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Phuket Gazette

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Surgery success

By Thanasorn Chookate

PHUKET CITY: American resident Steve Swan is recovering well at Vachira Phuket Hospital following successful surgery to repair multiple injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident that occurred on Patak Road in Rawai on May 1.

Steve, owner of the Crows Nest Bar and tattoo parlor on Soi Seadragon in Patong, suffered severe injuries including a hip fracture and three fractures to his pelvis – one requiring a metal pin to hold it together.

His surgery on May 4 followed a mobilization by friends and local media to find donors of the O-negative blood he needed for blood transfusions, before and during the surgery.

He needed at least eight units and the call for donations managed to produce 11 by the time



SAVE THE SWANSONG: Steve recovers at Vachira Hospital on May 6.

he went into surgery.

The O-negative blood type is fairly common among Caucasians, but extremely rare in Asians and is often in short supply in local blood banks. On May 6, Steve said he would be released after

one week at the earliest, although he faces at least one month in a wheelchair before he can try to stand up.

He asked the Gazette to pass along his heartfelt thanks to his friends and well-wishers.

Phuket marks Visakha Bucha Day



Phuket celebrated Visakha Bucha Day on May 8. The auspicious day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, enlightenment and the passing of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell on the same date and in the same month in the Buddhist era.

Restoring Thai dignity rests with Phuket



Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban speaking outside the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, Karon on May 2.

PHUKET: With Phuket tentatively selected to play host to a rescheduled ASEAN summit on April 13 and 14, the government has been attempting to reassure Asian leaders that there will be no repeat of the debacle that forced the cancellation of the Pattaya meeting in April.

The original summit of leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and six dialogue partners was abruptly canceled after anti-government protesters stormed the venue.

On May 2, government representatives, led by Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, toured possible venues around Phuket, spending much of the day at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa at Karon Beach.

Suthep called upon Phuket residents to ensure that the summit will go off without incident. Phuket would be a safe destination for talks as the Democrat-led administration enjoyed very strong support in the South, he said.

The deputy PM said he was convinced that Phuket residents would unite to help Thailand restore its "damaged dignity" fol-

lowing the Pattaya fiasco.

"I believe there will be no protest, as the meeting will be held in Phuket, where local people along with those in other parts of the South want the event to be a success," Mr Suthep told the Gazette.

"The Defense Ministry will be responsible for security matters to assure the safety of the leaders," he added.

Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan insisted that he would never allow a repeat of the Pattaya disaster, but added that to ensure success, the government will need co-operation from all residents of Phuket.

Meanwhile, Asian leaders concerned about their safety have demanded a ban on protests within five kilometers of the conference venue as a condition to attend the meeting.

"We will declare the meet-

ing venue off-limits to gatherings and for that we have to see which legal avenue we can resort to in order to implement the measure," Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on May 3.

Authorities were reviewing safety and security measures and they would prepare concrete steps shortly, he added.

At the time of writing, the summit venue had not yet been confirmed.

On May 4, Mr Suthep, together with Mr Prawit and Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Virasakdi Futrakul, briefed diplomats from ASEAN and dialogue partners on summit preparations, especially the security arrangements for national leaders.

Mr Virasakdi said that the proposed dates of June 13 and 14 had yet to be confirmed by all ASEAN leaders and partner countries.



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Swine Flu: Phuket steps up preparations as virus hits Asia

PHUKET: While Public Health Minister Withaya Kaewparadai was waiting at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport to welcome teachers and students who had flown in from Mexico on the evening of May 3, he noticed that immigration officers were not wearing surgical masks to protect themselves, and were even asking arriving passengers to take off their masks for identification.

"From this incident, I realized that immigration officers are not cooperating in the prevention of an outbreak," he said. "It appears as if they don't know that they need to prevent infections."

He said he would instruct the Disease Control Department's Director General Dr Somchai Chakrabhand to train all immigration officers, particularly those at heavily trafficked entry points such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket, about disease control and prevention.

Somchai said his agency had already trained immigration officers at southern border checkpoints, including Betong, Sungai Kolok, Padang Besar, Sadao, Malang and Hat Yai, about pre-



A quarantine officer monitors travellers with a thermographic device at an arrival gate at the Suvarnabhumi airport in Bangkok on April 27, 2009. Thailand set up thermal scanners at Bangkok's main airport and halted pork product imports from Mexico and the US as authorities acted against the spread of swine flu. AFP PHOTO / NICOLAS ASFOURI

ventive measures. These, along with Ranong, are the entry points most often used by Phuket visa-runners and tourists entering Thailand by land. However, so far only Sadao and Padang Besar have infrared thermal scanners, he said.

On Monday, May 4 the Public Health Ministry announced stricter measures to control the

spread of the H1N1 influenza virus by installing another 32 infrared thermal scanners nationwide. Withaya said that he would ask the Cabinet for funds for a further ten scanners after Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kajornprasart – who is overseeing the outbreak prevention operations – instructed him to tighten measures.



ALL CLEAR: Phuket doctors declared all 1,900 passengers on board the holiday cruise ship Super Star Virgo free of the swine flu virus after the vessel docked at Ao Makham Deep Sea Port on May 4 for a seven-hour stopover.

The passengers, comprising Chinese, Singaporean, Australian, Indian and European nationals, were all checked for flu symptoms before disembarking in the afternoon and again before leaving Phuket in the evening. The tests were carried out by the ship's medical staff using thermo imaging scanners. Staff from Vachira Hospital's department of communicable disease control were present to observe the procedures.

One of the passengers, an Indian national, was quarantined on board the vessel as a precaution after doctors found her to be suffering from an "acute respiratory infection" that was "probably viral". Following more tests, doctors ascertained that she was not infected with swine flu – or the A(H1N1) virus, to give it its technical name – and the ship was given the all clear.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

Phuket suicide likely due to money woes

MAI KHAO: The suicide of well-known businessman Mann "Benz Phuket" Suksawee now seems likely to have resulted from strained finances. Police were informed of the apparent suicide by local residents at about 10am on April 30. Mr Mann, who lived in downtown

Haad Yai, was the manager of the Sangan Panich group of companies, based in Songkhla province.

At the height of his success, from 1993 to 1995, the group had expanded across all 14 southern provinces. Mr Mann had investments in many businesses, includ-

ing 10 car dealerships as well as firms trading in agricultural products.

At one point, the group's assets exceeded 1 billion baht. However, his businesses suffered during the 1997 financial crisis and closed down one by one. In early 2009, Mr Mann stopped operating his Nissan dealership in Songkhla, leaving him only his Mercedes Benz dealership in Phuket.

It is thought that with the onset of the latest financial crisis, Mr Mann found his economic misfortunes too much to bear and decided to commit suicide. Mr Mann was known to be close friends with the husband of Sudarat Keyuraphan, former deputy leader of the now-defunct Thai Rak Thai Party.

Phuket to the world: Web forum zeros in

PHUKET: The *Phuket Gazette* has entered the booming online forum sweepstakes by signing a partnership agreement with ThaiVisa.com, Thailand's largest English-language web board. The agreement has resulted in the birth of the *Phuket Gazette/ThaiVisa Forum*, a collection of thousands of pages of reader knowledge and observations on just about every aspect of life in Phuket.

The *Gazette* endows the venture with rich, dynamic news content, major web visitor statistics from its online newspaper, and a powerful Google ranking, while ThaiVisa provides the technology and a massive membership base to ensure continued growth in read-

ership participation.

"We've been told for years that we should have a forum, that our hard-copy letters to the editor and Issues & Answers columns, while interactive, are simply too slow to satisfy the market's lust for 'see-it, get-it now'," said John Magee, publisher of the *Gazette*. "But we've not had the resources to set up our own web board, so working together with ThaiVisa and The Nation on this seemed like a natural thing to do," he added.

The ThaiVisa.Com Expat Forum, of which the *Phuket Forum* is a part, has, as of May 5, 75,804 registered members. Launched in 2002, the forum now enjoys about 25,000 unique visitors a day, and serves up more than four million pages per month. The pages carry close to three million individual posts contributed by readers with an interest in Thailand.

"We are happy to be working with the *Gazette* in the Phuket Forum. It's a newspaper with a long history of credibility and substance, and the *Gazette* online has an extremely strong presence in the major search engines, particularly Google. Working together with the *Gazette* on a trial basis over the past month has already resulted in a major increase in visits to our Phuket Forum, a trend which we expect to continue," said Barry Main, marketing director of ThaiVisa.Com.

"We've brought a Phuket news icon into our pages, and the opportunities for expansion of the partnership into other areas – classified advertising, for example – are looking pretty good," he added.



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Insemination gives hope for turtles



Dr Kanjana Adulya-nukosol of Phuket Marine Biological Center thinks changing sea temperatures might be adversely affecting populations.

CAPE PANWA: In the first operation of its kind to be carried out in Thailand, a combined team of researchers from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and Kasetsart University's Faculty of Veterinary Science successfully extracted sperm from an adult olive ridley turtle on May 4.

The team, led by Vet Dr Ketkanok Siri-narumit, associate professor at Kasetsart University and Dr Kanjana Adulya-nukosol, who heads the PMBC Endangered Species Unit, first had to anesthetize the turtle. After approximately five minutes, when the turtle had fallen unconscious, the team inserted an electronic device into the reptile's sexual organ. A small electrical current emitted from the device caused the turtle to release the valuable sperm, which was then taken to the laboratory to be analyzed and frozen for subsequent artificial insemination.

This pioneering artificial insemination program is aimed at boosting the rapidly declining population of olive ridley and green sea turtles that inhabit the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. The PMBC currently has healthy adult males of both species under its care.

This initial procedure – extracting healthy semen from a male and freezing it in a special chemical solution so that it can be implanted in an adult female – is regarded as the most delicate and difficult of the entire artificial insemination process.

"This is the hardest part, and

Thailand lacks specialist knowledge of the procedure because this is the first experiment of its kind anywhere in the country," said Dr Kanjana.

Sea turtle populations in Thai waters continue to decrease rapidly, with many species on the verge of extinction locally, she said.

Sea turtles need clean sand to nest, but most of their traditional nesting sites on the island have been compromised by hotel and real estate developments and other aspects of the tourism boom, she added.

Another factor that might be contributing to declining numbers is rising sea temperatures. In recent years the PMBC has found clutches of failed sea turtle eggs at a nesting site at Tai Muang Beach in Phang Nga, she explained. Dr Kanjana thinks changing sea temperatures might be adversely affecting populations, as the gender of sea turtles is dependent upon temperatures at nesting sites.

An increase in sea temperatures could cause an imbalance in male-to-female ratios. The issue requires further study, but it could pose yet another obstacle to reproduction among the dwindling populations, she said.

Meanwhile, the green sea turtle injured by fishermen and sent to the PMBC for treatment on April 20 is recovering well. The PMBC plans to release it in mid-May near Racha Island, where it was caught by fishermen.

-Kamol Pirat & Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn



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No bail for drug crimes, orders governor

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop has issued written orders to all police districts on the island instructing them not to allow people arrested on drug charges to be granted bail.

The issue was a major topic of discussion during the monthly meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Council, held at Phuket Provincial Hall on April 29.

The governor, who chairs the security council, was informed of a drug case in which a suspect was released on police bail with the help of a local official.

In response to what he heard, he sent out an official document to all police stations and other relevant agencies warning that any official caught using his position to help drug

suspects gain bail release, either directly or indirectly, would be investigated.

However, Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpormpit told the committee that denying bail to all drug suspects would be impractical, given that a large percentage of arrests on the island – including many theft and robbery cases – also involve drug use.

"The drug problem is not just going to go away, and it is hurting our children," he said.

Instead, he asked the governor to strengthen existing law enforcement capabilities, such as by implementing stricter control at the Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint and buying better quality detection equipment, such as Alpha 6 drug scanners.

He also suggested a "Pineapple Eye" neighborhood watch

project be established to encourage Phuket residents to assist the police in law enforcement in their communities.

Governor Wichai told the committee he had already assigned the deputy director of the Provincial Internal Security Committee to implement a number of projects designed at crime reduction, including illegal drug use.

These included many of the recommendations suggested by Col Wanchai, as well as increased police staffing, greater use of Civil Defense Volunteers and an expansion of the closed circuit television (CCTV) coverage network in the Phuket City Police District, which covers tambons Rassada, Koh Kaew and Wichit as well as Phuket City Municipality.

Source: Siangtai Daily

Gov Wichaileads pro-peace rally

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop led a group of about 200 flag-waving people on the Phuket leg of the government's "Stop harming Thailand and denounce violence" campaign, which took place on May 4.

Participants at the event, held at Phuket Provincial Hall, took an oath calling on all parties involved in the current conflict to refrain from resorting to physical or verbal violence and maintain respect for the law as well as the rights of others.

As part of the activities, Gov Wichai read from a statement issued by the Thai Journalists Association to mark the United Nation's World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

It called on the feuding parties to find solutions through peaceful and democratic means, claiming the country was otherwise doomed.

In addition to demanding

that media be allowed to work free from government interference, the statement also called on all parts of Thai society – including the media – to stop speaking and writing in ways detrimental to the country.

"Holding different political views is ordinary in any democratic society, but we must not resort to violence to achieve our political objectives," Gov Wichai said. While confirming the public's constitutional right to assemble, he said political rallies had to be peaceful and free of weapons. Rally leaders should respect the rights of other people, he added.

"I am begging political leaders, politicians, members of parliament and all other people involved in the conflict to stop inciting Thai people to hate one another just to achieve their own political objectives," said Gov Wichai.

Resorting to undemocratic means would bring ruin to the

country, he added. Governor Wichai also pleaded with all political factions to stop involving HM The King in political debates, as the role of the Royal Family should be above politics.

State authorities must use a single standard in order to maintain peace and order in the country, treating all citizens equally under the law, he said.

Calling on government officials to uphold the Constitution, Gov Wichai said they must work in a transparent fashion and remain accountable to the public, answerable to any questions they might have.

Gov Wichai warned that if people do not renounce violence, tears and bloodshed would be the inevitable consequence.

Similar events were held across the country the same day in a bid to prevent further troubles of the type that have plagued the country of late.

-Kamol Pirat



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Drink driving campaign accelerates

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

The Don't Drive Drunk (DDD) Foundation renewed its efforts to reduce Phuket's road death toll due to drink driving. The meeting was held at Rassada Municipality offices on April 30.

Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai presided over the meeting, which was attended by representatives from Phuket City Police, the Department of Land Transport, Phuket Public Health Office, the Don't Drive Drunk Foundation and Victims of Drink Driving Foundation.

The DDD foundation, established in 1996, aims to reduce drink driving in Thailand by providing information and warning people about the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

In Phuket in 2008, according to government statistics, there were 2,680 accidents caused by drink driving. There were 13,840 injuries and 136 deaths.

Kanok Siripanichkorn of the Department of Land Transport in Phuket said, "I'm very glad that we have the DDD foundation as it is pushing to make people see



Nong "Add", an eight-year-old boy who was paralyzed from the waist down when his family's salaeng was hit by a drunk driver.

that accidents have serious effects over the wider community. The Thai Health Promotion Foundation has discovered that if one person dies then the economy loses Bt5.1 million, while if a person is made disabled it loses Bt6 million."

Dr Wiwat Sritamanoj, deputy chief of the Phuket Public Health Office (PHO), addressed the meeting on the subject of the PHO's role in treating accident victims in Phuket.

"Our main objective is to

save people's lives. In Phuket, we now have 60 ambulances. After you call 1669, help will arrive in less than 10 minutes," he said.

"We've been working together with Phuket City Police and pooling our data. Last year we began using black pot management. We've had good results from that. We've identified around 10 accident blackspots. Last year there were just 135 deaths on the roads in Phuket. Next year, we expect there will be less than 100," he added.

Pattarapat Grissana, the chairman of the Victims of Drink Driving Foundation and himself confined to a wheelchair following a drink driving accident, said, "Our

main responsibility is to train our members to tell people about our experiences, particularly to those who are going to take their driving tests".

Information from the Don't Drive Drunk Foundation

Effects of blood alcohol level on chances of accident

| Alcohol level (mg%) | Chance of accident |
|---------------------|--|
| 20 | Roughly normal. |
| 50 | Chance of accident multiplied by 2. |
| 80 | Chance of accident multiplied by 3. |
| 100 | Chance of accident multiplied by 6. |
| 150 | Chance of accident multiplied by 40. |
| >200 | Can't evaluate because not possible to perform controlled testing. |

How much you can drink before you drive

Until one hour before driving, if you can't avoid drinking alcohol, do not consume more than:
 6 glasses whiskey w/mixer (1 cap of whiskey with mixer).
 4 small bottles or cans of light beer.
 2 small bottles or cans of beer.
 2 glasses of wine (80cc per glass).
 In the subsequent hour you can consume half of these amounts. If you drink more than this, you will have enough alcohol in your blood to break the law (more than 50mg%).

Alcohol laws

It is illegal to drive with an alcohol blood level of more than 50mg%. Alcohol Control Act 2008 Measure 29 states that alcohol cannot be sold to:

1. People under the age of 20.
2. People under the influence of alcohol to the point where they cannot control themselves.

Penalty for infringement: Imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than 20,000 baht.

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Coral Reef Squadron under threat

It is now five months since the Coral Reef Squadron artificial reef was lowered to the bottom of the sea off Phuket. The site is developing well, with sponges and a variety of fish making the 10 decommissioned aircraft that make up the reef their home. Yet, it has emerged, one of the airplanes that was sunk to form the site was damaged last month by a fishing trawler. Rainer Gottwald, CEO of the Thai Dive Association's (TDA) technical committee, spoke to the Gazette about the damage done to the site and how the TDA plans to ensure it remains secure in the future.

The damage was almost certainly caused by the heavy anchor of a fishing trawler, according to Mr Gottwald. It probably occurred on the night of April 10 and was discovered the following day.

A second plane had a fishing net entangled on it, showing a trawler had been in the area.

Since the 10 aircraft were lowered into the sea in November last year, sponges and shells have begun to accumulate on the hulls, yet the part of the plane struck by the anchor chain had been wiped clean by the impact, Mr Gottwald said.

TDA divers and Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization officials visited the site on April 29 to inspect the damage. They were able to re-

move most of the fishing net.

Strong currents had caused further damage to the plane hit by the anchor, Mr Gottwald said.

Fishing trawlers disregard instructions not to trawl near the site, though the TDA has yet to catch one of them in the act, he explained.

Trawling is prohibited by law anywhere within a 3,000-meter exclusion zone from land.

The Coral Reef Squadron site is marked by buoys, so there is little question of crews simply not knowing it is there.

"They already know where it is. They have GPS systems; they have fish finders; and they have sonar, so they will know where it is," Mr Gottwald said.

Fishermen are not the only ones damaging the artificial reef, however.

Divers have further damaged the site by taking souvenirs. One of the helicopters' blades has even been removed and several switches have also been taken from aircraft.

The damage highlights the need to establish a security regime at the site, Mr Gottwald said.

The TDA plans to employ graduates of its Marine Scouts program to patrol and protect the site, but funds for such a project have yet to be secured.

A possible approach might be to charge 500 baht for a year's license to dive at the site. In return, divers would receive a commemorative coin. Similar systems have been effectively employed at dive sites in the Caribbean, he said.

"I myself would proudly pay 500 baht a year to secure the place and make it even bigger and more attractive for future tourism in Phuket," Mr Gottwald said.

In a related development, the TDA plans to encircle the squadron with forty train wagons. Such an arrangement would act as a protective wall for the planes and make the site even more impressive, he said.



Photo courtesy of the TDA

These pictures, all taken before the damage was done, show some of the marine life that has settled in the Coral Reef Squadron.



Photo courtesy of the TDA



Inside the shell of one of the sunken decommissioned aircraft. Photo by Ayesha Cantrell

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Nakhon rescue foundation wars continue

NAKHON SRITHAMMARAT: A gang of armed youths attacked the office of the Pracha Ruamchai rescue foundation in the early hours of April 30. Police believe the attackers were from a rival rescue foundation.

At around 1am, five youths armed with knives and guns stormed the Pracha Ruamchai Foundation office, located inside Wat Buranaram in Muang District. The Pracha Ruamchai volunteers present at the time were able to escape unharmed, but the gang destroyed much of the foundation's equipment.

Two ambulances had their windscreens smashed and first aid equipment destroyed. The gang also shot the foundation's television with a shotgun and stole radio equipment.

When police arrived on the scene, the gang were making their getaway on three motorcycles. Police managed to stop one motorcycle and arrest two of the gang.

In the office police found a

Tai Teck Tung rescue foundation ID card belonging to Sudarak Thiangtham.

Police said that the two arrested youths, whose names were not released, confessed to being part of the gang. They claimed they waited outside and did not take part in the destruction. The youths named the other three members of the gang involved in the attack. All are reportedly Tai Teck Tung rescue volunteers.

This was the second reported attack in little over two weeks on the office of a rescue foundation, which provide services usually provided by ambulances in developed countries.

On April 15, two relatives of rescue volunteers were shot and injured during an attack on the radio room of VR Rescue Association in Ang Thong. The attack was allegedly carried out by volunteers from the Poh Teck Tung Foundation's Phut Thai Centre in neighboring Ayudhya province.

Source: Khao Sod

Task force to hunt down cop killer

CHUMPHON: Chumphon Provincial Police have formed a special task force to hunt down the killers of a police officer who was shot dead outside his home on April 28.

Sen Sgt Maj Winai Ratani-phan of the Pak Nam Lang Suan Police was gunned down outside his house in a palm plantation in Tambon Thung Luang, Lamae District.

Witnesses reported seeing two gunmen shoot Sen Sgt Maj Winai as he was checking on his crocodiles, which he raised for profit.

Police mentioned two possible motives for the killing: a dispute over a sand pit owned by the victim and a dispute over women, as the victim had two wives.

Chumphon Provincial Police Commander Apichat Cheuathet said he had ordered Provincial Deputy Superintendent of Investigations Chokdee Rakrong to head up a special task force to bring the killers to justice.

A source in the investigation team said that police now believe that a dispute in the victim's personal life was the motive for the killing, as they had not found any evidence of a business dispute over sand sales.

Superintendent of Lamae Police Suthon Dissayabut said that Sen Sgt Maj Winai's sand concession was very profitable and many people were interested in becoming involved in the business. The victim was known to be unafraid of influential figures in the region, but had previously reported threats to his safety to the police.

Lt Col Suthon added, however, that they had not yet discounted a family dispute as being behind the killing.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



Thais on Silom Road in Bangkok on May 4 at the launch of the "Stop Hurting Thailand" campaign, which aims to encourage people of all political beliefs to denounce violence. Similar events were held in many provinces around the country, including Phuket. Photo: Supakrit Kumkan

Cockfighting contractor gunned down in Nakhon

NAKHON SRITHAMMARAT: A contractor was shot dead on the way home from a cockfight on April 29.

Somsak Laksanachada, 56, was being driven home from a cockfighting ring in Tambon Pak Nakhon, Muang District, at the time of the attack.

A witness in a car behind said that as Mr Somsak's Isuzu SUV was approaching traffic lights, two men on a motorcycle pulled up alongside the left of the vehicle. The pillion passenger then opened fire.

Mr Somsak was hit twice in the chest, twice in the arm and twice in the shoulder. He was taken to Maharaj Hospital but later died of his injuries.

Mr Somsak's driver, 60-year-old Pol Sub-Lt Jaras Yuanthong, was hit once in the back and once in the thigh. A retired Special Branch officer, Sub-Lt Jaras had been employed to protect Mr Somsak. Mrs Pa-thana Khwamsuk, 52, who was sitting in the back seat, was hit in the arm. Both victims are now out

of danger.

The witness said that after the shooting, the gunmen drove on for about three kilometers before stopping by a waiting Surat Thani-registered black Ford pickup truck. The pillion passenger got into the truck and the vehicles headed off in different directions.

Mr Somsak, owner of a large contracting firm, was also heavily involved in the Nakhon Sri Thammarat cockfighting scene. He owned a large flock of birds and a cockfighting ring. He was also the elder brother of Tha Reua Tambon Administration Organization President Chamnan Laksanachada and reportedly had many large building contracts with local administrative organizations.

A source in the police said that Mr Somsak knew his life was in danger and hired Sub-Lt Jaras to protect him. Police believe the motive for his killing was a dispute relating either to cockfighting or business.

Source: Kom Chad Luek/MCOT

Bombing bank heist nets robbers Bt450,000

PATTAYA: Three men armed with rifles robbed a gold shop in Pattaya on the morning of May 4.

Police were alerted at about 9.20am to the robbery at Yaowarat Gold Shop on Chomthien Road, which is about 100 metres from the local police station.

Yuranun Horburapa, the 24-year-old son of the shop owner, told police that the robbers, wearing hoods, sprayed rounds of bullets into the shop before using the rifles to break display cases.

An initial police investigation revealed that they ran to a waiting pickup truck, which sped away. They subsequently fired on and lobbed a grenade at policemen who took up chase on a motorcycle. The explosion seriously injured Sgt Siam Pohngam, 38, and four other people standing nearby.

Mr Yuranun told police that the robbers escaped with 300 bahtweight of gold valued at Bt450,000.

Source: The Nation

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Queer News

One night, two missing members



Photo: André Karwath

RAYONG: Staff at Rayong Hospital had a busy night on April 27, when two men with severed penises were brought in for emergency treatment.

The first patient, a 31-year-old from Pluak Daeng District, arrived at around 1am. He was bleeding profusely from a wound near what had not long before been the base of his penis.

Surgeons were able to stop the bleeding and stabilize the man's condition, but could do nothing about the missing member.

An hour later, at around 2am, a 35-year-old man was transferred to Rayong Hospital from Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital in Sri Racha, Chonburi Province. The man's penis had also been severed with a sharp object.

A *Khao Sod* reporter investigating the cases found the first man hiding under his bed covers in the hospital ward. Despite appearing exhausted and constantly trying to hide his face under the covers, the man agreed to tell the reporter what had happened.

The patient said that he worked at a Kawasaki motorbike factory in Pluak Daeng District, was married and had a six-year-old son. He often argued with his 32-year-old wife, who lived in constant worry that he would leave her for another woman.

On the night of April 26, he had been drinking at a friend's house. When he got home, his wife accused him of being out with a *kik* (mistress or casual sex partner). An argument ensued

and when the fighting eventually died down, the man fell fast asleep, owing to all the alcohol he had drunk.

As he was sleeping, he felt a sudden, searing pain in his groin. He looked down to see what must be every married man's worst nightmare: blood pouring from his genitalia and his wife leaving the room clutching a bloody knife.

The man said that he tried to pull himself together and look for the severed part of his penis, but could not find it. He then ran out into the street to find someone to take him to hospital, he told the reporter.

The other victim understandably refused to speak to the press, so it is not clear what led to his member being detached.

A nurse involved in treating the pair said that the first man had arrived about an hour before the second. Both men had their penises cut off at the base, leaving only the testicles, the nurse revealed.

Doctors stitched the cuts closed and inserted catheters. Both men were in stable condition physically, but were in very poor mental states and seemed unable to come to terms with their losses, the nurse said.

Duty Officer Adison Phanthusak from Pluak Daneg Police said the first victim's relatives had reported the crime and police are now hunting for his wife, who fled with the couple's son.

Source: *Khao Sod*

GH Bank official charged with embezzling Bt400m

BANGKOK: Police on May 1 arrested a senior Government Housing Bank (GHB) official for the alleged embezzlement of more than Bt400 million.

Police intercepted Somkiat Panyaworrakuldej, who had once been honored as an outstanding employee, while he was driving a brand new BMW to a Cambodian border crossing in Srisaket province in a bid to escape. Some Bt12 million in cash was found in the trunk of his car.

Escorting Mr Somkiat to a luxury 31-million-baht house he had recently bought, police found another new BMW sedan. The suspect, who has been charged with embezzlement, admitted the crimes.

It had all started with the need to pay his football gambling debts early last year, he said.

GHB managing director Khan Prajuabmoh said the suspect had transferred Bt400 million from a communal GHB account used to store interest set to



Police on May 1 arrested senior Government Housing Bank official Somkiat Panyaworrakuldej for the alleged embezzlement of more than Bt400 million. He was on his way to a casino in Cambodia when he was arrested in Srisaket province.

be paid out to customers. No money had been stolen from any of GHB clients' personal accounts, he added.

The suspect transferred around Bt900,000 to his accounts each day for more than

a year, Mr Khan said.

Several commercial banks at which the suspect opened accounts will be asked to co-operate by freezing accounts and later seizing his money.

Source: *The Nation*

MoPH issues warning against use of antiviral drugs

BANGKOK: The Public Health Ministry has issued a warning against people taking the antiviral drug oseltamivir as a precaution against infection with the influenza A (H1N1) virus, the strain that brings on the condition commonly known as swine flu.

People who panic and take self-administered doses of oseltamivir (trade name Tamiflu) without medical supervision could damage their mental health or unwittingly increase the resistance of viruses to drugs aimed at stopping their spread.

"People who appear unwell and who have fever and a cough should not take oseltamivir by themselves," Public Health Minister Witthaya Kaewparadai told a press conference at the MoPH operations center for preparedness and response to an influenza pandemic.

Patients should undergo

treatment at a hospital to prevent possible side effects that could harm their physical and mental health, such as vomiting and suffering hallucinations, he said.

MoPH deputy permanent secretary Pajit Warachit said taking antiviral drugs without medical supervision also raised the risk of viruses developing resistance and reducing the effectiveness of the drugs.

People with flu-like illnesses should wear a surgical mask covering the nose and mouth to reduce the risk of transmission.

The symptoms of swine flu in humans are fever, lethargy, diminished appetite and coughing. Some people have also reported

a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Human-to-human transmission occurs when infected people cough or sneeze.

People may also become infected by touching any object, the surface of which is contaminated by the flu virus, and then touching their mouth or nose.

As of May 4, the MoPH had three million antiviral tablets in stock, while the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) has 170,000. If necessary, the GPO can immediately manufacture another million tablets of oseltamivir because it has the raw materials in stock.

Source: *The Nation*

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Community outreach in Khao Lak



Wicked Diving in Khao Lak is planning plans to sponsor a snorkeling trip to the Similan Islands for "Teen Outreach" kids. Photo: Robyn Hasson



As part of an ongoing program, the dive school has teamed up with GHRE to spearhead the "Teen Outreach" program for refugee children in the local area. Photo: Robyn Hasson

By Daniel Ogunshakin

Unlike many commercial ventures associated with the diving industry, the dedicated staff at Wicked Diving in Khao Lak seem determined to give something back to the local community.

The eco-friendly dive company has conducted a number of beach and reef clean-ups in and around the Similans National Marine Park and this season launched the Whale Shark Exploration and Education project in a bid to educate divers more about these beautiful yet endangered gentle giants.

Wicked has evolved from conducting purely sub-aqua programs to establish on-land projects designed to benefit some of the Khao Lak community's less fortunate and also reduce the damaging environmental impact caused by waste batteries.

As part of an ongoing program, the dive school has teamed up with the Grassroots Human Rights Education and Development organization (GHRE) to

spearhead the "Teen Outreach" program for refugee children. In this part of Thailand, GHRE works with Burmese migrant workers and their children.

Wicked's involvement entails, among other things, providing uniforms for 22 migrant kids who attend a local school in Khao Lak.

In addition to providing the uniforms, Wicked's staff regularly conduct special educational sessions with the kids at the school, sharing their time and knowledge and teaching them about the fish and marine life that exists in the area.

As part of the "Summer Session" sponsorship, educational CD Roms were provided for use on the school's shared computer. A selection of history, language and science programs were included in the package, along with information about local marine life.

Other multimedia items, such as the BBC's acclaimed Blue Planet documentary series, were shown to the school kids, much to their delight and fascination of the enchanted children.

Looking forward, Wicked Diving plans to sponsor a snorkeling day trip to the famous Similan Islands at the beginning of the next high season for all the kids in the program.

The hope is to introduce the underwater world to those who otherwise might never have the opportunity to see it and show the kids the beauty and natural resources that exist in Thailand and in their immediate community.

Through this process of education and awareness, it is hoped that the children will carry forward a positive message and promote environmental protection to their families and peers and ultimately for the benefit of future generations in the area, said Robyn Hasson of Wicked Diving.

The use of batteries is commonplace in everyday life. From remote controls to cameras; from watches to torches, they are used and disposed of on a regular basis. However, problems occur when batteries are not dispensed with correctly.

"A standard battery can take up to 100 years to decom-



The toxic substances that leak from batteries discarded in the sea poisons and kills marine life, including coral. Photo: Robyn Hasson

pose and the leaking chemicals from discarded batteries can cause untold damage to coral reefs, delicate marine life as well as polluting the world's waterways," said Robyn.

"Almost every dive operator uses batteries in its day-to-day business – primarily in the torches required for night dives, but also for general use around the shop," she added.

About six months ago Wicked Diving established itself as the Battery Recycling Center

for all dive operators in the Khao Lak area, providing education as well as a drop-off point for spent batteries. The shop also encourages its business partners to use rechargeable batteries whenever possible, as well as LED torches.

Since opening, the center has collected over 35kg of batteries and hopes that this example will help increase awareness of environmentally responsible battery disposal – both within the dive industry and throughout the local community.

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The Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa and Saphan Hin Public Park jointly hosted the Phuket Halal Expo from April 30 to May 3. The four-day expo comprised two events – the World of Halal Science, Industry & Business International Conference 2009 (WHASIB 2009), held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia, and the IMT-GT Phuket Halal Expo at Saphan Hin.

Some 250 guests from 12 countries attended the WHASIB 2009 conference to discuss the progress being made in the halal industry, while the Expo itself attracted large numbers of people from Phuket, the surrounding provinces and beyond.

More than 200 stalls were erected in Saphan Hin park, offering a wide variety of halal foods, beverages and arts and crafts from across Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

An evening event at Saphan Hin was attended by a number of dignitaries including Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising, who were entertained by a variety of cultural stage shows.

The Expo was held in an effort to establish Phuket and Thailand as the center of the halal business in the region. PPAO President Paiboon said, “The Halal Expo is very important in establishing Phuket as a halal tourism hub. This will generate a lot of income for Phuket”.

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Splashing out



Members of the newly-formed Silverfinz Swim Club celebrate their success with friends and family.

Given that Phuket is an island, it's hardly surprising that swimming is a popular pastime here. Everyday in high season, large numbers of people dive into the Andaman to cool off and the sea has always been popular with children of all ages.

Less common is a competitive environment for Phuket's youngsters to demonstrate their

abilities and structured swimming clubs to help them develop their raw potential. This, however, is precisely the vision of the Silverfinz Swim Club – a newcomer to the Phuket swim scene.

Silverfinz was established in 2008 and is managed by Debbie and Hugo Jones, formerly of the Flying Fish Swim club – another of Phuket's successful swimming teams. The

club hopes to be able to play an important role in developing competitive swimming on the island, as well as promoting swimming and other sports to children of all ages and social backgrounds in Phuket.

The club is based at the Phuket International Academy Sports Club in Thalang, and despite its short existence, has already made quite an impact at



local, national and international level. This season alone has seen the team compete in Surat Thani, Singapore, Bangkok, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Perth and Hong Kong.

A fifty-strong team took part in the annual Phuket Sprint Meet held at Saphan Hin on April

25 and 26. The team finished the weekend with an impressive haul of 69 medals, two age group trophies and a new Southern Thailand record.

If you are interested in joining the Silverfinz Swim Club please contact Debbie Jones at E: hdtjones@bigpond.com.



Wipeout: The boys under-six freestyle relay team celebrate victory.

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Warrior 1

In most yoga classes the standing pose *Virabhadrasana 1* is standard practice. In this pose you take the stance of a mighty warrior. You balance your weight between both legs, and your torso rises up evenly from your hips.

In the full pose, many beginners rely on their muscles to sustain the position and quiver uncontrollably after a few seconds, at which point things go downhill. Like other split-leg standing poses, *Virabhadrasana 1* is anchored and stabilized by rooting the outer back-heel into the ground.

Many beginners have tight groins, so bending the front knee buckles the back knee and pulls the outer back-heel off the floor (imagine a tree without roots). Before you bend your front knee, 'dig' your outer back-heel into the floor. As you bend your front (right) knee, have an imaginary friend resist that movement by pulling on a strap on your left groin. Your left leg will move physically, but energetically it opposes the movement and keeps your outer back-heel rooted.

Technique

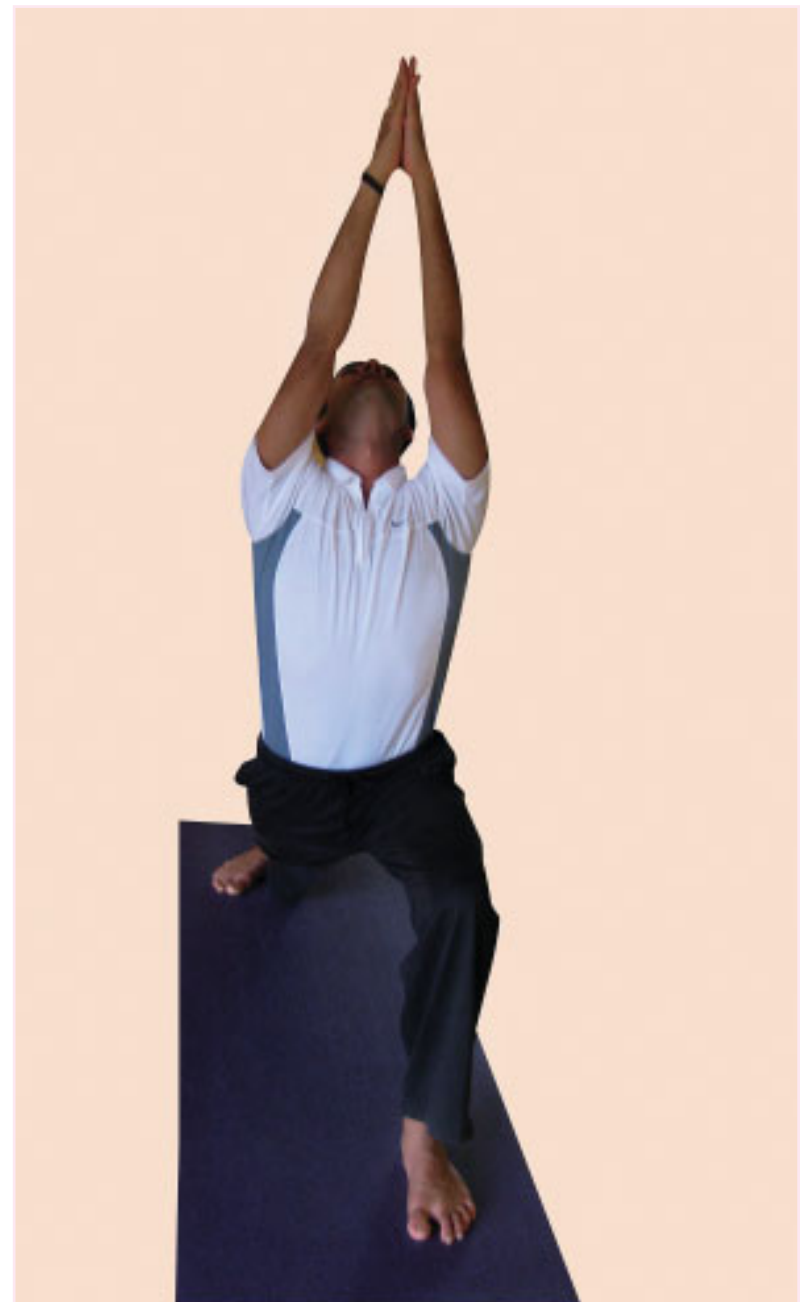
1. Stand with feet together and hands by your side. This position is referred to as *Tadasana*.
2. Raise both arms above the head, stretch up and join the palms.
3. Inhale deeply and with a jump, spread the legs apart sideways by 4 to 4.5 feet.
4. Exhale and turn to the right. Simultaneously turn the right foot 90 degrees to the right and the left foot slightly to the right. Flex the right knee until the right thigh is parallel to the floor and the right shin is perpendicular to the floor, forming a right angle between the right thigh and the right calf. The bent knee should not extend beyond the ankle, but should be in line with the heel.
5. Stretch out the left leg and tighten at the knee.
6. The face, chest and right knee should face the same way as the right foot. Throw the head up, stretch the spine from the coccyx and gaze at the joined palms.
7. Hold the pose for 20 seconds to half a minute, breathing normally.
8. Repeat positions 4 to 6 on the left side, reversing all processes.
9. Exhale and jump back to *Tadasana*.

Benefits

In this pose the chest is fully expanded and this helps breathing. It relieves stiffness in shoulders and back, tones up the ankles and knees, and cures stiffness of neck. It also reduces fat around the hips and stretches the groin.

Contraindications

Serious knee injury, sprained ankle, neck problems – look straight ahead, rather than over the hand. High blood pressure – conduct under supervision.



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All picture are taken on actual site

Cricket's infamous man

By James Goyder

Australian cricketer Trevor Chappell – the youngest of the three famous Chappell brothers – played three tests and 20 One-Day Internationals for Australia. Sadly for him, he is destined to be remembered for an episode in 1981 which the then prime minister of New Zealand Rob Muldoon described as “the most disgusting incident I can recall in the history of cricket”.

New Zealand and Australia were contesting the final of the Benson and Hedges World Series, and New Zealand needed to score six runs from the final ball in order to tie the match. To ensure that the New Zealand batsman had no chance of getting the necessary elevation to lift the ball over the boundary, Chappell bowled an underarm delivery along the ground.

His action was met with universal condemnation. Trevor's older brother Ian who was commentating was heard to call out “no, you can't do that” as the delivery was bowled. As it transpired, Trevor acted on the instructions of his other brother

Greg, the Australian captain. Unfortunately for Chappell this crucial detail is generally overlooked.

Chappell was in Phuket for the cricket 6s, one of only a handful of competitive cricket appearances that the 56-year-old still makes. He is famously reluctant to discuss the underarm incident, but in the laid back atmosphere of the Phuket 6s he lost a little of his reticence.

“I don't regret it,” he said. “It probably wasn't the best thing for the game of cricket, but it seemed like a good idea at the time”.

Chappell said that there are no hard feelings between him and Greg regarding the incident, but neither of them could have predicted the furore that it would cause. The prime ministers of Australia and New Zealand joined in the condemnation, the latter describing it as “an act of true cowardice”, while the former, Malcolm Fraser, admitted it was “contrary to the traditions of the game”.

In any other sport the Chappell brothers would probably have been applauded for their ini-

tiative, but cricket still clings to the traditions of sportsmanship and fair play upon which it was founded.

Much has changed since 1981, not least in the world of competitive sport, but this erosion of the values on which cricket was founded is still a concern, particularly with the advent of a new format of the game – Twenty20 cricket.

The so called fan-friendly format of these 20-over matches has seen interest in cricket reach unprecedented levels, and Chappell thinks that the sport has benefited from the introduction of this new format.

“I think that Twenty20 is good for the game. It has brought in a whole range of new spectators who would never watch test cricket or even 50-over cricket. It's also changed the game because seeing how many runs can be scored in 20 overs has really opened peoples' eyes to how many they can score in test or one-day cricket. Now more runs are being scored it's made the game more exciting,” he said.

Despite Chappell's evident enthusiasm, he does have reser-



Chappell is famously reluctant to discuss the underarm incident, but in the laid back atmosphere of the Phuket 6s he lost a little of his reticence.

“They have to be careful because the popularity of test cricket has dropped off. It's only really still popular in England and Australia. Without test cricket the game might not survive, you can't build the game from Twenty20,” he said.

These reservations did not stop Chappell from participating in a Twenty20 game in Phuket against a team led by former South African international Kenny Jackson. Underneath the floodlights at Karon Stadium the Trevor Chappell XI defeated the Kenny Jackson XI by 34 runs, with Chappell rolling back the

years to take an amazing reaction catch at mid-wicket.

Had the Kenny Jackson XI needed six runs to win from the final ball and had Chappell been the bowler, he would have been spared the dilemma of whether to bowl overarm or not – underarm deliveries were banned soon after the incident in 1981.

It is a shame for Chappell that this rule change did not come sooner. He once scored a century for his country against India. Sadly it is for the underarm delivery, rather than this formidable achievement, that he will always be remembered.



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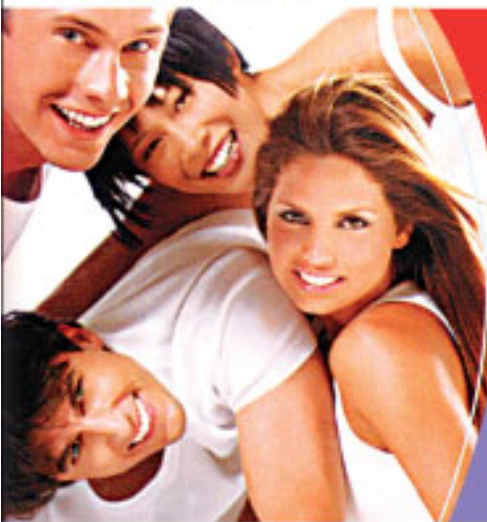
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EXPAT GALLERY

Freidrich Sam Fauma

Sam Fauma has been sharing his insights on the predicaments that foreigners get themselves into while attempting to make a new life in Thailand. His column, 'Lay Down the Law,' has been a popular fixture in the *Phuket Gazette* since 1997.

"It's an advice column using authentic cases that illustrate the rights and the flaws of the legal system. I hope that residents can learn from other people's mistakes," Sam says.

Sam has lived in Thailand since 1989 when he arrived to manage a friend's guest house development at Kalim Bay. Though he was only 25 years old, he already had an impressive amount of work history behind him.

"I was one of seven children born in Vienna and from an early age I was determined to make a success of my life. At just 14 years, I knew I wanted to be independent so I attended commercial college to learn how to be self-employed."

After he finished his studies, his first job was in the marketing department of the media giant 20th Century Fox.

Eventually, the young Sam wanted his own business and in 1985 joined with a partner to launch a wholesale leather operation. He learned about the differ-

ent leathers made around the world, from Chile to Turkey. But by the late 1980s, leather was no longer the fashion statement it had been and Sam decided it was time for another change – this time to Thailand.

"What a great place Patong Beach was in those early years! I spent the first couple years just enjoying life in a tropical paradise."

To support himself, Sam began teaching German at the Patong Language School and learned English by reading and meeting with his English speaking friends. He also did interpretation and translation work the school's associated BSC Group.

He was introduced to the Patong Police and became their 'honorary interpreter' for seven years. During that period, he learned Thai criminal law and had plenty of opportunity to explain to foreigners how they had, in the eyes of the police, at least, committed an offense.

In September 1996 he set up the International Law Office with his partner, Bernd Hentschel, and Thai lawyer Nakin Themrat.

"I am lucky that my partners and I are like a family. Today, we are the biggest law office on the island with over 30 staff, three foreign lawyers and five Thai lawyers."

Most of Sam's work involves disputes over land titles, setting up new businesses, work permits or real estate transactions. But he spends an equal amount of time doing good work for various charities around the island.

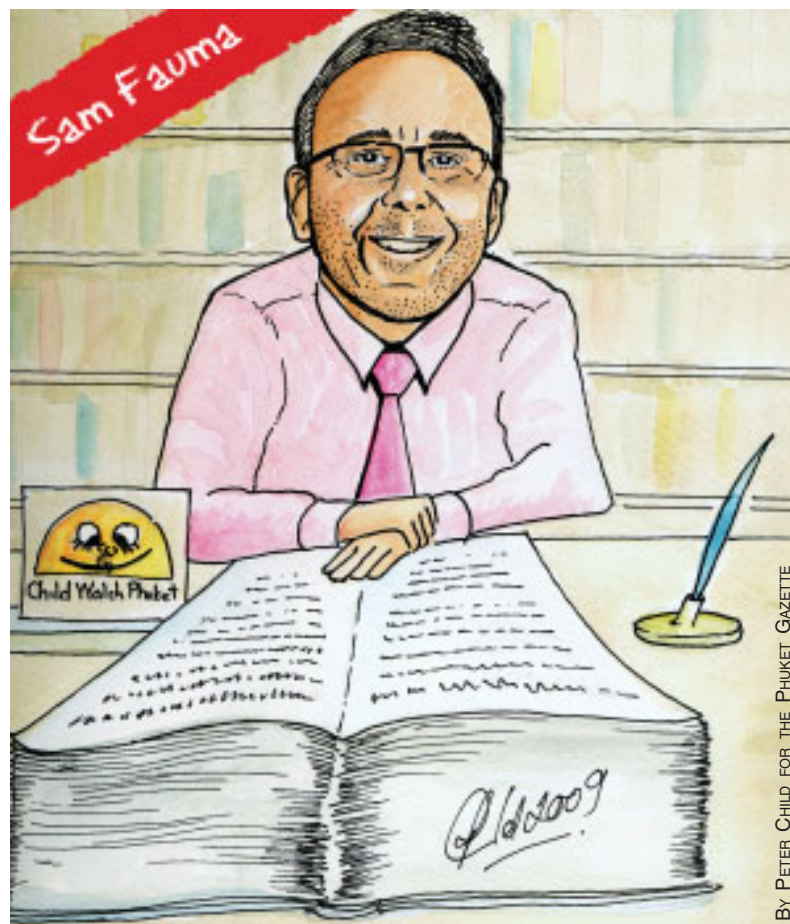
He was President of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach during the 2004 tsunami.

"Our Rotary Club did everything we could to help those in distress, from finding large sized shoes for those who had lost everything, to building caskets for the larger Western bodies. We received the Prime Minister's Award for our project that built 150 fishing boats for the villages in northern Phang Nga province."

Sam is also a Director of Childwatch and Uncle Pitak's Home where children can play if their parents are in the local prison.

He is also a Director of the Life Home Project and Phuket Sunshine Village, because he is concerned about protecting children's rights. He also contributes to Holland House, a safe house in Kathu for children at risk.

"I would say that my five year old daughter, Angelina, is my inspiration." – Bruce Stanley



ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

The individuals profiled in the *Gazette's* 'Expat Gallery' series have been chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and, as foreigners, for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often at a time (mid-80s to mid-90s) when the rules of business were, ahh, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: Thai AirAsia celebrated the grand opening of its new branch at Patong Beach on April 30. AirAsia hopes that the new office will make traveling to and from Phuket easier for locals, expats and tourists alike.



TV TIME: PGTV met with Immigration officials on April 29 to officially launch PGTV's daily programs being aired at Phuket Immigration. Pictured from left to right: Pol Capt Ranida Aromkong, Immigration Deputy Inspector; Alf Orsnas, Immigration volunteer; Marc Mulloy, PGTV Executive Producer; Tipwarintron Tannakarachod, *Phuket Gazette* reporter; Pol Col Chantapol Yongbanjerd, Immigration Superintendent; Allen Clark, Immigration volunteer and Pol Capt Rassarin Teerapattanakul, Immigration Deputy Inspector.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Despite the Bang Tao road blocks, an audience of more than 40 people gathered at Mom Tri's Boathouse on April 23 to hear veteran Hollywood TV and film producer Ed Vaughan's presentation about writing successful screenplays. Pictured from left to right: Lisa Sol, PR manager, Mom Tri's Boathouse; John Swaboda, film editor; Ed Vaughan; O.B. Wetzell, CEO, Development Management Group .



ROCK ON: Thai rock band Loso, fronted by popular singer-guitarist-composer Seksan "Sek Loso" Sukpimai, entertained the crowd at the Phuket Brewery on May 2.



ICE COOL: Phuket Central Festival hosted a "Tropical Heat Wave 2009" mini-concert starring famous Thai singer Ice Saranyu on April 26. The show was staged for shoppers to mark the culmination of the high season.



SINGAPORE SWING: The Layan International Golf Challenge, hosted by the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), was held at Laguna Phuket Golf Club on May 1-2. The two-day competition raised 105,000 baht for the PIWC's educational scholarship fund, which supports underprivileged Thai children through education. Pictured from left to right: Bruce Whitehead of Laguna Phuket Golf Club with the winning foursome of "Team Singapore", Mee Soontornpitikhun, Tom Keaveny, Mike Jackson and Mike Rich.

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A culinary pitstop



After catering on the Formula One circuit, French chef Lionel Ramos decided to move out of the fast lane and settle down with his own restaurant in Phuket. The restaurant's name as well as the array of racing memorabilia that adorns the place, bears vivid testament to Lionel's 10-year spell touring the world as an Formula One chef.

The theme of Le Grand Prix restaurant in Kata may be fast cars, but fast food, this most certainly is not. After 10 years of catering on the Formula One (F1) circuit, French chef Lionel Ramos decided to move out of the fast lane and settle down with his own restaurant in Phuket.

The restaurant's name as well as the array of racing memorabilia that adorns the place, bears vivid testament to Lionel's 10-year spell touring the world as an F1 chef; first for Team Ligier and then Team Prost.

If you are a fan of quality authentic French cuisine – F1

enthusiast or not – this restaurant, located on Tai Na Road, Kata's busiest street, should be to your liking.

Specialties of the house include *boeuf bourguignon*, pork chops with mustard, duck with pepper sauce and homemade cr me caramel. Le Grand Prix also stocks a small selection of fairly priced wines from Australia, Chile and bien sur, France

The menu is entirely French, but the *carte du jour* does benefit from the restaurant's close proximity to the sea, providing for such delicacies as shell petoncles with shallot and cognac sauce, mussels in wine and squid with

garlic and parsley.

A plaque on the wall proudly proclaims (in French) that, "Olivier Panis was the last French driver to win a Grand Prix – on May 19, 1996 in Monaco. It was Lionel Ramos who prepared his food."

Happily, you don't have to be a multi-millionaire racing driver to afford to eat at Le Grand Prix, where the majority of main courses cost less than 300 baht. There can't be too many places outside France where you could find a French meal, cooked by a French chef – Lionel does all the

cooking himself – for that price.

Kata is about as far from the Grand Prix circuit as one can get, so how did Le Grand Prix restaurant wind up here?

"I had wanted to have a restaurant in Thailand for a long time. After the Grand Prix in Australia and Japan I always used to come here for a week or two weeks' holiday. In 1999, there was a sandwich shop here owned by a Belgian man but he wasn't really taking care of it. I bought it from him and opened my restaurant," says Lionel.

For a man who raced mo-

torcycles before joining the F1 tour, the pedestrian rhythm of Phuket life, far from being dull, is exactly what he is looking for.

"I worked for 10 years on the Grand Prix tour, but it involves a lot of work and you don't get to see much of your friends and family. It is okay when you are young but 10 years was enough," he said.

For a soup on of genuine French cuisine that won't break the bank, treat yourself to a pit-stop at Le Grand Prix Restaurant in Kata. Just don't expect to be back on the road again in less than 20 seconds.

On the menu WITH James Goyder Le Grand Prix

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Whatever happened to TOT?

I've been hunkered down for a couple of months now and for that I apologize profusely. You'll be able to see the results of my exile in a couple of months with the release of *Windows 7 All-In-One For Dummies* and *Green Home Computers For Dummies*. Both books should appear in stores all over the world at roughly the same time that Windows 7 hits the stands – probably September. I have no idea when the books will get to Thailand, but I'll keep you posted.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

During my months of isolation, I've had a chance to see the sunshine thanks to the Sunday morning Computer Clinic sessions, and we've talked about many topics. In this column I want to discuss two of particular urgency and importance for people in Phuket.

Firstly, I have no idea why TOT's ADSL service has slowly gone to the dogs. As you may recall, people from all over Phuket regularly log their international internet access speeds at live-access.com/PhuketInternet.aspx (Thanks to Henry Habermacher and X-Net Computer for their continuing sponsorship).

If you look at the speeds posted for the past month or two, you can see that CAT – particularly with its blazing 4 Mbps Hinet service – and TT&T – especially the extra-cost Premium services – are holding up quite well, although they wouldn't win any speed tests in Hong Kong or Singapore. The rates are for watching YouTube, which has been an important benchmark of late, especially if you want to see Abhisit "Mark" Vejjajiva in his BBC interview, or if you want to throw shoes at the CNN love-fest with the convicted felon and fugitive whose name escapes me at the moment.

TOT, by contrast, bobs up and down. In some locations it's great all the time, but in far too

many places – and at far too many times – it goes up and down like a foundering flounder.

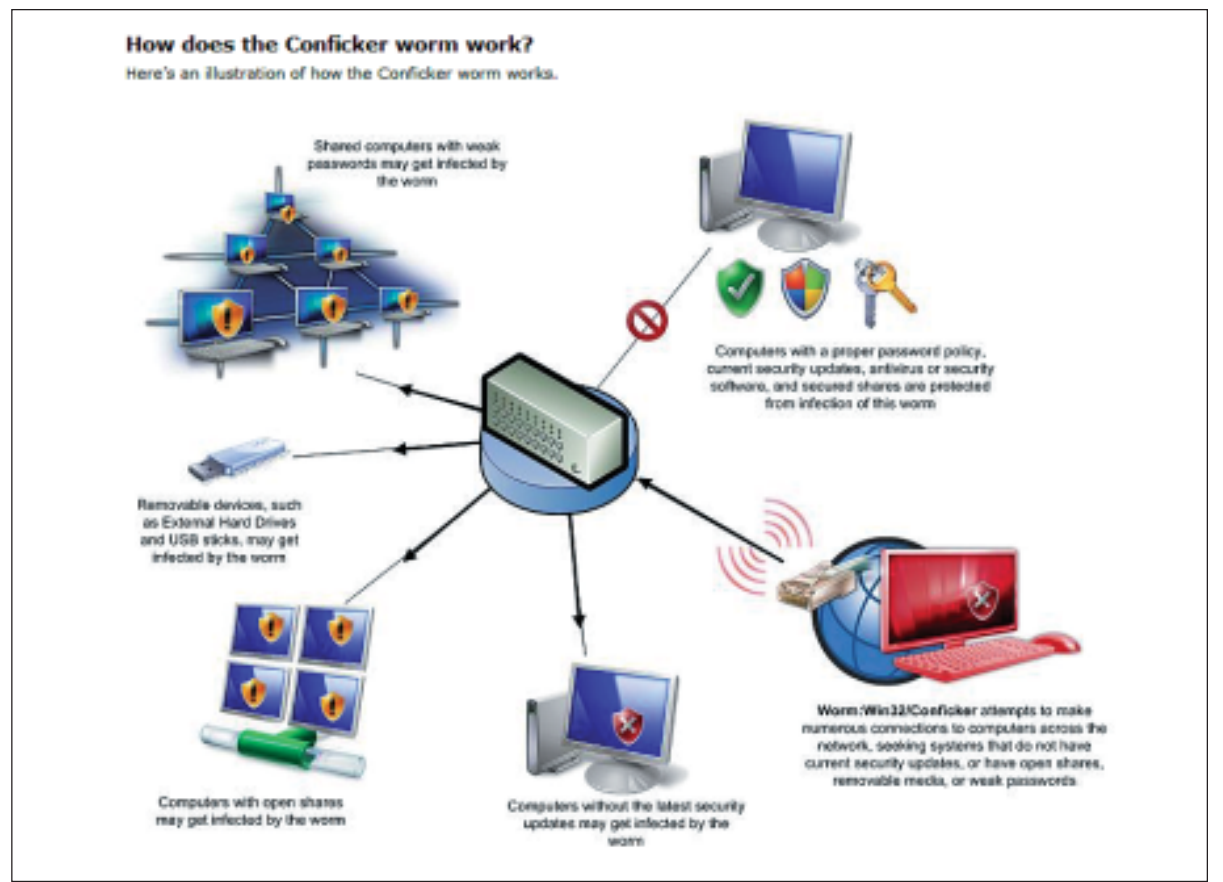
My advice hasn't changed much in the past six months. If TT&T serves your area, get a MaxNet Premiere line – I use 3 Mbps at my office and at the shops at Bt2,000/month. If you want to spend a little more, and CAT are able to string you a line, get the CAT HiNet 4 Mbps service. If neither TT&T nor CAT venture into your neighborhood and you

only need to connect one computer at a time, try the CAT EVDO "card" – the Novatel Ovation 727 – which I describe in my *Phuket Gazette* column at tinyurl.com/6e3zuw. There are also detailed explanations in earlier *Gazette* columns at tinyurl.com/66tt3l and tinyurl.com/6y7ku6.

The second truly hot topic on the island is the Conficker worm. I've written a couple of articles about it for *Windows Secrets Newsletter*, starting back in January (tinyurl.com/dbgndc). Brian Livingston has a good update at tinyurl.com/d4wf8m. I also blog about Conficker quite a bit on AskWoody.com. In a nutshell, the April 1 warning about Conficker was a crock, as I explained on my blog in March. However, Conficker still represents a formidable threat. Nobody knows how many machines are infected, but knowledgeable estimates run from one million to 15 million zombified Windows XP machines. So far Conficker has done exactly zero damage – it's just duplicating, pulling Windows XP machines into its botnet.

Somebody, somewhere is controlling Conficker, but a US\$250,000 reward for information about its masters has revealed nothing.

Conficker only infects Windows XP machines. It's a "blended threat" piece of malware, which means it can in-



fect in many different ways (see the screen shot on this page). Originally, Conficker infected Windows XP machines that had not yet installed the patch known as MS08-067 – released in October of last year. Now it's spreading in many other ways.

You can check and see if your Windows XP machine is infected by going to conficker-workinggroup.org and looking at the test. If you're infected, removal is not difficult – see Brian Livingston's article in the March 30 edition of *Windows Secrets Newsletter* at tinyurl.com/d4wf8m.

Conficker and Mebroot in particular, run as rootkits. They latch onto your PC before Windows starts and run beneath the radar, making it difficult for a Windows program to tell that you've been infected.

Rootkits remain the number one PC security threat – at least for the foreseeable future. There's a lot of money to be made by talented programmers wearing black hats. The bad guys have

found many ways to run rootkits on Windows XP machines, but they haven't been able to crack Vista yet and Windows 7 will likely prove even more difficult.

My February 28 column in the *Phuket Gazette* (tinyurl.com/dm75xj) covered many of the high points of Windows 7. My next column, which I promise to write as soon as edits on the books are done, will go into more detail. Even if you hate Vista, you should look at Windows 7. I've upgraded Win-

dows XP machines to work with a test copy of Windows 7 at the Sandwich Shoppes in Laguna and Chalong, and I hope to get one in Patong going soon. Yes, you can try the "real" Windows 7 now, several months before its final release. I bet you'll be surprised at how well Windows 7 works on a plain, everyday Windows XP machine that's been goosed with a Bt1,500 video card. Drop by and take Windows 7 for a ride, and tell me what you think.

PC Group Therapy: Woody writes computer books and articles. Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning Computer Clinics, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On May 3, we'll be at Sandwich Shoppe Patong, in Aroonsom Plaza, not far from Andaman Beach Suites. On May 10, we'll meet at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna, just before the main entrance to the Laguna complex. On May 17, 24 and 31, we meet at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle, next to Wine Connection. Computer Clinics 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. Come early to make sure you get a seat: several recent events have been standing room only. Driving instructions at www.Woody.info.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island



Lawn Bowls Competition - May 15

Free bowling competition held at the Kamala Lawn Bowls Club every Friday from May 15 at 3pm. All welcome and prizes to be won. For more information contact Don Moore. T: 076-385912 or mobile: 089-5926059. E: bjerry@btinternet.com. W: www.lawnbowlsphuket.com.

May 10. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Is your computer driving you NUTS? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard in his free Sunday morning Computer Clinics. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

May 11. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day – Public Holiday

The annual Royal Ploughing Ceremony usually takes place in May every year at Sanam Luang, near the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The ceremony has been performed since ancient times and is designed to give an auspicious beginning to the new planting season, amid hopes and wishes for an abundant harvest.

May 17. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information see May 10 listing.

May 19. Punchline Comedy & Rotary Club Charity Special

This May the Punchline Comedy Club is teaming up with the Rotary Club of Patong to put on a night of hilarious stand-up comedy, while also raising much-needed funds for the Rotary club's charities. The Punchline Comedy Club has pledged money from every

ticket sold, so not only will you be laughing at some of the best stand-up comedy this earth can provide, you'll also be giving to much deserving Phuket causes. Full details and ticket outlets at our website. This show is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

From 8pm to 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong Beach. For further information contact Khun Boom. T: 083-646 4671. E: info@phuketcomedy.com. W: www.phuketcomedy.com.

May 19 – May 25. Third Annual Boathouse Writing Competition

The Boathouse Short Fiction competition consists of two parts. Part one is open to all adults and part two is open to young student writers aged 15 to 18. Both parts require original stories not previously published, containing three key words: Boathouse, Oasis and Regatta. Stories can be on any subject but must have a Thai theme or subject matter relating to Thailand. The stories should be between 1,500 words and 2,000 words for adults and 800 to 1,200 words for students. For information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076-330015. E: pr@boathousephuket.com. W: www.boathousephuket.com.

May 24. Mini Marathon & Fun Run 2009

Our 5th Annual Mini Marathon & Fun Run, raising funds for the Phuket Marine Biological Center's Marine Stranded Animal Rescue Project, will take place on May 24. The event comprises a mini marathon race of 10.5k (entry cost: 200 baht); a fun run of 3.5k (150 baht); and a family "Love Turtles" walk of 2.5k (300 baht). Registration takes place on Friday, May 22 from 10am to 5pm at the Phuket Tourism & Sports Office (Surakul Stadium) and Saturday, May 23 from 10am - 5pm at Turtle Village, Mai Khao. The mini marathon takes place from 5am to 9:30am at Pru Jeh San Lake, Mai Khao. For more information contact Khun Khemwalai "Aim". T: 086-689 2230. E: info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com. W: www.maikhaoturtlefoundation.com.

May 24. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information see May 10 listing.

May 27. Mom Tri's Boathouse Regatta's Storytelling Evening

Mom Tri's Boathouse Regatta presents an evening of exquisite food and enticing stories for adults by Phuket's only professional storyteller, Denise Bertrand (www.denisebertrand.com). Ms Bertrand, an innovative Corpo-

rate Trainer with 22 years experience as a trainer and consultant in the "art" of communication in business and education, will entertain guests with tales in between courses. Enjoy a four-course gourmet dinner plus coffee and tea interspersed with stories that will please your palate for 1,200 baht net. From 7pm to 10:30pm at Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076-330015. E: pr@boathousephuket.com. W: www.boathousephuket.com.

May 29 - Jun 29. The Second "Absolutely Aesthetics" Art Exhibition

The second "Absolutely Aesthetics" will feature mixed techniques on board and vinyl tiles by talented young Thai artist, Kritsana Chaikitwattana. This series presents the contrasting beauty between classic and "failed" sculpture and poses the question "What is the true value behind them?" Kritsana has participated in several exhibitions in Thailand, as well as in Korea (2003), Spain (2005), and Taiwan (2006). His exhibition at D Gallery runs from May 29 to June 30. Hours: Tue-Sat: 11am to 7pm; Sundays: noon to 6pm. At D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina, Phuket. For further information contact D Gallery. T: 076-360867. E: info@dgallery.co.th. W: www.dgallery.co.th.

May 31. TriBallistic Triathlon Race 2 of 4, Indigo Pearl

Registration open from 6am to 8am.
 – 08:20hrs: Splash 'n' Dash for children aged 5–8 years (Swim, 60m; Bike, 1.5km; run, 800m).
 – 09:00: Adults (Swim, 900m; Bike, 20km; Run, 7km).
 – 09:20hrs: Junior Race, ages 8–16 yrs (Swim, 250m; Bike, 6km; Run, 2km).
 Prizes for podium finishers in each age group, male and female + teams. Free refreshments on race day. Discounts for overnight stay, spa and food and beverage at the Indigo Pearl Resort. TriBallistic will be selling sports nutrition and also merchandise on race day. From 6am - 12pm at Indigo Pearl Resort, Nai Yang. For more information contact Bier. T: 081-691 3285 E: tri@triballisticclub.com. W: www.triballisticclub.com.

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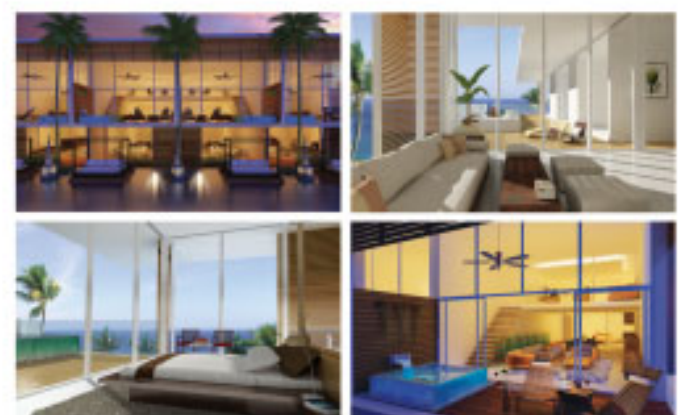
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The US dollar has strengthened against many currencies over the last year. Unfortunately, this has not always been the result of having a stronger economy than some of its peers, but simply because it has been the lesser of two evils.

Imagine a beauty contest where all the competitors were ugly and each had a national sash attached; this is exactly what state the major global currencies are in. The more successful currencies are by no means attractive, they're just not quite as hideous as the others.

The US dollar, when studying its basic features, has very little appeal. For depositors it yields almost zero and it suffers from both trade and current account deficits of some magnitude. The economy is mired in recession and from a currency assessment point of view, it has only two virtues.

Firstly, the US economy is flexible. By and large it adheres to free market principles, which, in theory, will allow the US to emerge from recession more rapidly than, say, the eurozone. Secondly, the US is desperate to regain a growth pattern as elections are due to be held in late 2010, when many members of congress and the senate will seek to be re-elected.

Many observers expected the euro to outperform the dollar during this difficult period, but a number of factors have forced the euro to weaken. One of the eurozone's biggest problems is its diversity, and in the face of adversity, any weak links become more pronounced.

The currency eurozone consists of 16 different member states that vary widely in eco-

That age-old problem



GERMANY, Berlin : Two elderly women sit on a bench in a park in Berlin on June 18, 2008. Germany has an ageing population and according to the German Family Ministry, every third German citizen will be older than 60 until the year 2030. AFP Photo Barbara Sax

nomical strength, from weaker members such as Ireland, Spain, Italy and Greece to stronger members such as Holland and Germany. It is simply impossible for a single central bank – the European Central Bank (ECB) – to be able to cater for all these countries.

Spain and Ireland are probably the two member states that have seen the greatest change in fortunes in the last two years. Both countries enjoyed long property and construction booms that effectively moved them quickly up the ladder to prosperity. The collapse of these economic drivers in both countries has led to rapidly rising unemployment in Spain unemployment stands at over 17%. Neither country appears even remotely likely to stage an economic recovery in anything like what could be referred to as the short term.

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, is again seeing its currency appreciate in value.

The yen had risen to over 100 to the US dollar, but recent days have seen the yen appreciate closer to the mid-90s level.

This may not seem overly significant, but the Japanese economy is very dependent on its export sector. In recent years a weaker yen lulled Japanese exporters into increasing their manufacturing capacity in Japan at the expense of foreign countries.

The yen had weakened considerably, mainly due to what is referred to as the "carry trade". This was simply investment of yen into other currencies such as the New Zealand and Australian dollars, sterling and even the South African rand, all offering higher interest rates.

The global downturn and credit crunch removed most of the appetite for risk from the table, and as a result the majority of the carry trade was unwound. The repatriation of funds to Japan led to a marked increase in the value of the yen.

Japan faces an additional and serious long-term problem that is not going to disappear with any upturn of the global economy – an ageing population coupled with a low birth rate.

Long-term prospects for the population of Japan are staggering: demographers have predicted that in 400 years' time, at current birth rates, Tokyo will have a population of only 700 people.

In addition to a very low birth rate, Japan also has the highest life expectancy of any advanced major economy. People on average consume less as they become older, and this is one of the major weaknesses that Japan has.

Even Thailand is heading in the same direction. Fortunately for Thailand, the statistics are not yet serious. Other countries in Western Europe, such as Germany, are faced with the same serious ongoing problem. The UK recently announced that it is home to more people who are

over the age of 60 than people aged 16 or under.

Of all countries, China is expected to become the first country to have a falling population, even without enjoying a substantial degree of wealth first.

Governments are going to have to face the reality of ageing populations, and this means making serious and unpopular decisions. The trend is to get people to retire later; already there is more discussion of moving the retirement age to 68.

It isn't just governments that are facing this problem, but companies also. Employers are notoriously reluctant to take on staff even in their 50s – it is going to take a lot of incentive for them to consider people in their 60s.

The current global financial crisis has certainly changed the way people view retirement in many countries.

People have noted that the value of their pensions has often dropped dramatically, and this is combined with a decrease in the value of their homes and interest returns on bank deposits, bonds and so on.

Opinion polls reflect this reality. Those approaching retirement are often more uncertain about their ability to financially cope once retired.

Governments in most countries are not going to be able to cater for the numbers involved, and employers are ever more reluctant to supply pension funds.

Saving for retirement is going to be of increasing importance for the average person in an era where the family structure has disappeared in many countries.

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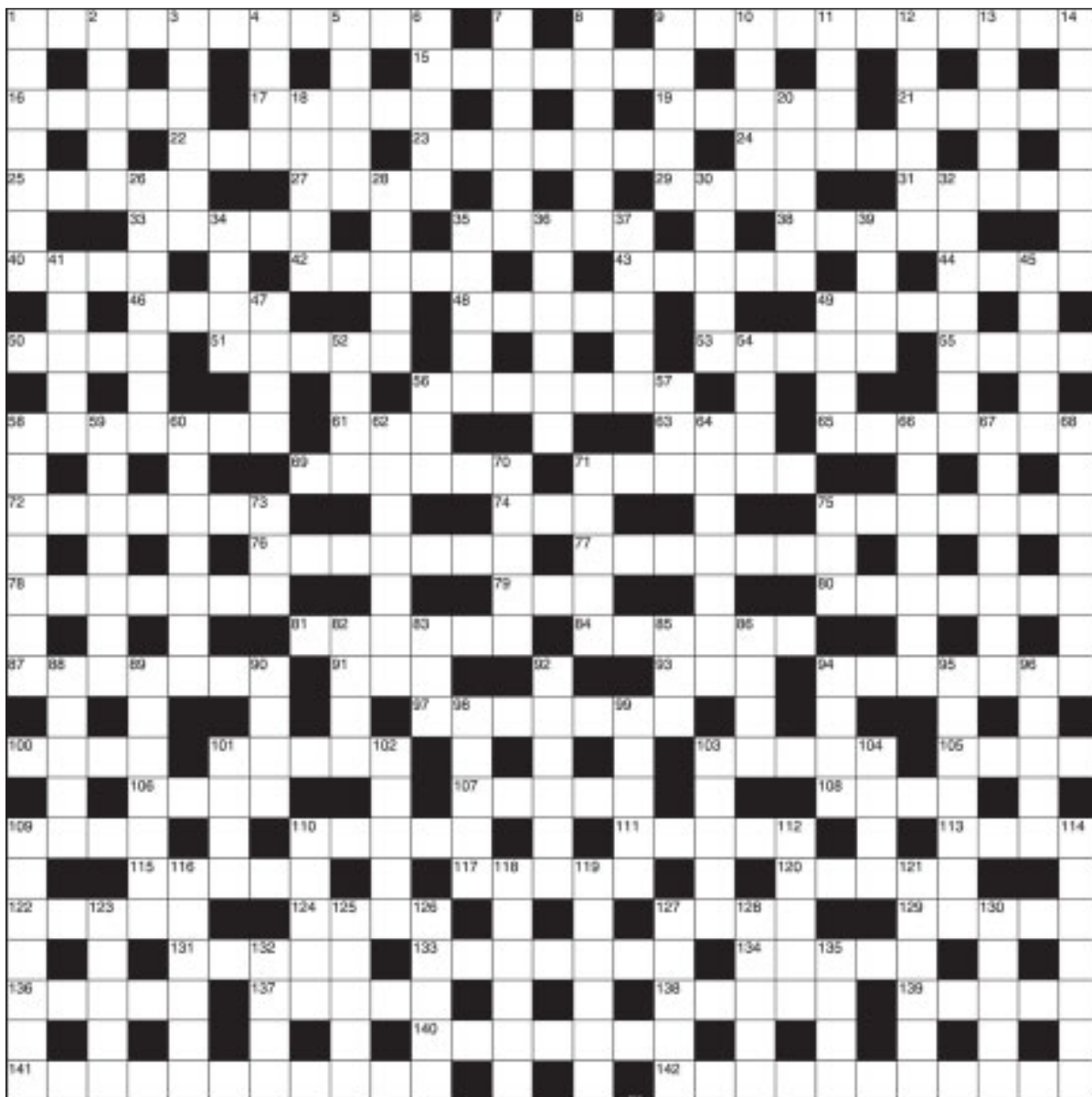
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



The BIG Crossword

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Across

- 1. Flattering remarks
- 9. Profane
- 15. Talk quietly
- 16. Rock face
- 17. Section of drama
- 19. Regarding
- 21. Military student
- 22. Trample
- 23. Et cetera (3,2,2)
- 24. Pink Panther comic actor, ...Martin
- 25. Fragment
- 27. Body fluid lump
- 29. Song for two
- 31. Noblemen
- 33. Decree
- 35. Action words
- 38. Scent, ...cologne
- 40. High
- 42. Senseless
- 43. Distance runner
- 44. July birthstone
- 46. Be ahead
- 48. Suffuse
- 49. SW Pacific nation
- 50. Most populous continent
- 51. Duck's call
- 53. Fortune-telling card
- 55. Slightly open
- 56. Cotton tops (1-6)
- 58. Ocean shore
- 61. Fish eggs
- 63. James Bond author, ...Fleming
- 65. Childhood ailment
- 69. Woman
- 71. Grew faint
- 72. Beauty show
- 74. ...chi (1'2)
- 75. Underground rail roads

- 76. Disconnect (wagon)
- 77. Lagos is there
- 78. Speaking publicly
- 79. Be in debt
- 80. Authorisation
- 81. Entertains
- 84. Sewers
- 87. Hindmost section (4,3)
- 91. Combustion residue
- 93. Pouch-like body part
- 94. Kidney-shaped nuts
- 97. Discolours through age
- 100. Minor quarrel
- 101. Long-running disputes
- 103. Theatre attendant
- 105. Wildlife enclosures
- 106. Amphibian
- 107. Collapsed, ...in
- 108. Prima donna
- 109. On top of
- 110. Mountain chain
- 111. Lodge firmly
- 113. Complete again
- 115. Extremely
- 117. Makes (wage)
- 120. Harnessed (oxen)
- 122. Try out (food)
- 124. Pig fat
- 127. Of the mouth
- 129. UK race meeting, Royal ...
- 131. Chick's tweets
- 133. Authenticity
- 134. Stains
- 136. Of sheep
- 137. At the same time as
- 138. Hard black wood
- 139. Hackneyed
- 140. Spanish warship
- 141. Back roads (4,7)
- 142. Chinese snacks (6,5)

Down

- 1. Aircraft flight deck
- 2. Corn
- 3. Raised
- 4. Ponder
- 5. Poor
- 6. Perspire
- 7. Centre
- 8. Decorum
- 9. Trade name
- 10. Got up
- 11. Liver paste spread
- 12. Go beyond
- 13. Requisition
- 14. Meet (requirements)
- 18. Desert plants
- 20. Say
- 26. Wine stores
- 28. Man-eating fish
- 30. Not illuminated
- 32. TV antennas
- 34. Baghdad is there
- 35. Blood vessels
- 36. Bunny, Peter ...
- 37. Stank
- 39. Component
- 41. Cinema gangway
- 45. Valiant
- 47. ...& duchess
- 49. Shape
- 52. Nuclear reactor centre
- 54. The Diary of ...Frank
- 56. Hot beverage
- 57. Mobile phone chip, ...card
- 58. Sustain
- 59. Kabul currency
- 60. Dream
- 62. Collection of works
- 64. Memory loss
- 66. Pure white animals

- 67. Seepage
- 68. Siblings
- 70. Essential character
- 71. Ate (meal)
- 73. Yank
- 75. USA, Uncle ...
- 82. Hotel cleaner
- 83. Bashful
- 85. Donkey
- 86. Non-commissioned officers (1,1,2)
- 88. Foreign
- 89. Omitted (4,3)
- 90. Tinted
- 92. Salivate
- 94. Mixed sex (of school) (2-2)
- 95. Perils
- 96. Courted
- 98. Reception host
- 99. Walks in water
- 101. Fully informed, au ...
- 102. Submarine detector
- 103. Shade of brown
- 104. Skating stadium
- 109. Surpasses
- 110. Fashion house, ...Lauren
- 112. Folksinger, Bob ...
- 114. Escape vents
- 116. Outcasts
- 118. Fit for cultivation
- 119. Secured by hammering
- 121. Christian festival
- 123. Glided on snow
- 125. Reserve, set ...
- 126. Coffee sediment
- 127. Premonitions
- 128. Love affair
- 130. Freeze
- 132. Washstand jug
- 135. Actor, ...O'Neal

su | do | ku

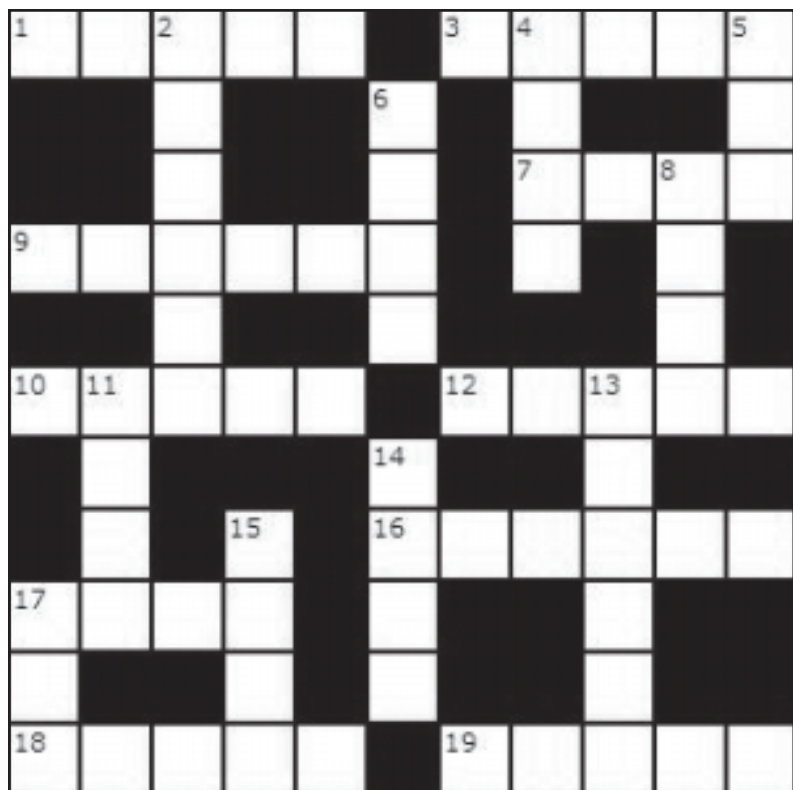
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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

Solution on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

- 1. Father Xmas
- 3. Show the way
- 7. Terrible
- 9. Desert
- 10. Singer, David...
- 12. Cat
- 16. Heritage
- 17. Bread
- 18. Instrument
- 19. Flower

Down

- 2. Brother's son
- 4. Take back
- 5. For seeing
- 6. Deceased
- 8. Take a break
- 11. Cookie
- 13. Move
- 14. Not fast
- 15. Beg
- 17. In Brazil

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

- 1. Who invented the concept of the travel agency?
- 2. What was J. Swigert's massive understatement on April 13, 1970?
- 3. Which noble gas comes first alphabetically?
- 4. What is the SI unit for pressure?
- 5. What plant is vanilla obtained from?
- 6. What fruit was known as the "love apple"?
- 7. Which African head of state is protected by the Amazonian Guard?
- 8. Melbourne is on the banks of which river?
- 9. Which countries offer Dead Sea holidays?
- 10. "Go ahead, make my day.", was spoken by Clint Eastwood in which movie?
- 11. Which actress said "Play it Sam... play As Time Goes By".
- 12. In which sport are the shoes made entirely out of metal?
- 13. Which Yorkshire town was the birthplace of rugby league?
- 14. Which Olympic sport has world records broken most often?
- 15. What items form the logo of Amnesty International?
- 16. Which was the first human organ to be successfully transplanted?
- 17. Name the four corner states?
- 18. The shot of which battleship gave the signal for the Russian October Revolution?
- 19. Margaretha Zelle was better known by what name?
- 20. Name the nationality of golfer V J Singh?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



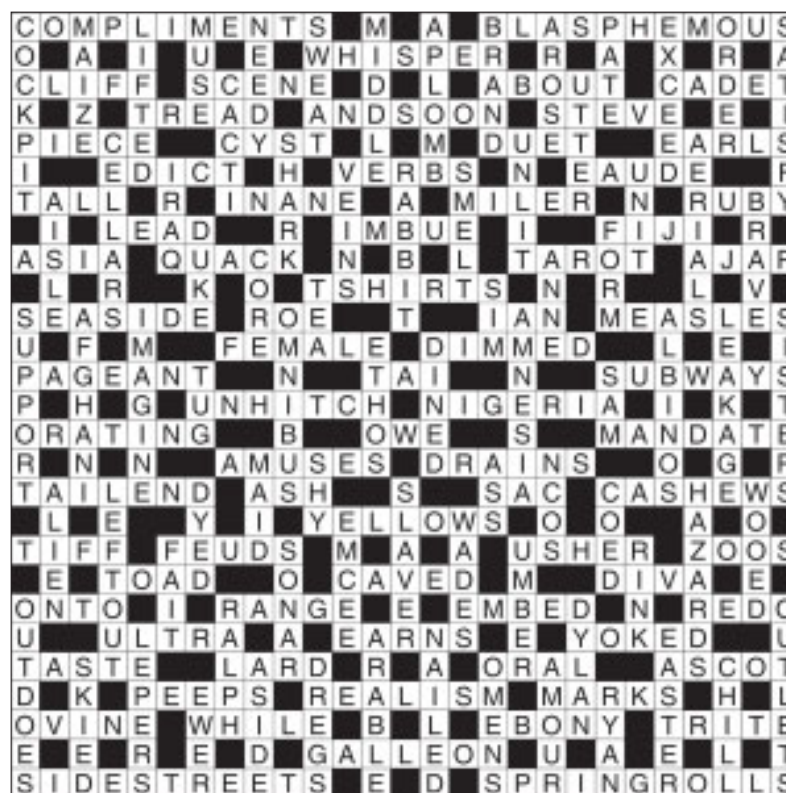
Monster Quiz Answers

- 1. Thomas Cook; 2. Houston, we have a problem; 3. Argon; 4. Pascal; 5. Orchids (seedpods); 6. Tomato; 7. Muammar al-Gaddafi; 8. The Yarra; 9. Israel & Jordan; 10. Sudden Impact; 11. Ingrid Bergman; 12. Horse racing; 13. Huddersfield; 14. Weightlifting; 15. Candle, barbed wire; 16. Kidney; 17. Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona; 18. Aurora; 19. Mata Hari; 20. Fijian.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle





Off the SHELF

By Patrick Campbell

Every month, crime statistics are published in the *Phuket Gazette*. While arrests for gambling head the list, the figures for drug-related offences, especially methamphetamines a tablet costs the price of a crate of beers are far more disturbing. Indeed, Lintner and Black, the authors of *Merchants of Madness: The Methamphetamine Explosion in the Golden Triangle* (published by Silkworm Books), call this national trend an "explosion". Already 247,965 registered addicts in Thailand in 1994, that figure is now significantly higher.

There is a long history of drug abuse in Southeast Asia, especially in and around the "Golden Triangle", where the borders of Thailand, Burma and Laos intersect. Here poppy growing provides a ready source

Speeding downhill

of raw opium, a drug smoked in "dens" for centuries. Eventually ousted by its lethal derivative, heroin, that drug has, in its turn, been supplanted in popularity by *ya bah* (methamphetamine).

Impressively researched statistics tell the tale. In 1990 only 3.7% of arrests were related to *ya bah*; in 2000 almost 80% were for methamphetamines. Why? Since *ya bah* is a synthetic product, fewer chemical precursors are required for its production. Cheaper to produce at about ten baht a tablet – it is not reliant on opium farmers. All that is needed is a laboratory.

Ya bah has rapidly reached a wider market. An "upper", it gives an immediate "high" when inhaled in vaporized form. Perceived as less harmful, it is a social drug associated mainly with the younger generation, who believe it "increase(s) sexual prowess". But it can lead to psychopathic, even suicidal behavior. A number of murders and hit-and-run crimes have been attributed to *ya bah* addiction.

Inevitably, the *ya bah* cult has also spawned social problems: the selling of sex by young people;

addiction problems among indigent migrant laborers. In addition, it has generated a youth gang culture. One motorcycle gang in Chiang Mai – "The Samurai" – patrols the nocturnal streets brandishing swords; a girl-gang, "The Vampires", aim to "sleep with as many boys as they can".

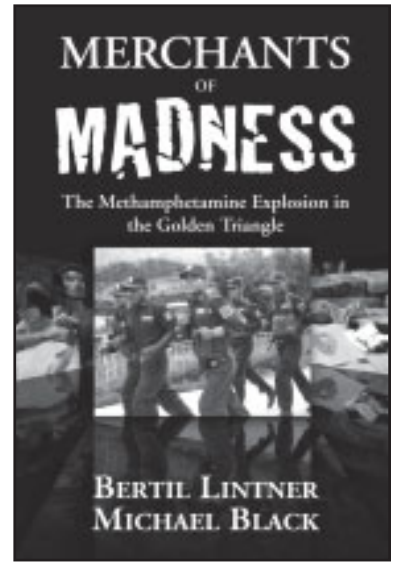
Of course, the real villains are not the kids on the streets, but the drug barons who launder their "black" money, frequently by investing it in casinos. Ironically, Thailand's big bosses were barely touched by Thaksin's 2003 "War on Drugs", a publicity-conscious campaign that resulted in the death of 2,590 people.

But *Merchants of Madness* is much more than a resume of recent trends and events. To put this narcotics trade in context, the authors scrutinize the political history of the region, a tangled web of corrupt governments, tribal loyalties, warlords and insurrections, all of which have contributed to the "explosion" of this dirty business. As the authors dryly observe: "Drug production will always flourish in a black market, the Burmese way to socialism in effect delivered the

economy into the hands of the drug traffickers".

"Players" have become obscenely rich. Wei Xuegang, an ethnic Chinese, is the "real merchant of madness". Sentenced to death *in absentia* by a Thai court, he is the "heroin kingpin and overlord of most of the methamphetamine production in the Golden Triangle". Living in isolated splendor, he leads a private army – the United Wa State Army [UWSA]. Other key "players" include the Bao brothers and Lin Mingxian. All are enormously wealthy, above the law and without moral scruples of any kind.

If there is nothing to admire about these dealers in human misery, there is much to applaud in this authoritative account. Evenhanded in its pronouncements, it nonetheless conveys a strong sense of indignation about, for instance, a military rule in Burma that systematically abuses ethnic minorities. Surprisingly sympathetic to the misdemeanors of the police in Thailand, the writers argue that they are so poorly paid that they cannot survive without "coffee money". One personal



regret: I wish they had considered the clinical aspects of *ya bah* addiction: its long term effects on the psyche and on subsequent patterns of behavior. But maybe that is another book.

The authors are conclusive about both illness and cure: "the future stability of the whole region depends on a solution to Burma's decades long ethnic conflict...it affects everyone from *ya bah* addicts to the victims of their crazed habits; from governments struggling to come to terms with corruption to financial institutions tarnished by the flow of black money. No one is left untouched by the wiles of these merchants of madness".

Horoscopes Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The focus for Taureans rests on making contacts this week as there is ample opportunity to meet people who can help you achieve progress. This particularly applies to those who are struggling with creative projects. A minor windfall enables cautious investment to be made. Pisces can be trusted, but Scorpio's integrity is shaky. Those celebrating a birthday in the coming week can expect more excitement in the year ahead.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your energy should start to pick up as the middle of May approaches. Geminis with a positive outlook will see success coming, but those who are still affected by failure earlier in the year could miss out. Events this weekend help you realize the importance of family – there are signs that an overdue reunion is due in June. Wearing the color peacock blue can help to eliminate pessimism.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Those Cancerians who are cash-strapped should see new ways to juggle their budgets this week. With improvements to your finances forecast for the latter part of May, planning a much-needed vacation could now be feasible. Sidestepping an important question posed by a romantic partner could land you in hot water this weekend – there are several issues that you need to face up to. The number nine can bring some good luck next Thursday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Last minute changes to schedules are

indicated to cause Leos some stress until the middle of May. Your ability to go with the flow is particularly put to the test on Wednesday, when a simple bureaucratic issue becomes complicated. Later in the week your pride could come before a fall when a romantic approach doesn't bring the result you had hoped for. Wear the color light sandstone to encourage clearer perception.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A more productive atmosphere at work allows you to show your skills to full advantage this week. Personal relationships also benefit from the chance to build bridges – a water sign is ready to rekindle a friendship that was damaged last year. Single Virgoans are content with flirtation, while those in an established relationship are advised to give more support to their partners' projects. The number three can bring some luck on Wednesday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The wind of change is forecast to blow in your direction this week, but some Librans could be daunted by what lies in store. However, the stars suggest that you will soon be presented with more attractive choices relating to employment. Thursday is the best day to approach someone with influence in the world of business. Single Librans have their world rocked by an earth sign this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Pooling resources

could be a way for those born under the sign of Scorpio to raise their incomes. You may first have to distance yourself from a business colleague who has been holding you back. Tuesday is the best day for difficult discussions. The stars predict that you will then meet up with another water sign who could prove to be the working partner of your dreams.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Business is forecast to go swimmingly during the second half of May, when the stars will support your desire to branch out. In the meantime, tying up loose ends is recommended. A matter that you have conveniently pushed aside recently is about to reappear from the shadows. Single Sagittarians are advised to push the boat out when trying to impress a new flame this weekend. The number four is lucky on Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A career move that you previously considered impossible becomes feasible. Those born under the sign of Capricorn who would like to see more se-

curity in their lives are advised to pursue this option. Romance is currently affected by more positive astral influences and those who are single should enjoy passing time with an alluring air sign this weekend. If you're in a relationship, your partner catches you unawares with a confession.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your tendency to trust others too quickly is highlighted when the answer to a burning question comes just in time this week. Aquarians who suspected that they were being taken for a ride will have their fears confirmed. The stars suggest that the remainder of May would be best dedicated to furthering your personal ambitions without involving others unnecessarily. The number one can bring some modest luck next Wednesday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): As the middle of May ap-

proaches, many Pisceans will enjoy a financial windfall. Travel is also forecast and this may spark off the idea of living elsewhere. Someone born under the sign of Taurus has information that could help you see where the grass really is greener. A dream early next week gives some food for thought where romance is concerned. Wear a piece of amber to help keep your feet on the ground.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A trouble shared is a troubled halved this weekend for Arians. A water sign friend has some priceless advice, but you will need to react quickly. Monday is the best day for discussing finances. On a personal level, the stars indicate that fire and water will not mix in your favor – love with Scorpio is forecast to bring trouble. Those who are single will meet someone more suitable later in the month.

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Better roads needed

The recent announcement by Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop that he will push for central government funding for four new road projects in Phuket is welcome news.

But simply building more roads probably won't do much to improve conditions for motorists overall unless a number of existing problems are also addressed.

As anyone who has driven extensively in Thailand knows, Phuket has some of the worst roads in the country. Thepkrasatri Road, the island's central artery, is in a deplorable state in several parts of Thalang, with some sections so uneven and bumpy they will give any vehicle's suspension system a tough test.

Although a section was recently resurfaced, it is a shame that so much of the road – which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary – remains in such a dire and dangerous condition. Yet rather than focus on repairing the road surface, more attention seems to have been focused on ensuring that the median strip is covered with impressive flowers and bushes.

There is also the question of how these roads ever fell into such a state of utter disrepair in the first place.

A well-designed, professionally constructed highway should last for decades before the need for resurfacing or other major repair work arises.

Phuket's naturally hilly terrain makes road construction a challenge and heavy rainfall does take its toll, but that is no excuse for roads built or resurfaced just a few years ago looking like a mogul field or flood-plain every time it rains – as is the case with the bypass road in front of Tesco-Lotus. Another letdown is the new northbound lane of the bypass road in Rassada.

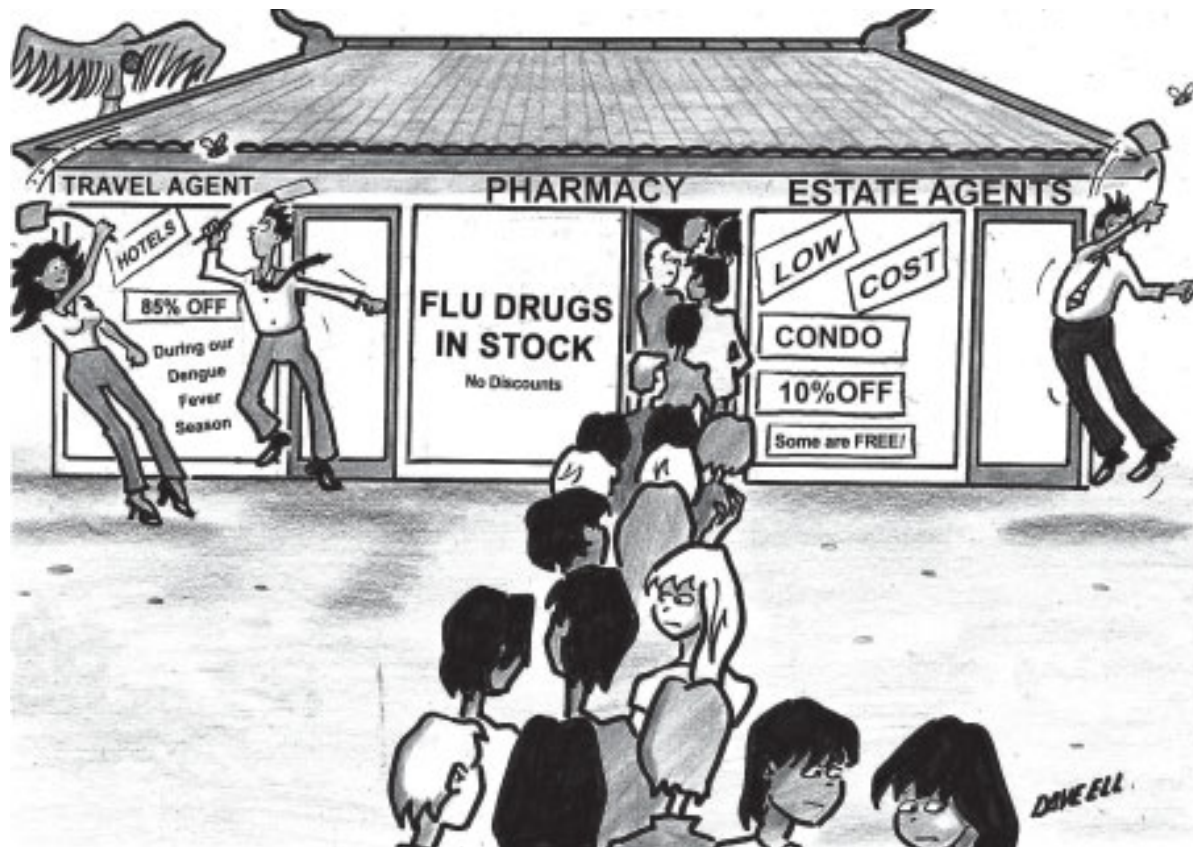
Then there is Phra Barami Road over Patong Hill, quite possibly the most dangerous road on the island.

Claiming safety concerns, Patong Municipality has continued to push for the mother of all misconceived megaprojects – a tunnel under Patong Hill – while at the same time turning a blind eye to the kind of low-cost, easy-to-implement measures that could go a long way towards minimizing the number of accidents that happen on Phuket's roads.

Such measures might include repainting the lines on roads so they are clearly visible to those who are traveling at night or periodically removing the patches of concrete that fall off cement trucks and become a real hazard for motorists – especially those on motorbikes.

Phuket does need new roads to cope with worsening traffic, but we can only hope they are better designed and constructed than other new roads built here in recent years.

– The Editor



Letters

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

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

Why four more new roads for Phuket?

I've lived here for three years, visited Phuket for the past ten and traveled over the island at all hours of the day. Why do we need a new airport road? The current one is sufficient and I have never seen it blocked with traffic. On the other hand, Heroin's Monument is the main traffic problem area in Phuket and this could be solved by putting the flyover there rather than at the Central Festival intersection where it is not needed.

I have never had to wait at the Central Festival intersection for longer than one change of lights, even during peak hours. Why not put the money towards a tunnel from Patong to Kathu and improve some of the current roads. For example, why can't the road through Kamala be improved with a planted central reservation? It leads to one of the main tourist attractions on the Island – Fantasea – and should be given a makeover to improve its appearance.

In short, do we really want more of Phuket tarmacked over? All we'll get is more grotty roadside shops, general filth and huge billboards – not to mention a plethora of ugly, overhead utility lines. Let's concentrate on improving the efficiency of the current network and try to make it look more attractive. This is, after all, a holiday isle so let's try and make it look like one. Economically, the island is not Thai driven, but *farang* driven. The government needs to put aside some of its Thai prejudice and listen to what foreigners want from a holiday destination.

With regard to the 11.5 million arrivals figure being bandied about – in your dreams. I reckon Phuket has probably reached its peak for tourist arrivals – certainly in terms of Westerners. Until the political and economic climate improves and the Thai baht is devalued or floated to find its true value, we're actually likely to see fewer arrivals. The only growth area I can see will come from China, Japan and South Korea. They, however, are going to need some persuading – especially now that Phuket is so expensive.

Andrew
Kamala

Tuk-tuks and taxis are robbing tourists

I am absolutely sick to death of being ripped off by tuk-tuk and taxi drivers on this island. I cannot afford a car, but my motorbike is more than sufficient to get me from A to B during the day. However, if I want to have a night out and have a drink then obviously I am unable to take my own transport as I have no desire to drink and drive. Sadly, this leaves me with no alternative other than taking a taxi or a tuk-tuk.

The other night I had to get to Karon from Surin for an event. It ended up costing me a total of 1,500 baht to get there and back – that's THIRTY pounds sterling. I would be offended to pay that in the UK but am absolutely disgusted by the greed and extortion that has developed here.

It appears that these parasites, sorry drivers – or the puppeteers who control them – believe that all *farangs* have loads of money and can pay wha-tever

the tuk-tuk mafia decide to charge. Well, wise up! This is not the case, particularly in these difficult times.

It is this kind of blatant and unchecked extortion that is damaging – and threatening to destroy – Phuket's reputation as a popular tourist destination.

A number of my friends in the hotel industry have had several guests tell them that they will never return to Phuket because of the woeful transport services; a sentiment echoed by many people who have written to the *Gazette*.

I desperately urge the governor, the politicians or whoever the hell is responsible, to put an end to this disgusting cartel of corruption. Please do something!

Chris Hughes
Bang Tao

Love Villa

Has anyone else besides myself noticed the superior and gracious service at the new Villa Market? The manager greets you personally, and the staff, all smiles, rush to help you. They unload your cart and after you pay, load it up with your groceries, all the while thanking you, smiling and saying "please come again".

I swear it's like walking into The Twilight Zone, an unusual experience here in Phuket where the retail store staff deems it a pain in the neck that you came in to spend your money.

These workers can't be from Phuket, where it's give me your money and take a hike. Sorry about that.

Frank
Rawai

Phuket Gazette

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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.



The Governor's Letter

Since taking up his new post as Phuket Governor on March 16, Mr Wichai Phraisa-ngop has been busy getting to know the island, and assessing the immediate and long-term needs of the province. In this, Mr Wichai's first *Governor's Letter to the Gazette*, Mr Wichai gives his first impressions of Phuket compared to his former posting as Governor of Phang Nga and outlines his priorities for the island.

With confirmation that Phuket is to host the upcoming Asean summit in June, I am confident that Phuket is the best choice of location for the meeting of Asian ministers in terms of security and the ability of the island's resorts to accommodate delegates, their entourages and the media.

At least 5,000 rooms need to be made available to accommodate all those involved in the summit. At least 4,000 rooms have been secured so far.

A lot of planning has already taken place regarding logistics and security for the summit, with steps already taken to ensure proper policing during the event so that there will be no disruptions like those that occurred in Pattaya, which forced the evacuation of delegates from the summit venue by helicopter.

Those involved have to understand that the world is watching us when we hold international events. Such events are not times to seek political leverage; they are opportunities for us to be good ambassadors for the entire country. In this regard we must demonstrate competence and unity.

Hosting events like Asean should not be seen solely as money-making opportunities. Such events gives us the chance to promote our unique brand of hospitality and capture visitor's hearts rather than simply going for their wallets. This is the attitude

that must prevail if the Phuket summit is to be seen as a success and to continue attracting visitors to the island in the long term.

I know I'm new to Phuket but it's my job to make sure we're all on the same page and that everyone knows the importance of making a good impression in the eyes of international delegates and media.

On a provincial level, we have already discussed factors such as location, timing, volume of visitors, security measures and problems that could arise.

However, no matter what promises we make, a lot of damage has already been done by the problems during the postponed summit in Pattaya. How can you justify having to airlift dignitaries from an international summit? I fear that some will never agree to return to Thailand.

Thankfully, Phuket still compares favorably to Bangkok as a place unaffected by political conflict, and I am confident that Phuketians will not allow the Asean summit to be disrupted like it was in Pattaya.

However, the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest that forced the closure of Phuket International Airport (PIA) in August last year was an abhorrent act. It was short-sighted and severely damaged Phuket's image. It was like breaking our rice bowl so we would go hungry.

I'm sure that most of those protesters were not Phuket natives. The protesters came from

other provinces and gave the world a negative impression of Phuket and Thailand.

Phuket is still a popular leisure destination though. I recently met with high-ranking officials from Iran and rulers from the United Arab Emirates. The latter originally planned to stay in Phuket for just two days but they ended up staying about a week simply because they really enjoyed being here.

More than 30 of them flew into PIA on a 747, and they would have stayed longer if they could, but due to capacity limits at the airport, their plane had to make way for others.

Currently, PIA can't handle aircraft any larger than a 747. As it becomes busier, the runway eventually needs to be expanded to handle the larger A380 aircraft. We are looking into extending the runway by a few kilometers in order to accommodate the larger aircraft.

A Bt5 billion budget has been set for expanding the airport, which may include extending the runway into the sea, and we're also looking into how to improve the roads leading to and from the airport. Construction of a second north-south artery is a top priority among the four new road projects under consideration to handle the inevitable increase in traffic that will come with the airport expansion, which should bring about 11.5 million tourists to the province each year by 2016.

Sea Gypsies

Progress has been made with the issues brought to my attention by the 30 Communities Network in April. The sea gypsies in Rawai now have a proper electricity and water supply and progress has been made on establishing fixed addresses. They are happy with the steps taken so far.

From Phang Nga to Phuket

From my experience as Governor of Phang Nga, I see many similarities between there and Phuket. However, there are some significant differences, the main one being that Phang Nga obviously covers a much larger area than Phuket.

However, Phuket's infrastructure and facilities are more advanced than those in Phang Nga, and Phuket is more vibrant. The province offers more to visitors in the way of entertainment whereas Phang Nga attracts visitors who just want peace and quiet. Speedboats and jetskis are not allowed in Phang Nga and facilities are cheaper there than they are here. The most immediate issues that need addressing in Phuket are water supply management, road and transport infrastructure, waste disposal and the problems surrounding the illegal drugs trade.

Infrastructure

Phuket gets a lot of rain but the province's facilities for water storage and supply are not

being properly managed. So much of the the fresh water that falls on Phuket is simply allowed to run off into the sea causing damage along the way.

I have asked the Phuket Irrigation Office to submit a budget plan based on the construction of a dam to create a reservoir 30 meters deep with an approximate storage capacity of 500,000 cubic meters at Kathu waterfall. There is also an existing basin located about half a kilometer away from there on Soi Namtok 5, which could also be developed to increase its storage capacity to 150,000 cubic meters.

Phuket desperately needs better public transport. There are many ways to improve the island's infrastructure, especially the roads. Proposed improvements include a rail system, more public buses, more roads and bridges.

Tunnels are very expensive to construct but bridges are a much cheaper option and they can be constructed in a much shorter time.

A tunnel like the one previously proposed at the Tesco Lotus intersection, for example, would cost 300 million baht to build and would take about two years to complete, whereas a steel bridge like the Thai-Belgian flyover in Bangkok would cost 100 million baht and take just a few months to build.

Those who complain that a bridge wouldn't look attractive should also complain about the unattractiveness of some of the large billboards around the island. One of the first billboard advertisements people see when coming from the airport is an advertisement for a new water park with a woman coming down a slide in a bikini. To westerners, that image may not seem offensive but to Thais it is quite obscene, but I can't do anything about that as it is located on private land. Land encroachment, however, is a serious issue and must be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Encroachers' machinery must be seized and the developers must be held accountable.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

Retirement visas

I am a UK citizen living and working with my wife in Hong Kong. We own a property in Phuket and visit it frequently. I am 52 and my wife is under 50.

I have heard it is possible to obtain an extended-stay visa when you reach a certain age. Is this correct and how would one go about it?

Michael Goodlet
Hong Kong

Phuket Immigration Sub Lieutenant Napat Nuusaen replies:

You are eligible for a one-year retirement visa, but your wife currently is not. This type of visa may only be issued to applicants aged 50 years and over who wish to stay in Thailand without the intention of working for a 12-month period. To apply for the visa the applicant must be aged 50 years

or over on the day of submitting the application and produce either a copy of a bank statement showing a deposit not less than 800,000 baht or an original income certificate showing a monthly income of not less than 65,000 baht.

For more information contact Phuket Immigration T: 076-221-905.

Longtail ownership

Are there any restrictions or regulations with regard to foreigners owning longtail boats?

Frank Evans
Phuket

Mr Sakron Pudum, Boat Registration Authority Phuket replies:

Foreigners can own a longtail, but you must have the following documents: the purchasing contract, a guaranty let-

ter from a Tambon Chief (*Kamnan*) or Village Chief (*Puyai Baan*) from the same area along with a copy of their ID card and house registration document, a picture of the longtail boat, your passport and work permit, your residence certificate from Immigration, the ID card and house registration documents of the seller and the correct fee depending on the cost of the longtail.

For more information contact: Marine Office 5th Phuket, 88/5 Sakdidet Road, T. Wichit A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-391174.

Bank taxes

There are few enough people visiting Thailand at the moment due to economic factors. Now it appears that the local banks have decided to tax people 150 baht every time they withdraw

money at the ATM. Have those in charge decided that is a great way to get what few tourists we have to spend money in Thailand?

Wilfrid Blache
Chalong

Miss Wipa Padungcheewit, Executive Team, Bank of Thailand replies:

The 150 baht that people are being charged is not a tax. It is a fee that local banks charge for withdrawing money from a foreign bank account.

A Thai Bankers' Association (TBA) officer replies:

The TBA plans to ask all local banks to cut the 150-baht fee charges currently imposed on foreign cardholders using local ATMs.

A formal announcement will be made if and when the Bank of Thailand agrees to the cut.

Ruins of governor's house discovered in Baan Tha Rua

LOOKING BACK

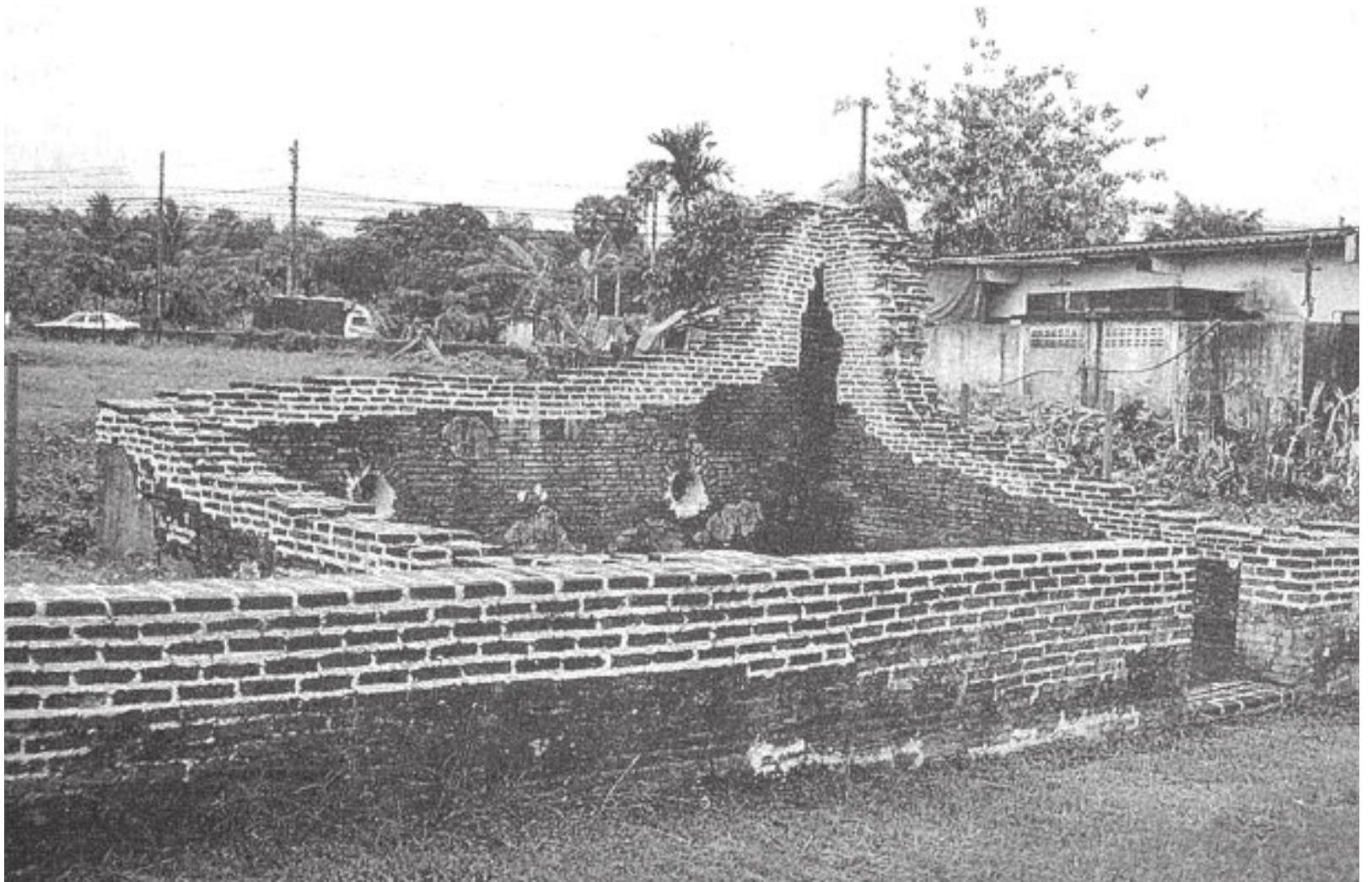
By Anand Singh

An exciting link to Phuket's diverse yet bloody past was excavated by archaeologists recently. A large residence complex in Baan Tha Rua, once belonging to one of Phuket's most prominent governors, was unearthed within walking distance from Phuket's famous Heroines' Monument. Although the owner is less well known than Lady Jan and Lady Mook, the site once housed another of the islands' significant historical figures – Phraya Wichit Songkram – who was credited with turning Phuket Town into an important trade and administrative center during the 19th century.

Despite its historical significance, this residence was completely abandoned and left in ruins towards the end of the 1800s. Buildings deteriorate quickly in Phuket's tropical climate, which alternates drastically between hot sunshine and pouring rain. The constant moisture and fast growing vegetation broke down and swallowed this unique residence, leaving little trace of its existence.

Phraya Wichit Songkram's residence had been mentioned in a number of historical documents, including one travel journal written by King Chulalongkorn during his visit to Phuket in 1890. This journal is how historians know of its existence and location. Records say it was a heavily fortified "camp", with protective walls surrounding the buildings inside.

Despite Phraya Wichit Songkram spending considerable amounts of his personal fortune building this residence, it was



Most of the buildings that once made up the residence have now deteriorated beyond recognition. Of the four-sided wall that surrounded the residence, only the southern section and its fort survives. Image Source: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

abandoned after just one generation. The interesting question is, why?

After Phraya Wichit Songkram's death, his son Phraya Lamduan succeeded him as governor of Phuket. The last Looking Back column [*Gazette*, April 11] explained how the governor's family had accumulated large debts to the royal treasury in just a few years. When Phraya Wichit Songkram died, the family's debt problems soon grew out of control. In 1881, Phraya Lamduan wrote a letter to the central government, explaining why the provincial tax payments to the treasury had been delayed.

The letter explained that because of the state's high tax demands on Phuket's tin revenues, Phraya Wichit Songkram had operated the province's tin mines without profit for many years. When he died, the problems worsened and developed into substantial losses for the province's mining industry. Phraya Lamduan blamed it on the global economy, falling tin prices

and the central government's insatiable demands for tax revenue. In fact, the debt problems probably owed as much to Phraya Lamduan's mismanagement as it did to economic factors.

When Phraya Lamduan died in 1890, it was clear that the family could not afford to repay their debts to the state. The central government therefore decided to seize the family's inherited assets and properties as part of the repayment. On orders from Bangkok, most of what Phraya Lamduan had inherited from his father was handed over and became state property.

According to records, the seized assets included a few mansions in Phuket Town – one of which served as the governor's Phuket Town headquarters – his resort residence near Toh Sae hill, the family's fruit orchard and Phraya Wichit Songkram's residence in Baan Tha Rua.

When the residence in Baan Tha Rua was seized, the governor's family were forced to vacate. It may well have been the finest residence the state received from Phraya Lamduan, and yet when it became state property the government found it hard to make use of it because it was too far from Phuket Town the island's governing center.

The reason Phraya Wichit Songkram had built this residence outside Phuket Town was that the town had been plagued with unrest and riots sparked by malcontent Chinese miners. The gover-

nor had wanted a safer residence outside of town that could be easily defended in case of further unrest. The residence was surrounded by protective walls for this reason.

Other than that, it proved to be quite impractical. The state did not use it and over the years it was neglected. It became one of the many state-owned properties scattered across the country and was soon forgotten. No one was assigned to look after it or keep it in good condition. Soon it was left in ruins, deteriorating with time, before finally disappearing under the earth and vegetation.

Historians were able to rediscover the ruins of this residence complex by tracing its location from clues in historical accounts and documents. Most of the structures that once made up the residence have now deteriorated beyond recognition – only the southern section and its fort survives.

The fort's empty gun ports can still be seen today. Many years ago it would have been armed with defensive cannons to protect Phuket's most important family. Excavation of the site has revealed the bases of several buildings of different sizes. Each one would have served a different purpose. Many historical artifacts were also discovered buried in the rubble.

Of the buildings that were excavated inside the wall, historians found one particularly interesting. This building was fairly

large and was situated right in the middle of the complex, further away from the walls than the other buildings.

Although today only the bases of the main pillars that once supported the building remain, many of its observable characteristics suggest that it may have been where Phraya Wichit Songkram lived and worked. In semi-fortified complexes such as this, usually the buildings in the middle of the complex were deemed safest because they were furthest away from enemy gunshots and other projectile weapons.

Excavating the remains of this building revealed many interesting artifacts, including lavish porcelain and several coins. Some were issued during Rama V's reign. Many of them, however, were foreign coins, including an English coin issued by the Queen Victoria East India Company and a Dutch "Nederlandsch Indie" coin issued by the Dutch East India Trading Company. These foreign artifacts not only hint at the importance of this forgotten residence, they also reveal the extent of trade activities that prevailed in Phuket in the late 1800s.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Email: as.pkt@hotmail.com

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Phuket rides surfing wave



The Monsoon Riders surf competition – the first of three surfing events that go to make up the Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series 2009 – will be staged at Kalim Beach from June 12-14.

The three-day surf fest is expected to attract over 150 local and international competitors, who will compete in four categories – short board, long board and grom for the men and a single category for women. The organizers of the event are hoping that staging the Thailand Surf Series on Phuket will help develop amateur and professional surfing in the Kingdom and establish Phuket as a premier international surfing destination.

The Phuket Board Riders Club has been instrumental in staging and promoting surf competitions on the island since its inception in 2002. This year marks the first time, however, that the three showcase events have been brought together under one banner. The Thailand Surf Series has been further boosted by the support of surf apparel giant Quiksilver, which has signed up to sponsor the series for the next three years.

President of the Phuket Board Riders Club Chanin "Joob" Aiyarak said that having Quiksilver sponsoring the event makes for exciting times for surfing in Phuket.

"It's a great opportunity for local surfing and we're delighted to have Quiksilver on board. It's a big competition and they can help us with advertising, supply us with equipment and help keep the locals surfing," he said.

The early rounds of competitive action will take place on June 12 and 13, with the finals taking place on Sunday 14. The competition will culminate in an awards party at Jungceylon Shopping Center in Patong.

The blue riband event looks set to be the short board division, which will pit 92 surfers against each other. The winning surfer will have to come through six rounds over the three days before being crowned champion.

The second and third events in the Thailand Surf Series will be held at Kamala Beach from August 12-14 and Kata Beach from September 4-6.

-Dan Ogunshakin

TriBallistic returns to Phuket

Indigo Pearl Resort and Spa at Nai Yang Beach is to be the venue for the second in a series of four triathlon races for TriBallistic (Phuket Triathlon club) and host sponsor Phuket International Academy.

This will be the fourth race that has been staged in the picturesque surroundings of Nai Yang and the Sirinat National Park. The area lends itself well to the sport of triathlon, with its reef-protected waters, smooth, quiet, shaded roads, as well as the number of distinct courses.

Race day is Sunday, May 31 and will consist of three races, starting from 8.20am. The first race will be the Splash 'n' Dash for children aged 5-8yrs (swim 60m, bike 1.5km, run 800m). The second will be for the adults, commencing at 9am (swim 900m, bike 20km, run 7km), while the



final race of the day will be the junior race, with age groups for children aged 8-16 yrs (swim 250m, bike 6km, run 2km) starting at 9.20am.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers for each age group – male and female. There is also a team competition in each of the three

categories.

Free refreshments will be provided on the day and discounts will be offered on overnight stays, spa treatments and food and beverages at the Indigo Pearl Resort for all athletes. TriBallistic will sell sports nutrition and also TriBallistic merchandise on race day.

A quarter of all proceeds

from the event will be donated towards a program that allows underprivileged Thai children to enjoy a healthier lifestyle through the avenue of sport.

For further information, including registration details, visit the TriBallistic website at www.triballisticclub.com or send an email to tri@triballisticclub.com.

Charity match honors Lorenz's legacy

The Singapore Cricket Club and Hong Kong Football Club met for the third consecutive year to play a football match on May 2 in memory of Henrik Lorenz – the founder of the Youth Football Home (YFH).

Henrik, a well known and popular figure on the Asian football scene, died suddenly on a flight to Sydney in December 2006. He left behind an important legacy in Phuket – the YFH in Thalang, an orphanage for children from all over Thailand who excel at football.

Every May the two foreign-based teams meet to play a match at the YFH in his memory. Most of the players involved were friends of Henrik, who incidentally also founded an orphanage

in Nepal. One of them, Phuket resident Peter Schott, said, "I used to play for both of these clubs, as did Henrik. He did a lot for Asian football and we play this game every year as a memorial to him."

Peter lined up for the Singapore Cricket Club, which was soundly beaten by four goals to nil by the Hong Kong Football Club. However, the day was about more than just a football match between old friends – the group raised a significant sum of money for the children at the YFH.

"We are going to be presenting a cheque for almost 200,000 baht. We are also taking 20 boys from the home to Singapore. We have organized a mini football tournament for



Every May the two teams meet to play a match at the YFH in Henrik's memory. Most of the players involved were friends of his.

them and they will get to see the Science Museum and go on the Singapore Flyer, the world's largest observation wheel," Peter said.

"The boys who will go on the trip have been selected according to their behavior and academic performance, rather than their footballing ability. It will be

good for them to experience a big city," he added.

The 32 orphaned or destitute boys who live at the YFH enjoy the benefits of housing and education as well as daily football tuition. This is Henrik Lorenz's legacy, and the annual football match is a fitting tribute.

-James Goyder

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Going potty over plants

Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

pose the question: why bother with potted plants if you have a proper garden? After all, container plants are labor-intensive, require frequent watering and may well get root-bound and outgrow their pots. True, true and true again. But what if you are an urban dweller living in a condominium with only a small balcony, or are renting a shophouse that boasts only a concrete parking space at the front of the property? What should you do? Well, Thais have an answer. When they have no space for conventional gardening, they put plants in pots and create a mini-garden. Hey presto.

Although I do have flower beds, I still enjoy having container plants around the place. Arranged at intervals on the *sailang* (sand-wash) areas that flank the pool, they soften the angular outlines of the surrounds. Placed strategically at the front of the house by the gate or car-

port, they add a verdant touch to all that concrete. Perhaps verdant is not the right word, for Thais love rich colors and most of their container displays are ablaze with reds and yellows.

Why? Because there is one shrub that they covet above all others – the crown of thorns (*euphorbia milii*) – and for good reason. This plant – a native of Madagascar of all places – adapts better to life in a pot than any other. Moreover, it will put up with everything the Phuket sun can throw at it; it blooms more-or-less continuously, and is not particularly fussy about soil conditions. Most plants here wilt after a day or two in the strong sun. Not this one. I have put a ring of euphorbias – in glazed Thai pots – on top of my well cover.

After all, the well is useless and the cover unattractive, so it made sense to disguise the thing. These euphorbias have done their job to great effect. Detractors will doubtless



Desert rose

argue that its milky sap is highly toxic and that its stems are so spiny as to be positively dangerous. Indeed, planted as a hedge, it will, given time, form a dense burglar-proof barrier. But it is such a colorful, uncomplicated shrub that I, for one, will give it pride of place among the flower-

ing potted plants available on the island.

Another shrub associated with pots and planters is the desert rose (*adenium obesum*). A feature of most garden centers here, it is very slow-growing and thus expensive to buy. But it is a familiar sight both in nurseries and outside Thai homes, with its distinctive swollen, succulent stems and deep pink and white, trumpet-shaped blooms. Like the crown of thorns, it flowers frequently and, as befits a plant from arid regions, will resist drought – if less stoically than the euphorbia. It consists – probably – of a single variable species that hails, like the euphorbia, from Africa. Such a background makes it heat tolerant, but, as a member of the oleander family, it will respond to regular watering

through the dry season. This practice will promote leaf growth and prolong flowering.

At this juncture, I should perhaps say a bit more about the basics of container cultivation. First the pots. At the cheap end of the market, there are unglazed terra cotta ones. A tad pricier are the more substantial glazed pots. Both types come in a range of sizes, all round in shape, presumably because they have been thrown on a potter's wheel. They can be seen piled high at any garden center. Personally, I prefer the glazed versions, since they are much stronger and don't lose so much moisture through evaporation. But the color – a sort of khaki or dull brown – is a bit monotonous, and



Euphorbia

you may deem it worth expending a few extra baht on designer pots fired in a range of colorful glazes – of which the blue and green ones are perhaps the most aesthetically appealing. Alternatively, you can consider rectangular concrete containers, which look elegantly slim and modernist. There are plastic versions of these containers, which can be found at high-end stores such as Index. These realistically simulate textured concrete without possessing its heaviness. The choice is vast. A final thought. Check to make sure your pots have holes in the bottom – unless you are choosing a home for a lotus or a water-lily.

Second, remember that there is not much soil in one pot, so it needs to be of good quality. And as I know to my cost, ordinary topsoil tends to compact when constantly watered. So it is better to mix one part ordinary

loam – or even river sand – with one part compost (the stuff in bags) and one part coconut husk or coconut fiber. This mixture retains more water and allows the roots freedom to expand in their new environment. A proprietary fertilizer can be applied at regular intervals (15-15-15 is okay) but it is important not to overfeed, especially when the soil is dry.

Talking of dry soil, there are other drought survivors, for example, most succulents and cacti, and of course, the bougainvillea. Some Thais grow *fueng faa* exclusively in containers where, provided it has a large enough pot, it will live up to its showy name of bougainvillea spectabilis. At the moment, bougainvilleas are upstaging everything in Phuket's nurseries and hotels, especially the specimens that have several varieties grafted onto one root-stock and so ostentatiously display four or five colors. Moreover, they can be clipped and shaped without getting distressed – fine examples of the topiarist's craft.

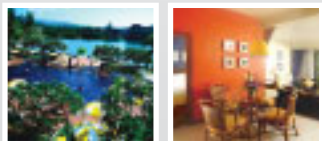
Most of the remaining potted plants worth growing will need more generous watering and more shade. I am thinking of ferns such as asplenium (bird's nest fern), the variegated dieffenbachias, the aglaonemas – now available in pinkish shades – the philodendrons, the purple and green dracaenas, the hymenocallis and the vast array of bromeliads. Go to any garden center in Phuket and these will be cosseted in a shaded area under green netting, along with the orchids and mosquitoes. They are mostly grown for their varied and arresting foliage. It is, of course, no coincidence that these are the same pot plants we purchase for our centrally-heated homes in Europe, usually with disastrous results. But here in the tropics, they won't go potty; they will survive in containers outside the house, or in cooler areas of the garden, or even indoors. As house plants, these – and others – will have cameo roles to play when we move from the open-air stage to the indoor theater.

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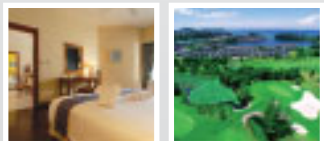
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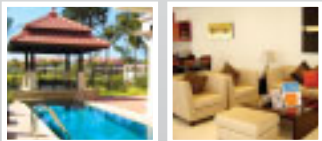
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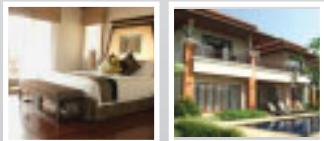
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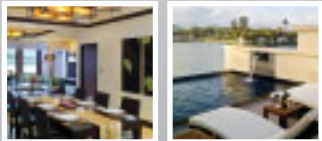
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By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

Ramayana revisited

Art de Phunara, located on Srisoonthorn Road in Cherng Talay, features a fascinating and diverse collection of exclusively hand-made pieces. Sculptures – cast in bronze, brass, silver and stone – wood carvings, ceramics, furniture and paintings combine to embrace a wide variety of contemporary and traditional styles.

The shop's owner, Nirat "Mhee" Sounthronpitikhun started the business around two years ago, having obtained his MBA. A change of heart saw Mhee turn away from the world of business and instead immerse himself in the rather more sedate – though no less complex – world of art.

Of the many striking pieces available at Art de Phunara, perhaps the standout item is a painstakingly hand-crafted chess set in which the pieces are modeled on the Ramayana, one of the two great epics of India – the other being Mahabharata.

Art de Phunara is located at 149/11, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110.



Elephant figures handcrafted from teakwood.



This Ramayana themed chess set comprises hand-crafted brass chess pieces based on the story's mythological characters.

A steel sunflower wall hanging



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For an appointment to preview The Lofts at Laguna Village, please contact:
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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.

Construction Update

Kathu

A second chance to live like royalty

Phase two construction work on the Royal Place Condominium project at the Tesco-Lotus junction began this March and is scheduled for completion by 2011.

The seven-storey project, comprising 102 units, is being developed on approximately five rai in one of the most central and fast-growing parts of the island in close proximity to many of Phuket's facilities.

The project is being developed by VS Property Development Co Ltd. Construction is being undertaken by the Bangkok-based company Syntec Construction PLC, an outfit that prides itself on using high quality materials and specification standards when undertaking a project.

The first phase of the Royal Place Condominium was a successful, with all units sold even before construction began. As things stand, 30% of phase two units have already been purchased.

Prices range from Bt1.8 million to Bt5.5 million. Units are available freehold for foreigners and as freehold and leasehold for



The seven-storey project, comprising 102 units, is being developed on five rai in one of the fastest-growing parts of the island.

Thai nationals.

Phase two units will be available in seven different sizes, ranging from 30 square meters studios to 125sqm apartments. Each condo will contain a separate pantry, terrace, living room and dining areas.

Once purchased, owners will have access to all Royal Place facilities, which include a communal swimming pool with sun deck, clubhouse, restaurant, mini-mart, laundry, internet cafe and hair salon.

Each unit will come with its



Once purchased, owners will have access to all Royal Place facilities, which include a communal swimming pool with sun deck.

own car parking space and the building will be protected by 24-hour security and key-card-only entry system.

Three showroom units – 39sqm, 43sqm and 84sqm – are currently available for prospective clients to view.

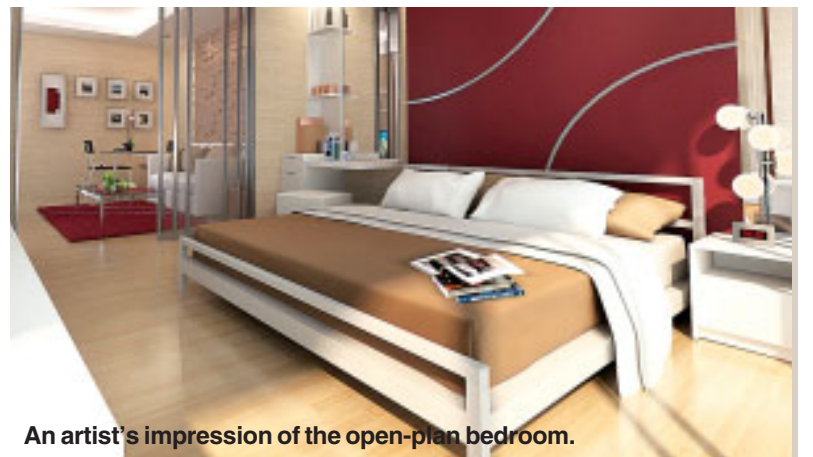
For more information contact: VS Property Development Co Ltd, 96/60 Praphuketkaew Road, Kathu, Phuket 83120. T: 076-262033, 076-304080. E: info@theroyalplace.net. Sales office: T: 076-262033.

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PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and property consulting firm. His BLOG (thephuketinsider.com) is The Source for all Hotel and Real Estate News within Greater Phuket.

In the beginning came the yellow shirts and the airport closures in Bangkok and Phuket. Next came the red shirts in Pattaya, and those images played around the world of the suspected car of the Prime Minister being attacked on the streets of the nation's capital. Throw in the blue shirts – though I am still working out exactly who they are – and my wardrobe has taken a beating.

Today, trying to take a neutral stance, I wore white. I was first asked if I was attending a funeral. Failing that, was I many months early for the vegetarian festival? Okay, let's dismiss the fashion talk.

As I write this column, swine flu has just hit Asia, and by the time this comes out in print it's anyone's guess where all this is going. Earlier in the week the *New York Times Global Edition*

printed a bombastic and somewhat sensational article on the imminent doom of the island's property market, showing pictures of empty beaches and idle construction cranes. I'm not sure when the pictures of the beaches were taken but it must have been at dawn, as every time I pass any of the island's coastal areas there are indeed signs of life.

Granted the market remains very challenging, but at the same time we live in a cash market where many of the developments listed by the article do not carry any debt. There is absolutely no chance of financial institutions stepping in and selling them off at 10 cents on the dollar, something now widely seen in the US, Europe and Australia. So things could be made to work, and yes it is indeed summer in Phuket.

On the flip-side, the country's property market has clearly not yet gotten the attention it deserves, along with the foreign investment. While Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has made all the right noises about stimulus, we are still yet to see these reforms in the market. Phuket remains highly dependent on foreign buyers, to the extent that 70-80% of its resort-grade property is held either by overseas buyers or foreigners living here. There appears to be no movement on foreign ownership of property or extension of the 30-year limit on leases, which impacts the avail-

ability of mortgages and leveraging of property in these cash-strapped times.

Leasehold remains the dominant structure for foreigners to hold property here in Phuket. In the condo market, over the boom years freehold and leasehold apartments traded at par market values with no second tier valuations. Following the Foreign Business Act scare a few years ago, the use of nominees and offshore companies came under closer scrutiny, so leasehold again was the best option – aside from the 49% freehold entitlement for overseas investors in condominiums.

Under the law there is a 12.5% municipal tax for houses and land, which covers rented and leased units (i.e. villas or apartments). This also applies to the 51% lease portion of a condominium. While some projects have ownership structures for the land or company, the existence of the lease means the tax applies. However, during the past few years there was little enforcement of this tax and it was largely ignored by the industry.

Fast forward to the present, and now we see municipalities all over the island scouring estates and looking to assess this tax. Cherng Talay, which is home to a large critical mass of units, has



While Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has made the right noises about stimulus, we are still yet to see these reforms in the market.

led this movement, but it is now being seen in all of the local Tambon Administration Organization offices. There appears to be a great source of confusion among the municipalities about the tax, and what seems to have spurred the actions was the intention to apply it to rental units for long-term and holiday units, which are growing at a rapid pace. Given that these are hard to track, the next logical step was to hit the lessees of the units.

Timing could not have been worse. The tax has a significant cost impact and is being levied in a struggling market that relies on leasehold to assuage the fears of foreigners over the security of owning property in Thailand. The tax constitutes considerable income, but speaking to a number of estate agents there is also the question of whether the municipalities will invest this in improved services such as garbage collection and infrastructure.

In the past, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization instituted a very controversial add-on to the hotel tax that remains highly contentious even now. A large number of properties have refused to pay it, citing a lack of transparency on government spending – note: the Phuket Gateway project was apparently one of the key improvements from this

tax but anyone visiting the facility will still scratch their heads wondering why it's even there.

I spoke to leading tax advisor Paul Ashburn at BDO Richfield in Bangkok about the issue. He believes that reforms will come. Ideally a new tax would amalgamate the existing ones and apply a wider scope that would lead to increased collections. Looking at the existing tax, there needs to be a dividing line between lease/rental tax and tax on short-term holiday rentals of villas and condos. The existing law fails to take into account this product, and there is a parallel issue in hotel-like licensing and collection of this tax. A few years ago serviced apartments in Bangkok, which were competing with hotels, fell into a gray area and this has now been addressed in a revised hotel act. Similar revisions need to take place to address rentals.

So leasehold looks set to remain a somewhat complex issue, and with such wide interpretations and assessments within different municipalities, there looks to be no short-term solution. We'd hope the present administration would look at property and tax reforms as a way of increasing foreign investment. In turn this will help to spur recovery of the real estate market.

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Property Gazette

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INEXPENSIVE LOTS
Chanote title lots 1/3 to 1/2 rai, 700,000 to 1,100,000 baht total price. Road and electricity. Near Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 086-942 1930.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



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CHANOTE LAND

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30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrung School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-6912526.

HOUSE FOR 6.9 MTB

2 bedrooms with private pool. Ready to move in now. Tel: 086-274 6886, 089-867 4724. Fax: 076-521554. Email: mammy399@yahoo.com

6 RAI, CHERNG TALAY, VIEWS

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Several years ago, the villa could lease US\$39000 monthly. The villa is located in Panwa Cape with 360 degree sea view. 100m high on hill not far from Sri Panwa, where they sell a similar home for US\$12 million. The house has several bedrooms with antique furniture from Europe, marble and teakwood floors. One of the best in Phuket. 2,500sqm house with 1,800sqm of garden. Part of car park and swimming pool is being renovated. Due to economy, we would like to lease the villa at very very low price. But must meet minimum of 5 years of following conditions. The lease excludes maids service, management fees, electric and water bills. The excluded expenses cost 70,000(BTH) monthly. The lease must be paid annually in advance. First year 3m, 2nd year 17m 3rd year 20m 4th year 23m and 5th year 28m. Or sale for US\$12 million. Email: info@queenmarines.com

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Beautiful luxury practical family living in 5 ensuite bedroom villa with 13x5 m pool and 12 pax Jacuzzi. Home cinema, office and highest quality materials all throughout. 406 sqm indoor, 426 sqm built outdoor. 1,170 sqm gated lush plot. 5 min from British International School and Boat Lagoon. Secure community. Very beneficial offer due to the current situation - 21.5 million baht. Tel: 076-615213, 086-816 5972. Email: henrik@swelandltd.com www.swelandltd.com

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CHANOTE, 29 RAI

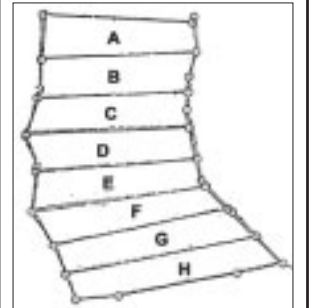
at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND AT SAI YUAN



168sq wah, Chanote, flat land. Contact Nicky. Tel: 089-730 9666. Email: nicky_ph@hotmail.com

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

Located at Natai Beach. 15 minutes drive from Sarasin Bridge. Price 1.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

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

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 087-883 6112.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

NEW CONDO FOR SALE

At Royal Place Project, opposite Tesco Lotus. 42sqm at corner, swimming pool view, fully furnished, will be completed in April, 2009. Tel: 089-469 1813.

KATA APARTMENTS

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Property Gazette

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390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-47209118, 086-7092933.

PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-9442065, 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

NICE PLOT

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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, fully furnished. Land: 33sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4729118.

NAI HARN POOL VILLA SALE!

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PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

renovated freehold 2 room terrace, nice view, pool beach 200m, furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 086-9760809.

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on the main road to Cherg-Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-2770978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

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2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, next to beach. Price 3.9 million baht or rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288908.

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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: 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

CHALONG BANYAN VILLA

sale or rent. 3 storey, furnished. 3.2 million baht. Rent 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-6334994.

NEW TOWN HOUSE

in Phuket town. 2nd floor, 140sqm. Very good location 5 min from central and Big C. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 080-0719098.

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Patong, sea view, 60sqw 2-storey house. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 15 million baht ono. Tel: 087-2709093.

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CHALONG HOUSE

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One rai lots (in red) with chanote title. Dramatic, unrestricted ocean views to the west and north; stunning mountain views to Phang Nga; and eastern views of Phang Nga bay. Concrete road, water, electricity. Upper limit of property is 80 meters. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-9969177. Email: doc@russbo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketrealstate.us

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SEA VIEW KATA LAND

for sale. 8 plots available. Starting price 3.8 million baht. Email: kaiteedin@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com Tel: 081-8941994.

KATHU HOUSE

4 bedroom house. Excellent condition. Near Kathu market. 4,900,000 baht. Tel: 076-296309, 087-2786439. Email: shall@loxinfo.co.th

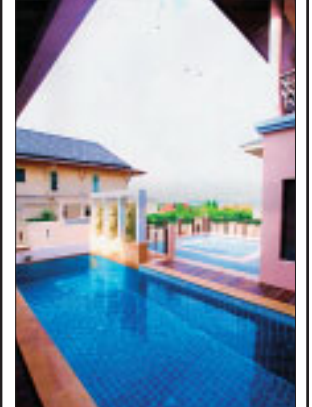
NAIHARN STUDIO CONDO 1.65 MB

Studio condo, 40sqm, quiet 5-unit complex, built to European standards. Swimming pool, balcony with panoramic mountain view, 5 minutes from the beach, wireless internet. Tel: 086-5969601. Email: fordasia777@gmail.com

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Property Gazette

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



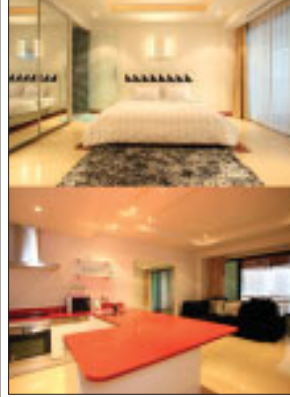
9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Please contact via by email: allservices29@gmail.com

NEW 3 BED POOL VILLA



Buy for 6.5 million baht or rent it long-term for 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



at Phuket Asia Land, Surin Beach. Sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-474 0461. Email: info@methaya.com

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

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 - * 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
 - * Chanote title
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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.

NEW DUPLEX CONDO BANG TAO

3-4 bed Oxygen condo with living room, kitchen, aircon, pool and garden. 11.99 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-968 3714. Fax: 076-613114. Email: prang@twovillas.com

BIG NEW HOUSE

Great location on the main road to Laguna area. 3b/r, 2b/t and 2carports. Land plot 240sqm. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-396 5239. Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

3 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE

Newly completed villa for sale. Tel: 081-370 0084. Email: info@phuket-languageschool.com See details at: www.qualityhomesphuket.com

QUICK SALE

Thai-style home. Only 5.1 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near to Laguna. Tel: 087-893 8590.

TOP VILLAS IN RAWAI

Best villas, 1x500 sqm and 1x220 sqm. Located in quality development near beach. Finance available, no interest. Must see, free pick-up. Tel: 085-783 1890.

SINGLE LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

Chalong. On the Big Buddha road. Fully serviced. From 4M baht per plot. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk Please see our website at <http://phikunvillas.blogspot.com/>

NEW CONDO



for sale. At Royal Place Project, opposite Tesco Lotus. 42sqm at corner, swimming pool view, fully furnished, ready to move. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-691 2526.

KOH YAO YAI

Cheap land, good investment. 2.8 rai, Chanote title, water, electricity. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

FREEHOLD, PATONG 28SQM

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

BEAUTIFUL 2 STOREY HOUSE

for sale. Sai Yuan, Rawai, Phuket. Sea view from 2nd floor and roof terrace. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, custom woodwork, swimming pool, fully furnished. Good investment. Two 80sqm lots, both with concrete fences, house and pool on one, next lot cleared. Build and return your investment. 10 million baht. Tel: 080-999 8784.

TOWN HOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN

140sqm, 2 floors. Very good location, 5 mins Big C and Central. Ready in October 2009. Resale 600,000 baht. Tel: 080-071 9098.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

flat, 13 rai and 8-metre access road. Tel: 081-979 0122 (Riam), 089-866 2816 (Lian).

BEAUTIFUL LAND

for sale in Ao Nang. Close to beach with Chanote. 4.5 rai for 22 million baht (minimum purchase: 2 rai). Also available: 22 rai for 70 million baht (minimum purchase: 5 rai). Tel: 084-762 5293.

GOLF VILLAS 6.9 - 8.9 MTB

Loch Palm. Tel: 081-537 9684. www.vistaphuket.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.

FULLY FURNISHED NICHE VILLA

3 bed, pool, furniture, aircon, garden, living room, kitchen. 13.9 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

LAND IN PATONG

5.5 rai available in Patong near Simon Cabaret. Tel: 081-409 5175. Email: jaspal_karon@csloxinfo.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://bluewaterphuket.com>

PEACEFUL SEAVIEW

1/2 rai, Chanote. Seaview, near waterfall, Mission golf, airport, pier of Ao Por. Road and electricity. 4.5 million baht. Very private and peaceful. Tel: 089-081 4913. Email: thurewan@gmail.com

OCEAN VIEW, KATA 5 MB

Price includes furniture. One year old. 90 square meters. Or 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-041 8821. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

400,000 DISCOUNT



1 rai 43 wah in Rawai until May 19 for 5.5 million baht. Nice seaview plot for 6 million baht. Tel: 085-795 5383.

MUST SELL MOVING 12.5 MTB



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. 12.5 million Thai baht. Tel: 084-850 0568.

VILLA URGENT SALE

4 beds, 6 baths, private pool (4x12) with jacuzzi, security system, solar hot water, sala and landscape garden on a 1,606sqm land. More than 400sqm of living area. Special price at 18 million baht. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA, NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, Thai sala on rooftop. Price 9 MB. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

KATA BEACH

2 apartments, 130sqm. Both only 4.4 million baht. Owner leaving Thailand. Tel: 085-783 1890.

STUNNING HOUSE

Modern tropical style, brand new, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 living rooms. 350sqm of living area with outdoor jacuzzi. 14.5 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 083-201 4621, 081-537 5544. Email: whispertheway@yahoo.co.uk For photos and details: www.tropicalhomephuket.com

NEW RAWAI MODERN POOL VILLA

Luxury 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath with landscape and private gate. Just completed construction. Modern kitchen and appliances. 1km from Rawai Beach. Beautiful mountain view. Located on a private road, quiet. 476 sqm of land and over 300 sqm of living area. A 'must see', one of a kind. Tel: 081-979 9806. Email: alohang@gmail.com for more information.

BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW

90sqm at Ao Por, overlooking Por bay and Jumeriah private island. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 086-204 7573.

PATONG FREEHOLD GUESTHOUSE

Furnished guesthouse at Patong Beach. Best offer! Will sell to best offer! Call or mail for more info. Tel: 081-755 0350. Email: shopisland@gmail.com

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LEELAVADEE POOL VILLA

MODERN THAI HOUSE WITH 25 SQM SWIMMING POOL, TERRACE, TROPICAL GARDEN, CARPORT, HOME SECURITY, 3 BEDROOMS, WESTERN AND THAI KITCHEN, LIVING AND DINING ROOMS AND 4 BATHROOMS WITHIN AIR-CONDITIONED SURROUNDINGS. THE HOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH CHANOTE TITLE DEEDS AND FREEHOLD TERMS. PRICE 10.5 MTB

MANEE KRAM, KWANG RD.
TEL: 082-420 0249
EMAIL: A.TU2.CORAZON@GMAIL.COM

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

PATONG PENTHOUSE
Luxury, 2 bedrooms, furnished. Super pad. Only \$39 per day. 3 month minimum. For further details, please see our website www.shophousephuket.com

STYLISH 1 BEDROOM CONDO
Newly furnished, 24-hour security, internet WiFi, aircon, parking, swimming pool, gym & fitness-center, close to golf course. 20,000 per month. Email: soda611@gmail.com

STYLISH HOUSE & CAR



for 39,000 baht. New, stylish 3 bedroom modern house. Fully furnished, 2 bathrooms, full set lounge, 37" LCD TV, aircon, beautiful Western kitchen with oven & washing machine. Full set dining area. Gutter system with water saving tank, high water pressure. Electric gate with private car park and a nice landscaped garden with outdoor seating. Car: Toyota Soluna Vios 1.5 E VVT-I, 2007 House + Car at 39,000 baht per month. House only at 25,000 baht per month. Car Only 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-823 4627.

POOL VILLA, NAI HARN



Ban Saiyuan, Nai Harn. Quiet location, fully furnished, 3 beds. TV, UBC, ADSL. 17 meter swimming pool. 50,000 baht per month includes pool cleaning and garden maintenance. Tel: 085-795 4665. Or email: tom.scaff@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER 8TH FLOOR
Seaview. For rent or sale. Foreign ownership. Rent 35,000 baht per month. Sale 10 million baht. Tel: 080-692 6114. Please contact more details. Email: orsolino@hotmail.it

2 BED CONDO
at Phuket Palace. Super pool and garden, cable TV. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 2338.

HOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN
for rent. Good quiet area. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, kitchen, living room. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 6700.

PRIME LOCATION SHOP
Beach. Good for office, retail, snack bar, etc. 33,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-646 9906. Email: tsabest@gmail.com

3 BED LUXURY POOL VILLA
55,000 baht. Beautifully furnished, near marina. Cable TV, gardener, guard. Tel: 084-783 9054. Or send email to: oggyowen@yahoo.com

CHALONG NEW HOME
Value 2 bedroom town home with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Or email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

PALAI GREEN FOR RENT
Aircon, bedrooms, hot shower, fully furnished, free cable TV, ADSL internet. Near Chalong. 12,000 baht per month. Please contact Nee. Tel: 081-892 4311.

NAI HARN VILLA
2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, furnished, aircon, ADSL, big garden. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL
in Nai Harn. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Please send email to: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

RAWAI HOUSE
for rent. Long- and short-term, fully furnished, pool. Website: www.ferienthailand.com

PATONG LARGE 2 BR APT SEA VIEW
Spacious 2- bedroom, 2 bathroom condo with views of Patong Beach and only a 6 minute walk to the beach. Balconies off every room, wireless internet, kitchenette, secure parking, pool, gym, tennis and many more facilities. Tel: +852-2-813 6093. +852-6100 4034. Fax +852-2-813 6083. Email: casajope@yahoo.com Please check our website for more details <http://www.phuket-patong-condo.com/>

B.L. APARTMENT FOR RENT
New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Contact more details Tel: 081-692 3163.

OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH
Apartment for rent, fully furnished. Long - term: 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-889 1717.

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bed rooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living, dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936.

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



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, fully furnished. Land: 33sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9118.

NEW HOUSE ON YAOWARAT RD
Good area in Phuket City. Ideal for house or office. 120sq wah, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, aircon, kitchen, living room, phone line, 2 car parking spaces. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-797 3138 (Thai), 083-551 8855 (Eng).

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, THALANG



Close to Laguna. Fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, hot water, washing machine, ADSL. 10 mins to Bang Tao Beach and Layan Beach. Mountain view. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-874 2960. Email: wawa.phuket@gmail.com

7 BEDROOMS GOLF VIEW VILLA
Full service. Top view, 650sqm, big pool, 4km to BIS. Overlooking Loch Palm Golf course. Quiet, on top of private hill. Fully furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV. Long term: 115,000 baht a month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.




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for Special Offer Rates
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KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS



Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. UBC and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool & gardening service. Daily rental 8,000 baht, monthly rental 55,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-843 6837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

KAMALA BEACH RENTAL
Very nice house/apartments. Fully furnished, 2 to 4 bedrooms, view. 13,000 to 18,000 per month. details. Tel: 082-421 9169.

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET



Special offer

Phase I houses for long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669
Email: info@baansuanpana.com www.baansuanpana.com

PATONG TOWER 1BED, ALL NEW
All new, modern one-bedroom apartment for rent long - term at only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: +01-347-596 3338. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

2 STOREY BUILDING, 500SQM
newly furnished, aircon, parking. Price 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-897 0501. Email: russ.export@gmail.com

ONE BEDROOM CONDO
New condo in Patong with swimming pool for rent 25,000 baht per month. Contact Peter. More details. Tel: 084-852 0338.

LOFT STYLE AT KATHU



Secure, great location, long term. 2 available. 7,000 - 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8502926. Or email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

STUDIO CONDO
in Patong 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-852 0338.

Live in Cherng Talay? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at 41 Minimart



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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

URGENT!

We are looking for any 1-2 rai for sale in Rawai / Nai Harn. Contact us now ! Tel: 085-7984625. Email: contact@phuketfinder.com Please visit our website: www.phuketfinder.com

HOUSE TO RENT

Looking for a long term, fully furnished 2 to 3 bedroom house in a secured estate - Phuket Town areas. Budget: 15,000 baht per month. Email: ndesmot@yahoo.com

SHOPHOUSE WANTED

I'm looking to rent a shophouse in Phuket Town, preferably off the main road. Cats must be allowed. Reasonable rent. Ideal location would be either Sapan Hin, Samkong, Kuku or Chaofa. Tel: 084-844 5546. Email: maichanya@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR HOUSE TO RENT

I would like to rent a detached house with a private garden (access to swimming pool), furnished, long term. Can pay up to 16,000 baht per month. I have one very quiet, nice cat. Tel: 080-718 2471. Email: Evej0313@yahoo.com

LONG TERM RENT WANTED

Family needs fully furnished house/villa from 1 October onwards. Locations: Nai Harn, Rawai, Chalong. Minimum 6-months rental. We need 3-4 bedrooms, maid's room, aircon, telephone, high-speed internet. Private/shared pool. Please offer by email with pictures, description and rental rate. Email: info@rmzrh.ch

Property Services

PROPERTY CARE SERVICE

Cleaning, gardening and pool maintenance. We are experienced in the field and are willing to take care of your house for an affordable monthly fee. Price example: For a 3-bed villa with garden and pool, our charge is 5,000 baht per month. Please contact us to discuss our service. The company is Swedish managed. For contact in Swedish or English: 083-394 8337 (Mattias). For contact in Thai, Swedish or English: 080-141 4577 (Viyada). Email: mattias@phuketdirtrider.com

VILLA MANAGEMENT BY SELF-EMPLOYED PERSON

I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including housekeeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Tel: 087-100 6111. Email: lucky pam@gmail.com

LUXURY PROPERTIES

We are looking for luxury properties for sale. You want to sell your luxury property? We have customers for you. Contact us now! Please call or mail for more information. Tel: 085-798 4625. Email: contact@phuketfinder.com www.phuketfinder.com

Accommodation Available

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT PATONG

18,000 baht per month. ADSL, washing machine, cable, 2 bathrooms, aircon, large pool. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

FREEDOM APARTMENTS

Patong. Fully furnished, small kitchen, fridge, aircon, cable TV, wireless internet, hot water, bathroom. Price 8,900 baht per month. For more info. Tel: 084-845 0541, 081-891 4561.

KATA BEACH

Low season special. Rooms from 400 baht. Free WiFi internet, 15% off food menu. Room in Patong, 400 baht per night. 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Please visit our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

PATONG TOWER APARTMENT

Available from May onwards. Tel: 076-344922. Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th For more details, please see: our website at http://bluewaterphuket.com

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 800-1,500 baht per night. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290-9567. Or send to email: info@brommathaihouse.com Please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

PATONG LARGE 2 BR APT SEA VIEW

Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo with views of Patong Beach and only a 6 minute walk to the beach. Balconies off every room, wireless internet, kitchenette, secure parking, pool, gym, tennis and many more facilities. Tel: +852-2-813 6093, +852-6100 4034. Fax: +852-2-813 6083. Email: casajo@yaho.com Please visit our website for more details http://www.phuket-patong-condo.com/

BUNGALOW RAWAI

1 and 2 bedrooms available, aircon, ADSL, cable TV, washing machine, quiet location. From 8,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 081-080 2930. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

BEACH FRONT HOTEL

Low season long stay promotion. Pool, spa, free WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-345518, 081-892 0038.

PATONG APARTMENTS

Cable TV, wireless internet, air-condition. Quiet area close to amenities, short walk to beach. Good long term rates available. Large apartments from 550 baht per night. Tel: 085-0648 079. Email: spikesthailand@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE AT CHALONG

aircondition, hot water, Cable TV, free internet, ADSL, new building. Price 5,000 per month or 400 baht per day. Tel:085- 888 5144.

3 BED HOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN

Close to BigC, Tesco-Lotus, 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, kitchen, furniture, cable TV, ADSL. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288542, 086-683 7162. Email: somthawin_pw@hotmail.com

1 AND 2 BEDROOM APT SEA VIEW

35-100sqm, fully furnished. TV, WiFi, pool, parking, quiet location. 80sqm, sea view penthouse. Long-or short-term rent. Tel: 076-296621, 081-691 6147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

THE POINT CONDO

Fully furnished studio: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 9447. Email: benjapornkk@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.thepointphuket.com

LUXURY APARTMENT

5-star resort, stunning seaview overlooking Kata Beach, flat screen TV, DVD. kitchen, pool, gym, restaurant. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 086-282 3068.

Accommodation Wanted

FURNISHED HOUSE IN PATONG

Looking to rent a fully furnished house on an yearly basis starting from 8th August. Possibly willing to buy. Tel: +357-25-878118, +357-99-612220. Fax: +357-25-878119. Email: sebastians@cytanet.com.cy

APARTMENT

Wanted: 1 bedroom apt with use of pool for 6 months, October to April. Please send email to: ndrwdwdwck@yahoo.co.uk

LIKE TO RENT LONG TERM

Small house or nice apartment w/ 2 bedrooms needed for at least one year. Maximum rental: 25,000 baht per month. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT

We are a family looking for a 2 bedroom apartment to rent during June/July for 1 month. It should have a pool, TV, WiFi and a kitchen. Email: dan@kreis.org

LONG TERM CONDO / VILLA

2 bedroom, fully furnished modern condo or villa required for 10-12 month lease from 1st June. Location: around Surin, Bang tao, Laguna area. Prefer with pool, terrace, sea view. Tel: 085-666 5504. Email with pictures and expected rent to vishalsood@msn.com

LOOKING FOR LONG TERM

rental in Kata/Karon. Must have kitchen, 1 or 2 bedrooms, living room, aircon, internet, cable TV. Needed from May 1. Can pay 10-15,000 baht per month, but deposit must not exceed 5-10,000 baht. Tel: 080-698 1224. Email: ymerdryskys@hotmail.com

PLACE IN KALIM, KATHU, KARON

Wanted: accommodation in clean and safe area for long-term. Maximum rental price: 4-5,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-525 3913. Email: access00@csloxinfo.com

Building Products & Services

QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES

Renovations, construction, carpentry, real wood, parquet, painting. Contact K. Pueng for Tel: 087-2709093 or K. Neat Tel: 087-689 9679 (English/Thai). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

Household Items

MOVING SALE, SOFA

8 months old, looks like new. New price: 12,000 baht; my price: 6,000. Tel: 076-264386, 080-718 1686. Email maxphuket@hotmail.de

MISCELLANEOUS

- Samsung fridge, 8 months old.
- Samsung washing machine, front loader, 8 months old.
- Panasonic TV, 29 inch, 7 months old.
- Samsung home theater, 6 months old.
Tel: 08-4747 3889. Email: rasken34@hotmail.com

WANTED: AIRCON UNIT

I want to buy an air conditioner in good condition, around 12,000 BTU. Price must be reasonable. Email: patong_mats@hotmail.com

WASHING MACHINE / FRIDGE

- Hot water washing machine, Electrolux. Once 32,000 baht; now 16,000.
- Sharp fridge, separate freezing unit. Once 9,000 baht; now 4,000.
Delivery can be arranged. Tel: 076-388440. Or send to email: stefan_breit@yahoo.de

TOT ROUTERS

TP Link model TD-8810/TD-8811 ADSL router, and XAVI ADSL router. Both bought from TOT. 500 baht each. Long ADSL cable: 500 baht. Email for details. Tel: 08-694 7812. Email: kellykrohn@gmail.com

URGENT SALE

Living room furniture, sofa, chairs table, lamp, etc. Also office furniture, only 1 year old. Very good price. Email: ericbayon@hotmail.com

Household Services

THE ELECTRICIAN

Solve all your electrical problems. Fault finding, new installations, 1 year guarantee. Free quotes. Tel: 083-390 2677.

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Construction, renovation, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, sand wash and gutter. For more information please contact Khun Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Or send email: phukethome@yaho.com

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Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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Boats & Marine

WOOD WORK FOR BOAT & HOUSE

WORK FOR HOMES: Specializing in wood work such as built-in cabinets, kitchens, decking, flooring, etc. Repair of wood and wood painting. Special orders for wood work.

We also do following work for BOATS: Teak decking and interior work. Spray painting of full hulls and decks. Installation of non-slippery deck sheets. Antifouling painting or spraying. Fiberglass, repairs and new items for order. New building of boats up to 36 feet. All for Wood and More! Contact Mike or please send email to: mike@procarpentering.com for more info. We never leave a job half done and we give you our guarantee. For further details, please see our website at www.procarpentering.com

DINGHY FOR SALE

3.5m "Chalomark" RIB in good condition. Only 40,000 baht (150,000 new). Tel: 081-088 2955. Or send email to: jimremington@yahoo.com

SEADOO WAVERUNNER

with trailer. Low hours, excellent condition. 120,000 baht. Call or mail for details. Tel: 087-041 8821. Or send email to: maurick@yahoo.com

TEAK RICE BARGE

Hull restoration completed and now ready for client refit. 16.6 metres long and 5 metres wide. Asking price 1.5M baht. Visit our website for further information and photos. Please, no time wasters. Tel: 081-747 3425. Email: joinlondon@hotmail.co.uk For further details, please see our website at http://web.me.com/eisasia

JET BOAT FOR SALE

5 meter, 120HP jet engine, seats .5 Includes bimini, trailer, cassette radio, etc. 150,000 baht Tel: 089-5918463, 089-5918728, 087-2634560. Or send email: mwd687@yahoo.com

COBALT 262



Brand new 26ft Cobalt for sale lying Royal Phuket Marina, Thai registered, Cobalt are extreme quality, inspection a must! USD\$ 132,000 neg. Tel: 076-273378, 084-442 5460. Please sent email to phuket@starshipyachts.com

30FT MOTOR YACHT

Beautiful Sea Ray Sundancer. Fully loaded. 300 hours. 2.3 million baht. Immediately available Tel: 076-317538, 085-111 1455. Please sent to email: uwed@avia-star.com

MAXUM 2,300 - DAYCRUISER

23 foot cabin boat, 260 hp. Perfect day and overnight boat! Sleeps 3 in cabin. Top condition! Only 1,500,000 baht! Tel: 089-932 5175. Or email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

1997 BAYLINER 28 CABIN BOAT

28 feet. 300 hp V8 with only 300 hours. Sleeps 4. Perfect for fishing and sleeping overnight. Only 1,500,000 baht! Tel: 089-932 5175. Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

OUTBOARD WANTED

Yamaha 2 hp outboard wanted. Please contact by email or at the mobile number above. Tel: 081-894 1530. Or sent email: andrew@leemarine.net

LOOKING FOR A MOTOR YACHT

60-70 ft. Owners: please send offer details. Tel: 084-199 3353. Or send email to: kaewkram_5@hotmail.com

74 FT BOAT

5 cabins, 6 bathroom, air conditioned, long range for more details. Tel: 080-522 4089.

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 - Simrad Plotters
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leemarine.com

Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
 Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
 Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
 Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach

DAY DIVE BOAT

for sale or rent. Nissan 450hp, 25kw, 21m. Generator: Bauer compressor or cert 45 pax. Pay over 3 years. Price 3.5 million baht. Contact more details. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

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with launching trolley & spares, good condition. Price 65,000 baht. Phuket town. Please Contact more details. Tel: 076-224596.

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6 metre custom built centre console mariner 115hp, very low hours usage, great boat for share with friends, 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-849 2804.

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2 x 250 hp Mercs, 390 hours, fully serviced. Speeds to 60 knots, bow cabin, portable toilet, GPS, VHF, Sunbrella, all new interior, red and white. Come and see! Offers invited around 1.8 million baht. Tel: 083-646 7282, 083-636 9327. Or sent to email par.emmanuel@xwipers.com

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Brand new in "Motorguide" Mercury model, 46FB, 12 volts, 5-speed. Dealer price 500USD. Task only 400USD. Tel: 083-633 1054.

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Refurbished 2007/8. Twin Yamaha 200hp with low hours. Cabin with dbl berth & toilet. Versatile: cruising, fishing, water skiing. Thai registered. Price: 985,000 baht. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891 9653. Fax: 076-348118. Or sent to email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

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Four new 2009 ribs - 7m and 9m. The boats include single and twin mounted 225 hp Mercs enabling speeds of 60 knots, new galvanized dual axle trailers, all options, CE, COC, GPS, triple tanks, big sunbrella. All new with full warranties. Come try Tel: 083-646 7282, 083-636 9327. Email: par.emmanuel@xwipers.com

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A proven race winner. Complete inventory update in late 2006 and has sailed one regatta since. In excellent condition and is dry-stored under cover. 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891 9653. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

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Eddie Bauer Edition. Year 1994. Rarely used. Only 300 hours. Very good condition. 895,000 baht. Tel: 02-661 7676, 081-628 4798. Email: uwed@avia-star.com

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Enjoy sailing from Phuket and learn a little. 3 cabins, 2 toilets. Layout excellently maintained and loaded with extras. Thai registered and under maintenance contract with advance bookings. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8916953. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

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Island Job Mart

TEACHERS NEEDED

Primary school teachers (fulltime). Sports, music, art teachers (part time). Only native English speakers with education degree and experience will be accepted. Email: headstartpkt@gmail.com

FLORIST REQUIRED

Experienced Florist required for a start-up high-end florist business in Chemgtalay. Conversational English is essential. Tel: 086-028 0869. Email: parissa mobasher@gmail.com For further background, please see: <http://www.parissa.co.uk>

BAR STAFF

O'Malley's Irish Pub. Female wanted, 20-25 years old. Good English, service minded. Contact K.May. Tel: 076-220171.

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Private tutor sought for 16 years old boy in Grade 10. Tel: 076-342143, 081-958 1055. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

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Experience in PHP, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Ajax and CMS like Joomla. Tel: 087-888 1921. Email: idevelopptv@gmail.com

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Two very nice girls aged 3 1/2 and 8 are looking for a top qualified home teacher. Private air-conditioned classroom, good salary, accommodation and F&B provided. Only serious offers, please. Tel: 075-662099, 089-8720201. Fax: 075-637246. Email: info@aonang-divers.com

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We are looking for a full-time housekeeper-nanny near Cherng Talay. Tel: 080-697-7212. Email: emmanuellemo ukarzel@hotmail.com

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Right To Play seeks Thai with fluent English, computer literacy, training & experience to work on education program. Contact Bodil Dronkers. Email: bdronkers@righttoplay.com

ASST MGR KHAO SOK RESORT

Good English & computer skills required. Must love nature. Email: dicksandl@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://khaosokaccommodation.com>

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A dive company is looking for reservations staff. Spoken and written English important. Contact K. Sean, please. Tel: 081-958 5838. Email: sean@westcoastdivers.com

British International School, Phuket

Teaching Vacancy for August 2009

The British International School, Phuket, Thailand is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months - 18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. Applications are now invited for the following position.

Teacher of Thai- must be a fluent English speaker

The following are desirable but not essential:

- Willingness to teach literature
- Knowledge of the IGCSE programme

Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and teaching certificate or Education Degree and preferably some teaching experience.

Please e-mail a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees to: Headmaster@bcis.ac.th The closing date for applications is Friday 15 May 2009

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th

 British International School, Phuket (BIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th

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 - Resort and real estate accounting background is an advantage
 - Personal Accounting License is an advantage
- **Human Resources Manager**
 - Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree in Human Resources or related field
 - At least 6-8 years experience in hotel/HR functions with at least 2-3 years in HR managerial level in 4-5 star properties
 - Excellent knowledge of Thai labour law, social welfare, payroll and budget planning and HR operational programs

Other necessary qualifications:

- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Highly organized and able to work under pressure
- Strong leadership, organizational, negotiation and communication skills

Please submit your CV, expected salary and recent photo to: hr@west-sands.com

HR Department, West Sands Phuket 65 M.4, T. Mai Khao, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: +66 (0)76 372 000 Fax: +66 (0)76 372 017
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'The Bell' is an exciting new property development comprising 17 luxury pool villas. 'The Bell' is also opening its Luxury Private Pool Villa Resort, which will be fully serviced and managed like a 5-star resort.

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The Bell Pool Villa Resort is now looking for a Director of Sales with the following experience:

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The Bell is looking for people with the right attitude!!

The Bell, 41/31 Moo 5, Baan Hua Khuan, Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120
Tel: + 66 (0) 76-279914-5 Fax: + 66 (0) 76-279412
E-mail: info@TheBellphuket.com
Web: www.TheBellPhuket.com

Office Manager

Must be fluent in English, competent with computers (Microsoft applications) and experienced in office organization.

- Female, aged 25 years plus.
- Excellent command of English language.
- Pro-active management style.
- Pleasant and service-minded personality.

If you are interested, please contact us at **Damian Barrett**, **Electrical Marine Co.,Ltd.**
Phuket Boat Lagoon
Tel: 66 76 239112 Fax: 66 76 238943
Email: sales@electrical-marine.com

**MALAIWANA**

Villa Manager and Personal Secretary 1 position

Qualifications:

- Female
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Good command of English
- Good management skills as well as problem solving
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work in team or independently
- Strong computer skills such as MS Office

Please submit your resume, application letter including expected salary, details of references and a recent photograph to:

Khun Jiraththa Thepkongkham
MALAIWANA CO., LTD.
28/10 Moo 4, T. Sakoo, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: 076-316224, 076-316223 Fax: 076-316226
Email: taf@malaiwana.com, www.malaiwana.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. SUB EDITOR

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

II. REPORTER

The successful candidate will possess initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and transport. Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2-3 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971
Email: editor@phuketgazette.net

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REAL ESTATE Sales Administrator Required

Experience necessary, excellent written and spoken english
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Must have track record, university degree, start ASAP. Tel: 085-787 6321. Email: tgetherie@gmail.com

WINE CONNECTION

Positions available:
- Executive Chef
- Restaurant Manager
- F&B Manager
Tel: 076-282411-2.
Email: hrmgr@wineconnection.co.th

GALLERY SALES POSITIONS

Cameron Hansen Gallery in Patong, Kata and Koh Samui is now recruiting sales staff. All applicants must be able to communicate in English. A degree is not necessary, but a pleasant smile and personality is. Training is provided along with a salary and commissions. Tel: 089-731 6814. Email: cameronjhan sen@yahoo.co.uk Further details available at: <http://www.cameronhansen.net>

SECRETARY WANTED

Travel agency looking for Thai female secretary to do book keeping, VAT paperwork, license renewal etc. English not necessary but helpful. Tel: 076-330967, 081-970 6503. Fax: 076-330990. Email: dive@siamdivers.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Following skills required: some English, basic computer, MS Office, internet, basic accounting, knowledge. Female, single, age 22-30. Reliable, healthy, hard working own vehicle. Please contact tel: 076-273379. Email: info@octopusasia.com

BOAT BOY OR GIRL WANTED

Thai national only. Experience on boats. Full time. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-271 9995.

HANDYMAN WANTED

Thai national only, full time, flexible, experienced. Tel: 086-271-9995.

TEACHERS NEEDED

Primary school teachers (fulltime). Sports, music, art teachers (part time). Only native English speakers with education degree and experience will be accepted. Email: headstartpkt@gmail.com

MAID WANTED

Thai national only. Full time. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-271 9995.

INTERNATIONAL

financial advisers wanted for Kuala Lumpur. Native English speakers, mature, proactive, self starters, strong sales or finance background essential. Please sent CV to marie@pp-intt.com

SALES JOB LOW SEASON

If you are an experienced sales person and want to earn 50,000 up/month, please call 083-393 6226. Requirements: good appearance and impeccable English.

PROMOTION STAFF

St James Properties is expanding and needs new staff to work at Jungceylon and Kata office. English-speaking Thai national. Good salary plus commission. Contact Felix. Tel: 086-855 3044. Email: esa@stjames-properties.com

INBRED DP CO LTD

1. Secretary Executive
2. Marketing Executive

Good written and spoken English. Relevant experience with established organization preferred. Tel: 076-261857, 081-367 4696. Fax: 076-261859. Email: acs@inbreddp.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.inbreddp.com> Email: info@inbreddp.com and acs@inbreddp.com

WEB DESIGN & MULTIMEDIA

Cameron Hansen Gallery is now recruiting a full-time multimedia designer to work from our Kata office. Applicants must be experienced with Adobe Indesign as well as web-design applications. A recent uni-graduate is ideally suited to this position. A strong command of English is also necessary. Exciting and ongoing projects await the right person! Tel: 089-731 6814. Email: cameronjhan sen@yahoo.co.uk Website: <http://www.cameronhansen.net>

THAI WEBMISTRESS

We are looking for a Thai webmistress. Easy online home job, 10,000 baht per month basic. English speaker required. Please contact for more info. Tel: 085-798 4625. Email: contact@phuketfinder.com Website: www.phuketfinder.com

2 THAI TEACHERS WANTED

for an international nursery in Rawai. 1 part time (afternoons), and 1 full time. Tel: 081-979 3839. Please send CV and expected salary to lisaaston04@aol.com

REAL ESTATE SALE ASSISTANT

Mon-Sat, good pay, plus bonus. Please send to email: simon@aquapropertygroup.com

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Phuket's most exclusive resort, spa and residential villa development is searching for a number of exceptional people to join our team in permanent positions.

Trisara's facilities and services have set new standards and if you have the personality, skills and experience to be part of a world-class team, our Human Resources Director looks forward to hearing from you.

VACANT POSITIONS

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- Food & Beverage Manager
- Assistant Villa Estate Manager

Human Resources Department
60/1 Moo 6, Srisoonthorn Road, Thalung District, Phuket
Tel. 076 310 354 Fax. 076 310 299
E-mail address hr@trisara.com



We are now accepting applications and resumé for a new up coming restaurant.


Executive Chef

Restaurant Manager

Qualifications;

- Thai / Foreigner are welcome
- Experienced 5 years plus
- Based in Phuket
- Good command of English
- Good management skills
- Salary is negotiable

Please send resumé to Wine Connection (Phuket)
19/54-57 Moo.8 Chaofa Rd., T.Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076-282411-12 Fax: 076-282414.
Email: hrmgr@wineconnection.co.th



ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm

BAR MANAGER

Soi Gonzo, to take care of evening duties, expert etc. English speaking. Interested? Call Khun Simon. Tel: 085-796 5767, 081-580 6707.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Avantika Boutique Hotel, a small boutique beach front luxury hotel with 31 rooms, at the South-end of Patong Beach, is looking for suitable candidates (Thai national only) for the following positions: Reservations - Reception - Housekeeping - Engineers. Please send a recent photo, resume, expected salary to: Human Resource Department. Avantika Boutique Hotel 4/1 Thaveewong Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-292801-7 ext. 602, 603, Fax: 076-292 809. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com Website: www.avantika-phuket.com

MARKETING FOR BOAT TOURS

We require an experienced, English-speaking executive for marketing boat cruises to top hotels, tour operators and agencies. Tel: 085-666 5504. Email: vishal@jabudays.com

RECEPTIONIST & MARKETING

Staff wanted at Phuket Spa, Chalong. Urgent! Tel: 076-282704, 085-567 8929. Fax: 076-282703. Or send email: natali1800@hotmail.com

2 LADY MODELS REQUIRED

A new clothing line which is based in Phuket is seeking two Thai girls for a full day's modeling work. The models have to be able to speak English. Please email for an application form. Good daily rate and food provided for the photo shoot. Tel: 076-239724, 087-888 8082. Or send to email: jay@thevillage-cocnutisland.com

VILLA MANAGER

Seeking work with owner of private villa. 5 years' experience in villa management. Tel: 081-797 5207. Email: ememtaday@hotmail.com

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appointment required. Suit either Thai national educated overseas or native English speaker. Good rates of pay – both basic and commission. Must be willing to work hard, able to handle rejection. Full training given. Office based in Chalong area. Young progressive company. Tel: 081-833 7836.

LIVE IN MAID OR COUPLE

Mature live-in maid and handyman required to look after a family home on 1 Rai. Driving license a plus. Duties: swimming pool, gardens etc. Cleaning, maybe some cooking. Tel: 081-737 2973.

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Thai national is wanted to be the primary contact with our customers & will promote our services to new potential customers. Must have a good understanding of computers and the internet. Must have very strong English skills and a very outgoing, upbeat personality. College degree and good track record. Salary: 15,000 - 25,000 baht plus commission. Please reply via email with a resume and covering letter to recruitment@circumnave.net

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to market the Phuket Fish Boat Co in Thailand and worldwide. 6,000 baht base salary and 5% revenue commission. Tel: 076-282542, 081-833-4795. Send resume to martin@phuketfishboat.com For further details, please see our website at <http://phuketfishboat.com>

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Must speak fluent English. 1-4 pm, Mon-Fri. Tel: 081-979 3839. Email CV and salary expectations to lisaaston04@aol.com

Employment Wanted

NANNY TO WORK ABROAD

Thai lady, 34 years old do housework. 10 years now in Australia. Prefer go Europe, Canada, USA or Phuket. Available from March. Email: cindy_siam@hotmail.com

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18 yrs successful track record in International Trade, Import/Export, Strategic Global Sourcing and Supply Chain Management. MBA from top US Institute. Fluent Chinese and English, conversational Thai. Targeting employment with a strong company in Phuket. U.S. Citizen. Please contact for further details. Tel: 087-898 4516, 089-813 4456. Email: chilly.han@gmail.com

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Nice girl, German + English speaking. Full or part time Patong. Tel: 083-639 9137.

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is looking for a new job. Have lived in Thailand for 1 year. Tel: 080-650 2326.

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New kindergarten looking for Thai teachers. English necessary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-385795, 085-470 4800. Email: jgearyreilly@hotmail.com

RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH

speaking lady seeks position in Phuket, age 27. Experience in marketing/advertising, tourism and hotel business. Tel: 080-601 7792. Email: 4milonga@gmail.com

PROGRAMMER LOOKING FOR JOB

Experienced Danish programmer located in Phuket is looking for work on short/long term projects. Keywords: PHP, Zend Framework, Java (+JSP/servlets), mySQL, JavaScript, (D)HTML, AJAX, MVC, Linux server administration and objec orientation. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroe@gmail.com

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150 metre from Bangla Road, on the beach. Nice salon, 6 massage beds, 4 foot massage chairs. High quality beauty salon, all equipment, aircon. Contract 3 and 6 years. Key money: 750,000 baht. Rent: 55,000 baht. With staff. Call Lek. Tel: 089-588 2392. Email: poda2000@hotmail.com

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50 sqm room for rent in project perfect for small business. 10,000 baht per month. The project also has a restaurant, bar and rooms. Tel: 087-077 8454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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in central Patong. Guesthouse/bar, 17 suites plus manager in residence. Long lease, great value for money, short and long term tenants, good returns. Short walk to beach. Price 3.5 million baht ono. Tel: 087-383-6505. Email: property.thai@hotmail.com

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on main road. 1 rai, great setting, loyal local customers. You name the price. Tel: 081-476 0380. Email: jeffreyhock@gmail.com

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RESTAURANT: 290,000 BAH!

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