nakhon Sri Thammarat and still dominated areas like Songkhla and Pattani for a few centuries later.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He has lived on Phuket since the age of 3. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand may be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

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January 18. TriBallistic Triathlon Series 2009.

Race 1 of 4.

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- Splash & Dash 50m swim, 1.5km bike, 750m run.

- Junior 200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run.

- Senior Sprint 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run.

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Transition opens at 6 am, first race 8 am. Sports nutrition and TriBallistic merchandise for sale on race day. Contact Shaun Boulter. T: 089-5902014. E: tri@triballisticclub.com. W: www.triballisticclub.com.

January 18. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong.

From 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. (1 km north of Chalong Circle, near Wine Connection). Is your computer driving you NUTS? Looking for a decent Internet connection? Need to get a new computer, or fix the one you have now? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard at his weekly Computer Clinic: help, news, tips, explanations and more, all in plain English, and absolutely free. Computer novices most welcome.

Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your lucky rabbit's foot. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. Contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

January 20. Punchline Comedy Club - Live International Stand-Up.

From 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong. The Punchline Comedy



**Phuket Airpark Fly-In
January 16 - 18**

Join the Phuket Airpark Fly-In at Pa Khlok, Thalang from 7:30 am - 11:30 pm daily on January 16, 17 and 18. This is an event with activities the whole family can enjoy. Airplanes from Thailand and around the region will arrive at the Airpark on the 16 and in the evening we will have a "Pilots BBQ". On Saturday the 17, we will have a full day of events. There will be games for the kids, food and drinks, and live bands. (There may even be a chance for the kids to take a short flight in one of our planes!). Organized by the new Phuket Airpark and sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. For further info contact Cheng. T: 081-268 0156 or 076-529543.

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Further details at our website. Contact Boom. T: 083-6464671. E: info@phuketcomedy.com. W: www.phuketcomedy.com.

January 24. The Night 'Mao New Year Party'.

From 8:00 pm - 2:00 am at All Seasons Naiharn Phuket.

"The Night", organized by the All Seasons Naiharn Phuket, is a live DJ party featuring DJ "Miss Caro" from Paris mixing deep and sexy house music, with Oye,

"King of Bongo" on percussion.

The party starts at 8 pm, and goes on till late. No entrance fee. Standard drinks starting at 90 baht nett with free buffet.

Contact Pim or Chart. T: 076-289327. E: hmr@allseasonsnaiharn-phuket.com. W: www.allseasonsnaiharn-phuket.com.

January 25. FREE Computer and MAC Clinic - Chalong.

From 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. See Jan 18 listing for contact details.

January 26. Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the

new year and is the biggest social occasion in the Chinese calendar.

It is celebrated with gusto amongst Thailand's sizable Chinese community, and many Chinese tourists from neighboring

nations choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

January 31 - February 6. 2009 Whale Shark Exploration and Education.

From 9:00 am - 8:00 pm daily at Koh Phara Thong, Surin Islands Region.

Wicked Diving and Golden Buddha Resort invite you to join a unique experience that supports eco-tourism and offers the opportunity to search for, identify, and track Whale Sharks in Thailand's Andaman Sea.

The objective of the Whale Shark Exploration Program is to raise awareness by educating all participants about the elusive Whale Shark.

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February 1. FREE Computer Clinic - Patong.

From 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Sandwich Shoppe Patong (Aroonsom Plaza, near Andaman Beach Suites). See January 18 listing for contact details.

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MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

Surviving the storm



Thailand is not in the middle of the economic storm currently raging around the globe but it is impossible to avoid completely. Image: NASA.

The year ahead does not, it must be said, promise to be a repeat of 2008. The real question concerning the year ahead is not whether the financial markets will fluctuate but *how* they will fluctuate.

Starting with Thailand; the good news, for a change, is that we do not find ourselves in the middle of the storm currently raging around the globe. It is, however, impossible for us to avoid the storm completely. In this regard, Thailand remaining politically stable would be extremely beneficial.

Thailand must, naturally, feel the impact of falling motor vehicle exports which, some analysts believe, could drop 50% this year compared with a predicted 10% fall-off in vehicles sold on the domestic front.

The 1997 Asian Financial crisis proved beneficial to Thailand insofar as it served to "toughen up" its economy. For example, unrestricted credit issuance is no longer in evidence, and foreign exchange reserves of around US\$100 billion provide backing to the currency. Foreign liabilities are manageable and Thai government debt, at around 43% of GDP, is well below the recommended maximum of 60% of GDP.

This allows the Thai government leeway to introduce stimulus plans and mega projects. Political instability, however,

could undermine Thailand's fundamentally strong position.

At the other end of the spectrum is the UK, where it really is a case of doom and gloom. A spokesman for the consulting arm of accounting giant KPMG identified the bright spots of the UK economy as being nursing and the health care sector. Appearing on CNBC, he characterized the rest of the economy as disastrous. It doesn't get much more pessimistic than that.

House prices falling, consumer confidence collapsing, unemployment rising and the constant rumor that the UK is going to require a further bailout in its banking sector, makes one wonder why anyone lives there;

it cannot be because of the climate.

The KPMG spokesman also pointed out that, in difficult times, the UK has procedures to slow the termination of surplus staff. Labour party governments have introduced these measures. They all sound very noble; protection of workers and the like, but the reality is that companies are less willing to hire during economic recovery.

The American system of basic "hire and fire" remains the most efficient, and most analysts believe this will lead to the fastest recovery from the current malaise.

The majority of the world's equity markets (stockmarkets) have behaved better than most analysts predicted. The reasons for this are very simple; stockmarkets are forward look-

ing mechanisms and are buoyed by the thought of all that government money entering their economies. It is very difficult to find any country that is not actively pursuing a stimulus/bailout plan.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service and has over 25 years experience in this field. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com

The Obama plan in America is expected to initially entail the expenditure, including tax cuts, of around US\$ 775 billion. Many analysts believe that, in reality, it will be fortunate if it does not exceed

US\$ 1 trillion. This is, of course, in addition to the current US\$ 700 billion TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) that was initiated in the latter days of the Bush administration.

Whilst equity markets are encouraged by all this government money arriving in the various world economies, they continue to fret over many other factors, the main one being falling corporate profits. It is very diffi-

cult to sustain a rally in share prices when real profits are falling and unemployment is rising.

Governments can certainly inject money into economies but they are finding it difficult to persuade banks to start lending again. The banking sector, having ignored, for the past few years, all the rules relating to responsible money lending, has changed its behavior.

Now, banks are prepared to lend, providing that applicants, both corporate and private, really qualify for loans. They are seldom prepared to lend to borrowers who have anything less than a pristine record.

It echoes the old adage that "if a bank believes you qualify for a loan, in reality, you don't need the money".

Governments have injected vast sums of capital to stabilize the banking sector, while, via their central banks, also reducing the cost of borrowing. However, despite these measures, they are finding that banks are extremely reluctant to reduce interest rates.

The reality is that banks are lending but the days of aggressive lending are over, at least for a few years, while they try to repair their balance sheets.

Last year, as many of them teetered on the brink of the financial abyss, they did not relish the outlook and naturally are now looking to increase their reserves and profit margins. Additionally, banks have noted a financial environment that has been absent since the 1930s.

The bank-ing sector is also aware that the real economy is becoming steadily worse, which means that many of their customers are going to be in trouble in the coming months.

It is little wonder that we end up with a 'ping-pong' situation - where governments lend banks money and banks take the same money and buy government bonds, effectively lending it back to the same government. The appetite for risk may not have completely disappeared but it remains very muted.

The other problem is that, after governments have finished with all these stimulus plans, there is going to be a mountain of debt. However, there are ways to make money in bad times; next week's article will show three ways that proved profitable in 2008.



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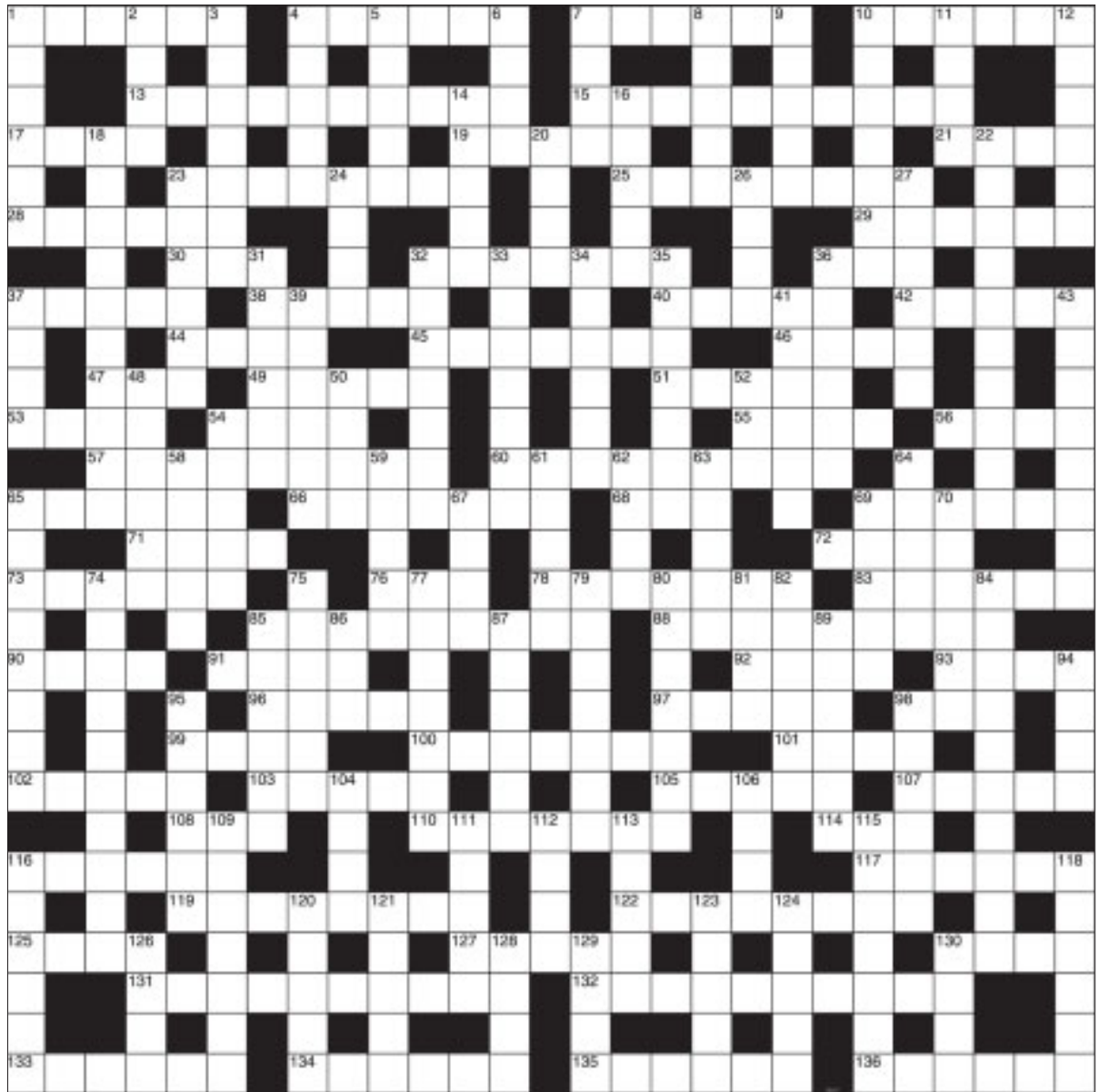
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PUZZLES

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are lots of words related to weddings. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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



The BIG Crossword

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Across

- 1. Makes public speech
- 4. Weeding
- 7. Move in jagged course
- 10. Bring up (subject)
- 13. Unquestioning
- 15. Dining-room linen
- 17. Drunkards
- 19. Outmoded
- 21. Long tale
- 23. Impartial negotiator
- 25. Two-masted ship
- 28. Mars or Saturn
- 29. Plunder
- 30. Joined up
- 32. Dishevelled
- 36. Invite
- 37. Enthusiasm
- 38. Greets
- 40. Cures
- 42. Very cross
- 44. Street
- 45. Land unit
- 46. Symbolic picture
- 47. Actor... Liotta
- 49. Signalling code
- 51. Firearm
- 53. Urchin
- 54. US divorce city
- 55. Pig's cry
- 56. Plant, aloe...
- 57. Credible
- 60. Nasal haemorrhage
- 65. Engines
- 66. Experienced sailors (3,4)
- 68. Colour (fabric)
- 69. Brawls
- 71. Behaves
- 72. Part of ear
- 73. Ice shoes
- 76. Possesses
- 78. Overwhelming
- 83. Heathens
- 85. Investment certificate
- 88. Introductory
- 90. Red-rind cheese
- 91. German Mrs
- 92. Support
- 93. Quote
- 96. Command
- 97. Cheapskate
- 98. Adios!
- 99. Melody
- 100. Utilise (equipment)
- 101. Wind-borne toy
- 102. Jewelled crown
- 103. Actor... Flynn
- 105. Screened (movie) again
- 107. Learnt (of)
- 108. Unburden
- 110. Sets of steps
- 114. Golly... whiz!
- 116. Seats
- 117. Differed
- 119. Swiss mountain singer
- 122. Presumed
- 125. Conformed... the line
- 127. Bird of prey
- 130. Bogeyman
- 131. Fittest
- 132. Swings
- 133. Lacy borders
- 134. Musical beat
- 135. Form liking for (4,2)
- 136. Nod off
- 3. Ooze
- 4. West Indian republic
- 5. Survive
- 6. Festive occasion
- 7. Pimples
- 8. Nought
- 9. House lizard
- 10. Post-WWII generation, baby...
- 11. ... & ahs
- 12. Zimbabwe's capital
- 14. Smock
- 16. Greek fable teller
- 18. Written copy
- 20. Location
- 22. Garden of Eden couple (4,3,3)
- 23. Recollection
- 24. Drink... spumante
- 26. Killer whale
- 27. Gathering (leaves)
- 31. London's river
- 32. Escorted (to seat)
- 33. Striking with foot
- 34. Cat cries
- 35. By that means
- 36. Climb
- 37. Bite persistently
- 39. A very handsome youth
- 41. Pond plants
- 43. Fatigues
- 48. Not sinking
- 50. Gown
- 52. Enemy
- 54. Corrodes
- 58. Short-circuited
- 59. Wood-turning machine
- 61. Playwright... Wilde
- 62. Border
- 63. Lured (3,2)
- 64. Exclude
- 65. Handed out cards
- 67. Expel
- 69. Use sponge (3,2)
- 70. Heritage
- 74. Combine
- 75. More expensive
- 77. Music style, rock... (3,4)
- 79. Wellbeing
- 80. Boils gently
- 81. Town plans
- 82. Shout of discovery
- 84. Estranging
- 85. Buzzed monotonously
- 86. Unopened bloom
- 87. Straighten
- 89. Injuring with horns
- 94. Children's writer... Blyton
- 95. Twinkling (of night sky)
- 98. Decapitate
- 104. Train track
- 106. Space
- 109. Map pressure lines
- 111. City, Buenos...
- 112. Pull
- 113. Fragrant flowers
- 115. Turned inside-out
- 116. Discontinued (tele phone call) (3,3)
- 118. Trawl (riverbed)
- 120. Come in
- 121. Non-clergy
- 123. White wine... Riesling
- 124. Eskimo shelter
- 126. Lentil dish
- 128. Minute particle
- 129. Attic
- 130. Knuckle of veal stew... bucco

Down

- 1. Admits guilt (4,2)
- 2. Consequently

Solution on next page

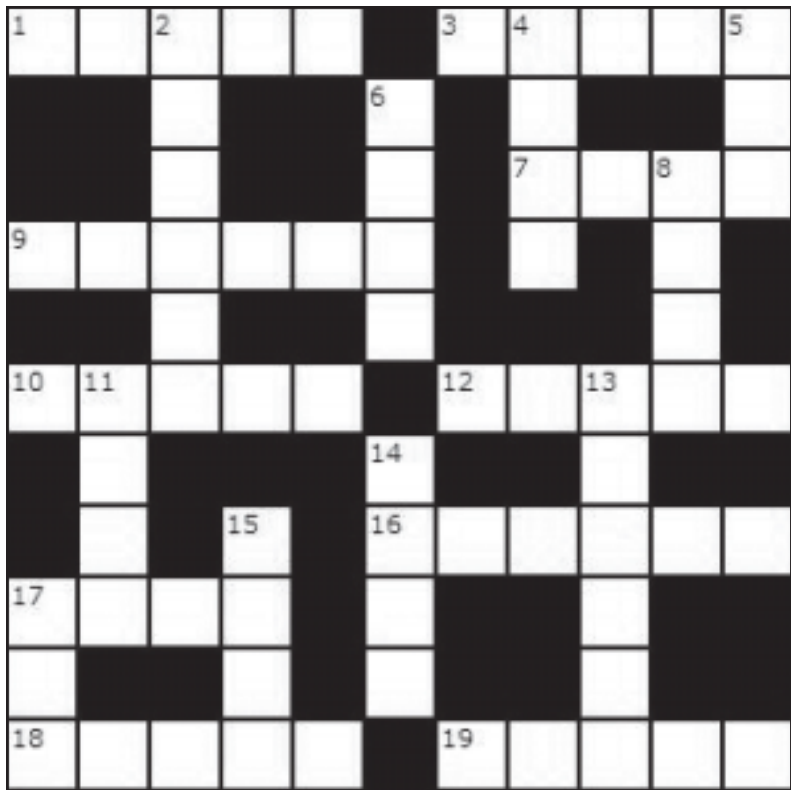
su | do | ku

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

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

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.



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Weapon | 2. Stand against |
| 3. Striped animal | 4. Perimeter |
| 7. Bestow | 5. For chopping wood |
| 9. Biscuit | 6. Look for |
| 10. Swindle | 8. Credit card |
| 12. Suddenly... | 11. Unit of time |
| 16. Reverse | 13. Spin |
| 17. Metal | 14. Hold |
| 18. After seven | 15. Measurement |
| 19. Italian city | 17. Freezing water |

Solution below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Pie; 2. Poaching; 3. Exceed, Proceed, Succeed; 4. 37 (0 to 36); 5. Vietnam; 6. Dili; 7. Matchbox labels; 8. Ohio; 9. Belgium; 10. Pawn; 11. 23; 12. 1973; 13. 18; 14. Helium; 15. A Seahorse; 16. J; 17. Wolf; 18. 37; 19. Mosquitoes; 20. Canada.

Get your brain in gear with the

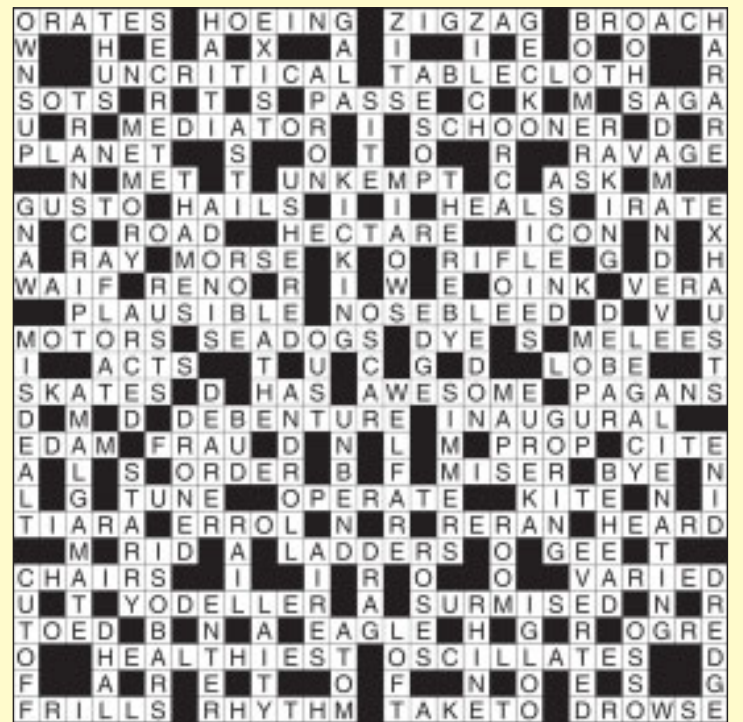
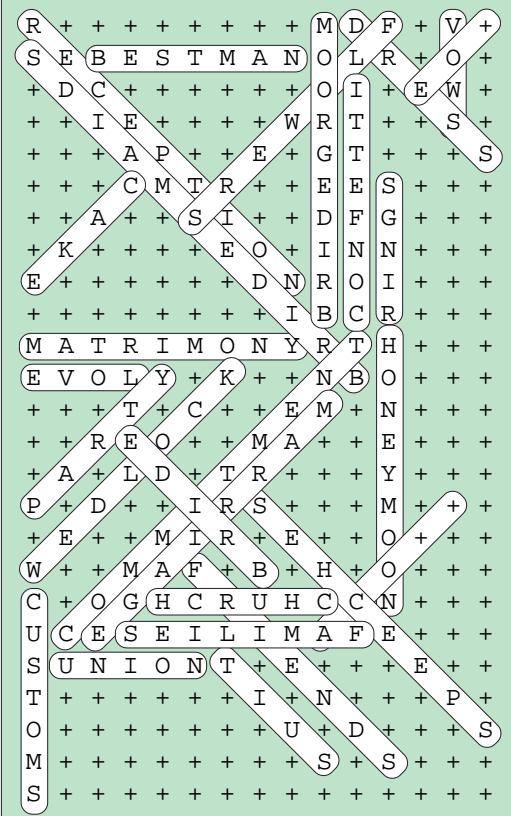
MONSTER QUIZ

1. In Italian, what does the word Pizza mean?
2. What name is given to the cooking of an egg without it's shell by boiling it in water?
3. What are the only three words in the English language that end with the letters "ceed"?
4. How many numbered compartments are there on a European Roulette wheel?
5. Which country's flag is red with a five pointed yellow star in the middle?
6. What is the capital of East Timor?
7. What would a phillumenist collect?
8. Which is the only US state that contains none of the letters of "Mackerel" in its name?
9. Duffle coats are named after a town in which country?
10. In the game of chess, what type of piece is involved in the move 'en passant'?
11. How many pairs of chromosomes in the human body?
12. In which year was the US space station Skylab launched?
13. How many claws does a domestic cat have?
14. What is the second lightest chemical element?
15. What is the only fish to have a prehensile tail?
16. Which letter does not appear in the periodic table of the elements?
17. If a dog is a canine, what animal relates to a lupine?
18. In degrees Celsius, what is the normal body temperature?
19. Which animal account for most deaths worldwide?
20. In which country was the organisation Greenpeace founded?

Answers below

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Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Updike hits another out of the park



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

John Updike published his first novel, along with a book of short stories, in 1959. He was 27 years old. Now 76, he has just published his 23rd novel, *The Widows of Eastwick* (Hamish Hamilton, London, 2008, 308pp). This is a sequel to his 11th novel *The Witches of Eastwick*, published in 1984.

The Witches of Eastwick was about three sexy women, all married and all adulterous, who formed a witches' coven in the old Rhode Island seaside town of Eastwick.

Alexandra is a potter, Jane a cello player and Sukie a writer for the local newspaper. They fall under the spell of a diabolical rich

man named Darryl Van Horne who enjoys all of their favors and incites them to such a rage when he takes a young wife that they cast a spell upon her and inflict her with cancer.

Rare among Updike's books, *The Witches of Eastwick* was made into a major movie with Cher as Alexandra, Susan Sarandon as Jane and Michelle Pfeiffer as Sukie. Lording over them all and having the romp of his life is Jack Nicholson as that horny devil Darryl Van Horne.

Now the three women are back. They have all remarried and moved away from Eastwick. Alexandra lives in the desert of New Mexico with her potter husband. Jane has married an old WASP with money and lives in his Brookline, Massachusetts, mansion. Sukie's husband is a computer go-getter in a Connecticut suburb.

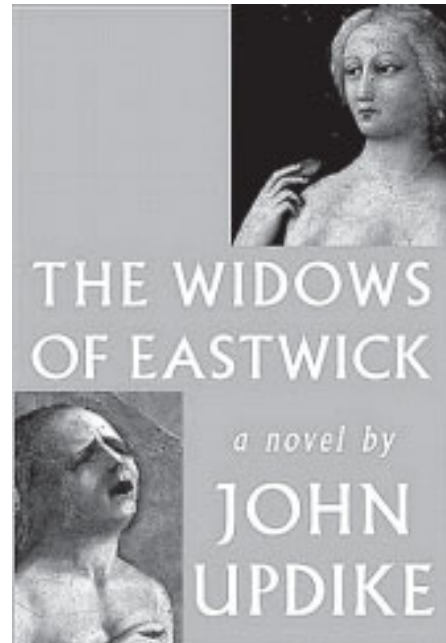
Even as a young man, Updike had a preoccupation with death and now that he is 76, even more so. His three women characters are too in their seventies, past the age of desire and confronted with death as their husbands, one by one, pass away.

Alexandra takes a trip to the Canadian Rockies after her husband's death. She joins Jane for a voyage up the Nile after Jane's own widowhood. Finally, Alexandra, Jane and Sukie take a trip to China, the trio of widows finding fun and solace in each others' company. Updike's descriptive ability is given full rein here, bringing Canada, Egypt and China vividly to life. It's odd that of his many volumes of fiction, poetry and essays, he's never written a travel book.

"Pharaohs, broad-faced and bare-shouldered, with high cheekbones and slight feline smiles, were bodied forth in granite... all quarried and carried and carved and painstakingly polished by men whose eyes and hands and even bones had long since evaporated in the cauldron of time. Life's airy spell, asking more, more, was silenced by the solemn ponderosity of death."

Jane now proposes that the three of them return to the scene of their crimes and rent a condo in Eastwick. She rejects out of hand Alexandra's invitation to New Mexico:

"Sweetie, I don't want to



come to New Mexico, I'm sorry. It's all too American, everything from the Hudson west, like something you'd switch off if it were television. But you can't, it's too big to flip off, growing all that boring wheat and corn and cattle, full of fat religious people flying flags on their pickup trucks with their shotgun racks. It's frightening to me. Like a foreign country, only worse, because you can under-

stand the language."

They find Eastwick barely changed, though many of the people they knew are either dead, have moved away or have metamorphosed hugely with the years. Their absence of over thirty years brings about a startling and fresh view on contemporary America.

"I remember Eastwick as a fun hick place," Jane complained, "but it's gotten homogenized, all smoothed out. And the younger people, the age we were when we were here – so tiresome, just from the look of them, toned-up young mothers driving their overweight boys in overweight SUVs to hockey

practice twenty miles away, the young fathers castrated namby-pampies helping itty-bitty wifey with the housekeeping, spending all Saturday fussing around the lovely home."

Eastwick never knew what hit it as the trio of witches insert themselves back into the life of the town. A wonderful romp with the caveat that you must read the first novel first.



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.

How far can you go gourmet?

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 readers' questions.



"Gourmet" dog food is already here – along with "gourmet" cat food, bird food and even hamster food.

time someone said to you, "I baked some gourmet cookies – come try one?"

"Gourmet" applied to food is marketing-speak, which is to say, hype. I'll bet that's why it bothers you. If we were talking about, for instance, a terrine of duck with green peppercorn sauce, calling it "gourmet" would be redundant. But since we're talking about dog food, "gourmet" makes an oxymoron, a self-contradictory phrase.

Q: Why do we call someone who rapes a 'rapist,' as though his act involved some skill or talent com-

parable with that of an artist or a therapist? We say 'murderer' and 'robber,' not 'murderist' and 'robbist.' A lyricist referred to them as 'rapers,' and I appreciated that. Is there a reason for this peculiar word?"

Kingsley Sears Warren, Michigan

Barbara replies: Right you are that the usual word is "rapist," not "raper." Who would ever have thought I'd need to remind anyone of that?

While searching online for the song lyrics you have in mind, though, I found "raper" in various (unpleasant) lyrics. For instance, a song by a band from

Norway has the title *Mind Raper*.

But enough of that. Of course you're right, too, that the relationship between artists and art, and therapists and therapy, involves skill or talent. However, the same is true of painters and painting, teachers and teaching, and many other kinds of "-er" workers and their work. (The "-or" ending of words like "sculptor" and "doctor" is a variant.)

Originally, the difference between an "-ist" person and an "-er" person depended on whether the word for what the person did came from Greek or Latin (in which case the ending was "-ist") or from Old English

or a Germanic language (the ending was "-er"). Sure enough, "rape" came from Latin, or at least from a language based on it, and "murder" came from Old English. Let's not read anything cultural into that.

By now the distinction has grown blurry, and we even have a few pairs of words with slightly different meanings in which each word has one of the endings, for example, "copier" and "copyist."

In fact, some dictionaries include "raper" as a synonym of "rapist." But at least the difference between "-ist" and "-er" words isn't completely arbitrary, and there's a reason "rapist" is the traditional form.

Q: What's with the word 'gourmet'? Chocolates are 'gourmet,' jelly is 'gourmet' and today I even saw an ad for 'gourmet peanut butter.' Is 'gourmet' dog food next?"

Paul Scott Bayside, California

Barbara replies: I'm afraid "gourmet" dog food is already here – along with "gourmet" cat food, bird food and – hamster food. "Gourmet" has become marketers' adjective of choice for edibles that are fancier and costlier than average. Some of them, trying to be extra fancy, use "gourmand" instead. But that's a bad idea, because "gourmand," in addition to being a synonym for "gourmet," can mean "glutton" or "overeater."

Though regular people might use "gourmet" to refer to a person – as in "He's a gourmet cook" – they rarely describe food that way. I mean, when is the last

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Regular, random fire safety inspections are a necessity

Following the New Year's fire at Bangkok's Santika Pub that has so far claimed 66 lives, it was inevitable that a nationwide crackdown on fire safety code violators would ensue and that Phuket nightclubs would come under scrutiny.

If it is possible that anything good could result from a tragedy that claimed so many young lives, perhaps the increased focus on fire safety could be it – especially if it actually minimizes the risk of similar tragedies taking place in the future.

Although exactly what started the conflagration is still under investigation, there is no doubt that Santika Pub was an accident waiting to happen – a fire trap in gross violation of numerous fire safety standards that apply to buildings in the capital.

Could a similar tragedy have happened here? You bet. Initial daytime investigations by officials at a number of popular nightspots in Phuket City revealed that all had exits that were too difficult to access, some even blocked by equipment or locked.

Knowing that nighttime inspections are coming, most club owners will probably take steps to ensure exit doors are made accessible and unlocked over the next few weeks.

This is why a year-round, regular system of random nighttime checks would go much further to ensure compliance with safety codes, not to mention the dictates of simple common sense.

Random, unannounced safety inspections are standard procedure in developed countries, where disaster prevention strategies are more of a continuous effort – and not part of the depressing cycle of calamity that seems so prevalent here: disaster > crackdown > complacency > disaster.

Anyone in Phuket who regularly visits discos, pubs and other such venues probably has their own list of fire traps that are best avoided.

Of course, not all of them are entertainment venues. Some are large retail outlets, just one of which is an expansive multi-tiered maze filled with a variety of flammable goods, its ceiling supported by irregular lengths of timber from which lightbulbs and other electrical equipment are haphazardly suspended.

The *Gazette* hopes that Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) staff and other officials at the local level across the island will take a more proactive and courageous approach in identifying and dealing with such danger spots, whether they be potential fire traps, dangerous construction projects or even public works that have fallen into a state of disrepair.

- The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?
Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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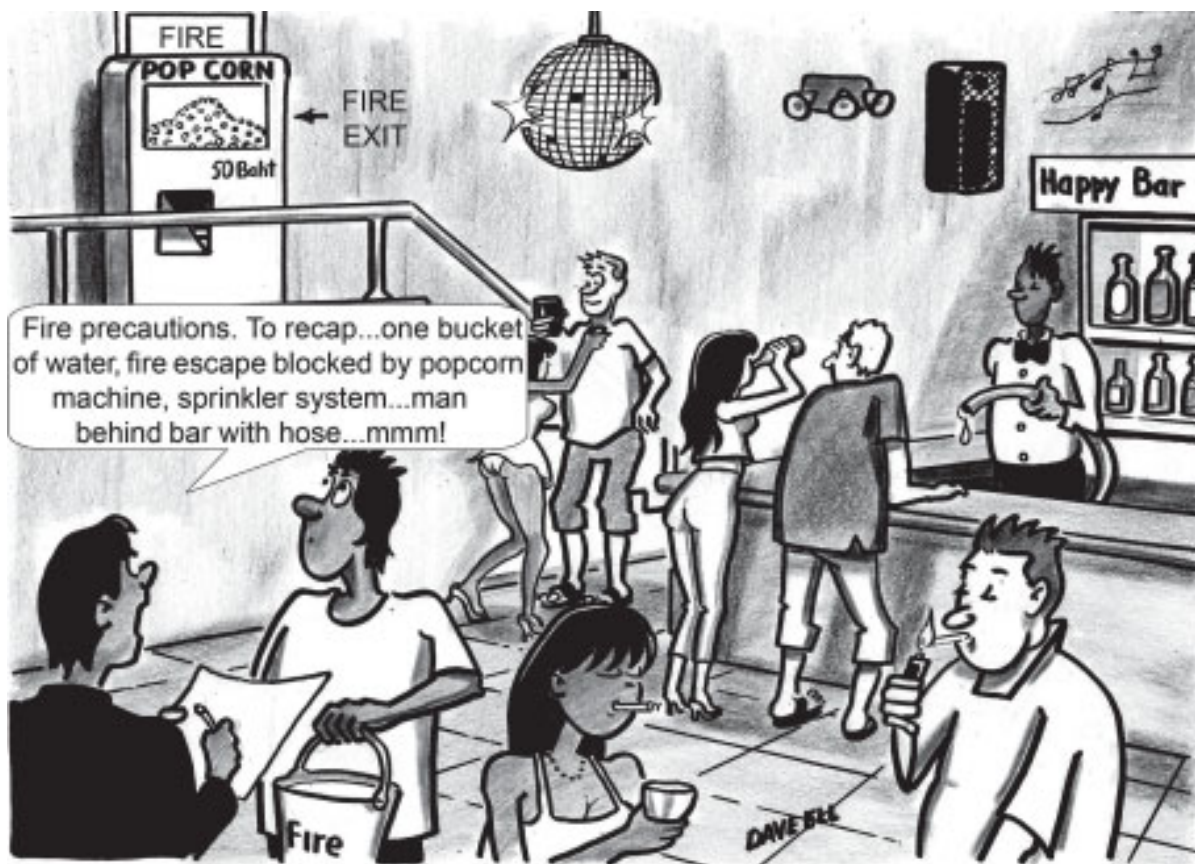
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Letters

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.

Protect whale sharks

As an avid diver, the Similan Islands were a major factor in me choosing the Andaman coast as a place to emigrate and retire to.

Recently, to my horror, one of my friends informed me that he had witnessed two whale sharks being dragged back to Ban Naam Khem, hauled up onto the beach and cut into pieces and sold. This is an absolute outrage, disgrace and a travesty. One of the sharks, approximately 8 meters long, was apparently sold for just 5,000 baht, while the second, about 4 meters in length, went for 3,000 baht. He heard that they had been caught at Richelieu Rock, part of the Surin National Park, supposedly a protected area. What are we paying our park fees for?

Whale sharks are IUCN Red List protected and the fishing of them in any waters is highly illegal. Furthermore, the opportunity to witness these magnificent sharks is a major reason why so many people travel to Thailand. If the fishermen of Thailand continue to write their own rules, then the future of the dive industry in the Kingdom could be seriously under threat.

Drew Longworth
Khao Lak

Running red lights

I have become increasingly concerned about the number of people who deliberately run red lights at junctions. Last night as I returned home from work, I was waiting at the Samkong intersection by Tesco Lotus, the lights for my lane turned green and as I pulled away, I noticed a car speeding towards me from my

right. Reacting instinctively, I slammed on my brakes as the reckless onrushing car tore through the red light, some five seconds after it had changed. The driver swerved to miss a motorcyclist who was well within their right to pull out.

It is little surprise there are so many accidents on Phuket's roads when so many people have so little regard for the safety of their own lives, let alone those of other road users.

It encouraged me to see that Bangkok has introduced a system that penalizes people who run red lights and will remove the licenses of repeat offenders. If officials are truly serious about reducing the number of accidents on our roads, then a similar system needs to be installed here immediately.

Claus Jorgenson
Kata Noi

Shocking trailers

It was children's day last Saturday and it seemed like an excellent idea to take my 4-year old son to see Madagascar 2 at Central Festival's multiplex cinema. What happened next shocked me, and scared the hell out of my son. We were subjected to violent images of child hangings, stabbings, and images of decapitation, blood and gore as the trailers rolled for these nasty Thai ghost films. It was shocking and there were many parents there who, like me, were distressed to see these images in the presence of their children. There are laws that restrict these trailers from being shown to minors. What happened? Is Central breaking the law by showing these trailers before children's

films? Please address this issue before other children are abused by these images. Stop it now!

Robin Plant

Nitima Niphattanaphan from SF Cinema City replies:

On behalf of SF Cinema City, I would like to convey our sincere apologies for the situation that occurred during your visit with your child to our cinema. The problem you refer to in your letter occurred as the result of the the movie and trailers arriving 'ready-packaged' from our counterpart in Bangkok. This limits our ability to re-assemble the mix of trailers that are selected to appear before a given movie. Notwithstanding, we at SF Cinema City Central Festival are making every effort through discussions with our head office in Bangkok to ensure that such a situation does not happen again in the future.

Illegally parked bikes

In your article on disabled access, I note that you failed to mention what is probably the most ubiquitous obstacle of all: illegally parked motorbikes.

This is a shame since all the traffic police would have to do to end this practice would be to lock a chain around the back wheel and chassis, forcing the owner to come in and pay a fine before the vehicle can be ridden away. You can bet the owners would think twice about parking their bikes on the pavement again if they did.

Sadly, I expect this idea is too simple and practical to ever be implemented here.

Jonas Spelling
Phuket City

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.

I'd like to teach the world to think

Dr Charles Frederickson, international teacher



FIRST PERSON

Dr Charles Frederickson, aka Dr Chanchai Prasertson, is a Swedish/American/Thai international teacher who has what might best be described as a life-long bout of wanderlust. A true veteran of travel, Dr Frederickson has visited an astounding 206 countries in search of a variety of challenges. A recognized poet and post-doctoral scholar from Columbia University, Dr Frederickson is also a self-styled teacher-trainer and cross-cultural multilingual programming expert, who has devoted the past 10 years of his life to helping others reach beyond self-imposed limits. As Thailand marked Teacher's Day on January 16, Dr Frederickson talked to the *Gazette* about broadening the horizons of Thailand's civic-minded leaders of the future.

The devastating 2004 tsunami changed my life or, more accurately, offered me the moment to transform my passive existence into one of "just do it!" activism and challenge. Volunteering to do whatever I could do to help ease the pain and suffering, especially of the traumatized homeless orphans, I decided to focus my positive energies on Takua Pa in Phang Nga, the area hardest hit by the destructive impact of the giant waves.

Working in co-operation with school administrators, teachers and guidance counselors, I spent the most rewarding four days of my life meeting one-on-one with more than 150 children, listening to the heart-wrenching stories of those who had lost family members, and I will always cherish this uniquely moving experience.

I became so inspired by their honest, heroic accounts that I organized an 'Art & Essay' contest with winning entries, selected by the *Bangkok Post*, awarded certificates and picture book prizes.

In association with the Kenan Institute Asia, 404 needy secondary school students who had "fallen through the cracks" received financial aid scholarships

of 5,000 baht each, deposited into teacher-monitored bank accounts, to help cover education-related expenses.

Since then, I have become passionately involved in expanding the horizons of our civic-minded leaders of tomorrow, while also encouraging dedicated teachers to develop both creatively and professionally.

A highly successful "English for Eco-Tourism" hands-on training in Phuket provided a fun-filled experience for 70 agro-conscious eco-planners and 100 junior tour guides, helping them to work together to make their beloved province a greener and cleaner place.

With the generous support of Phang Nga Area Education Office Director, Sommai Chanakul, more than 400 enthusiastic primary school teachers participated in intensive workshops to hone their phonics methodology and reinforce self-confidence, while also improving the five basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing and innovative thinking.

A computer-based, individualized learning package entitled "Can do, will do" was field-tested successfully in more than 100 schools in Phang Nga, which now serves as one of the main



Two students who have benefited from Dr Charles Frederickson's work.

areas in an exciting pilot project currently being implemented at selected schools in the Deep South.

Thanks to a team effort under the astute direction of Dr Somkiat Chobphol, deputy secretary-general of the Office of Basic Education, this trilingual (Thai, English, Rumi) pilot model represents a fresh start at initiating comprehensive educational reform.

What impressed me most about the development training workshop, held in Haad Yai during March, was the collective sense of commitment, positive

energy and common purpose exhibited by everyone involved. The extremely receptive participants included one administrator and one teacher from each of the 27 focus community schools in Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani, Songkla and Satun, who worked together with education area supervisors, Ministry of Education level advisors and experienced facilitators as a unified three R's (respectful rural renaissance) team.

The basic IT components, already field-tested in Phang Nga and subsequently revised by experts, have been combined into a

multilingual package entitled "Mahasungsonpatanachonabout" or All Our Kids (A-OK).

The comprehensive demonstration model starts by constructing a firm foundation with solid building blocks intended to enable each and every one of the 1,327 'Pratom one' participants to learn how to think for themselves.

Evaluations of this innovative "fun" project will be based on individual progress and "Can do, will do" supplementary skill development achievement, with plans to expand its remit to all 13 southern provinces, beginning with the new school year in May.

Internet access for people on retirement visas

I came to Thailand on a retirement visa and bought a house on a 30 year lease.

I would like to have a telephone line installed so that I can have access to the internet in my house. I now find that this is impossible.

The person at the TOT office says that I must have a work permit in order to qualify to have a telephone line installed. My retirement visa clearly states that I am not allowed to work.

This therefore means that Thailand does not want retired people to have internet access in their homes.

I find this an absurd regulation and would like to know the reason for it being so.

Jannie Breytenbach

Walaipron Chianwich of TOT Phuket Office replies:

It's not that Thailand doesn't want retired people to be able to enjoy internet access, but we have problems collecting payment from foreign customers sometimes.

Many people leave Thailand or move house without paying their bill. If we've seen a customer's work permit it's easy for us to trace them because we know where they work.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Write to:

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I recommend you set up your Internet access with the help of a Thai native who can provide a permanent billing address.

Where can I recycle waste in Phuket?

I would like to know where to take batteries and lamps to be recycled.

Paolo Masetti

Somporn Sakayawikrom, sanitation officer at the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office replies:

In Phuket City we provide special bins in government schools and hotels to separate toxic waste. Phuket City municipality collects the material and sends it to Saraburi where it is safely disposed of.

In areas that do not have the specially designated bins at this

time, you should place any toxic waste in a plastic bag and take it to the nearest hotel or municipality office in your area. We will then collect it and transfer it to the Phuket City municipality. It is important that you do not destroy it yourself or dispose of it by burying it in the ground.

For more information on toxic waste management contact Phuket Provincial Public Health Office, Narisorn road, Tambon Taladyai, Ampure maung, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211330. F: 076-222915. W: <http://www.pkto.moph.go.th/pkto>. E: admin@pkto.moph.go.th

Horoscopes

Isla Star

Capricorns whose birthdays fall during the coming days should expect the year ahead to be charged with excitement...

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Unwelcome attention from bureaucracy is best handled after Tuesday when Capricorns have more chance of maintaining the necessary composure. Friendships are well highlighted until the end of the month, but romance remains hard to fathom. If your birthday falls during the coming days, expect the year ahead to be charged with excitement, particularly where new business is concerned. Wear the color cucumber green to help maintain your cool heart.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): An amusing situation this weekend helps you to remember that life can have a lighter side. Those born under the sign of Aquarius, who have found the daily grind to be a struggle since the start of the year, will realize there is more to be gained by laughing at what is nonsense than taking it to heart. Where love is concerned, you could find yourself in a tight corner this Saturday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Some early spring cleaning and rearranging of your home will encourage fresh energy to develop. Pisceans who can't afford to spend much on improvements are advised to ask a creative Taurean friend for advice. If you have recently become single, socializing at the weekend reminds you that freedom can be fun. Monday is the best day for following up a job opportunity lead. Wear the color bronze to make a positive impression.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): The answer to an important financial question will be delayed until the end of the month. Arians should spend the interim time fine-tuning ideas relating to new business. On Thursday, an interesting meeting with a Sagittarius encourages you to branch out in an unusual direction. Romance is to be found where least expected this weekend, but a friend's jealousy could cause you to have second thoughts. Number five is lucky on Monday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): This week will be the calm before the storm for many Taureans. Towards the end of January, you will be expected to be in at least two places at the same time. During the coming days, tie up as many loose ends as possible, both at work and on the home front. The stars predict that a monetary matter should be resolved in your favor early next week. The color apple green encourages a mellow mood.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those born under the sign of Gemini who don't always devote enough time to family will see reason to change their ways this week. A whirlwind romance that was kindled during the holidays starts to go off the boil and finding the right approach could be tricky. Those already in a relationship are also forecast to feel some pressure from their partner. The number nine can bring some good fortune next Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who can't cope with a particular personal problem will finally seek advice this week. Opening your heart to Leo should result in helpful words, but an Aquarian's answer could leave you even more confused. The second half of January will be plain sailing compared with the first two weeks, but a work-related issue this week comes back to haunt you. The number eight can bring some good luck this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A last minute opportunity to get away this weekend will be snapped up by Leos who are still recovering from the holiday period. Those who are single are about to be courted by a determined Gemini, but you should find out more about this person before allowing yourself to be swept off your feet. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for presenting new work projects to those with influence.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans are still set to proceed full steam ahead this week and financial rewards are forecast for the end of the month. In the meantime, stick to a sensible budget and resist requests from family members to dig more deeply into your wallet. Someone born under the sign of Pisces will need strong encouragement to stand on their own two feet. Wear the color turquoise to enhance your self-confidence.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A lucky week lies ahead for many Librans. Where work is concerned, there are suggestions from the stars that an overdue promotion will finally be forthcoming. Affairs of the heart are also well highlighted – a commitment could be celebrated before the end of this month. You are touched when family show their appreciation of your support in an unexpected way this weekend. The number seven can bring good fortune on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If you're not entirely convinced of the benefits involved in a new job, it would be wisest to turn the offer down. Some Scorpios could be tempted to throw caution to the wind and this will result in disappointment. Where work is concerned, the stars forecast a change for the better in February that comes from a reliable old contact. A Capricorn acquaintance would like to get to know you on a romantic level.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The last half of January should prove to be more enjoyable than the two weeks just passed. Job seeking Sagittarians who haven't been able to find a position

that suits their talents will meet a helpful Leo early next week. A romantic date this weekend doesn't turn out quite the way you hope, but still gives hope for the future. Wear the color coral pink to soften your impatience.



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Saving Chalong

Now don't get me started... I mean what's with all the ants in this country? Last night, as I was lying in bed enjoying one of my favorite recurring nightmares, in which Diego Maradona is playing badminton with a Mongolian ladyboy in 7-Eleven, I was awoken by the loud chewing of eight thousand ants, who were having a picnic on my pyjamas.

I didn't think ants even liked spaghetti carbonara.

As I watched the little blighters scurrying up and down a rigid sliver of antique mushroom, it occurred to me that it was the first time I had seen anyone queuing since I arrived at the airport.

Sensitive to the need of all God's creatures to enjoy three square meals a day, I waited for them to finish, before inviting them all back for a Raid party the following night and drifting back off to sleep, where I had a funny dream.

I dreamed that Prince Charles, who seemed to be the Thai prime minister, dropped in on his Honda Wave for a plate of mussels and a chat.

Asking me how I could help him to make Chalong a better place to fly a kite, I instead advised

him of some important amendments to the constitution that he was about to think of after I had finished telling him.

Prince Charles was all ears as I told him of my brilliant plan for the people and ants of Chalong.

The problems of Chalong, I told him, were many and complex and not confined to the roundabout. The social fabric of Chalong had broken down and not just because Starbucks had refused to open a shop.

With the possible exception of the zoo, the whole place was on the verge of anarchy, a state of affairs more commonly associated with people leaving a Chuck Norris movie.

What was needed was the

restoration of law and order.

The crestfallen prince flexed his mussels and looked at me with shock and awe, or maybe it was just awe.

To take back Chalong, I affirmed, we had to act swiftly and quite possibly decisively as well, just as soon as we had finished the mussels.

Two laws needed to be drafted, approved, enacted, enforced and then enforced again, perhaps with a little money under the table.

The first law: to forbid any man from owning or renting a whistle, unless he could prove beyond reasonable doubt that he was a football referee.

The problem with men blowing whistles has long been associated with the social turmoil afflicting this otherwise promising country.

Only last week in the car-park at Tesco Lotus, a scene of carnage and chaos ensued with panic-stricken drivers and shoppers running for cover when the car-park attendant actually stopped blowing his whistle.

The second law: to deem it illegal for any Thai woman under the age of 103 to come within three kilometers of a microphone.

Nowhere can the tragic disintegration of Thai society

be more plainly observed than in the country's supermarkets and shopping malls, where one must routinely endure two probably underage girls standing toe-to-toe, barely a shopper for miles around, shrieking to each other through microphones only slightly less powerful than those employed at the Superbowl.

To pull Chalong and the rest of the country back from the brink, I assured the balding prime minister and heir to the British throne, it was crucial that these laws be enforced without mercy or exception.

Prince Charles, who, while I was talking had turned into an ant, gazed at me with unbridled adoration and then ate both my legs.

End of the Line

Dale Nottingham



Yes, you CAN undelete pictures on your camera

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Last week a good friend of mine called me in a panic. He had just returned from Italy, where he had shot some fabulous pictures with his fancy Canon. There was just one problem. Somehow, while transferring the pictures from the camera to his computer, everything went haywire. The 200-or-so gorgeous, once-in-a-lifetime shots had disappeared from his camera's memory card and from his computer.

In the past I've written in this column about "undeleting" pictures from a camera - bringing back deleted pictures from the brink when you're sure they're gone forever. Invariably, I get dozens of responses from grateful and relieved Phuketniks who manage to salvage memories that seemed irretrievably lost. In this column, I want to tell you about a tremendous new program that brings back more pictures than ever before - and the best thing: it's absolutely free.

First things first: if you've accidentally deleted pictures on a camera, *don't use the camera*. Don't turn it on. Don't plug it into your computer. If the memory card is already out of the camera, don't put it back in the camera. In short, chill out and read the rest of this column before you try anything.

Of all the Windows tricks I've encountered over the years, this one has saved so many people, so many times, that you should seriously consider cutting out this column and stuffing it in your camera bag.

If you accidentally delete pictures on a digital camera, Windows can help you get them back. The method isn't entirely fool-proof, but if you just deleted the shots of the family reunion, and you didn't keep a backup, there is hope yet.

Cameras don't have fancy file systems. They use the plain,



This is what happens when your digital camera reclaims the space used by pictures that have been deleted: it overwrites pictures with pieces of other pictures.

old, simple File Allocation Table (FAT) approach pioneered in the original version of DOS, about a hundred years ago (rumor has it that Bill Gates himself wrote much of the code for FAT). Camera FAT works with memory cards much like DOS FAT worked with floppy disks and, later, those "gigantic" 2 MB hard drives.

While FAT has few redeeming social values, one of its great virtues lies in the way that it deletes files. Er sorry, I mean in the way it doesn't delete files. Cameras, via FAT, divide up their memory card space into fixed-size chunks. When you take a picture, the camera grabs enough unused sections of the memory card to hold the picture. It then transfers the picture from the camera's computer to the card, marking the chunks of memory as being "in use". Easy.

When you tell your camera to delete a picture, it doesn't really delete anything. It just

changes the first character of the file name to a reserved character that signifies, in effect, "the next time you need a chunk of memory, you can use all of the pieces that used to belong to this picture." The camera continues to use all of the space on your memory card, but when it runs out of room, goes back and looks for segments that have been marked available for re-use.

That's why you don't want to do anything to your camera, or its memory card, until you're ready to retrieve the "deleted" pictures - the ones that haven't been erased after all. If you mess around with "mother nature", you may over-write parts of good, albeit "deleted", pictures with new images.

File undelete programs take advantage of the fact that the data - your picture - isn't actually deleted until the camera needs to re-use the space on the memory card. With a bit of luck, you can recover pictures that you

took a long, long time ago. Here's how to get the pictures back:

1. Don't use the camera! More precisely, don't use the memory card that holds the pictures. Every time you use the memory card - on some cameras, every time you stick the memory card back in the camera - you stand the chance of overwriting some of your old photos.
2. Download Recuva, pronounced "recover", at www.recuva.com. In Windows XP, double-click on the downloaded file to install the program. In Vista, you may need to right-click the file and choose 'Run' as administrator. Be patient, the installer takes a while.
3. If you have a card reader attached to your PC, take the card out of the camera, flip the write-protect tab to 'lock', so nothing can be written to the card, and put it in the card reader. If you

don't have a card reader, attach the camera to your PC. In either case, if Windows pops up and offers to do something for you (such as copying the files into your PC), exit ('X') out of the AutoPlay dialogue box.

4. Click 'Start', then 'Programs' (in Vista, it's 'All Programs'), and finally 'Recuva', then 'Recuva' again. You'll then get the Recuva Wizard. Click 'Next'.

5. Follow the steps in the Wizard to choose the kind of files you want to recover (in this case, 'Pictures'), and point to the media card. On the final Wizard screen, check the box marked 'Enable Deep Scan', and click 'Start'.

6. It may take a while, but in the end Recuva presents you with a list of recoverable files. Check the boxes next to the files you want to recover, and click the 'Recover' button. It's that easy.

PC Group Therapy

Woody writes computer books and articles for a living. He's currently up to his intellectual elbows in three thick new tomes: *Green Home Computers For Dummies*, *Windows 7 All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, and *Windows 7 Timesaving Techniques For Dummies*. Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On January 4, we'll be at Sandwich Shoppe Patong, in Aroonsom Plaza, not far from Andaman Beach Suites. On January 11, we'll meet at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna, just before the main entrance to the Laguna complex. And on January 18, we meet at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle, next to Wine Connection. PC Group Therapy Sessions are designed to help everybody - even (especially!) complete computer novices - and they're absolutely free. Remember, there's no such thing as a dumb question - only easy answers. Driving instructions at www.Woody.info.

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New race course set for popular sailing regatta



New race course details have been set for the very popular Phang Nga Bay annual sailing regatta. The event, which is about to enter its 12th year, normally attracts up to 50 yachts and 300 sailors.

Organizing committee member Vicki Gregory said that at least 40 yachts had already registered for the regatta, which runs from

January 26 till January 30, 2009.

"Interest in the regatta is very high, which is fabulous, especially given the state of the world economy. Many of those planning to take part are also from overseas," Ms Gregory said.

The registration and opening party will take place on January 26 at the new Ao Por Grand Marina.

The marina is situated at the north-eastern end of Phuket Island and within easy striking distance of the northern section of Phang Nga Bay.

The regatta proper will begin on January 27 and follow a route north to the top of Phang Nga Bay to the new pier facility at Laem Sak. The first night's party, hosted by Raimon Land, will be at the Laem Sak Seafood Restaurant.

On January 28 the regatta turns south to the secluded island of Koh Yao Noi finishing with a beach party, sponsored by Kingsfisher Beer, at the stunning Paradise Koh Yao. The following day the regatta will head west to the stunning Railay Beach in Krabi. The route takes the fleet either over the top of or through

the magical karsts of the Koh Hong Group. That night's destination will be the lovely Sand-Sea Resort. Day four will see the fleet crossing the open waters of Phang Nga Bay and under Koh Yao Yai to Phuket. The site of the closing party is currently under negotiation.

"The regatta is hugely popular because, unlike other regattas, it follows a course with a different stop-over each night, which has proved very popular with sailors. And then of course, there is the scenery which has made the region famous throughout the world. The night-time parties are almost as famous," said Ms Gregory.

Only 60 yachts are allowed to compete each year. "We have had to put a ceiling on the numbers because the anchorages in certain bays are limited.

It is also much more difficult to cater for a regatta that follows a course over four days taking in four different night stops," she said.

Major sponsors so far include Raimon Land, QBE, Kingsfisher Beer, Ao Por Grand Marina, and SEA Yachting.

Lightening strikes twice: two holes-in-one in the same round at Blue Canyon

PHUKET: Long-term Phuket resident John Connelly etched his name into Phuket golfing folklore on January 3, defying astronomical odds, by carding two holes-in-one in a single round of golf at Phuket's Blue Canyon Country Club.

A *Golf Digest* estimate published several years ago, calculated that the odds of achieving such a feat are about 67 million-to-one. The phenomenon occurred on the 2nd and 17th holes of the Canyon course, both par threes, measuring 218 and 224 yards, respectively. Connelly, an American with a handicap of 13, was playing off the championship



tees in a threesome with friends Jimmy Nixon and David Kelleway, both of whom play off a handicap of six. Remarkably, earlier the same week, the 58-year-old Connelly, who had been playing golf for more than 30 years without even seeing a hole in one, witnessed his first-ever 'ace' when playing partner Greg Hoing nailed one with a 5-iron on the 175-yard 8th hole on Blue Canyon's Lakes Course.

For the superstitious, it should be noted that Jimmy Nixon, present for all three, is a veteran of no less than four holes-in-one.

Perhaps John Connelly was in good company. But exalted company and supernatural influences cannot solely account for two holes-in-one, by one man, during a single game of golf. Quality of play was also a factor.

John told the *Gazette* that after securing the first ace in his life, his overriding thought was, "great - now you have it; but wouldn't it be nice to post a decent score [as well]? For me, from these [championship] tees I'm thinking sub 90. My best-ever is an 86." After his second hole-in-one on the 17th, he carded an 84 for the day.

ICC begins cricket league on front foot



The 2009 Island Furniture Cricket League got underway on Sunday with the defending champions Island Cricket Club (ICC) taking on the Liquid Lounge Lizards in Cherg Talay. The match was well attended and spectators were treated to a strong all round display from ICC, resplendent in a brand new blue strip, who emerged the winners by 27 runs.

ICC batted first and were all out for 142 runs following good bowling displays from Nicholas Catts, who took 4 wickets for 31 runs, and Mike Ayling who finished with figures of 3 for 22. Yatin Halankar top scored for the

ICC team with 30 runs.

Chasing a formidable total, the Liquid Lounge Lizards struggled gamely against a strong ICC bowling line-up, with the reigning champions eventually running out comfortable winners. Mike Ayling led the way for the Liquid Lounge Lizards, scoring 27 of their 115 runs, but the ICC attack, led by man-of-the-match Sameer Khan who took 4 for 20, proved too strong for the batting side.

It was just the start the Indian side wanted and Sameer Khan was understandably delighted, "We have a strong batting and bowling line up and, having won the league last year, we were confident we could win today", he told the *Gazette*.

Matches take place every Sunday at Cherg Talay school, starting at 9am and lasting for up to five hours. This year there are five teams in the league with two fixtures being played every weekend. The teams play each other twice in the league and at the end of the season, the top two teams meet in the grand final to decide the winner. Spectators are always welcome. Anyone interested in participating, either as a player or spectator, can contact Richard Brown on 085-474 1624.

-James Goyder

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Triballistic offers kids a sporting chance

When the first in a series of four triathlons, organized by Triballistic, takes place later this month, it won't just be the athletes who benefit. Triballistic has been donating money and equipment to schools in Phuket in order to give local children the chance to enjoy some of the same sporting opportunities.

Triballistic started a social program for underprivileged Thai children in 2008. In conjunction with the "Phuket has been good to us" foundation, they have been taking local children from the Kalim and Kamala schools to the Indigo Pearl Hotel for swim, bike and run training. As well as organizing family triathlon events, Triballistic hopes to provide opportunities for junior development with the aim of encouraging life-long participation in sport.

Last year money was raised to buy sports clothing, running shoes, swim gear and also bikes for local children. A number of bikes were also donated to the Phuket Sunshine Village, an orphanage on Koh Sireh Island.

Triballistic will continue to use some of the proceeds from its events to purchase sports items to donate to the children.

They are currently looking



Kids and volunteers enjoy another day of sports thanks to Triballistic.

for volunteers to help with organization and training, offering practical help to the children, as well as through the donation of equipment. Running shoes have already been donated by sportswear giants Adidas and a sponsor from the USA, US Runners Hi and Tri. The bikes and swim gear come from monetary donations from expats living locally on the island.

According to Triballistic organizer Shaun Boulter, "We will be using some of the proceeds from our events in 2009 to purchase sports items, which we still donate regularly to the children." "We are not currently doing anything with the children practically but will resume this again shortly, once we have some more volun-

teers to help with organization and training. I'm spending more time in Singapore with my real job and I don't want to start something with these kids that I can't see through," he added. "We are looking for volunteers on a permanent basis. It would involve a couple of hours most Saturdays at the Indigo Pearl Hotel, mainly supervising the kids swimming."

Anyone with sports experience, particularly in running, swimming or cycling would be ideal but you wouldn't necessarily have to be trained in any sport as long as you are happy to look after children. If this is something you would be interested in helping with in the future, please contact Shaun Boulter on 089-590 2014.

-James Goyder

Mini Marathon

WICHIT: The third Mini-Marathon, organized by the Wichit Municipality, was held on Sunday January 11.

Two separate competitions involving 580 participants from places such as Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi and Surat Thani were supported by organizations including the Khaimook Andaman Club, Cherng Talay Municipality, Banyan Tree Phuket, Phuket Public Health Office, and Wachira Hospital.

Around 275 people participated in the 4.5km Fun Run, and a further 305 lining up for the 10.5km Mini-Marathon.

The event got underway at 5.40am with speeches from Kreetta Saetan, Mayor of Wichit Municipality, and Piya Paratasinlapin, a Phuket assistant officer, with the runners in the Mini-Marathon under starter's orders at 6am.

Rachel de Maria, a 24-year old from Australia, won the women's Mini-Marathon, while the men's event was claimed for Thailand by Acting Second Lieutenant Somchoke Jaengwang from Cherng Talay Municipality. Siriyakorn Kamlai from Phuket City Municipality crossed the line first in the girls U15 competition, with Boonnam Kaenlek from



Jubilant competitors celebrate completing the Mini-Marathon.

Khaimook Andaman Club taking first prize in the U15 boys event.

The women's over-50 race saw Supaowadee Sorn-In representing Tuy Muang Dancing & Running Club emerge successful, while victory in the men's over-60 category went to Taweesak Klattuan from Khaimook Andaman Club. In the Fun Run, Olan Leelasinlapasart of Khaimook Andaman Club won the men's prize, while Nootchanart Somchaiya from Taekwondo club broke the tape first for the women.

Participants in all the events received commemorative coins, while the winners received the additional bonus of having their registration fees refunded.

International football returns to Phuket

Phuket will once again play host to an international football tournament later this month.

After December's Suzuki Cup comes the 38th annual King's Cup which will be held from January 21 to January 23, 2009 at the Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town.

The King's Cup is an annual invitation football tournament. Although the competition did not take place last year, Thailand are the reigning holders having defeated a team representing Iraq in the final in 2007. Coach Peter Reid will be looking for his team to bounce back after Thailand, the Suzuki Cup favorites, suffered a disappointing last minute loss to Vietnam in the final of the competition.

The other three teams taking part in the competition will be North Korea, Lebanon and Denmark.

With preparation for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup in mind, Reid intends to use the same squad as he did for the Suzuki Cup. The Danish side is likely to consist mainly of players from the Danish league, which is on its winter break. The semi finals will take place on January 21 with North Korea playing Denmark at 4.30pm and Thailand facing Lebanon at 7pm.

The winners will meet in the final on January 23 at 7pm with the losers contesting a play-off for third place at 4.30pm on the same day. All matches will take place at the Surakul Stadium.

-James Goyder

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Construction update

Kathu

Golfers' residence tees off in Kathu

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

Kathu Golf Condo by Kermit Development is a six-storey residential development currently underway in Kathu Valley. Located adjacent to the Phuket Country Club golf course, the resort-style condominium complex will feature a 48 fairway view, and six-pool view from the luxury apartments.

Construction began in November 2008 and is expected to be completed by May 2010. The condominium will be professionally managed and includes an optional rental scheme. The development is being marketed at vacationers on golfing-holidays or business people in need of fully-serviced apartments.

Construction is being carried out by Southern Architects and Construction Co. and covers a total area of one rai. It will comprise 54 condominium units, 40 of which are available for ownership with 49% for foreign freehold ownership. The remaining 51% is, in accordance with Thai law, available for Thai freehold or leasehold ownership. Potential owners have the option of purchasing a unit with one bedroom and one bathroom or two bedrooms and two bathrooms, although a third bedroom can be added. The living areas range from 72.52 to 160.32 square meters, including the balconies. Prices for the units start at 3.9 million baht.

Each unit is positioned to give panoramic views of the golf course and will come with a fully-equipped kitchen, a large master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and balcony access. Other features provided include air conditioning throughout, cable and/or satellite television, IDD telephone (2 lines) and WiFi Internet access.

Apart from the golf course, the development will include communal facilities, such as a gymnasium and fitness center, indoor parking, sauna, swimming pool, and Guy Ritchie's pool-side bar which will serve drinks & snacks. The condominium will also feature 24-hour security and reception. Car hire will also be available, plus a laundry service and private in-room massage.



ABOVE: An artist's impression of how Kathu Golf Condo will look once it is completed in May 2010.



The six-storey condo begins to take shape after construction began in November 2008.

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Greetings! This week, we'll discuss installing a bathroom towel rack. Sounds easy, but there are a few little things to remember that will help make it the perfect installation.

You will need: a towel rack, an electric drill with two masonry bits, plastic "anchors", screws, screwdriver, a sharp nail or punch, a very sharp pencil, flashlight, hammer and several cotton swabs (trust me).

First, a word about Thai construction methods. Thai concrete building blocks are smaller, with thinner walls, than those used in the West. More importantly, they are also cast from softer concrete, with less density (more air pockets). This impacts on the installation of anything that requires drilling and installing anchors into them.

Most Thai bathrooms are tiled roughly halfway from the floor to the ceiling. Racks can be installed on the tiled or the concrete portion of the wall. If you install it on the tiled section, try to align the screw holes within the mortar joints between the tiles, or, if possible, at the corners of four tiles. This helps avoid cracking the tiles.

Where to put it: it should not interfere with any doors (bathroom door, cabinets, etc.); it should be out of the way of any shower spray and, for those with little ones, it should be easily accessible.

Take off and examine the

end pieces. Most of the basic models will be made from cast plastic. Now look at the back. There should be reinforcing ribs cast into the plastic, but some brands neglect this.

Notice how little plastic "meat" is around the screw hole. It is important that the screw holes line up perfectly with the holes. If even slightly off, the screws will be on an angle, causing the heads of the screws to transfer more weight on to less than the whole area designed to bear it. This can result in cracking and breaking the end piece. Result: one ruined towel rack.

Next, the screws included with the rack are typically minimal in size. You can usually go up one size, to increase the size of the screw head that will bear the weight against the plastic, but check that size will fit into the holes.

A snug fit is okay, as the threads of the screws will cut slightly into the plastic for a tighter fit. If the next size up is too large, use the screws provided. Larger screws need larger anchors. These are the off-white plastic plugs installed into the drilled holes, which the screws are then threaded into.

The key to this whole installation is to cleanly drill the holes the right size, so that the anchors fit snugly. Too large a hole and they will fit too loosely, turning with the screw when it is installed instead of staying wedged in place. If the hole is too small, they will crush when you attempt to install them, and you will have to extract them and re-drill a larger hole.

Assemble the towel rack, and hold it in the location you've chosen. Take your pencil, and outline the outer corner of each end piece on the wall, then insert the point into the screw holes, marking their location. Trace the *whole* circle of the screw hole on the wall. If you just make a mark, the pencil point

The perfect rack



may mark off-center, making the screw holes vertically misaligned when drilled. Outlining the complete hole allows you to see it when you remove the rack and center the drill's bit within the circles. Before lowering the rack, take the flashlight and peer into the holes to see if you did indeed get the whole circle. See why you need a flashlight?

Now, the drilling. Masonry bits are the types with two "flanges" protruding from the tips. Spend a little extra money and buy good ones imported from the USA, Germany, or Switzerland. They are stronger, stay sharp and last much longer. The correct size is where the width of the flanges (not the shaft) is the same width as the anchor.

Start with a bit about two

sizes smaller than required. New bits are sharper, cut immediately, and thus avoid "skating" away from the intended spot, especially on a smooth, hard surface like tile.

Hold the drill in position, but *not* touching the wall. Trigger it, then bring it up to the wall, centering the bit within the circle, and press gently, but *straight* in. Smooth and straight is the key here, letting the bit, not your shoulder, do the work. Drill only slightly more than the length of the anchor (about half an inch) then reverse. Work the bit carefully in and out a few times to clear the concrete dust.

Replace the bit with the correctly sized one and repeat the procedure. If drilling into the concrete portion of the wall, or the

mortar between tiles, use the hammer and nail to make a slight "dimple" as a good starting point for the bit. Use a swab to clear dust out, as even a little can make a difference in the anchor's fit.

Start the anchors in by hand and then lightly tap it the rest of the way in with the hammer, straight and even so it doesn't bend, until flush with the surface. If you drilled into tiles, hold a scrap of light cardboard (like the back of a notebook) or thin piece of wood over it to avoid chipping the tiles with the hammer head.

Hold your rack up to the corner outlines you've marked, (easier to see than the holes), insert the screws, and tighten. Hang your towels and *voila!* Another successful job! Have a beer! See you next time!

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Home of The Week

Compact and cozy in Rawai

This single-storey home with a garden and 36-square-meter swimming pool in a recently completed neighborhood in Rawai has three bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, a western-style kitchen and a laundry room.

The 'Balinese-style' house is just over one year old and includes a large garage and sala in the garden on the 340-square-meter plot, which is secluded for privacy with a high surrounding wall. The high-quality wood and ceramic-floored interior living space totals 126 sqm and includes stylish quality crafted fittings.

The garden and blue-tiled pool can be accessed via the tall sliding glass doors onto the wood deck from the open-plan living area, which has vaulted wooden ceilings and large windows that allow the rooms to be filled with natural light.

The home's three bedrooms are made up of the two main bedrooms, each with an ensuite bathroom and bathtub, and a third bedroom as a stand-alone unit, which would be ideal as a maid's quarters.

The house comes with a Chanote title and is on the market as a freehold or leasehold property for 10.9 million baht if bought unfurnished. A fully-furnished package can be arranged.



For more information about this property contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quoting reference number: HSILD2284. T: 076-288908. E: Patrick@siamrealestate.com. W: www.siamrealestate.com.

Investing in 'The Future'

PHUKET: Electronics and IT retailer 'The Future' opened its doors recently on the bypass road.

The Gazette sat down with Teerapan Luengpaungkaew, Managing Director of The Future, to talk about the company's plans and the outlook for retailing on the island.

The Future AV Co Ltd was established in 1995 and now operates 10 outlets in all: seven in Bangkok, one in Korat and two here in Phuket.

Mr Teerapan acknowledges that in the current economic climate, it may take up to two or three years for the new Phuket branch to find its feet, but remains committed to building a strong customer base and investing in the company's long-term future.

"We are not just selling products. We are also providing a comprehensive before-and-after sales service for our customers," he says. "This is how we will build strong and lasting relationships," he adds.

The Future has ploughed around 60 million baht into its latest venture, spending over 40 million on stock alone, with a further 10 million being invested in the fit-out and another 10 million coming from in-store product suppliers.

If you are on the lookout



The Future has ploughed around 60 million baht into its latest venture.

for electronic goods, The Future sports a pretty comprehensive range of appliances and accessories, including LCD screens, cameras, notebook computers, printers, PC accessories, refrigerators, washing machines and much more said Mr Teerapan.

The positioning of the company's two Phuket outlets will be slightly different, with the new branch on the bypass road targeting a more upmarket 'AB' demographic, while the Lotus branch is tailored to the mid-market 'C' customer group.

In these difficult economic times, Mr Teerapan stresses the importance of marketing. "I believe that, in this situation, every company needs to market aggressively.

If you stop marketing your products and services you will fail, because your competitors will steal your customers," he explains.



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Note: The above details including all pictures are indicative information only. The final details are subject to change(s) made by the Developer without giving prior notice to the customer.



Luxury villa market update



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

In spite of recent political issues in Bangkok and a worsening of global financial downturn, the upscale luxury villa segment outperformed the broader Phuket property market in 2008.

As we move into 2009, take-up rates are expected to soften with a "wait and see" attitude prevailing among many potential buyers.

The following is a compilation of recently completed market research on trends and performance of upscale villa developments, those with units priced at 65 million baht and above.

In this week's column we will examine some general trends in the market.

Next week we will continue with a more in-depth look at some of the factors influencing supply and demand in this important market segment.

Market Outlook & Trends

-The luxury villa sector continues to outperform the property market in general.

-Global financial turmoil and political worries in Thailand have impacted fourth quarter villa sales in 2008 and may also result in a slow start in the first quarter of 2009.

-For purchasers – investors or developers with capital – there will be opportunities to benefit from any temporary softening.

-Our medium term outlook for Phuket's luxury villa market remains positive.

-Branded developments continue to enter the market, with additional product coming on-line.

-Tight credit conditions may cause project delays and a slowing of sales pace in the near term.

-Availability of coastal land in prime west coast areas of Phuket continues to shrink, pushing new developments to the north and east in search of ocean views.

-Luxury villa supply remains strong, with over 300 units priced over 65 million baht in the market. However, new supply is limited.

Forward Outlook

-As availability of prime land continues to shrink, smaller "boutique" developments will become increasingly common.

-The marina market will continue to develop along Phuket's east coast.

-Upcoming luxury supply includes some prestigious branded newcomers to Phuket.

-Evolving sectors in the tourism industry continue to introduce a new set of potential investors to the real estate market.

-Infrastructure development continues to support high-end tourism and luxury residential projects.

Destination Overview

Phuket is one of Asia's premier destinations and is well regarded among villa purchasers.

The market has shown steady growth in both visitor arrivals and real estate values over the past decade. This is expected to continue over the upcoming decade as accessibility and hospitality offerings continue to improve.

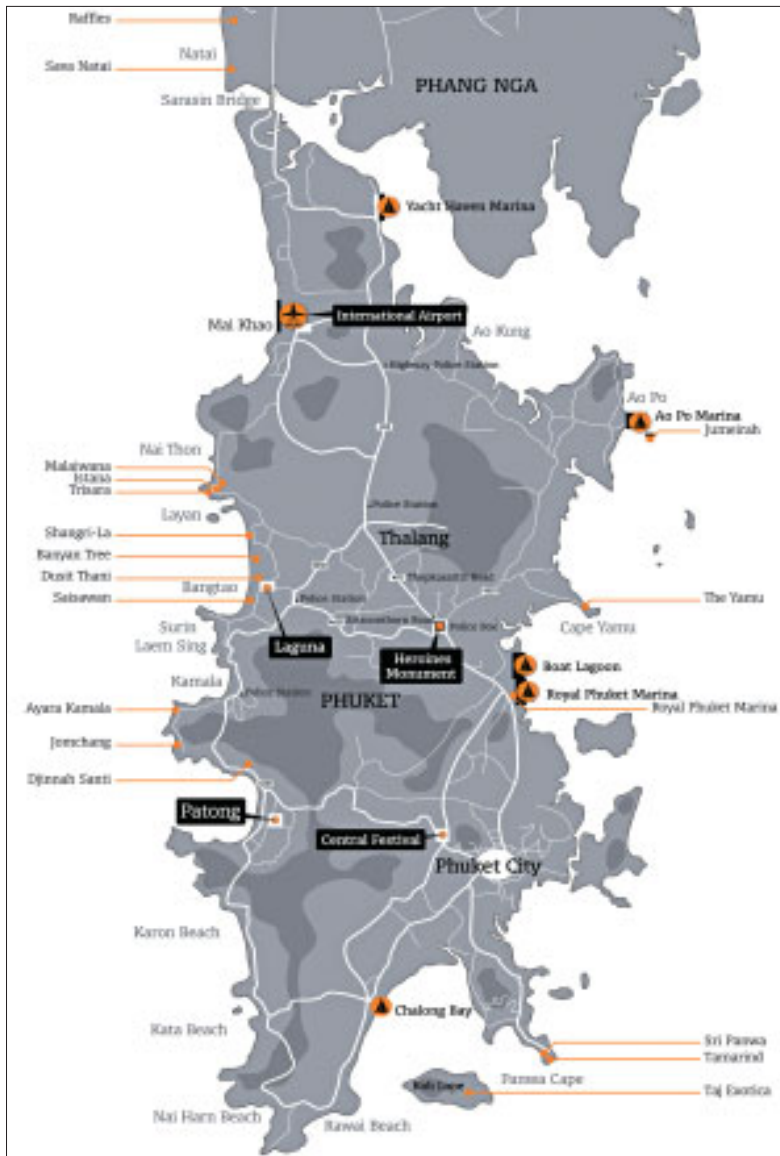
In economic terms, we expect Phuket to continue to show healthy transaction rates in the 65-million-baht plus range, as the island has the advantage of attracting buyers seeking high-quality villas.

Because so many buyers are from abroad, the vast majority of purchases are cash based, so access to credit or debt servicing are not issues among this group.

Furthermore, current and upcoming supply in the luxury segment is limited and few undeveloped prime sea-front sites remain; factors which will continue to stimulate demand among potential purchasers.

As such, our medium-term outlook on the Phuket market remains positive.

In recent months, Thailand



PHUKET LUXURY VILLA MARKET (>65M THB)		
	Luxury Villa Market 2008	Luxury Villa Market 2009 Onward
Phang Nga	5	33
West Coast	172	188
East Coast	127	146
Total	304	367

Note: The 2008 existing luxury villa market is assumed to be the luxury inventory at projects current selling. For 2009 onward, planned luxury villas include announced projects and existing supply.

has been buffeted by the combination of global financial turmoil and local political upheaval, both of which have shaken confidence in the Phuket property market.

No market has immunity from such events and it is likely that we will see some short-term effects in terms of on-going development progress and new launches, as well as a slowdown in sales pace.

Phuket is a premier destination in its own right and, per-

haps arguably, constitutes a distinct residential market in the Thai context as well.

During the recent closure of the two Bangkok airports, Phuket remained open for business and was useful to some as an alternative air transport hub.

This shows the growing significance of the island and reflects a certain measure of separation from issues faced in other parts of the country.

Given the diminishing sup-

ply of west coast land with sea views in southern and central parts of the island, there are new areas to watch in the luxury villa segment. These include the following:

East Coast

Developers seeking out new areas with sea views have moved into locations along Phuket's east coast. With high-profile projects including Jumeirah Private Island, Taj Exotica and The Yamu, the east coast with its unique views of Phang Nga Bay is a developing story in the Phuket property market.

Mai Khao

As beachfront land has become scarce elsewhere on Phuket, Mai Khao has become an attractive location for developers.

The Anantara Phuket recently opened on Mai Khao beach, joining the established JW Marriott and Sala properties. This area is poised to be a significant destination, with increasing critical mass to the hotel pipeline including properties from Holiday Inn, Outrigger and Renaissance.

Greater Phuket

The lack of beachfront real estate on Phuket itself – as well as the availability of larger land parcels for high-end resort development and large mixed-use projects along Natai Beach in Thai Muang and even closer to Phuket in Takua Thung's tambon Khok Kloi – has resulted in a trend towards high-end development and premium hotels in southern Phang Nga. Examples of this include Aleenta and Sava Natai, while the announcement of the Raffles villa project has cemented this area as one to watch.

In next week's column we will look at some of the socio-economic and political trends influencing supply and demand in the market for luxury villas.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

3.5 MILLION BAHT OFF LIST PRICE



5 mins to Kamala Beach, 4 bed, 5 bath plus 2 car garage. Studio apt above large pool. Western kitchen, furnished, UBC, WiFi. 370 m² home on 700 m² of land. Quality build inside-out. Tel: 084-850 0568.

FREEHOLD, PATONG 28SQM

studio, fully renovated and furnished, brand new. Price 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664.

HOUSE FOR SALE

74 square wah, garden, connected to main road. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 2 telephone lines, ADSL, cable TV and True Visions. Only 7 km to airport and Naiyang Beach. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 076-621021, 081-820 5266. Fax: 076-206220. Email: umavadee@cscoms.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketgifts.com

RAWAI: BRAND NEW HOUSE

2 storey, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, car park, landscaped garden and swimming pool. Very good location in Rawai Bangkontee. Available now. Asking price: 15.5 million baht. Tel: 084-851 1961. Email: rainier.vigneau@gmail.com

LAND IN RAWAI

Nai Harn and Chalong. Big and small plots. Special plot with wall. 1 rai 43sq wah. 5.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 085-795 5383. For further details, please see our website at www.warmwaterland.com

FREEHOLD, RAWAI



27sqm, studio, furnished, 200 meters from the beach. Asking 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

CHANOTE, 29 RAI

at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-539 9269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND MUST SELL

Pa khlok, next to Mission Hill Golf Course. 1.1 rai, shared wall with golf course, sea, mountain view. Agent welcome. Tel: 081-958 7612, 081-909 2265.

SINGLE HOUSE RAWAI

300m from the beach and close to Nai Harn beach, new house 200 sqm + 50 sqm guesthouse in 2 private. Large gardens, wonderful hills view, 3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, big living room and terraces, furnished, aircon, Cable TV, quick sale, reduced to only 5.5 million baht. Call Davide at 083-181 4418.

KAMALA LAKE HOUSE

Big 2 bedroom, European standard. Price for sale 2.9 million baht or 10 year lease for 1 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



Panoramic sea views - 5 bedrooms, 466sqm living space, 36sqm pool with Jacuzzi, 4 minutes from Kata Beach. Ready to move into. Only 24 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

VILLA + LAND



for sale. Quick sale near Heroines monument, 12.9 million baht + clear land 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-690 7057.

VILLA 4 BEDROOMS

5 mins to Yacht Haven. 2 rai, Bali style, swimming pool. European standard furniture. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

PATONG BUILDING

Bangla Rd, area 330sqm, 4 floors, Chanote, finance available. Cheap 16 million baht. Tel: 087-881 7600.

KHO YAO YAI

- 2.9 rai, Chanote title, water, electricity. Near pier. Price: 750,000 baht.
- 2 rai, seaview. Price: 1.5 million baht.
- 2 rai on beach. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 082-411 2138.

PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-944 2065, 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-539 9269.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng-Talay and Surin. 4.3 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-956-2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN THE PROJECT 'THE INDY'



at the entrance to BIS. Townhouse is at the corner and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land: 32sq wah. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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SEA VIEW 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. Take Thap Tawan beach road to Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km south of Takuapa. Tel: 081-894 7644.

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276-5117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

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Chanote titles. East side, electricity, 1/3 to 1 rai, price from 850,000 baht. Tel: 086-942 1930.

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PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

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for sale, lease or rent! Tel: 076-340454, 081-892 0761. Fax: 076-290221. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-apartments.de

PATONG CONDO 56 SQM

freehold. Western style kitchen and bedroom, balcony, large pool and car parking. End unit. Ready to move in. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

1 RAI LOTS

in gated community. Ocean view. East coast, Pa Khlok. Starting at 3.5 million per rai. Royal Coast Company Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-693 2791. Email: eam1008@mac.com

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai. Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

8 BEACHFRONT LOTS

for sale. Now only 4 left! Coconut Island (Maphrao), half rai for 2.75 to 4.4 million baht. 8% fee to brokers Royal Coast Company. Contact K. Apple. Tel: 076-353926 or 081-693 2791. Or simply email to: angpaos@mac.com

HOUSES, BANGTAO

for sale. 2-3 bedrooms, from 3 million baht to 14 million baht. Tel: 087-268 8752. For further details and photos, please visit our website at www.phukethome.ws

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Property Gazette

KOH KHO KHAO LAND
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AGRICULTURAL LAND
for sale. 120 rai of agricultural land for sale, 20km from resort area of Khao Lak. Total price 3.84 million baht. Please telephone 087-020 0191 for further information.

URGENT SALE
House in Kathu. Good price townhouse. 2-story, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Tel: 089-288 8519.

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



at Phuket Asialand, Surin Beach. Sale: 7.9 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month with 100,000 baht deposit. Tel: 081-477 2152. Email: info@methaya.com

IDEAL LOCATION IN PATONG
1 rai 1 ngan (2,000sqm) of street frontage land in Patong - close to Phuket Palace Hotel for sale at 50 million baht. Contact John. Tel: 076-294393, 089-724 1505. Email: unique_property@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM
Renovated, freehold, 2 rooms, terrace, nice view, pool, 200 meters to beach. Furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.7 million baht. Tel: 086-976 0809.

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA
in Rawai for sale. Big bedrooms, full kitchen, big garden with private pool, aircon, secure, great location. Telephone: 085-783 1890.


VILLA IN NAI HARN
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, western kitchen, aircon, room for pool. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@ttmaxnet.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha Tel: 089-290 0484.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. Priced from 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB




Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com Tel: 081-894 1994.

BIG COLONIAL HOUSE



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NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



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

NEW HOUSE
for sale/rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, True TV, internet, 300m from Heroines Monument towards Pakhlok. Sale 3.7 million baht. Rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-264 6808, 083-174 3880.

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

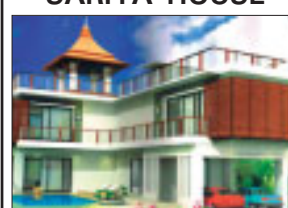
FREEHOLD PATONG
New condo, private road, security, 2 pools, fitness quality and good potential for profit. Tel: 083-391 8720.

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE




in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.
* 4-storey
* 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
* Chanote title
* Electricity, water
* 2 minutes to the beach
Asking price: 52 million baht.
Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

SARIYA HOUSE



320sqm plot. 2 story luxury villa with sea view. 3 bedrooms (1 pool-side and 2 with balconies overlooking pool), 3 en-suite bathrooms, fully-fitted kitchen with top-line convection oven, spacious open-plan living and dining area, large jet stream swimming pool, roof-terrace with stylish sala & double car-port. Fully furnished with air-conditioning.
- Price: 13.6 million baht
- Type: Villa
- Location: Soi Kery off Sai Yuan Rd., Rawai/Nai-harn
- Contact: Khun Kob
Tel: + 66 (0) 895892662.
Email: sariyapat-t@hotmail.com
Website: www.siriyahouse.com

NAIYANG GARDEN VILLA
1 rai with 4 houses. 7 bedrooms and bathroom, swimming pool, fully furnished. 2km to beach, 5km to airport. Sale only 8 million baht. Tel: 081-891 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

1 RAI LOTS
in gated community. Ocean view. East coast, Pa Khlok. Starting at 3.5 million per rai. Royal Coast Company Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-693 2791. Email: eam1008@mac.com

MAI KHAO HOUSE
for sale. One-story single house, 3 bedrooms with built-in furniture, big dining room and kitchen, large garden with big trees, area 305 sq wah. Only 5.5 million baht. Tel: 089-697 0928.

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI
Full aircon, fully equipped, kitchen, 24 hours security, great location. For sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

LAND FOR SALE
Perfect for guesthouse. 1 minute to Karon beach. Price 6.9 million baht. I will consider a land/condo trade. Tel: 081-446 0215.

KAMALA SERVICED CONDOS
1 bedroom, 75 sqm. Common pool, hotel service, 3 floor unit. 2.3 million baht. Ground floor unit 2.4 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

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HILL HOUSE AT KATA
for sale. Sea view, 600sqm for total area. Two-story house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, parking, pool. Nice location, 5 minutes to Kata Beach. Can adapt for 2 apartments for rent. Please take a look and ask for price ono. Tel: 087-689 9679.

CHEAP LAND SALE
7 Rai Maikhao Beach. Chanote, public street, 1.9 million baht. Tel: 080-719 3785.


2 STORY VILLA NEAR LAYAN BEACH
Hardwood floors, 3 bathroom. Wet bar, small plunge pool with waterfall. Private tropical garden. Asking 6.7mil baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

KHAO LAK VILLA
Newly built villa in pristine location 20 km north of Khao Lak. 2 Bedroom, 2 bathroom. Big community swimming pool shared by 9 houses. 600 meters to a true paradise beach. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

NICE HOUSE FOR SALE
Maneekram Village, between Central Festival and Chalong. 609.20sqm 2-story house with swimming pool. 3 bedrooms with balconies, aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms with hot water, dining room, kitchen, parking and garden. Use of Village Clubhouse facilities. Rent: 65,000.-baht. Sale: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-892 4735. Email: noksk@samart.co.th

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE
New building with 5 big A/C rooms, ground floor comprising of shopfront and kitchen with main road access, cable TV, internet, tel line, etc. Potential for business. Contact Wiyada at 083-593 4490. Email: cj2820@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

KARON SEAVIEW



Located on the west coast of Phuket island. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Perfect location for business (hotel & resort). Price 300 million baht. No Agents!! Tel: 087-270 9093.

MISSION HILLS LAND FOR SALE

Located close to Mission Hills Golf Course. Two 1.5 rai plots for sale only 2 million baht each. Tel: 081-891 1826. Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th


APARTMENT IN PATONG

House also available in Benjamas Housing Complex. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892 6829. Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th

PATONG DELUXE CONDO

First class modern bldg. Furnished, all amenities. 62sqm, 280' view city/ocean/mountain. Quiet, yet walk to everything. 4,275,000 baht. Tel: 080-797 5263. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

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4 plots of land on Koh Sireh, park view, 480sqm each, beach, Chanote title, concrete road access, 300 meters from new yacht marina. Asking for 1.5 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-536 9252. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com

LAND IN MAIKHAO

7 rai, 1.7 million baht per rai, near Westsands. Chanote and public road. Tel: 083-633 4994.

8 BEACHFRONT LOTS

for sale. Now only 4 left! Coconut Island (Maphrao), half rai for 2.75 to 4.4 million baht. 8% fee to brokers Royal Coast Company. Contact K. Apple. Tel: 076-353926 or 081-693 2791. Or simply email to: angpaos@mac.com

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

for sale. On Rat-U-Tit 200 Pi Rd. 13 million baht. Fully furnished, 7 bedrooms. Contact Khun Ae. Tel: 089-472 9895.

DESIGNER POOL VILLA



in Rawai. Delightful 250sqm villa on half rai for sale or long-term rent. Garden with sala and 11m pool. Fully furnished. Open-plan with modern kitchen, dining area and living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large studio/3rd bedroom. L-shaped 4m deep covered terrace. Wifi internet, True TV, 4 aircons. Price: 7.5 million baht. Rent: 35,000 baht. Tel: 076-289146, 089-970 1861. Email: derek24davies@aol.com

NEAR LAYAN HILLS ESTATE

Half rai to 2 rais. 4 million baht per rai for quick sale! Chanote title, road and utilities. Ready to build house. Tel: 081-539 9269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

CHALONG INCREDIBLE VALUE

Brand new 3 bedroom pool villa. Make us an offer. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

CAPE PANWA CONDO

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 116 sqm, luxury quality finishing. Freehold 5 million baht. Tel: 087-279 6700.

LAND KAMALA 2,200 SQM 9.9 MB

4 plot + house. Elec & water. 900m to the beach. Tel: 076-292596, 086-267 8477. Email: tourmiechristian@hotmail.com

LAND BETWEEN CHALONG/RAWAI


for sale. 2,788sqm with chanote title. Price 6.8 million baht. Tel: 089-885 4517.

RAWAIYA SUITES CONDOMINIUMS



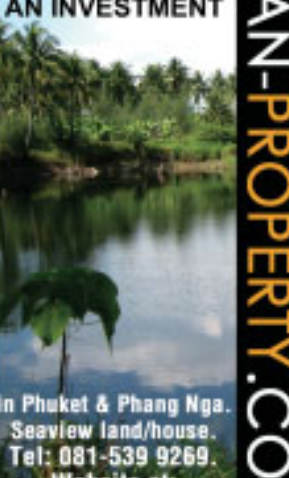
Rawai Beach, 1 and 2 bedrooms 65 sqm 3.96 MB, luxury 2 bedroom 130 sqm 7.5 MB, en suit bathrooms, fully furnished, Ready to move into first quarter 2009, rent out in high season, fully facilities, freehold available, 500 meters to Rawai Beach. Tel: 076-289910, 086-475 9258. Fax: 076-289910. Email: sales@tharadonestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.tharadonestate.com

BARGAIN HOUSE IN RAWAI



Corner unit, 26 sq wah. Price: 990,000 baht. Tel: 086-952 9517. Email: condotel@web.de

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT



In Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-539 9269. Website at: www.janproperty.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

Price reduced to 3.9 million. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, next to Print Resort and Kamala Beach. Tel: 086-277 3381.

QUICK SALE

Only 5.1 million baht, near Laguna. Thai-style home. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room. Tel: 087-893 8590.

GOLFVIEW ROOM + GOLF MEMBERSHIP

5th floor Golf View Condo. One bedroom. 58 square meters. Includes golf club membership. Tel: 089-488 0955. Email: together@myway.com

LAND IN PHANG NGA

for sale. 9.8 rai working fruit farm, 300+ trees, 5 fish ponds, 2 farm houses suitable for fishing park, 5 kms Phang Nga, 45 mins Phuket airport. Chanote title deed 5,800,000 baht Tel: 086-274 0056 English or 085-151 0823 Thai.

KHOK KLOI HOUSE

2.9 million baht, 4 years old, 118sqm house on 904sqm plot. Quiet area, 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, big kitchen, aircon, phone line, 2 car covered parking. Chanote. Tel: 081-728 4821 or 081-693 2759.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced 'fire sale' price. See website, then call or mail for further details. Tel: 081-894 1994. Email: tom.fekete@gmail.com Visit http://www.fairway15.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU



for sale. 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom. Fully furnished in Kathu. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 085-204 3622.

LAND FOR SALE

Vacant plot for sale in Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-273466, 081-968 9046. Fax: 076-238948. Email: pen@phuketboatlagoon.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketboatlagoon.com/parkresidence/landforsale.html

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

for sale. Big bedrooms, full kitchen, big garden + private pool, aircon, secure, great location. Tel: 085-783 1890.

HOUSE IN RAWAI

for sale. Corner unit, 26 sq wah. Price 990,000 baht. Tel: 086-952 9517. Email: condo tel@web.de

LAGUNA AREA

Townhouse, 200 sqm, 2 bedrooms with office/storage. Sale: 14 million baht; Rent: 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 3960.

HOUSE IN RAWAI

Corner unit, 26 sq wah. Price 990,000 baht. Tel: 086-952 9517. Email: condo tel@web.de

NEW HOUSE RAWAI



Large 2 bedroom, 3 bathroom. Fully furnished, solar hot water, 4 aircons, phone, ADSL, cable. Price 8.4 million baht/offer. Tel: 084-424 7688. Contact Tom.

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

for sale. On Rat-U-Tit 200 Pi Rd. 13 million baht. Fully furnished, 7 bedrooms. Contact Khun Ae. Tel: 089-472 9895.

CHALONG SEA VIEW

2-story twin house, 36 sq wah, 3 bedrooms with airconditioning, garden, sea view and mountain view. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-697 0928.

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Please contact via by email: allservices29@gmail.com

VILLA + 2 HOUSES IN PATONG



Villa, 4 bedroom, private pool and good views. 2 houses with 8 small apartments, 700sqm. Freehold land. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

KATA BEACH VILLA

New with pool, 6 bedroom, 7 bathroom. Price: 16 million baht. Tel: 081-091 8908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

2.5 MILLION BAHT

2 bedroom house in managed estate, near BIS. Ready to move in. (Quick sale). Tel: 087-272 0303.

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

Full aircon, fully equipped, kitchen, 24 hours security, great location. For sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

TWOVILLAS RESALE

Private pool villa, fully furnished, 1-4 bedrooms. Location: Nai Harn/Bangtao. Price starts at 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970-0742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: sales@twovillas.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NAI HARN BEACH



House for rent, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 800sqm land, private pool, full furnished, ADSL, Tel, garden. Available from February. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Contact Seru. Tel: 089-572 5378.

RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE

Private, aircon room, fridge, cable TV. Wifi. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

BUNGALOW RAWAI

2 bedroom, cable TV, ADSL, aircon. Quiet location, washing machine. Tel: 086-279 0837.

BLUE CANYON CONDO

Large, 3 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, security, 5 mins to beaches, airport. Short/long term. Price: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-084 4563. Email: jhamilton@capcorp.ca

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, dining room, living room, kitchen, 2 car parks, garden, Internet and TV. Located near Laguna, 12 mins to Western beaches (Layan, Naithorn, Naiyang). 12 mins to Phuket International Academy School. Price: 65,000 baht per month, including house, pool and garden maintenance. For long term 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

SHOP FOR RENT AT PATONG

One shop at Jungceylon & one shop at Patong beach front. 24sqm. Rent 26,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-328 7376. Fax: 076-271 1110. Email: sohailnoshad@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA RAWAI

5 beds, private garden, large swimming pool, well equipped. Long/short term rental at good price. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

CENTRAL PATONG

2 bed, 2 bath apartment for rent. Clean & spacious. Great value. Great location, minutes (2 km) from the beach, Jungceylon etc. Large communal pool, free satellite TV, WiFi, ADSL. Full info and photos available on request. Tel: 076-512259, 085-071 7134. Fax: 076-512259. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com

RAWAI BEACH POOL HOME STAY



Private bedroom, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, Wi-Fi, cable TV. 3,500 baht weekly. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

VILLA IN PARADISE



Stunning new 3 beds villa in Rawai, include 1 bed guest villa, pool table room, aircon, ADSL. Sat TV. Tel, fully furnished. Private pool, tropical gardens. Min 12 months 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-073 1180, 087-893 1180.

ROOMS / CONDO FOR RENT

I have rooms from 18,000 baht per month. Call me (Maria) or email for details. Tel: 084-845 0003. Email: m@bayproject.com

LUXURY VILLA POOL

2,000 baht daily, near Laguna. Has everything, short or long term, reasonable. Tel: 089-594 4067.

NEW CONDO

28 sqm, furnished, 1 bedroom, aircon, TV, ADSL, fridge, kitchen. Great location on Thepkrasattri Rd. 12,000 baht per month (negotiable). Tel: 076-310334, 081-893 6414. Fax: 076-310296. Email: bb_powerz@yahoo.com

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western teak kitchen and bath, 130sqm, large seaview terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available. Serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT KATA

New building includes elevator, pool, restaurant, gym and parking. Walking distance to beach, shopping and nightlife. For rent or sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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PATONG SEA VIEW



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PATONG RENTALS

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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: 081-692 3163.

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36' wood/fiberglass speedboat in good condition with two 200hp Yamaha engines. Boat is equipped for long distance trips with 800 L fuel tank. Good boat for day trip divers (wooden trailer included in sale). For quick sale; make an offer. Tel: 076-398368, 087-053 0090. Or Fax 076-398365. Contact for more details. Email: blue2997@gmail.com

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DINGHY

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Wooden hull, equipped for diving. Yamaha 2x200hp. Tel: 080-080 9912.

DINGHY

3.1 metres with Yamaha 15hp, red, hyperlon, 2.5 yrs old, good condition. Tel: 081-7874690.

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Both in very good condition. Hobie 150,000 baht; Nacra 290,000 baht. Tel: 089-4708926. Email: earfievvet@voila.fr

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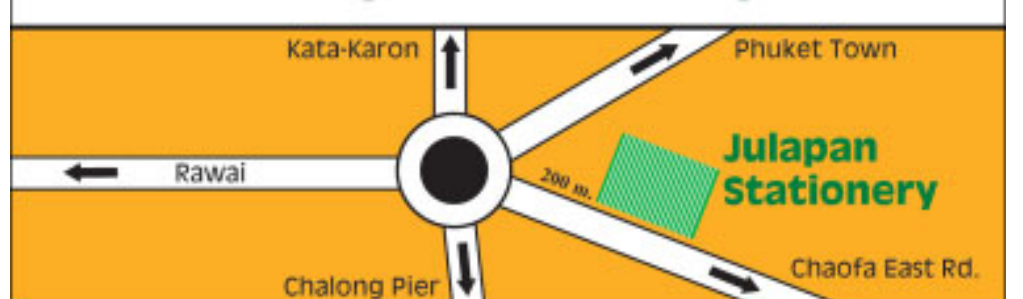
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Fri 7 PM

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Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Chalong Health Clinic - near Chalong Circle
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Sirin Beach - Sirin
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Krabai Hospital - Krabai
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